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The Reputation of the Antichrist

Part 5 of 7

By Mike Wingfield

One of the most disturbing subjects in the Bible is the predicted coming of the monster from hell – the Antichrist. For many years, I have been stunned that the Bible has revealed so much detailed information about this demonic dictator who will tyrannically compel the attention of every person on the planet at the end of this age.

When Jesus Christ came into this world, He came to put His heavenly Father on display for all of mankind to see. The Apostle John wrote, "And the Word [Jesus] was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

According to Bible prophecy, an evil person is coming who will be embodied by the devil and will put the devil on display. Just as Jesus was everything pure, good, lovely, holy, etc., even so the

Antichrist will be deceptive, bad, evil, and filled with hate. In him will be Satan's finest and final attempt to produce a man that will be as much like him as possible.

In this newsletter, we will examine the nature of this Superman of Satan. First, we will reveal that he will be anti-God. Second, we will show from Scripture that he will be an ungodly, evil, wicked man, controlled by Satan.

He will be anti-God!

His biblical title, antichrist, (1 John 2:18) suggests he will hate and oppose the one true God of the Bible. His nature will be the exact opposite of the nature of Jesus Christ.

1. He will hate God!

The Scriptures give a long list of statements that demonstrate that this man from hell will hate the God of the Bible – the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Consider these verses:

"And he shall speak great words against the Most High..." (Daniel 7:25)

"... and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous [astonishing, unbelievable] things against the God of gods..." (Daniel 11:36).

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

"And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven" (Revelation 13:6).

He shall ultimately "stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand" (Daniel 8:25, compare to Revelation 19:19).

2. He will hate what God loves!

Those who love God, will become like Him. They will love what God loves and hate what He hates. For those who follow Satan, the opposite is true. They hate what God loves and love what God hates. Therefore, it will be obvious that the Antichrist hates the God of the Bible.

- <u>He will hate the saints of God</u>. He and his religion will declare war on all those who are followers of God (<u>Daniel 7:25</u>; <u>Revelation 13:7</u>; 17:6). For seven years, he will hunt down and murder the followers of Jesus (<u>Revelation 6:2-8</u>). He will slaughter them and behead them (<u>Revelation 20:4</u>).

We are currently watching a massive Islamic campaign around the world as radical Islamic terrorists slaughter Christians. The liberal global media is almost completely silent about this attack on Christianity. During the Tribulation, believers in Jesus from all nations will be martyred for their faith (Revelation 7:9-17). The final war against Christianity has already begun!

- He will hate the chosen people of God (Jews)!

Daniel 8:24 states that he will seek to "destroy the



mighty and the holy people." At the end of this age, he will lure them into a 7-year peace treaty that will be a death trap for Israel (Daniel 8:25; 9:27). He will break that treaty after three and one-half years and take over the newly rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem (Matthew 24:15-21). Finally, at the end of the Tribulation, he will direct the major Armageddon campaign against Israel to destroy the Jewish nation (Revelation 16:12-16; compare Zechariah 12-14).

The war against Israel and all Jews has begun. Until recent years, this was not a part of the fabric of hate in America. Now, we hear about thousands of protestors filled with hate speaking out against Jews and Israel. This is also a growing problem in Europe. Thousands of European Jews are speaking out, and some are immigrating to Israel. The war against God's chosen people has been reignited and is about to turn into a global blazing fire. At the head of this war are the radical Muslims, living in most of the nations around the world.

- <u>He will hate all that is good</u>. God pronounces judgment upon those who reverse His moral standards. "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20). The Antichrist will be

the personification of this diabolical deception (Daniel 8:25). Instead of aiming for peace, he will glory in war (Daniel 11:38-39; Revelation 13:4). He will be like many other former vile men, who have no honor or respect for women (Daniel 11:37). He will be a man who is deep into the occult, those who



are in league with the devil and his demons (Daniel 8:23). He will be a man that demands the worship of his religion and god (Daniel 11:37-39). Ultimately he will attempt to kill those who refuse to worship him as god (Revelation 13:11-15).

- He will exalt another god! Remember that the First Commandment is "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). He will defy that commandment and "honor the god of forces" (Daniel 11:38). This means his god will be like the murderer (John 8:44), and the one called "the destroyer" (in Hebrew Abaddon and in Greek Apollon in Revelation 9:11). During the Tribulation, he will declare himself to be the incarnation of that god and demand global worship (Daniel 11:37; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:4-5).

He will be an ungodly, evil, wicked man, controlled by Satan

1. He will be evil!

The titles given to this man will mark him as the very personification of evil. His demeanor, speech, and actions are all pure evil. He is called "that man of sin" (2 Thessalonians 2:3), and "that wicked one" (2 Thessalonians 2:8). Arthur Pink (1886-1952), a British biblical scholar wrote, "He will be the living and active embodiment of every form and character of evil. [It] signifies that he will be sin itself personified. [It] denotes that there will be no lengths of wickedness to which he will not go, no forms of

evil to which he will be a stranger, no depths of corruption that he will not bottom" (Arthur Pink, <u>The Antichrist</u>, p. 63).

The Apostle Paul called the Antichrist "the son of perdition" (2 Thessalonians 2:3). The word perdition means "destruction," and is used in the New Testament to refer to hell. This clearly marks the Antichrist as a messenger from hell. Pink writes, "It denotes that he will be the culmination and

consummation of satanic craft and power. All the evil, malignity, cunning, and power of the Serpent will be embodied in this terrible monster" (Arthur Pink, The Antichrist, p. 63).

2. He will be controlled by the devil!

When Jesus walked the earth 2,000 years ago, He was controlled by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 4:1; 12:28; Romans 1:4). In contrast to Jesus, the Antichrist will be controlled by Satan (Revelation 13:2, 4). At the mid-point of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will be killed and resurrected back to life (Revelation 13:4,14; 17:8). Immediately before this, Satan and his demons will be cast out of heaven (Revelation 12:7-12). Then, Satan will enter the body of the resurrected Antichrist. As a result, "all the world wondered after the beast [the Antichrist]" (Revelation 13:3).

We must understand that Satan is a fallen angel. He is not like God who is omnipresent (can be everywhere at the same time). As a finite creature, Satan can only be in one place at a time. Therefore, it stands to reason that few people have been directly indwelt by the devil. However, like Judas (John 13:2, 26-27), this man will become an essential part of Satan's strategy. He will become the direct puppet of hell during the last half of the Tribulation.

3. He will be a man of incredible deception! This man's life will stand in stark contrast to Jesus.

who is the truth (John 14:6). The Antichrist will be the master of falsehood at a time of great spiritual deception. Daniel 8:25 states, "And through his policy [political and religious dogma] also he shall cause craft [deceit] to prosper in his hand ..." The Apostle Paul wrote that the Antichrist would come "after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders" (2 Thessalonians 2:9).

His deception will be powerful. He will come in the name of God and declare himself to be God. Jesus warned us that this would be one of the chief signs of the last days – spiritual deception. Jesus said, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my

many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ... And many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:4-5, 11). Jesus warned that this deception would dupe the world. Jesus said, "For there shall rise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matthew 24:24). Revelation 13:14 proclaims that the Antichrist will deceive most of the people who dwell on the earth.

There will be at least four things the Antichrist will do, with Satan's aid, to deceive the entire world. His resurrection from the dead will cause many to believe he is God (Revelation 13:3-4). He and his false prophet will have satanic power to perform miracles and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9). He will be a real wizard with incredible intellectual capabilities (Daniel 8:23). He will be a real Harry Potter. No wonder the younger generation will be captivated by him. Furthermore, he will also mesmerize the world with his great speaking kills and charisma (Revelation 13:5).

The world is ripe for the coming of the Antichrist! He will arrive on the global scene at a time when the

global population and their godless leadership will be "against the LORD, and against his anointed [Messiah- Jesus]" (Psalm 2:2). This means that this monster of Hell will be adored and worshipped by most people.

Look what is happening around the world. Millions are taking the side of the terrorist group Hamas against the innocent Jewish people who want peace, not war. Look at the political climate in the U.S. at this hour. Some Americans are so deceived that

they believe it is wrong to expel illegal migrants who have blood on their hands and belong to violent gangs that have no mercy or respect for human life.

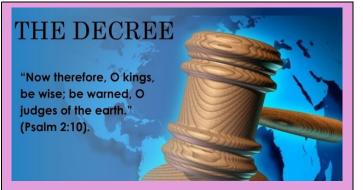
There are four reasons why the Antichrist's deception will work. (1)

We are living at a time of universal ignorance of God's Word. We live at a time of deception and apathy in the professing church. We live at a time of global apostasy (2 Thessalonians 2:3). This current generation does not have "the love of the truth" (2 Thessalonians 2:10).

(2) We are living at a time of fierce demonic activity (1 Timothy 4:1). As it was in the days of Noah, our world is enamored with moral corruption and violence (Genesis 6:11-13). This always destroys the souls of men by darkening their conscience and blinding them from truth and common sense. It is the path of death!

(3) The souls of billions are spiritually empty (Luke 11:24-26). It is my conviction that most of the church members in America are not born again. They have a "form of godliness" (2 Timothy 3:5). Their language and lifestyles are no different from the godless crowd they mingle with daily (2 Timothy 3:1-8, 13). People like this are self-deceived and are wolves in sheep's clothing in our congregations.

(4) The Antichrist's deception will be accompanied by the judgment of God on the final generation of this age. God has spiritually given up on them (Romans



1:18-32). Their departure from God and their rejection of His truth will cause God to leave them to their own choice of eternal damnation. "God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12).

Friends, the antichrist is coming! The spirit of Antichrist is alive and well on this earth! We live at a time of great spiritual darkness where people are in love with deception, immorality, violence, rebellion, and hatred. People are blindly exalting themselves above God, and all other God-ordained authoritiesparents, government, and the law.

As the Apostle Paul wrote 19 centuries ago, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with [diverse] lusts, ever learning, and never able

to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith" (2 Timothy 3:1-8).

The Islamic hope for its coming messiah seems to fit the biblical role of the Antichrist. They believe he will rule the world for seven years! They claim he will be preceded by a time of global destruction. They declare he will be accompanied by the great prophet Jesus, and that they will both perform great

miracles. They believe their Messiah and Jesus will kill all the Christians and Jews and establish Islam as the only religion in the world! They believe their Messiah will come out of Saudi Arabia and will rule the world!

The fact that Islam is now the fastest-growing religion in the world is very enlightening considering what the Bible teaches about the Antichrist! It is a religion that honors war and violence. It forces people to worship their god and declares war on those who refuse to submit to Islam! It is a religion that teaches its children to hate Jews and Christians. It has little respect for women. It is a religion that honors deception.

Friends, I am convinced that hell's red carpet is about to be unrolled for this evil man to make his grand entrance onto the stage of human history! Please remember that before he steps onto the stage of history and forces a false covenant of peace on Israel, we will be raptured into the presence of our Lord!

Friends, all this truth from the Bible about the Antichrist is very troubling. As true believers, we will not be here to suffer through this evil time. However, many of our friends and family members who are not saved will face this evil tyrant and his kingdom of hell on earth. This should be troubling! After the Lord revealed His revelation to Daniel about the Antichrist and his kingdom, Daniel wrote, "I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me" (Daniel 7:15).



Years later, when the Lord gave the Apostle John the revelation concerning the Antichrist and the end-times, he confessed that it was a sweet and bitter experience (Revelation 10:8-11). It is sweet because we know our time is short and the Lord is

coming. It is bitter because we know so many people will die and suffer during this time.

We need to warn people all around us about what is soon to take place. I believe it is much later than we think. We have the good news. People need to hear it now, before it is too late.

Friend, do you know if heaven is your eternal destination? According to the Bible, we are born sinners. If a person does not pray and ask God to forgive him and save him, he will automatically go to the place of eternal damnation. He will forever be separated from God and cast into the eternal Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:15).

The only way to salvation is through the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God. As God and man, He died on the cross to reconcile sinful man to God. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Jesus was appointed by God to be the sacrifice for our sins. Only His shed blood can wash away our sins. The Bible promises that if you believe Jesus is God and that He rose from the dead you are on your way to salvation. In addition to this, you must ask for forgiveness, turn from your sin, and give Jesus your life. Then, He will save you.

Salvation is a free gift that has been purchased by the blood of Jesus on the cross. Salvation is not obtained by our good works or attending a church. Open your Bible and read **Ephesians 2:8-9** and **Romans 10:9-10**. If you confess your sins and ask for forgiveness, the Lord will give you the gift of eternal life.

I encourage you to read the gospel of John. If you have questions or need help, please contact us and we will be glad to help you.

Please do not wait. Jesus could come at any moment, and you do not want to be left behind.

Be ready for the shout that will take us out!

An Urgent Prayer Request

President Donald Trump has sent an envoy to talk with Iran about its plans to develop a nuclear weapon. I believe that such an attempt to speak with Iran is useless and foolish. Iranian leaders have proven themselves to be deceivers and liars. They cannot be trusted.

They are simply engaging the U.S. in empty chatter to buy more time to complete their nuclear ambitions. The Iranians say they want to talk, while at the same time they continue to brag that the nation of Israel is about to be destroyed.

The only option is to militarily remove Iran's nuclear facilities. Please pray for our leaders and the leadership in Israel. This is a very serious matter that involves the safety of the entire world.

We can no longer collect funds for Israel!

Much to our surprise and disappointment, we discovered from our tax preparer that collecting funds for Israel and sending them to a non-profit ministry in Israel carries a very large tax liability for us. Therefore, we can no longer financially afford to accept funds for Israel. We deeply regret this. As you know, this ministry is committed to demonstrating its love for Israel and the Jewish people. We have expressed our support by helping to alleviate their financial burdens at this very difficult time.

We highly recommend that you send your funds for Israel directly to the following:

International Christian Embassy Jerusalem PO Box 415000 Nashville, TN 37241-5000

Please make all checks payable to *ICEJ*. You can also designate how you want your funds to be used.