

Lesson Six – Antichrist Part 2

Another key characteristic is that he will be intelligent and charismatic.

“20 I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully.” (Daniel 7:20)

He will be Intelligent: He will be an Intellectual and oratorical Genius (Dan 7:20); a Political Genius (Dan 11:21); a commercial genius (Dan 8:25); a Military genius (Dan 8:24); an administrative genius (Rev 13:1-2) and a Religious Genius (2 Thess 2:4). And he will be Charismatic. Daniel 7:7 – 8:25 and Revelation 13:5 describe this. His charismatic personality will be enhanced by his speaking ability, which he will use to sway the masses with spellbinding words of power and promise. Many Hollywood actors have landed great parts and charmed audiences simply by the power of their wonderful and articulate voices. Often Americans are swayed by politicians who have little to offer, but they offer it in the beautiful package of their smooth intonation and syntax. Some of the most popular preachers have megachurches because God has given them this ability. Well in this case – Satan, the deceiver, the father of lies empowers antichrist with the same ability and the apple doesn't fall far from the tree – he is eloquent and articulate and a deceiver and a liar. As Daniel says, the coming world leader will be renowned for this kind of eloquence which will capture the attention and admiration of the world. He goes on to tell us that this golden tongued orator not only will speak in high blown terms but he will also utter pompous words against God.

He will also have and outward appearance that will be striking and attractive. (Dan 7:20), The combination of magnetic personality, speaking ability and good looks will make him virtually irresistible to

the masses. But this is the thing- he won't just outright show up and announce "Here I am – I'm taking over now!"

Instead, he will be politically inconspicuous. one among many minor political leaders. He is a little horn, who will grow into a big horn. He will attract as little attention as possible as he methodically begins to grasp more and more power. John says in Revelation 13:1 that He will arise from a mass of ordinary people just like Hitler and Napoleon. "1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name." The sea standing for the general mass of humanity and most likely meaning the gentile nations.

He is also a cunning leader – he will be a political genius, a masterful diplomat and a clever leader. He will broker a deal with the middle east and Israel – a 7 year covenant. (Daniel 9:27) Something that no one else has been able to do before.

He will be a cruel leader – He will devour the whole world as Daniel says in 7:23- he will trample it and break it into pieces. Even though the church is removed at the rapture, there will be new converts during the time of the tribulation – we'll talk about that next time, but many followers of Christ will be martyred for their faith. It will be a painful torturous, cruel persecution reminiscent of the horrors of Nero and Antioch Epiphanes inflicted on Christians and Jews in ancient Rome but even worse. And half way through that 7-year covenant – he will break the peace treaty with Israel – invade it and set himself up in the temple. He will demand to be worshipped. (Dan 9:27, Matt 24:15, 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:8).

But this won't just happen – the people will be prepared for it. Guess what loved ones – first – do you know what this coronavirus has done? Without the science to back it up – it has become a vehicle to prepare us for this coming kingdom. The antichrist doesn't rise to power alone. Some of his success will result from a worldwide spiritual

deception perpetrated by the False Prophet (the second beast found in Revelation 13:11-15 **“11 Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. 12 He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. 13 And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. 14 Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.”** After the rapture – when the Revived Roman Empire comes into power under the leadership of antichrist – a second beast comes into power in charge of the one world religion. There are some catholic Bishops and cardinals who believe that this will be a future catholic pope – some have determined through an extra-biblical prophecy that Pope Benedict is the second – last pope and that the next pope will be the false prophet – We have to be really careful when we go into the realm of extra-biblical prophecies such as those from Nostradamus or Fatima etc. but this particular one – at least so far, seems to have come true – hopefully we won’t know for sure because we won’t be here when the final part does (if it does) come to fruition.

Regardless – the final world religion is described by Arch Bishop Fulton Sheen as “worldly, ecumenical & Global” He says “It will be a loose federation of churches & religions forming some kind of global association – it will be empty of all divine content and will be the mystical body of the antichrist.” There is already a church that sounds like this and it’s called Unitarian Universalism. From their website it says that “Unitarian Universalism is a caring, open-minded religion that encourages you to seek your own spiritual path. Our faith draws on

many religious sources, welcoming people with different beliefs. We are united by shared values, not by creed or dogma. Our congregations are places where people gather to nurture their spirits and put their faith into action by helping to make our communities—and the world—a better place. Unitarian Universalism is a theologically diverse religion, in which members support one another in the search for truth and meaning. As members of a non-creedal religious tradition, Unitarian Universalists are free to discern their beliefs about theological and ethical issues. Individual Unitarian Universalists may also identify as Atheist, Agnostic, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, or with other philosophical or religious traditions.” And it goes on and on – this very well could be the precursor of the Harlot – the great whore, the final false religion.” Now I used to think that it was a good candidate for the one world religion but I don’t think that’s it – I think it will be a literal religion based on the worship of the antichrist Himself. And this is why – You have this guy – this world leader – who can perform all these miraculous signs and wonders and then you have this false prophet lifting him up like a John the Baptist.

The false prophet is more than just charismatic – the false prophet has supernatural powers as well. For instance – during the tribulation period – there’s an assassination attempt on the antichrist – it looks successful – he’s shot in the head or receives some kind of head wound – everyone thinks he’s dead – but yet here comes the false prophet - He is able to heal a fatal head wound to antichrist. Scripture says - he “performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men” “He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.” Because of these miraculous powers he will deceive many. Think about it – the way the news organizations are essentially nothing less that propaganda arms – people with television audiences like Oprah (and I know she’s old news but she’s a good example) – do you know how many people have been

deceived by Oprah? – imagine if she had a guest on who could call down fire from heaven! And he said he got that power from the world leader – that the world leader – who was just died from a fatal head wound – and was resurrected – should be worshipped. Just like little lemmings – Those who don't know Christ or have refused Christ demanding proof would line up. And eventually they'll have to. Because Worship will be mandatory. They will have to worship the beast – and his image.

Now what is the image of the beast? It could be a statue, it could be a hologram, there is actually a full hologram that is interactive that you can ask questions and he will answer them of a holocaust survivor. It could be a highly advanced robot or animatronic type thing – but it will be a lifelike image of the beast which can speak as given power by the false prophet. Not only speak – but likely know if you are bowing and worshipping it.

And then Anti-Christ and the False Prophet will take over the economy with the mark of the beast. Another of the most famous passages in all of Revelation. Chapter 13 verses 16-17 **“16 He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, 17 so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.”** After his death and resurrection, Antichrist will kill three of the 10 world leaders and the rest will relinquish control to him. He will now officially be the world dictator. It is now that he can take over the global economy and loved ones the way is being prepared right now. Just ten years ago – this was fantasy – today it is becoming reality. We are rapidly moving towards a cashless society. I don't know about you – but right now, I almost never carry cash - I only use cash to make small purchases – like milk, bread, maybe lunch at a fast food place but even then 99% of the time I use my Debit Card. I pay almost every bill online or its automatically debited from my bank

the size of a grain of rice (and they are probably smaller now) – the hard drive we just put in Zach’s new computer is smaller than a thumb drive and can hold something like a terabyte of information – so solid state technology is driving things like that to be smaller – and of course we also have nano technology – but anyway – the idea is that this chip can be implanted under the skin. It can contain volumes of information about a person, financial, medical, religious and it is GPS and RFI trackable. A company called Digital Angel has started producing them for human use now and some companies are actually requiring them for their employees – so they can track where they are in a building and what rooms they have access to. It is also being used by some Alzheimer’s patients.

At some point in time – antichrist will require everyone to take the mark of the beast – and if you don’t have it – you won’t be able to buy or sell. There will be no cash. You won’t be able to get food or pay for clothing or a home or gas for your car. Those who turn to Christ during the tribulation will literally have to have their own black market but it won’t be easy – Now again some disagree with this – some still insist it is a visible mark – like a tattoo. And it could be – it could be both - the main thing to know is – the consequences for taking the mark extend far beyond economic implications. By taking this mark you are forever rejecting God and swearing allegiance to the beast. Anyone who willingly takes the mark – will be forever condemned. There will be no changing your mind or switching side. You will be doomed to eternity in Hell. Be sure to thank God that you won’t be on this earth during the reign of antichrist and his minion the false prophet.

Whether you realize it or not – we’re being conditioned for this now with this Covid pandemic – I’m not saying Covid isn’t real – it is – it’s a virus – but the true science shows that although it’s more infectious than flu – overall – it’s really no more deadly – in fact – where we had millions of cases of flu last year – there’s been only a couple thousand

this year? Something's not right there- but mask mandates – lockdowns – none of which are proving to really work – in fact data is showing just the opposite – southern states that are wide open and mask mandates lifted have covid cases dropping and places like Michigan with full mask mandates and lockdowns – their cases are soaring – and then we have all of this talk of Covid passports – you can't freely travel or go to places unless you have the passport – and then you still have the mask – not the mark of the beast – but it's conditioning you. I'm not saying don't wear a mask – I wear one when I have to – I'm not saying don't get the shot – I just got my first one – these are not the mark of the beast – I get the flu shot every year as well – okay – I'm saying pay attention and understand that someday- something's going to come along that is the ultimate mandate – get this mark and worship this world leader or else.

In closing – understand that the antichrist and the false prophet, although terrifying and the epitome of evil, a negative of Christ and His church, the avowed enemy and despisers of God – they are not equal to God. They do not have absolute power or anything even close to it. God has them on a chain, in fact in Revelation 13 we are reminded repeatedly that the antichrist can only do what he is allowed to do. Twice in this chapter we find the little phrase “and he was given.” “And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty two months” (v. 5) We also find “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.” (v.7) As in the story of Job, Satan and his puppet (the Antichrist) will only be able to do that which God allows. The Antichrist will be able to create terrible havoc and chaos, but ultimately God is still God, and no enemy of His will go beyond the boundaries He sets.” And ultimately – Antichrist and the false prophet will be thrown into the lake of Fire for all eternity and Jesus Christ will rule and reign for 1000 years and then for all of eternity.

Now next week we'll start talking about the Tribulation period – I'm not sure if we'll get all the way through it because I'm going to talk about Daniel's 70 weeks as well but we'll do the tribulation period – which will include Armageddon – then we'll transition to the Return of Christ, the millennial kingdom and the different views on that and then the eschaton – or the final joining of heaven and earth with a new heaven and earth and eternity.