

## The Rise of Antichrist

### Revelation 13:1-7

#### I. Introduction:

##### A. Chaos and Confusion

1. The next prophetic event to take place in this world is the rapture of the church.
2. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** states that Jesus Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, the voice of the archangel and the sound of the trump of God.
3. The dead in Christ will be resurrected from their graves in new resurrection bodies.
4. The alive will be instantly changed into resurrection bodies to meet Jesus in the air.
5. Chaos and Confusion: The rapture will bring chaos and confusion for those left behind.
  - a. Those who are left behind at the rapture will enter the seven-year tribulation period.
  - b. Chaos, confusion, panic, & fear will make the world ripe for Satan's man.
  - c. Fearful, the people follow the antichrist, who seems to have a handle on the situation

#### II. Rise of the antichrist (Revelation 13:1)

- *Chapters 12 - 15 are parenthetical, the chronology of the tribulation is paused while the events of the tribulation are detailed. Chapter 13 describes the rise of antichrist.*
- ##### A. What John saw. (the symbols)
- *John's vision is full of descriptive metaphors & symbols which must interpreted in accord with the rest of the Bible.*

##### 1. – The Beast

- a. The beast represents antichrist because symbol was used specifically of antichrist back in **Revelation 11:7** & it's vivid description of this man in the tribulation.
- b. The word is *Therion* which means a wild vicious animal.
- c. Antichrist, demonically empowered, will be main man of Satan during the tribulation
- d. He will be highly intelligent, a charismatic speaker, and a strong leader, but he will be evil like no other leader the world has known.

##### 2. – The sea

- a. The sea represents the multitude of nations in unrest. (see **Revelation 17:15**)
- b. Antichrist will rise out of the Gentile nations, perhaps out of the European theater.
- c. According to Daniel, the antichrist' kingdom is resurrection of old Roman Empire.

##### 3. – Heads, horns, and crowns

- a. Antichrist is described as having 7 heads, 10 horns, & 10 crowns just as Satan is described in **Revelation 12:3**.
- b. 7 heads represent 7 world kingdoms whose power will be united under his kingdom: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persian, Greece, Rome, & the kingdom of the antichrist.
- c. Horns represent power. Antichrist' kingdom will have ultimate military dominance
- d. The crowns represent rulership and regal authority.

#### III. Great power (Revelation 13:2)

##### A. World dictator

1. Throughout history, leaders have dreamed of world domination. Antichrist achieves it.
2. Animals: To understand the animals listed here look at **Daniel chapter 7**.
3. These animals represent the collective power of various world empires.

- a. Babylon is identified as a lion with wings & Persia is identified as a bear.
- b. Alexander the Great and Greece are the Leopard with wings.
- c. Antichrist will rule over these nations and have their collective power.

**B. Satan behind it all.**

1. Satan will give this man his power, his throne, and his authority.
2. Satan will use antichrist to gain control of the world & force people to worship him.

**IV. The great deception (Revelation 13:3-4)**

- *To draw the world to worship him, Satan will bring about an apparent miracle, a resurrection from the dead.*

**A. Head mortally wounded**

1. Antichrist will suffer a mortal wound of such severity everyone thinks he's dead.
2. To everyone's amazement antichrist will indeed survive the mortal wound.
3. Satan doesn't have the power raise someone from dead. However, he's master deceiver
4. He could create a scenario where it looks like the antichrist was killed & resurrected.
5. This incredible display of power solidifies world in believing antichrist is unstoppable.
6. Two things will happen because of this "seeming miracle:"
  - a. – People will worship Satan.
  - b. – Antichrist is unchallenged.

**V. His pride (Revelation 13:5-6)**

**A. Open blasphemy**

1. Antichrist will not be subtle about his hatred of God and anyone who follows Him.
2. He will speak great things against God and His people.
3. Antichrist will be so bold that he will go to the temple in Jerusalem and will sit in the temple, proclaiming himself to be god. (**2 Thessalonians 2:4**)
4. Two things to note about this time:
  - a. Duration: Antichrist will have 42 months to do his worst, last 3 ½ years of tribulation
  - b. Sovereign control: God's allowing him to exercise this kind of authority in world, but at the end of that designated time, Jesus will return from heaven with heaven's armies & He will set up His eternal kingdom.

**VI. Suffering of the Saints (Revelation 13:7)**

**A. War with the saints**

1. Tribulation period saints are those saved during 7-year period after church is raptured.
2. All saved by faith in Jesus during church age will leave here when the rapture occurs.
3. When the tribulation begins, there will be only lost people in the world.
4. Tribulation period saints will hear the gospel during the tribulation & believe on Jesus.
5. There'll be 144k Jews sealed & protected by God to preach the gospel over the world.
6. The 2 witnesses, probably Elijah & Moses, will be preaching gospel & doing miracles.
7. Two things to understand about being saved in the tribulation:
  - (1) – Don't plan on it from here. - "*I'll just wait and when the rapture comes, I'll know it's true and I'll get saved.*" That's a bad idea for many reasons.
    - a. A person who leaves this mortal life in their sin is doomed to an eternal hell.
    - b. Those with chance to be saved in this life & rejected Jesus will be deceived in the tribulation. (**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**)
  - (2) – Antichrist will overcome the saints.
    - a. Antichrist will hunt down, persecute, torture, & kill every saved person he can.
    - b. Last ½ of tribulation God's people will be persecuted worse than world has seen.