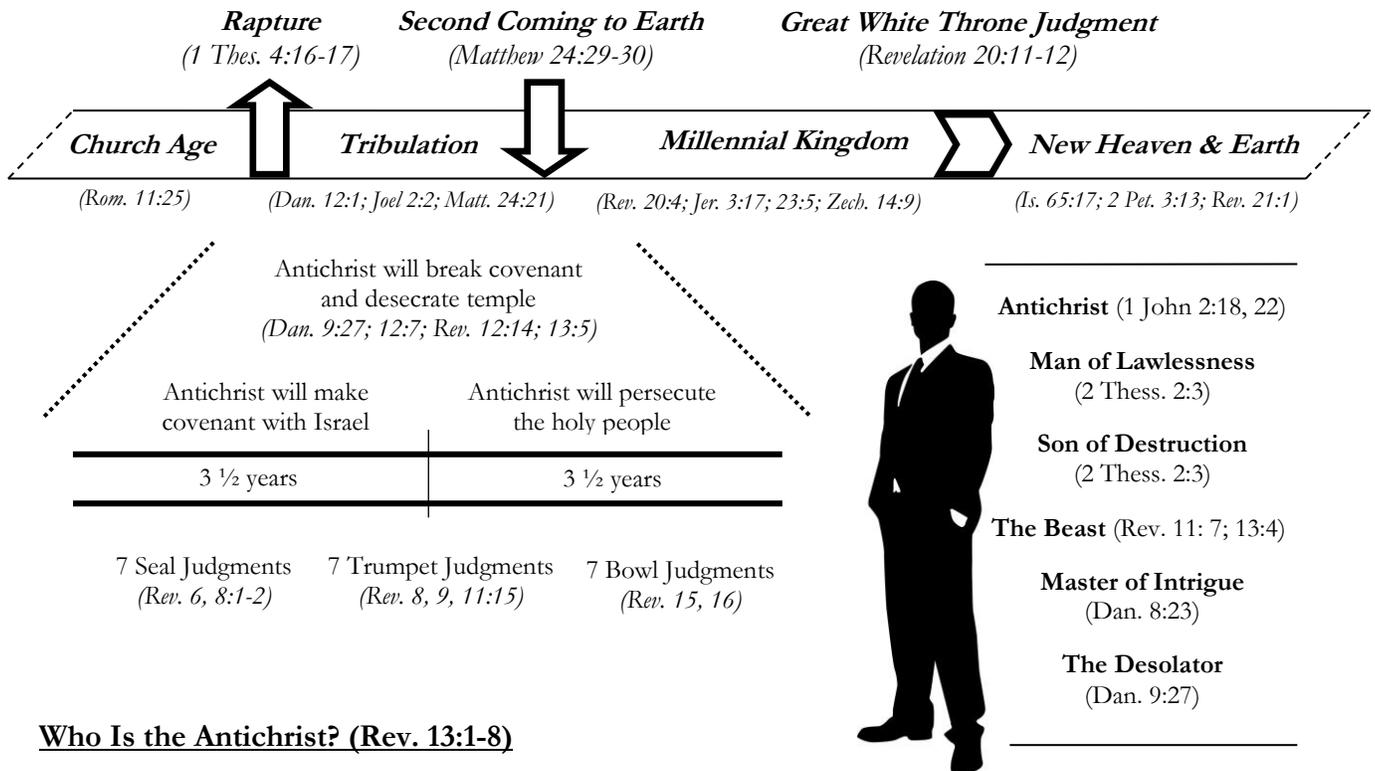


Reading Through the New Testament

Revelation (Part 3)



Who Is the Antichrist? (Rev. 13:1-8)

1. Before looking at what the book of Revelation has to say about this evil ruler who will emerge on the world scene in the last days, it is helpful to see how other passages of Scripture describe him:

Daniel 8:23-26

- a.) These verses point to a leader who would emerge in the days of the G_____ Empire (v.21), named Antiochus IV who ruled from 175-164 BC. He was an incredibly evil leader, and though his reign is long past he serves as a shadow of the future antichrist still to come.
- b.) He was incredibly a_____ (v.25). He printed coins bearing his image that read “Antiochus Epiphanes” which meant “God Manifest.”
- c.) He invaded Israel, the h_____ people (v.24), in 168 B.C. desecrating the Jewish temple by setting up a statue of the Greek god Zeus in the courtyard and offering a pig on the altar.
- d.) He opposed the P_____ of p_____ (v.25) by claiming to be a god, and by putting a halt to the Jewish sacrifices, trying to force God’s people to worship Greek gods.
- e.) His reign of terror was brought to a close, but his death did not come by h_____ hands (v.25). It was a sudden illness, undoubtedly God’s intervention, which took his life.
- f.) Antiochus was long dead when Jesus walked the earth, but the Lord spoke of Daniel’s prophecy as still future in Matthew 24:15.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-10

2. The apostle Paul looks to the future and speaks of the coming of a man of 1_____ who will deceive the wicked. Who is behind this ruler, empowering him to do signs and false wonders (v.9)?

3. This leader will exalt himself above God and men. What is his most blatant act of arrogance (v.4)? What needs to be rebuilt in Jerusalem before this can happen?

4. How will this leader eventually meet his end (v.8)?

5. Paul tells us that “lawlessness is already at work” in the world today (v.7). How? How can believers make sure they are not deceived and led astray by fake messiahs and false teachers?

Revelation 13:1-8

6. What are some of the details we see in these verses that line up with the other passages we have read? What title is given to the antichrist in this passage? Why?

7. Verse 3 describes a fatal wound to beast apparently being healed. This could either mean:

- The e_____ the beast rules was dead but is restored to a position of dominance
- The beast (antichrist) himself appears to have died but is brought back to 1_____
- Whatever the case might be, how does the world respond to this apparent miracle?

8. During the first half of the tribulation, the antichrist will seem like a wonderful leader to the inhabitants of the earth. According to Daniel 9:27, he will even establish a covenant with Israel bringing peace to the region. When he reveals his true colors, what will his ambition be during the second half of the tribulation (v.5-7, 11:1-2)?

9. When will the rule of the antichrist finally come to an end? (see Rev. 19:20)

10. There have been many evil leaders in the history of the world. Can you name a few of them? Is it easy to speak out against tyranny and injustice when it might cost a person their life? We have the privilege of electing leaders in our country. What traits should we look for? ...someone who is charismatic? ...someone who promises great things? ...someone with integrity?