

21. THE ANTICHRIST

The Antichrist will be the most evil, satanically empowered, dictator that our world has ever known. He will rule the world for seven years (Dan 9:27). We don't know his name or from what country he will arise, but most likely a country bordering on the Mediterranean Sea. He is commonly known as the Antichrist, although that name is not used as a proper name in Scripture.

Daniel's vision of the Antichrist

This infamous person is only spoken about in the OT by the prophet Daniel who lived 2600 years ago. He had a vision of four great beasts that represented future kingdoms, the last of which was terrifying and very powerful. It had large iron teeth and it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It had ten horns and:

While I was thinking about the horns, I saw *another horn, a little one*, which rose up among them and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. I saw that this horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully (Dan 7:8).

The little horn is the Antichrist. Daniel said he looked more imposing than the other leaders and he had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. So why is he called a little horn? It could imply youth, inexperience, or anonymity. When he comes on the scene, a divine court is set up to deal with him, and in vs. 11, he is killed. He rules the world for seven years (Dan 9:27) and exercises dictatorial authority during the final 3 ½ years (Dan 7:21-22, Rev 13:5).

An angel interpreted the vision for Daniel:

The ten horns are ten kings who will rule over this kingdom. Another king, different from the earlier ones, will arise after them and he will subdue three of them. He will speak against the Most High and oppress the saints of the high places and try to change the set times and laws. The saints will be delivered into his hands for 3 ½ years. But the court will sit and relieve him of his kingship and destroy it completely forever (Dan 7:24-26).

When the Antichrist rises to power, he will oppress God's people for 3 1/2 years until the Messiah returns and destroys him. The set times and laws he will seek to change may include religious holidays, Judeo-Christian morality, and the calendar year which begins with the year of Jesus' birth. The year 2024 CE (Common Era) used to be known as 2024 AD (Anno Domini) meaning 2024 years since Jesus was born.

The people of *the ruler who will come* will destroy the city and the temple. The end will come like a flood: War and desolations have been decreed until the end. *That ruler* will make a pact with many for seven years. In the middle of the seven years, he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple (cf. LXX), *an abomination that causes desolation*, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him (Dan 9:26-27).

These verses are important because Jesus refers to them when talking about the end of the age:

When you see the Abomination that causes Desolation that the prophet Daniel spoken about standing in the temple - let the reader understand - then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ... For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now, and never to happen again (Mt 24:15-16, 21).

The Romans destroyed Jerusalem and its temple in 70 AD. So Daniel's prophecy that 'The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the temple,' means that the Romans are the people of the future ruler, the Antichrist, or at least of the Roman Empire which covered large parts of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The 'he' at the beginning of Daniel 9:27 refers back to this ruler. He will make a pact with 'many' for seven years. The *many* may refer to the majority in Israel and the agreement may have to do with building a temple on Mount Zion for the prophecy of the seventy 'weeks' includes the anointing of the Most Holy Place. However, in the middle of the seven years, the Antichrist will increase his power by putting an end to the normal activities at this Jewish temple and setting up an idol of himself. Daniel said:

The king will do as he pleases and exalt and magnify himself above every god. He will say insolent things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what God has determined must take place (Dan 11:36)

The death of the Antichrist

I continued to watch because of the boastful words *the horn* was speaking and I kept looking until *the beast* was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire (Dan 7:11).

Reports from the East and the North will alarm him and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. He will come to his end there and no one will help him (Dan 11:44-45).

The Antichrist will be killed while fighting his wars. His place of death is between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas, at the beautiful holy mountain (Mount Zion in Jerusalem). He is overthrown and destroyed by Jesus at his coming by the breath of his mouth and his powerful word and the splendor of his coming. (Rev 19:19-21). The Antichrist and his False prophet are thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, a metaphor for hell. Then follows the thousand years of Christ's reign on earth. When the thousand years are complete, the Devil is captured and thrown into hell where the Antichrist and his False prophet were thrown (Rev 20:10). They are tormented day and night forever and ever.

For further details on Daniel's prophecies concerning the Antichrist, see under Daniel.