

Lesson 5 The Rise and Fall of the anti-Christ

Day 1 The Rise of the anti-Christ

This is rather a vast topic, but I want you to have some background information on the anti-Christ before we start studying Revelation 6. I hope you are just eating up all of this, and it gives you great joy to know what you know and it gives you confidence in your God for the future. After all, that is the purpose of this study: to be so absolutely convinced of the Biblical truth of Scripture, you can bank on it and stand firm if you need to be that overcomer we talked about in the Seven Churches of Revelation.

Honestly, after seeing the movie After the Holocaust, I cannot imagine any person rising to the top of the world's stage, being any more evil than Hitler was. I do believe Hitler was indwelt by the devil himself. Was he the anti-Christ or did he have the spirit of the anti-Christ? I believe, just like Antiochus Epiphanes, Hitler was a type of anti-Christ who definitely had the spirit of the anti-Christ within him. But History has shown us that Hitler was not the anti-Christ of Revelation who will come to absolute power in the end times. However hard this is to understand, Hitler will pale in comparison to the despot monster that is coming.

I am going to introduce you here to a framework of counterfeiting. As God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are a Holy Trinity, we will see an unholy trinity in ha-Satan, the anti-Christ, and the Beast of the end time. We must understand that ha-Satan has been mimicking God ever since he first sinned.

What did we learn about ha-Satan in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14 in regard to ha-Satan counterfeiting God? It will be this same "counterfeiting" that will become evident with the rise of the anti-Christ and our Lord Jesus Christ during the Tribulation. If you don't remember about this counterfeiting, go back and take a look at these two passages of Scripture in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14. Write your thoughts below:

Satan stated he wanted to be "like" God. To truly understand this coming world dictator, we must view him within this counterfeit of the unholy trinity.

If I am honest with myself, I have had trouble in the past with believing wholeheartedly that the Holy Spirit is a member of the Godhead and just as much God as

the Father and God as the Son are each God. After studying this antithesis presented in the Scripture and understanding the counterfeit nature of ha-Satan in these three persons of the unholy trinity of the end time, I am totally convinced that the Holy Spirit is a member of the Godhead and is just as much God as the other two. I hope this does not disturb you. Perhaps your understanding of the Holy Trinity will be shored up as well as we continue to study ***the antithesis of the True Trinity, the unholy trinity.***

Please read **Revelation 13**. Here in Revelation 13, please understand, the first beast is the anti-Christ and the second beast is the False Prophet.

What part of the Holy Trinity will ha-Satan mimic in the unholy trinity?

What part of the Holy Trinity will the first beast (the anti-Christ) mimic in the unholy trinity?

What part of the Holy Trinity will the second beast (the False Prophet) mimic in the unholy trinity?

Ha-Satan will play the part of the counterfeit **father** and just as God the Father gives all His authority to God the Son, ha-Satan will give all his authority to his counterfeit son, **the anti-Christ** or the **first beast**. And just as the Holy Spirit calls men to worship Jesus, God's Son, so also will the **False Prophet**, or the **second beast**, call men to worship **ha-Satan's son**, the **anti-Christ**. Hopefully, if you have this understanding, then you will more easily understand other passages of Scripture.

Names of the anti-Christ

Throughout Scripture the anti-Christ, the one who plays the sinister world dictator in the end time, is known by many different names. Just as God's names in Scripture are reflective of his character (i.e., El Gibbor or Mighty God), so the names by which the anti-Christ is known are reflective of his character. Just as all God's names make up our total understanding of Him, so it is with the anti-Christ. The anti-Christ's names collectively portray him as the epitome of evil for those on the earth and the epitome of evil for those good angels who are still in heaven.

Look up the following Scripture references and write down the name the anti-Christ is referred to in these passages.

Genesis 3:15

Daniel 7:8

Daniel 8:23

Daniel 9:26

Daniel 9:27

Daniel 11:36

2 Thessalonians 2:3

2 Thessalonians 2:3

2 Thessalonians 2:8

1 John 2:22

Revelation 11:7

You will notice that five of the names are in the book of Daniel. We will be referring to Daniel all the way through the rest of this week's study.

The names from top to bottom are ha-Satan's Seed, the Little Horn of Daniel which possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts, a king insolent and skilled in intrigue, the prince who is to come and destroy the city and the sanctuary, the one who makes desolate, the who does as he pleases and exalts and magnifies himself, the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction, the lawless one, the anti-Christ, the first beast.

Most scholars refer to this man as the anti-Christ. Even though this title name is only used once in the Scripture, it does depict the meaning of the name that is "in place of Christ" or "against the Messiah."

Origin of the anti-Christ - please do not fail to read all of the verses in bolded type and write your thoughts in the spaces provided.

1. He will be a Gentile: Daniel 9:26-27 The Greek Antiochus Epiphanes is a type of anti-Christ to come; **Daniel 11** He will arise out of the sea. "The sea" in Biblical imagery is "out of the nations" or out of the "Gentile world." Most scholars believe that the time of the Gentiles does not end until the 2nd Coming of Christ. See **Revelation 13:1-10**. I don't know exactly what I believe "the time of the Gentiles" is referring to in the Scripture. Always in the past I have equated the "end of the time of the Gentiles" with Jesus coming in the Rapture. Now as I think more completely, I have confused the "end of the time of the Gentiles," with the "end of the Church Age." Apparently, these are not the same time periods.

2. His nationality will be from the revised Roman Empire: Daniel 9:27 The "who" who makes the covenant and the "he" who is the prince to come will be of the same nationality as "the people" who will destroy the city and the sanctuary. Who are the people who will destroy the city and the sanctuary?

3. His supernatural origin is found in Genesis 3:15. There will be enmity between ha-Satan and the woman and between the woman's Seed and the serpent's seed. If the "seed of the woman" is the Christ, who must be the "seed of the serpent?" Ha-Satan will counterfeit the virgin conception. Does this mean that Ha-Satan will impregnate a Roman descendant with "his seed?" It does make you think, doesn't it?

Day 2 **The Revelation of the anti-Christ to the Church & the Jewish People**

The identity of the anti-Christ to the Believers will be revealed at the start of the Tribulation Period. The identity of the anti-Christ to the Jews will be revealed when the anti-Christ pulls the plug on the treaty he has made with them, at the 3 and ½ year mark or the middle of the Tribulation Period. This will be when he also sets himself up as God in their Jewish rebuilt temple in Jerusalem as the Abomination of Desolation.

We have already looked at the Rapture, but for purposes of really understanding when the anti-Christ will be revealed to the Church or the Tribulation Saints and also to the Jewish people, we will look at it again here. Please, read the following and put your thoughts in the space below each paragraph or set of paragraphs.

Why did I underline the “or” above between the Church and the Tribulation Saints?

If for some reason we are not interpreting properly the timing of the Rapture before the beginning of the Tribulation, then the timing of the Rapture could lead us to the breaking of the sixth seal judgment in which the “wrath” of God is mentioned for the first time in **Revelation 6:16**. We must be ready. We must be prepared for anything. We must have enough oil to keep our lamps lit. We must not lose hope that we have somehow missed the Rapture. We cannot afford to be caught off guard. We are to encourage each other daily. We are to remain constant in our relationship to the LORD Jesus Christ. How do we do this?

We do this by prayer, by studying His Word (The Scripture) and by confession of our sins one to another, asking forgiveness, and by fellowshiping with other Believers.

The Apostasy of the Church and the Revelation of the anti-Christ to the Church and to the Jews

The Apostasy of the Church

Paul calls the tribulation period, “the Day of the LORD” in **2 Thessalonians 2:1-3**. The Thessalonian church was very frightened that the tribulation period (the Day of the Lord) had already come and they had been left behind. According to this passage, for the Believers – the apostasy of the Church must precede the tribulation and also there must be the revelation of the man of sin. To what do you think the apostasy of the church refers? Believe me, I think we are living in the time of the apostate church, but what is it exactly? Take a look back at the Laodicean church in **Revelation 3:15**. Write your thoughts about the apostate church here:

Jesus tells the Laodicean church they are neither cold nor hot, but luke warm and He will spit them out of His mouth because they make his stomach queasy. The Laodicean church believes they are rich because they have become wealthy and are in need of nothing...but He claims they are poor, wretched, miserable, blind, and naked. I think He is telling us to repent and put ourselves into the frying pan where we will suffer. This is really hard for me; I don’t want to pray for persecution, but do you know that this is exactly what the persecuted church around the world is praying for us here in America?

We who are here in the states are all wealthy. Are we supposed to make good financial decisions and good investment choices? Absolutely! I believe so. But not

many of us give until it hurts. And how do we make the decision to give and to whom? Please write your thoughts below and then read my thoughts afterwards:

This is very difficult for some of you. I learned this from a married couple who were members' of our former small group when we were with Crossroads 29+ years ago. The wife moved her business to a town in western Colorado and her husband took a position at the Christian camp there. I didn't particularly like the pastor who was head over the camp, but this couple had placed themselves under his leadership and authority and they were going to follow his leading and his teaching. The pastor was a godly man and in tune with the LORD. This is and was so difficult for me to accept, because I am, by nature, very suspicious of authority, within the church body. Some of the suspicion is understandable, but when the leadership in your church, whether it be pastors or elders or in our case, board members, are godly men and women seeking His face, relying really on the leadership of the Holy Spirit, then God expects us to abide by the decisions they make concerning finances of the church. For our own personal giving to other charities other than our church (or even to the man/woman begging for money on the Interstate exchanges), I believe we need to rely on the Holy Spirit of God to assess each need and intent and to move us to give. Many times I have passed up panhandlers. Some times I have not. I know some of you out there think I am horrible for giving "my hard earned money" away to some of these "crooks," but I want you to know that I believe I am operating under the authority and leadership of the Holy Spirit. He will move me to give or not to give. It isn't whimsical for me to give to this one and not to another one. There are times when we just have to rely on His Spirit to move us or not to move us.

Maybe my former, retired, pastor had the correct idea about "being hot or cold," when he asked us to look into our checkbooks and see to whom we have written checks. Maybe the measure of hot or cold for us (we rich Americans) can be defined as to whom we support with our monies. My former pastor used to ask: "Can God call on you at any time to use your checkbook?" Please do not think I am trying to guilt you into giving. That's not my purpose here. And there are many of you out there struggling to whom the rest of us should be very generous in helping.

I can't tell you the number of mailings I get every week to give to this good cause and that good cause. It is not that they are not good causes, but I have to ask myself, "What will bring increase to the cause of Christ?" What do I do if they all will bring increase to the cause of Christ? Then I have to prioritize. Those who know me, know that I am not an advocate of giving everything you have away – just to give it away (unless He has specifically called on you to do that). If you give everything you have away, what will you live on yourself? And who will you be burdening when you have nothing and you can't take responsibility for yourself? I think we need to be very discerning as to where we put our offerings lest we be found working against the LORD. Don't get me wrong, we also need to be aware of how we make purchases and

the bazillion things we buy that we don't need. I do believe we Americans have a buying addiction. Some of your husbands are probably opposed to buying anything, even necessities. Some of your husbands are addicted to spending, just like some of us women who are addicted to spending. Enough said.

The lukewarm apostate church is not just lukewarm in their pocketbooks. In what else are they lukewarm?

What are their deeds like? What are our deeds like?

Are they lukewarm to sin in their camp? How about us?

Are they lukewarm with their time? How about us?

The Revelation of the anti-Christ to the Church

The Old Testament talks about the "Day of the LORD" being the Tribulation period. Tim LaHaye in his Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy believes that the Bible distinguishes between the Tribulation period (entire 7 years) and the Great Tribulation (the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation). In the New Testament, Jesus uses the word "tribulation" and it seems like He is using it to mean the entire seven years in **Matthew 24: 9**. Yet in **Matthew 24:21**, Jesus speaks of the Great Tribulation starting with the abomination of desolation. In **2 Thessalonians 2:1-3**, Paul says that not only will the day of the LORD come after the apostate church has been revealed, but that the anti-Christ will be revealed at this time, also. Does this passage in 2 Thessalonians mean to say that the church will be taken out before the start of the seven-year Tribulation Period? I do not know the answer to this question of timing. I know only that the revelation of the man of sin, the anti-Christ, is to be at the same time the anti-Christ signs a seven-year peace covenant with Israel. See **Daniel 9:27**. The anti-Christ will be revealed to the Believers who are still on the earth at the time of the signing of the seven-year peace covenant; these Christians may have become Believers in-between the Rapture and the signing of the covenant or the Rapture of the Believers may not have taken place, yet. It does appear from Paul's writing and wording in **2 Thessalonians 2:1-3** that the Rapture will occur right after the start of the Tribulation period. Whether or not the scholars agree on the timing of the Rapture, one thing they do agree on is that the Rapture is imminent, meaning it can happen at any time. There is nothing that has to "come to pass" before Christ comes to take His Bride (the Church) to be with Him.

The Revelation of the anti-Christ to the Remnant of the Jewish people

Now let's talk about the revelation of the anti-Christ to the Jews. Please read **Daniel 9:27, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, Matthew 24:3-28.**

When do you think the anti-Christ will be revealed to the Jewish people?

In the **Matthew** passage above, Jesus talks about the first half of the Tribulation in verses **24:4-14** and the last half of the tribulation in **24:15-28.**

Who asked Jesus the question about the end of the age? To whom is this passage written? Is it written to the saved? Is it written to His disciples only? Is it written to Christian Believers? Is it written to the Jews only?

I believe it is written to the Jews of the end time. Remember, that to the Jews, even at the time Christ is speaking to them in **Matthew 24**, there are only two groups of people: the Gentiles and the Jews. There really is no church or saved/unsaved people group as of yet.

What are the beginning of birth pangs Jesus speaks of in **Matthew 24:4-8**?

After the birth pangs, what is next for the Jewish people in **Matthew 24:9-14**?

Do you see anti-Semitism in this passage?

What will "they" be falling away from, in this passage?

Who will arise to mislead them?

Who are the ones who will be saved?

Who are the ones who will endure to the end?

What will happen to the gospel of the kingdom? Who will do the preaching? Also see **Revelation 7.**

How and when is the anti-Christ revealed to the Jewish people according to **Matthew 24:15**?

How and when is the anti-Christ revealed to the Jewish people according to **Daniel 9:24-27**?

So we see here that the revelation of the anti-Christ to the Jewish people will be at the midpoint of the 7 year Tribulation Period or at the 3 ½ year mark. What must the Jewish people do when they realize the man who made a covenant with them earlier is really the anti-Messiah? Also read again **Daniel 9:27** and **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4**.

Days 3 and 4 **The Timetable for the Rise of the Anti-Christ to Power**

The following was taken from the work of Dr. Arnold J. Fructenbaum's lecture on the Rise and Fall of the Anti-Christ.²⁰

The Rise of the anti-Christ

Again, please read all of the verses as you are working your way through this day's lesson. This is the progression that we will see as we study the rise of the anti-Christ in Revelation. There is space provided after each paragraph for your notes. Please write out your thoughts and your questions.

The counterfeit son, the anti-Christ will accept the offer that the True Son rejected in **Matthew 4:1-10, Luke 4:5-8**. Do you remember the last temptation of the three that ha-Satan offered Jesus? What did ha-Satan offer Jesus? So what will the counterfeit son accept that the true son did not? When this has been done, it will mark the beginning of the anti-Christ's rise to religious and political power. See **Daniel 11:38-39**.

Daniel 8:23-25 When the sins of the world are full, the anti-Christ will have access to the supernatural satanic realm. He will have supernatural ability to solve riddles like Daniel did before King Nebuchadnezzar in **Daniel 5:12**. He will have access to tremendous power. He will try to destroy Israel. He will be characterized by craftiness and deceit

²⁰ Ariel Ministries, "The Rise and Fall of the Anti-Christ," Manuscript MBS010, Arnold J. Fructenbaum, 2005, pp. 1-21.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Rev 13: 3-9 The anti-Christ will self proclaim himself deity.

Daniel 11:36-39, Daniel 7:25-39 The anti-Christ will be a willful king. He will not desire the love of women. He will be under the complete influence of ha-Satan. He will honor ha-Satan, the god of fortresses, who will help him take over the strongest defenses of the world. He will promote those who have supported him. (This is kind of like the counterfeit of God blessing those who bless Abram's descendants). His supporters will be given land. It always comes back to land, right?

Daniel 7:23-24, Revelation 17:1-5, 12-13,17The anti-Christ's rise to power will be interrupted by his death, but afterwards when he is resurrected, his rise to power is escalated. (Talk about a counterfeit!) He gains both political and religious control. A world war ensues and three kings are killed and afterwards the other kings submit to the anti-Christ. Ecclesiastical Babylon will arise as the supernatural religious organization of the first half of the Tribulation Period. The anti-Christ will then destroy this religious system and control it by means of the second beast, the False Prophet. Later on, the anti-Christ will destroy the False Prophet and also this religious system.

Rev 11:3-13 The anti-Christ will move to destroy God's Two Witnesses of the first half of the Tribulation in Jerusalem. He will succeed in killing them and more of Mankind will worship him for it.

Daniel 7:25 The anti-Christ will try and wipe out all memory of God by destroying all of God's Believers (Saints). He will try to change time and law.

The Death and Resurrection of the anti-Christ

Please continue to read the verses as you work your way through the lesson. Don't skip the reading. I cannot stress enough that you need to read these passages for yourself so that you know you have seen them and read them before in the Scripture. This is the proof this information is in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament.

As referred to above, the role of the counterfeit son continues with the death and resurrection of the anti-Christ who imitates the death and resurrection of the Messiah, Jesus.

1. The anti-Christ's death takes place at the same time as he wars with the 10 kings of **Daniel 11:40-45**. Previously, the anti-Christ had been at peace with these 10 kings, but that peace has now been shattered. Two kings stand against him: the king of Egypt and the king of Syria. While the anti-Christ is warring, he conquers Israel. Oddly enough, it is Jordan who escapes his power. He continues to war and conquers Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia. When the king of Mesopotamia moves in on the battlefield, the anti-Christ is killed.

2. What happens to the anti-Christ in **Rev 13:1-8**? The beast in **Revelation 13** parallels the fourth beast of **Daniel 7**. Ha-Satan gives all of his authority to the counterfeit son, the anti-Christ. **Revelation 13: 3** says of the anti-Christ's fatal wound, that it was healed and the whole world worshiped the Beast. The resurrected anti-Christ is given authority to continue from this point on for 3 ½ years or 42 months. He has been given full religious authority in the whole world. At this time, He comes after the saints in all out war. This resurrection and subsequent control of the world's religious and political platforms leads to the Abomination of Desolation in the Jewish Temple.

The Abomination of Desolation – this summary of information will be much more important to you later on when we study the different chapters of Revelation and you can refer back to this summary. I don't want you to get caught up in the details before we get to those Revelation chapters. Just read through this with the references and keep this in the back of your mind for future study. I know the amount of information here is overwhelming.

Daniel 9:27 says the anti-Christ will make a firm covenant with Israel for 7 years. Yes, I know it says one week. We will talk about this in depth later in the study. For right now, just trust me, "one week of years" equals 7 years. In the Middle of the week or 3 and ½ years into the tribulation, the anti-Christ will break the treaty by placing an unholy sacrifice on the altar of the Jewish Temple (this means the Temple has to be rebuilt sometime before this event and it has not yet been rebuilt) and the sacrificial system will cease. Three and ½ years equals 42 months or 1260 days. Yet, **Daniel 12:11** says that the Abomination of Desolation is allowed to remain in the Temple until 1290 days. No extra information is given for this; the 1290 days is 30

days beyond the end of the Great Tribulation. The word “abomination” usually refers to an idol.

Matthew 24:15-16 also mentions this event. Jesus warns the Jews that whenever they hear of the Abomination of Desolation having been set up in the Jewish Temple, they are to flee to the mountains; they are to get out of Jerusalem as fast as they possibly can. This passage of Scripture does not tell the Jewish people that this will be at the mid-point of the Tribulation Period.

The Abomination of Desolation involves two key stages for the Jews of that time. The first is found in **2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** and the second found in **Revelation 13:11-15**.

The First Stage of the Abomination of Desolation:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians comforts the Believers of Paul’s day that the apostasy of the church must happen first and the man of sin must be revealed first before Christ comes back the second time. The Thessalonians have not been left behind. The anti-Christ will set up his throne in the Jewish temple and declare himself deity. This sets up the anti-Christ to be worshiped. At this point, the Jews will be able to tell whom they have made a covenant with at the beginning of the tribulation 3 and ½ years earlier. **See 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12**. Also, this is the trigger or the stimulus for those in Jerusalem to move out of the city and into safety, most probably to the area of southern Jordan called Petra.

Those who will be deceived by the anti-Christ are those who have already rejected the Gospel. Note here that during the first half of the Tribulation there will be the worldwide preaching of the gospel by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. See **Matthew 24:14** and **Revelation 7**. Because many refuse the Gospel preached by the Jewish evangelists during the first half of the Tribulation, they will be deceived by the anti-Christ and will worship the Antichrist. This point is very important for us all to take note of. This is quite often misunderstood that the Jews of **Revelation 7** are some other group of people other than the 12 tribes of Israel. It is these 12,000 of the 12 tribes of Israel who will take the Gospel message to the ends of the earth and there will be a huge harvest of souls as seen in **Revelation 7:9** and **Matthew 24**. This is also the contention of the Messianic Jewish men who wrote the Lost in Translation series: they cannot comprehend that there will be a great harvest of souls during the Tribulation time. They see no evidence in the Scripture. I think you have to look at several different references in the Scripture, but I do think there is huge evidence of a great revival in these passages that goes right along with God’s nature. After all, God, in His love, continues to bring home those He can bring home. . . even at the last trumpet call. However, there will also be many who do not heed the call to salvation

and because of this, they will believe a deluding spirit and will worship the Beast instead of God, giving him more and more power over them.

So, then, in summary, the first stage of the Abomination of Desolation is when the anti-Christ sets up an idol of himself in the Jewish Temple and declares himself as deity. This will take place after the anti-Christ's death and resurrection. Can you see here the counterfeiting that is going on? We know that Jesus died and was resurrected by His Father God. One day He will come back, destroy all of His enemies, set the course of this world right once again, and will arrive at the temple in Jerusalem to co-reign with David over the Millennial Kingdom. He will go into the Holy of Holies and sit on His throne.

The second stage of the Abomination of Desolation

The second stage of the Abomination of Desolation is found in **Revelation 13:11-15** where the second beast comes up out of the earth. Remember the first beast, the anti-Christ comes up out of the sea or the Gentile world, and so the second beast comes up out of the earth, from within the Jewish world. This second beast (the False Prophet) will do great signs and wonders and cause the First Beast to be worshiped. In addition, this False Prophet will breathe life into the idol depicting the anti-Christ that will be placed in the center of the Holy of Holies in the Jewish Temple and people will bow down to it.

At this time I would like you just to read **Daniel 3**. This is the story of the three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and the fourth person in the fiery furnace. Why were the three men above not worshiping the image of the beast? Could this have been written in Daniel so that those who will not worship the image of the beast in Revelation would have courage?

With this rise of the second beast in Revelation and his counterfeit of the Holy Spirit of God, the unholy Trinity will now be complete. The False Prophet will draw his strength and power from the same place as the anti-Christ, ha-Satan himself (the counterfeit God the Father figure). The counterfeiting continues as the False Prophet causes all to worship the image of the First Beast, the anti-Christ (the second person of the unholy trinity), just as the Holy Spirit causes all to worship the Son of God, Jesus (the second person of the Holy Trinity).

Have I as yet been successful in convincing you of the counterfeit nature of the unholy trinity to that of the Holy Trinity?

I hesitate to go on to the "mark of the beast," because this is so much information, but we are almost to the point of wrapping this timeline up so that you can have all of this in the same place to refer back to later when we get to these chapters in Revelation. So, therefore, I will try to make this part on the "mark of the beast" brief. Thanks for staying with me.

The Mark of the Beast

Please read **Revelation 13:16-18**. Here while looking at the “mark of the beast,” we will see a counterfeiting of the Holy Spirit as well. What do we know that the Holy Spirit of God filled the New Believers with on the Day of Pentecost? Just like the true Believers in Jesus Christ were filled with the Holy Spirit on that day and received the seal of the Holy Spirit, the counterfeit of the Holy Spirit, the Second Beast, (the False Prophet) will put a seal upon those who worship the anti-Christ. You’ve heard of the “mark of the beast:” “666.” This is the mark of the Beast.

Just for fun, please read about the man with the writing case in **Ezekiel 9**. What do you suppose the man with the writing case wrote on the foreheads of all those who groaned and sighed over all the abominations committed in their midst?

According to **Revelation 13:16**, the counterfeit seal will either be applied to the right hand or on the forehead. The significance of the seal is to mark the one who believes in the anti-Christ as god. In other words, those who now worship the anti-Christ have the mark of the beast. Only those who have the mark of the beast will be able to buy or sell, or make a living. There are clues in **Revelation 13:17-18a** as to the significance concerning the interpretation of the mark found.

The Hebrew language is alpha numeric. This means that for every letter of the alphabet, a number has been assigned. There are 22 letters and this is their numerical order:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 200, 300, and 400. All of this means that whatever the anti-Christ’s name is in Hebrew, the letters of his name can be added up and will equal the sum of 666. The 666 will be the seal on those who worship the anti-Christ as god and it will also be the numerical value of the personal name of the anti-Christ.

Since believers in the LORD Jesus Christ will not take the mark of the beast, life will be extremely hard. They will not be able to buy or sell necessary goods like food or water. They will not be able to live within the confines of those who have taken the mark. They probably will be hunted down by others and killed. But what if one takes the mark of the beast? What do they forfeit? See **Revelation 14:9-12**.

It is clear from this Revelation passage that those who take the mark of the beast have forfeited any opportunity to escape the full wrath of God (seen in the Bowl Judgments here) and also forfeited any opportunity for salvation in Jesus Christ. Their destiny is in the Lake of Fire, F O R E V E R!

The first judgment bowl is a loathsome and malignant sore and it will be poured out on the people who dwell on the earth who have rejected God and His Messiah, those who have the mark of the Beast. God will protect His followers from having these loathsome and malignant sores. See **Revelation 16:12-16**.

Day 5 The Timetable for the Fall of the Anti-Christ

So, when is the *beginning of the end* for the Anti-Christ? Please read **Revelation 16:12-16**.

The fall of the anti-Christ begins with the gathering together of his armies for the Battle of Armageddon. This occurs as the sixth bowl judgment is poured out upon the earth and the earth-dwellers.

Who are the kings from the east and their soldiers who will be rounded up for this battle? Are they the Chinese? Or does “the east” refer to another group of people “east” of Israel?

Every place else in the Scripture, the “east” refers to the Mesopotamian culture. Who are the Mesopotamians? If the anti-Christ’s capital is on the banks of the Euphrates River, where is this city located? Then, who must be the Mesopotamians?

The kings mentioned here in **Revelation 16: 13-14** are the seven kings who have been under the authority of the anti-Christ since the middle of the Tribulation.

Another battle name for this battle of Armageddon is “the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.” See **Revelation 16:14**.

The Scripture says that there will be a gathering place, *the Valley of Jezreel,” for the armies of the anti-Christ who will wage war with God?

This key battle will be to destroy all the Jews at one time and for all time. This will be a combined effort of the entire unholy trinity and the seven nations who owe their allegiance to the anti-Christ, to wipe out the Jews and to call God a liar. The demon side of this battle truly must still believe that they can win in the end. But, what do we know from last weeks lesson?

The LORD Jesus Christ’s Second Coming will culminate with this battle of Armageddon and He will slay the lawless one (the anti-Christ) with just His Word. Jesus will slay the boastful lawless one with the breath of His mouth.

In **Isaiah 14:9-11**, what happens to the soul of the anti-Christ once he enters the Hell section of Sheol, after being slain by the Lord Jesus?

What effect does the slain body of the anti-Christ on the earth have on those who are watching? See **Isaiah 14:16-20**.

It appears in **Isaiah 14:18** that the body of the anti-Christ is trampled on by the fleeing feet of his armies.

In conclusion of this week's lesson, this is what we have seen: the unholy trinity, ha-Satan, the anti-Christ, and the false prophet, have all tried to mimic God and thus ascend to the heights of God. They have wanted to be God. Ha-Satan has sought to be the counterfeit father. The anti-Christ has posed as the counterfeit son. And finally the False Prophet has tried to make others believe that He is the counterfeit Holy Spirit.

The anti-Christ has had the counterfeit virgin conception. He has had the counterfeit death and resurrection. And he has given his followers his counterfeit seal.

God still holds the trump card. The second resurrection will be the resurrection of the anti-Christ and the False Prophet, as well as the rest of the unbelievers. See **1 Revelation 20:11-15**. The anti-Christ will be the first to be resurrected during the second resurrection. The end-point for the anti-Christ and the False Prophet will be in the Lake of Fire. The end-point for ha-Satan will also be in the Lake of Fire, but as we will see, he will have an intermediate waiting place for 1000 years. Thus, the career of the anti-Christ comes to an end.