

ANTICHRIST, The BEAST – Part 1 of 2

Recognize him



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *Will you and I recognize the Antichrist when he appears? We're told quite a bit about him in Scripture so today let's examine some of those identifying hints. Plus, we'll contrast the true Christ/Messiah vs. the Antichrist, the FAKE Christ, the False Messiah. Will he be a JEW? Which of the two BEASTS of Revelation 13 is the same as the AntiChrist? What has to happen before he shows up on the world scene? Who will he be?*

Greetings, everyone. We will soon enough be hearing about the prophesied end-time AntiChrist, also sometimes called the first "Beast" of Revelation 13. John says there are many antichrists (**1 John 2:18-19**), but one in particular, the one who is "**The**" Antichrist, is the one we'll discuss. **WILL YOU recognize him when he shows up?** I want to go through some main scriptures about him, so when he clearly shows up, we will recognize him. Has he been revealed already? Some think so! I don't think so, though he may well be alive already. Let's learn about him.

Hello children of God Most High, our Father in heaven, and all of you who are part of the body of Messiah. I'm Philip Shields, your fellow brother and servant of God. Thank you for checking out our sermons and also a big thank you to the handful of you who send us some financial support to do this work. We appreciate you so much and yes, we can use the help. Remember to **REGISTER** on this website so you can also leave comments and other benefits.

We have **over 4,200 members of Light on the Rock who now attend each sabbath** in Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania—and soon, Uganda as of January 2025. East Africa where I focus our ministry. I feel the western churches have largely abandoned this area with real pastoral care. Plus they are SO poor and need so much help—like even just a building to meet in,

chairs to sit on, a latrine they can use instead of just going out into the bushes, and though we've bought almost 800 Bibles, there are many more who can use some. Thank you for helping us help the ultra-poor brethren of Jesus Christ.

Today I'll set the foundation from the Bible about the AntiChrist. We'll finish with a part 2 sermon later with more details.

WHY do we need to learn more about this topic? AntiChrist will definitely impact the whole world and definitely war against all true saints he can find. It would be good to recognize him when he comes.

The AntiChrist will be a man. All the Greek words about him are in the masculine. Though an evil man, he will have a way of winning people over to him at first until his true nature comes out. He will come close to deceiving, *almost*, the very elect saints (**Matthew 24:24**). **He** certainly will end up being very cruel to God's elect people and will kill MANY saints as Rev. 13 says. We'll talk more about this. So we definitely want to be able to identify him when he shows up. Somehow, initially, even some of the elect saints, are *almost* fooled by him! Think about that!

The very last days will *be the worst time of trouble* the world has ever seen, especially during the Great Tribulation, which is against the saints and then afterwards, God's wrath against sinful world (**Rev. 16**). **The Great Tribulation is actually Satan's wrath** after being cast down from heaven (**Rev. 12:7-13**). This is followed by the 7 trumpets of God and then the final seven Bowl Plagues of Rev 16, when the world will experience God Almighty's terrifying wrath. We'll certainly want to be under God's full protection. But we are not to allow ourselves to be troubled Yeshua said -- but look up and see that our full redemption draws nigh (**Luke 21:28; Matthew 24:5-8**).

I'll also show you **the list of events that Scripture says happens next**, *before* this evil man is revealed. Many preachers believe the next event is the Pre-Trib rapture to protect all the saints from this AntiChrist. But they're *wrong*. I showed in a recent sermon (January 2025) how the concept of having a PRE-Tribulation rapture is unbiblical.

Don't get me wrong: I believe those believers pleasing to God and in His Book of Life WILL be protected during the Great Tribulation, but *it will be somewhere here on earth (Rev. 3:10)*, not in heaven until after the resurrection and after the Great Tribulation. There will definitely be many saints on earth still during this evil man's reign – and AntiChrist will kill and even behead many who are not under God's protection (**Rev. 20:4**).

But I believe those who truly know Christ and who are written in God's Book of Life will be protected as Daniel 12:1 says. You can also read Luke 21:36 and Rev. 3:10.

Ponder this: If all the saints have already been raptured before the Great Tribulation even starts, as some falsely teach, how will the Beast Power/AntiChrist have any saints to kill? But this Beast/Antichrist will be killing the saints on earth! **Rev. 13:6-7; Dan. 7:21.**

The Beast/AntiChrist will be the epitome of evil, empowered by the Red Dragon Satan himself, when he fully “comes out” and reveals himself.

Who will the AntiChrist be? Despite some who loudly and confidently state who they think it is, I believe no one knows for sure yet, as of the date of this writing (Feb 2025). Some believe it will be an Islamic antichrist while many others believe he will be based in western Europe as a revival of the ancient Roman Empire. We'll have to wait and see. But be willing to pivot when he does show up on the stage!

Now here's what God says in the Bible:

1 John 2:18-19

“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that **AntiChrist is coming**, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

19 **They went out from us**, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; **but they went out** that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”

This is interesting. We read AntiChrist goes out “from us,” John says. Does he mean he went out from the Jews, or did some of the early antichrists start off as church members of John's day – but then left the church? Ponder that one.

Next we'll see that “AntiChrist” will deny that Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, is the son of God. The TRUE Messiah has already come and He's coming again, this time not to die, but to rule the earth! We're so happy that more and more Jews are recognizing God has a son, but God is still “echad” – one. More on that in a minute.

Many Jews struggle with the concept of God having a son because of their understanding of **Deut 6:4** – “YHVH is ONE.” I think we will find that AntiChrist will end up being more AntiJesus than he will be AntiGod.

There's more on the audio where I explain "one" in **Deut 6:4**– "**echad**" in Hebrew – was also applied to Adam and Eve, two people, becoming *echad*/one (**Genesis 2:27**). Also, many in Babylon worked together as *echad*/as one to build the **tower of Babel**. God said they were "as one;" "echad" in Hebrew, the same word used in Deut. 6:4. (**Genesis 11:5-6**). *So the Hebrew word "echad" does not, in Biblical usage, have to apply to just one individual. I asked an assertive rabbi about this, and he could not answer.*

1 John 2:22-23

"Who is a liar but he who **denies that Jesus is the Christ [Messiah]**? **He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.** 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also."

1 John 4:2-3 NKJV

"By this you know the Spirit of God: **Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,** 3 and every *spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God.* And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."

1 John 4:2-3 Complete Jewish Bible

"Here is how you recognize the Spirit of God: **every spirit which acknowledges that Yeshua the Messiah came as a human being is from God,** 3 and every spirit which does not acknowledge Yeshua is not from God – in fact, this is **the spirit of the Anti-Messiah.** You have heard that he is coming. Well, he's here now, in the world already."

Here we see again that the name AntiChrist could also be Anti-Messiah. Christ and Messiah both mean "anointed one." Christ from Greek, and Messiah from Hebrew (*Mashiach*).

This same Satan-inspired evil leader is **also called "the Beast,"** the one mentioned first in Revelation 13. **He will be worshiped. There's a second "Beast" in Revelation 13, who is later also called "the FALSE PROPHET"**. *The First Beast and the Second Beast – the False Prophet – will work hand in glove, as ONE, as counterfeit to God the Father and Jesus Christ. Let's read more about these BEASTS – or wild animals, depicting world rulers and this Beast is also the AntiChrist.*

Revelation 13:1-8 The First Beast

"Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And **I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns,** and on his heads a blasphemous name.

2 Now the Beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the **mouth of a lion**. **The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.**

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been **mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed.** And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

4 So **they worshiped the dragon** who gave authority to the Beast; **and they worshiped the Beast**, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given **authority to continue for forty-two months.**

6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

7 **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.** And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

8 **All who dwell on the earth will worship him,** whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

FROM The ABYSS

*Now let's discover something very, very unusual about this first Beast, the AntiChrist, that many believers miss: **Scripture says he comes up from The ABYSS, the Bottomless Pit!** Whatever that means!*

Revelation 11:7 NKJV

"When they [the 2 Witnesses] finish their testimony, **the Beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.**"

The Abyss or "bottomless pit" is where Satan will be bound for 1000 years (Rev. 20:1-3) and where the worst of the worst demons are confined even now (Revelation 9). One time when Jesus cast out thousands of demons from a man named Legion, the demons begged Jesus not to send them to the Abyss (**Luke 8:30; Entire story Luke 8:26-39**)

Or is the Bible simply saying that this AntiChrist is SO Satan possessed, or so Apollyon possessed, that one could say he himself will be from there. *Just be aware, he is described as coming up from the Bottomless PIT.* Apollyon is the ruler of those demons in the abyss (**Revelation 9:11**). There may be more to this Beast than we might initially think.

Revelation 17:8 NKJV

“The Beast that you saw was, and is not, and **will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition**. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”

What is all that *saying* about this man, the epitome of all evil men ever???

The SECOND BEAST of Revelation 13

In any case, there are TWO BEASTS of Revelation 13. The first rises out of the SEA, and will be the dominant one the Leader of the two beasts. **The first one is the military, political leader** and the 2nd one we’re about to read about, becomes the religious leader.

This second Beast becomes known as the False Prophet. He also will be super powerful – **but defers to the FIRST BEAST** and works to promote Beast #1.

We like to call them “the Beast (#1) and the False Prophet (Beast #2). They’re BOTH called a “BEAST” in Revelation 13. TWO wild people acting as one.

The Beast from the Earth (SECOND BEAST – the False Prophet)

Revelation 13:11-18

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the EARTH, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. **12** And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. **14** And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was **granted to do in the sight of the beast**, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their

foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has **the mark or the name of the beast**, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: **His number is 666.**”

The FALSE PROPHET is BEAST #2. It's easy to get these two Beasts mixed up.

The ANTICHRIST is BEAST #1, AIDED and supported by Beast #2, who is called “the False Prophet”, who does fantastic signs and wonders – *on behalf of, or for, the first Beast, the AntiChrist* (also **Rev 16:13; 19:20**)

At the very end, we read the TRUE King of Kings Yeshua/Jesus Christ, returns from his heavenly Marriage Supper of the Lamb and his Bride in Rev. 19, and fights the armies gathered against him around Jerusalem. Let's read it. You'll also see how the False Prophet works for AntiChrist, or Beast #1.

Revelation 19:19-20

“And I saw the Beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [the true Christ] who sat on the horse and against His army.

20 Then the Beast was captured, and with him the False Prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the Beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

ANTICHRIST -- The COUNTERFEIT, COPY-CAT CHRIST

Here are several VERY important points to grasp. Let's see how the Dragon counterfeits the TRUE JESUS Christ by empowering the AntiChrist. I want us now focusing on the word “COUNTERFEITS.”

- **The term “AntiChrist” can mean AGAINST Christ, but can ALSO mean “INSTEAD OF” Christ.** The AntiChrist will present himself as THE Messiah, the Son of God! **But HE will be a FAKE Christ. Remember that.** Satan has always wanted to be worshiped and this will be his best chance: worshiped vicariously through the AntiChrist. Remember **Satan IS A BIG COPY CAT! Satan copies everything God does so he can deceive!** He also appears as an

angel of light, remember, and his ministers appear as true ministers (**2 Cor. 11:14**)

Biblically we'll see this "antichrist" is also a counterfeit Christ.

- **Therefore, AntiChrist will try to COPY the real Messiah Jesus Christ.** He'll be a fake Christ.

For example: **Jesus died** on the cross for us, and then came back to life again three days later. The AntiChrist will also have a **mortal, a deadly wound** – but his deadly wound was healed (**Rev. 13:3**).

The Real Jesus **did phenomenal miracles by God's power.** The coming AntiChrist, empowered by Satan, will also do phenomenal miracles, especially as he works with The False Prophet. Together they can even call down fire from heaven *by Satan's power*. Those miracles will *almost* deceive even the very elect saints (**Matthew 24:24**). They'll do these awesome miracles by Satan's power (**2 Thess 2:9; Rev. 13:2**).

- **Jesus was the true Son of God. AntiChrist will claim HE is the Son of God.**

Do you remember even at Yeshua's trial before **Pilate the Procurator, that Pilate gave them a choice?** "Should I release Yeshua to you – or Barabbas?" They chose Barabbas. Look it up. You know what Barabbas means? It's the Greek form of "Bar Abba" – meaning, get this, "son (Bar) of the Father (Abba)." The Greek form adds an S to the last part of the name. (Like Judas, the Hellenized/Greek version of his Hebrew name Yehudah – Judah!) *SO they picked the counterfeit Son of the Father – a robber and criminal! See Matthew 27:15-21.*

- Jesus was called **the Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6)**. This AntiChrist will be known for bringing Peace to the Middle East, probably through a 7 year covenant (**Daniel 9:27**) between Muslims and Jews, possibly *setting the stage for the rebuilding of the Third Temple for the Jews.*

Most preachers call that entire seven year period "the Great Tribulation" but also admit the first 3.5 years of it isn't so bad. **But the "GREAT Tribulation" will be the time of greatest trouble the world has ever seen (Matthew 24:21; Daniel 12:1)** Therefore, if the *first 3.5* years of the seven year covenant is not going to be so bad, how could that first 3.5 years of relative peace be part of the true Great Tribulation? *So I believe the Great Tribulation is 3.5 years, not seven years.*

- **True children of God have the Father's name written, or marked on their foreheads (Revelation 14:1). In Ezekiel 9:4** those who sighed and cried over the abominations in the land were marked by God's angel too. **So the AntiChrist also has to have his counterfeit of that** – but his is the “**MARK OF The BEAST**”, 666, the counterfeit, which we can read about at the end of Revelation 13.

We all will have to have either one or the other name and mark! It's the final battle of who we choose to be our God and king. DO NOT ever take the name or mark of the Beast. Their punishment from God is horrific.

- **Remember that the name “AntiChrist” is the SAME as saying “AntiMessiah.”** Get that. Christ and Messiah both mean “anointed one.” They mean the same thing. “Christ” comes from Greek; “Messiah” comes from *Hebrew (Mashiach)*. (There's more on the video)

So I speculate – and this is a HUGE POINT – that AntiChrist may also likely present himself as the expected end-time MESSIAH, especially for the Jews. He could especially “pull this off” if he ends up being a Jew (I don't know), brings peace for a time between Muslims and Jews, and if he helps rebuild the Jews' third temple in Jerusalem. Imagine! Jews are looking for their Messiah and this AntiChrist /AntiMessiah *could present himself as the true promised Messiah. KEEP an eye out for this.* If Jews accept him, that won't last forever, as this same AntiChrist/ AntiMessiah will stop the temple sacrifices that are surely coming. More on that next time, in Part 2.

- **Remember the AntiChrist is also known as The first *BEAST*, wild beast, of Revelation 13. But The true Christ was known as the LAMB of God, gentle and pure when he came the first time. When He comes again He is coming this time as the LION of Judah (**Genesis 49:9**). Of course Satan tries to copy that too! Satan goes around like a roaring lion (**1 Peter 5:8**). PLUS, you'll see in **Rev 13:2** that this **Beast #1, the AntiChrist**, has the mouth of a lion – speaks like a lion! He's a FAKE!**
- **Yeshua/Jesus did his great works and miracles by the power of God the Father, the Almighty.** The fake JESUS AntiChrist is given incredible power by Satan directly in him to try to deceive the world (**2 Thess 2:9; Rev. 13:1-5, 9**). Remember the miracles of Jesus verified who he was; and Satan will try the same with the AntiChrist.

Ever since Satan's rebellion along with his third of the angels against God, he has been in ages-long battle against God and God's children. **Realize there's something BIGGER and HIGHER than just this AntiChrist. It's not just about him – but about Satan, The Serpent, the Red DRAGON -- fighting God. So grasp the bigger picture. The Beast is the TOOL,** the Instrument, that Satan uses.

I find it interesting that **2025** in China is the Year of The SNAKE. Last year 2024 was the Year of the DRAGON. Come on, China, quit giving Satan so much attention!

YOU believers in CHINA – have nothing to do with celebrations of the Red Dragon or the Snake. Have nothing to do with Satan. The Dragon and Snake are the main ways he is represented.

I need to start wrapping up, but what's next?

WHAT'S COMING NEXT IN Bible PROPHECY

MANY preachers wrongly believe the next big event prophetically will be the sudden *PRE-TRIB* RAPTURE of the saints up to heaven. But that's so wrong. I explained all that in a recent sermon.

In Apostle Paul's day, people were saying the Messiah had already returned. Paul had to dispel that and show what must happen first – that hadn't happened yet – before Jesus could return.

But let's see what Paul adds about what has to happen first:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the **falling away (the Apostasy) comes first**, and the **Man of Sin is revealed, the SON of Perdition,**

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that HE SITS AS GOD in the TEMPLE OF GOD, showing himself that he is God. “

So Paul teaches us that there has to be a great rebellion against the truth - a great APOSTASY first. And then this antichrist is revealed. Here he's also called the Man of Sin. He sits in a REAL temple. It's not him just somehow sitting in the minds of the spiritual temple of believers – but in a real building.

Jews are getting everything ready for this temple. The coming Third Temple in Jerusalem IS coming sooner than you realize. (See Video for graphics).

AntiChrist (AntiMessiah) is going to sit on a throne in the temple of God in Jerusalem and have the whole world worship him. Be looking for my sermon coming up on the 3rd temple!

Who does all that sound like? JESUS is going to have the whole world go up to Jerusalem to worship him when he sets up his Millennial reign in Jerusalem (**Isaiah 2:1-4; Micah 4:1-5**).

More on this in the very important part 2 to this sermon.

SO the next thing that has to happen – before any sacrifices can be offered and before a temple can be built – is to sacrifice the Red Heifers (young cows) and burn them, and use their ashes to purify the area, the altars, the priests. See **Numbers 19**. (The video has graphics).

If you grasp the importance of what's happening in Israel and Jerusalem right now, you would be so excited. I'll explain a LOT MORE in the Part 2 of this sermon coming up. Don't miss it. **We're just getting started! Look for Part 2. Have a Bible study with friends about this topic so you're not deluded as so many will be, when this AntiChrist, Man of Sin, Beast power appears.**

I'll explain much more about the Beast and the False Prophet. This "Beast" of Revelation 13 is also known as the AntiChrist/AntiMessiah, Man of Sin. There's still so much to say. See you then!

Closing prayer.