

“End Times Trends for the Future – The Antichrist’s Government”

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Scripture

Revelation 13:1-10

“And **the dragon** stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw **a beast coming up out of the sea**, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and **on his heads were blasphemous names**. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"

There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and **authority to act for forty-two months was given to him**. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

It was also given to him to **make war with the saints and to overcome them**, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. **All who dwell on the earth will worship him**, everyone **whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb** who has been slain.

If anyone has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.”

Last Week

We looked at trends for the future -> specifically Antisemitism and Hamas’s attack on Israel

This Week

We want to look at another trend in the world to come with the Antichrist’s government

The Beast from the Sea

Revelation 13:1-2

“And **the dragon** stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw **a beast coming up out of the sea**, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and **on his heads were blasphemous names**. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.”

The Dragon is Satan as we saw in Revelation 12

John sees a beast coming up out of the sea – the sea houses the abyss or the pit – location for demons

When Satan is bound in Revelation 20, he is brought to the abyss

This beast is the Antichrist

“having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems” – the Antichrist’s government

Ten horns – a horn was a power or a rule

Ten diadems or crowns - there are ten ruling areas that control the Antichrist’s government

Seven heads – there are only seven rulers or perhaps referencing the 7 kingdoms throughout history

Daniel 7 records a vision about this government

There were 10 horns, but 1 little horn rose up and pulled out 3 horns - **Daniel 7:6 and 7:20**

The little horn was uttering great boasts – **Daniel 7:7 and 7:20**

So, we see the Antichrist coming to power in a future governmental system and overtaking over kings/leaders

We will see a trend towards a globally minded government

Perhaps the United Nations or the European Union is a model of what is to come

Single digital currency and connected global markets would be a part of that

“on his heads were blasphemous names” – the government will oppose Jehovah God

Perhaps the name of the global government will be a name claiming deity

“the beast was like a leopard...like a bear...like a lion” -> sharing similarity to past ruling powers

- Leopard -> Greece
- Bear -> Medo-Persia
- Lion -> Babylon

Satan will be the power behind the Antichrist

The False Death

Revelation 13:3-4

“I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘**Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?**’”

One leader of the ruling government looks to have died

He seems to be resurrected from the dead

“the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast” – the world loves the magic trick

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

“Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one **whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish.**”

Satan, the dragon, gives him power to do false wonders

He will use deception and persuasion to take over

The Antichrist cannot be killed, the world believes

He will mimic what Jesus Christ did -> “will be cut off and have nothing” – Daniel 9:26

The beast will turn its worship over to the Dragon

This will mimic Jesus giving over worship to God the Father

“Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?” – he will seem to be invincible

He will have a worldwide following

He will also facilitate a peace treaty with Israel and the many nations – Daniel 9:27

He will be the Man of the Year

The Antichrist's Government

Revelation 13:5-6

“There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven.”

The Antichrist will boast greatly about himself

He is given 42 months to reign -> the last half of the Tribulation or the Great Tribulation -> 3½ years

He will create a new religious system intermixed with his government

He will require worship

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

“The man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”

So much for separation of Church and State, eh?

He blasphemes God, God's Name, God's Church, and everyone that dwells in Heaven

This is no surprise since the dragon has been kicked out of Heaven

Revelation 12:12

“Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.”

Satan is angry with God, and it shows through the words of the Antichrist -> He only has a short time to reign

Revelation 12:13

“When the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.”

The Antichrist has incredible power during his reign:

The Antichrist's Power

Revelation 13:7-8

“It was also given to him to **make war with the saints and to overcome them**, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. **All who dwell on the earth will worship him**, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.”

He will “make war with the saints”

Who are the saints alive during the Tribulation?

Revelation 12:14-17 (back to the Revelation 12 passage)

“But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, **where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time**, from the presence of the serpent. And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.

But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. So, **the dragon was enraged with the woman and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.**”

“**a time and times and half a time**” -> Israel is carried into the wilderness - it will be nourished for 3½ years

Massive issues with famine and survival resources after a 1/3 of the world is destroyed by God

Israel gets supplies -> Satan attempts to send a flood into the wilderness to get Israel in hiding

But the Earth opens to drink up the flood -> most likely fighters, not an actual flood

So, the dragon was enraged and “**went off to make war with the rest of her children**”

“who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus” -> all believers faithful to Jesus

Gentiles must be alive during the last 3½ years of the Tribulation

“**to overcome them**” - The Antichrist will be able to overcome the saints

The Antichrist has authority over everyone on the Earth

Every tribe, tongue, people, and nation

“**All who dwell on the earth will worship him**” – all those nations will worship him

The only ones who will not worship him are “**whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb**” -> so, believers have to be alive in the Tribulation

The only ones who are listed in the Book of Life before the foundation of the world

Philippians 4:3 -> Paul writes that those “who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.”

Those saints on the Earth during the Tribulation are faithful to Jesus

The Saint's Faithfulness

Revelation 13:9-10

"If anyone has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. **Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.**"

The saints during the Tribulation will be faithful to Jesus

If they are to be placed in jail, they will go to jail

If they are to be killed, they will be killed

The Antichrist may have them killed as martyrs

"Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints"- regardless of treatment by the government

The saints will persevere, however, regardless of their fate

Their next stop is either Heaven or the Millennial Kingdom

Prayer

Benediction