

The Antichrist

II Thessalonians 2:1-10

9/03/06

Intro

Paul wrote this second letter to the church in Thessalonica only about a year after he written the first, which we have recently studied. The reason he wrote so quickly is because he heard that some people had written a letter saying that it was from Paul and others had come there with a message that the Day of the Lord had already happened.

They were saying that because they had endured so many difficulties and trials, that was evidence that the Day of the Lord had already occurred. Paul writes to explain that it couldn't be so because there were several signs that had not yet happened.

These verses give us insight into the signs of the times that Jesus said was so important for us to understand.

These are insights and lessons about the antichrist that prepare us to be able to understand the signs of the times.

I. He Will Appear as a Man of Peace

A. He will solve the Middle East crisis

- When we think of the Antichrist, we think of an evil man, but he will appear at first to not be evil.
- It will appear that he can do what no man has ever been able to do – he will create a covenant of peace in the Middle East that many nations of the world will sign.

Daniel 9:27, And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week,

Revelation 6:1-2, Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, “Come.” I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.

- It's interesting to note that he has a bow, but no arrows. He will conquer without use of force at first. He will use diplomatic genius to convince Israel and the nations of the world to sign a covenant of mutual peace.

B. He will appear to be a protector

- It's important to note that he will come as a protector of Israel, not the church. He will be a man highly respected by the Arab and Islamic nations that will convince many nations to be at peace with Israel.
- (Vs 7) The church will be taken away and “caught up” with the Lord in the air at the time of the rapture.
- The antichrist will be a “prince” of one of the countries of the old Roman Empire.

Daniel 2:31-35 The great kingdoms of the earth.

Daniel 2:40-43 The Roman Empire

Daniel 7:7-8, 23-28 The rise of the antichrist.

- When the antichrist rises he will allow the temple to rebuilt – even now, Israel is preparing to re-establish the temple ceremonies with all the articles needed.
- The problem is the Dome of the Rock where there sits a *masshad* (a place for Muslim pilgrims).
- The antichrist will solve the dilemma, perhaps by negotiating for Israel to have their temple next to the Dome of the Rock with a wall separating them.

Ezekiel 42:20, He measured it on the four sides; it had a wall all around, the length five hundred and the width five hundred, to divide between the holy and the profane.

II. He Will be Hailed as the Messiah

- There will a period of peace as the covenant of peace holds firm for three and a half years.

A. He will betray peace with an abomination

- After being hailed as the long-awaited messiah..

Matthew 24:23-25, “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance.

- He will betray the covenant he established and take over the temple.
- He will then claim to be god on earth and demand to be worshipped.

Daniel 9:27, And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.

Matthew 24:15-16, “Therefore when you see the *Abomination of Desolation* which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.”

Revelation 13;1-10 The antichrist described.

B. Beware of the antichrist principle

- In the Greek, the word *anti* can mean both “against” and “instead of.”
- In **2 Thess 2:4**, clearly the antichrist does both.
- But the principle of the antichrist is also critical for us to understand.
- It means that we must be careful not to allow anything to be in our lives “instead of” Christ.

App – “I don’t need to rely on Christ.” “My kingdom come, my will be done.”

- When I put something in my life instead of Christ, the results are predictable – there will be wars and rumors of wars in my life.
- If I rely on my principles and my wisdom to rule my life, then I have allowed something, namely me, to take the place of Christ in my life.

Illus – May each of us say, “My temple is dedicated to Christ and Christ alone. He will rule and reign in my life and in my heart.”

III. He Will be Destroyed by Jesus Christ
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A. This will mark the return of Christ

- The nations will attack Israel in a terrible overwhelming battle.
- Israel has a reputation for defeating enemies of much larger forces, but this battle will be of staggering proportions.

Illus – The “al-Nakba” (the disaster) – 6 Arab nations attacked Israel, The Sinai War against Egypt, The Six-Day War of 1967, The Yom Kippur War and many smaller border battles, yet none have ever defeated Israel.

- But this war will be different because of the overwhelming numbers against Israel.

- But Christ will return in power and will save the nation at the great battle of Armageddon.

Daniel 2:44-45, In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.

Revelation 19:11-21 The return of Christ

B. Wait in confidence in Christ

- When we see the rise of Islamic fundamentalism it is easy to become disturbed at these events.
- But we are not to be overtaken by fear, but rather, we are to live in the confidence of Christ.

II Timothy 1:7, For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- He is the sovereign one all nations and all times and He will judge the earth with justice and with power.

Psalm 98:7-9, Let the sea roar and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Conclusion

We are living in exciting days as the time of the end draws near. This is the time and this is the hour for us to get everything in order in our lives. But most important is to strengthen our faith and not walk in fear of the things that are happening today or will happen in the near future. Christ is still King of all kings and Lord of all lords.