

Lesson # 42 The Antichrist

Revelation 13:1-10

Date: October 9, 2011

¹And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. ²And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. ³One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. ⁴And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

⁵And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. ⁶It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. ⁷Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, ⁸and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. ⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;
if anyone is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.

①

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

Introduction to Chapter 13

We've watched through Revelation as wave after wave of judgment has taken place as the 7 seals on the Scroll in Jesus' hand are broken. There have been 7 Seal Judgments and 6 Trumpet Judgments described up until this point in Revelation. One more Trumpet has to sound, and then 7 Bowl Judgments will be poured out before Christ returns in Rev. 19.

In the chapter just completed, a war in heaven was decisively won by the Holy Angels under Michael the Arch-Angel's generalship and Satan and his demonic forces were expelled from heaven for good. This left Satan on earth, not much time left – 3 ½ years to be exact – and with his only recourse to destroy as many of God's people, especially Israel, as he possibly can. In 12:18, Satan stands on the sand of the sea, a picture of power and a transition to what will occur next in chapter 13.

Up to this time, by the 3 ½ year mark in the 7 year Tribulation period, only the first seal has been opened and acted upon. There has been a Rapture of the church before the 7 years began (see lessons 13 & 41), and we've seen the throne room of God opened up to show us the praise, the authority and the pre-eminence of the Lamb in what will follow, under the complete sovereignty of God.

The Antichrist (who will, as yet, to those remaining on earth, not be seen to be Antichrist) will have come as the first seal judgment to bring peace on the earth by (at least in a major way) negotiating the Mid-east peace and somehow enforcing a 7 year treaty to give control of the Dome of the Rock to Israel, and allowing them to re-institute Temple worship. The incredible thing about this is that for the Muslims to give up control of this location, and even more, to allow a Jewish temple to be built there, a miracle has to occur.

Meron Benvenisti, former Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem described the rival Jewish & Muslim claims to the Temple Mount as *“a time bomb...of apocalyptic proportions”*.ⁱ

For these first 3 ½ years, although any people who may have had family or close friends who disappeared in the Rapture will be skeptical of this leader, most people, including many Jews, will hail him as the returned Messiah and enjoy the fruits of world peace for the first time in history. Their deception will be God-induced (cf. II Thess. 2: 11-12) as a form of judgment, and in fact, in Zechariah 11:16, it is prophesied that in the end times God would raise up *“a shepherd who does not care for those being destroyed, or seek the young or heal the maimed or nourish the healthy, but devours the flesh of the fat ones, tearing off even their hooves.”*

At the 3 ½ year point of the Tribulation, as Satan is thrown to earth, a number of things happen simultaneously. He infuses the Antichrist with Satanic power (cf. II Thess. 2: 9-10), and Antichrist moves into the Temple and commits the Abomination that Causes Desolation by sitting in the (already standing) Temple and declares himself to be God, demanding that people everywhere worship him alone. This begins the 42 months or 3 ½ years of authority that God gives to Antichrist (& Satan) plus the protection of those of God's people who flee to the wilderness (cf. 12: 14), the sealing of the 144,000, and the end of the Two Witnesses in Jerusalem who are killed by a Satanically indwelt Antichrist. A system called the Mark of the Beast is set up to control everyone, Jews and Christians are targeted as enemies of the state and will be mercilessly hunted down and executed. This last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation is called The Great Tribulation, and it is during these 3 ½ years that most of the judgments (the lone exception seems to be the first Seal) from God occur along with the salvation of virtually a whole generation of Jews. ②

Revelation 13 is a chapter that highlights 2 of the 3 components of the “Unholy Trinity”. Satan, the dragon of chapter 12 has already been introduced to the reader, and now we are given a view of both the Antichrist & the False Prophet – 2 humans who are filled with demonic or Satanic power which enables them to control the world, to kill those who follow Christ, to blaspheme God and even to perform a counterfeit resurrection, and to command worship under the threat of death.

It is in this chapter that we encounter the famous # 666 and attempt to decipher what that means. Throughout the chapter, the sovereignty of God is never far

from the surface. Although the Antichrist & False Prophet are the ones doing the evil deeds, we see that God ultimately is the One who is empowering them to accomplish what they do – cf. vv. 5,7,8,10,14,15., even as He uses Satan to carry out the actual deeds. Even so, Satan is following his own agenda at the same time.

Of all the themes, visions and scenes of the Book of Revelation, the one thing I've struggled more over than any other is the topic of the Antichrist. It's been a struggle because I think that most commentators up to now (with a few exceptions) have keyed on a verse or two which seem to indicate that the Antichrist will be a Roman, ruling over a revived Roman / European Empire, thus virtually guaranteeing that his religious counterpart, the False Prophet, will be none other than a Roman Catholic Pope ruling over a vast ecumenical & apostate "church" during the tribulation, whose main function appears to be serving, worshipping and obeying the Antichrist & ultimately, Satan.

The problem for me was this: if this scenario is incorrect, why has the entire realm of prophetic scholarship tended to side with an interpretation leading to an Italian Antichrist alongside a Roman Catholic led false ecumenical church when the bulk of the prophetic texts do not really strongly support that contention. In fact, I believe the facts lead to an entirely different end times scenario. However, there are 3 main reasons why so many have gone down an interpretive road I now see as shaky at best.

These are the verses that bible interpreter's hang their 'hats' on:

1.) Rev. 17:9 – the seven hills are supposedly representative of Rome, but Rev. 17:10 says they are 7 kings, so what is in view is not geography, but authority; Dan. 9:26 – the people of the prince to come supposedly has to do with the AD 70 destruction of Jerusalem, but what if it refers to the 171 BC sacking of Jerusalem by Antiochus Epiphanes who was a Seleucid or Syrian? Or is it perhaps a yet future attack on Jerusalem that will occur during or near the start of the Tribulation period?; Dan. 2:31-45 where the 10 toes are supposed to be symbolic of a revived Roman led European coalition of some sort. We'll look closer at these passages later on.
2.) Historically, since the Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church – preaching a false gospel to be sure – has been vilified by Protestant theologians (for good cause – ie. the Inquisitions, false self-serving doctrines), & by the general public (fro the most part because they hate the RC church's quest for full authority over people). The recent series of scandals involving priests and children has certainly not helped the RC church retain an image of respectability either. Certainly there is much to chide the RC church over both theologically and morally, but to extrapolate these things out so that they must be the Tribulation false church is going farther than the prophetic evidence takes us in my opinion. The RC church may have at one time had significant political clout, but now, along with most of Christendom, they have been waylaid and marginalized because most people do not want any

church in authority over them. Without political might, they cannot be the false church of the Tribulation.

3.) As western thinkers, our society has generally been afflicted by “us-onlyism”. We have the mindset that life on the planet revolves around a North American Caucasian view of things, and we forget the billions of people in the Far East; the billions in the Middle East, India & Pakistan & Africa who have an entirely different viewpoint. This type of selfish thinking has sunk North America into a pit of inability to recognize other cultural views, and dangerously worse, their impact on the global scheme of things. We’ve been so convinced of our own importance that we have even assumed that end times events must revolve around Anglo-Saxon people too, even though most of the end times Bible prophecy centers around (especially) Jerusalem and most of the antagonists are Middle Eastern nations. In the end times, Babylon appears to be a center for commerce & industry, but historical interpretation over the last 600 years or so sees Babylon as a pseudonym for Rome. Our thinking carries us right into a pre-suppositional attitude that affects our interpretation of Scripture. Do you not think it odd that the reigning and only super-power of the last 100 years (USA) cannot be found in end times prophecy? Some attempt to solve this dilemma lately by saying that Babylon probably is symbolic of New York City, but this is highly unlikely, and the ‘evidence’ is often outlandish and not plausible. I do agree that the end times power will be centralized in Europe & the Mid-East, but not with Roman authority.

Jerusalem

As a result of our tunnel vision and Protestant infighting, coupled with an almost insidious, invisible growth of a competing religious system which took root across the oceans from us, we may have missed the big picture. Islam, founded in AD 611 by the Prophet Mohammed was initially a religion confined to a relatively small number of Middle Eastern regions, but aggressively grew through military campaigns to become an empire which at one point rivaled the Roman Empire in it’s hey-day (116 AD). Although it has seen steady growth over the centuries, (often as a result of their “become a Muslim or be killed” approach) the last 30 years have seen explosive growth as Muslims emigrate to many countries, and have large families. Although seemingly random, it is beginning to appear that this emigration is part of a Satanic plan to infiltrate & dominate countries, because while others who emigrate into societies eventually become active participants in that society’s norms, many Muslims tend to stay separate & eventually, once they have enough numbers, take over the society & force it to knuckle under to Sharia Law. There is plenty of history for us to see how this occurs.

By the 11th century, the sweep of Islamic forces across the Middle East & Europe incited a military response from “Christian” (at that time, led by Roman Catholic influences) forces in England, France, Spain, Italy, etc. and the Crusades were born. In 1054, a rift that had been shaping up for years finally

split the Roman Catholic church – Rome vs Constantinople – and Eastern Orthodoxy was created, centered in Constantinople (in Turkey). In Nov. 25, 1095, at the Council of Clermont, Pope Urban II called for the first Crusade, and by 1096, 60,000 soldiers and many more armed citizens (& their families) set out for the east. In 1097, 100,000 more joined themⁱⁱ. These armies attempted to take back the territory that had been claimed by Islam, especially Jerusalem. They were marginally successful, but Islam kept a firm hold on much of the land they had conquered, and continued to expand within the Mid-East. Jerusalem was held for good by 1291ⁱⁱⁱ and remained that way until the first stirrings of a desire of some for Judaistic restoration to the Land in the late 1880's due to severe persecution of the Jews in Russia and elsewhere in Europe, & then the Balfour Declaration of 1917 (an English attempt to 'recruit' Jews to fight for the Allies in WW I by suggesting that the Jews be given their own land) began a series of events which culminated in the establishment of Israel in 1948 – finally coming about as a result of the Holocaust of WW II and the murder of 6,000,000 Jews, which necessitated that the Arabic Palestinians be pushed out of the land to make room for an influx of Jews from around the world. We are even today seeing the long battle over this move as it affects the Mid-East political structure and motivations every day.

For most of us, these events were not even on the radar and seemed a world away, until September 11, 2001, when everything changed. A war that had been simmering for years, had been especially intensified in May, 1948 when Israel was inserted back into the land, and had now been brought to Israel's chief ally, the USA in a very public attack, rivaling even Pearl Harbor for shock and outrage. Story after story arises as suicide bombs blow up cafes, buses, trains, planes, businesses in European, Asian, Israeli & African countries. Businessmen and even journalists are beheaded on video, Olympic athletes were murdered in Munich in the 70's, and general unease around Muslims overshadows society. Our lives of ease have not prepared us for a religion whose mandate is not to evangelize the world for salvation, but to bring every infidel into submission to Allah either by conviction, or if necessary, under threat of death. Along the way, the eradication of every Jew is the major goal, alongside goal # 2 which is the elimination of the USA. The end goal of course is absolute world domination. ⑤

As we observe the world in 2011, the influence and encroachment of Islam in modern Europe, parts of Asia and Africa cannot be ignored or taken lightly. There is a dynamic in motion since the late 1960's when Charles DeGaulle set up talks with Muslim powers in order to solidify a Euro-Arab coalition which he hoped would rival the USA, which he detested. Talks among European groups and Arab coalitions took place on a regular basis, and as a result, immigration and cultural policies were set in place in most European countries which have been liberalized over the last 50 years and swarms of Muslims have peacefully 'invaded' Europe with no intention of assimilating into the culture & customs of their host countries, but rather, with the intention of pushing these countries to adopt Islamic religion and especially Sha'Ria Law. Although Muslims have not yet attained a majority of population in most European nations, that is their intention, and that goal is well on the way to being achieved.

Access to oil and protection against terrorism have been the main motivators beyond world power from a European perspective as they knuckle under to many Islamic demands, and as a result have tended to follow an anti-Israel, anti-USA path (increasingly so in France) ever since.

There are currently about 1.57 billion Muslims in the world – 23% of the world’s population, and it is projected by demographers that by 2025, Muslims will be 30% of the world’s population.^{iv}

In my estimation, it is no longer a viable interpretation to see a revived Roman Empire run by a Roman citizen as the end times world dominating power. Since we are dealing with prophecy and not history, I do not believe we do the bible a disservice if we carefully look at the prophecies of the end times and try to assess what makes the most sense given the flow of socio-politico & economic realities both now and in the foreseeable future. If we look at what is taking place to shape the world, Europe itself comes up as being marginalized by liberalism and immorality while Islam continues to thrive and increase in power and influence, especially as that influence seems to be based on fear, and Islamic threats of reprisal for non-compliance by anyone. It is possible that the old Roman Empire is involved in the end times, but only geographically, with a Muslim leader. That scenario still fits the prophecies.

Where that brings my thinking is this: Can the passages about the Antichrist and False Prophet, and the Tribulation in general be favorably interpreted – without twisting the texts – to arrive at the conclusion that the world dominating power before Christ returns will be Islam? I believe the answer to that question is “yes”. This is a vastly different view from those who, as Post-Millennialists believe Christians will have subdued the world and so many will have been converted that when Christ finally returns, He will return to a mostly Christianized world. It is also in sharp contrast from those end times theologians who see European secular growth leading Europe to become the dominating world power, led by Rome. The geography of the area may be correct, but not the guess as to who holds the power. ⑥

One of the problems in facing this interpretive difference head on is the lack of scholarship out there to support it thus far. There is some of course, but as yet, some of it is skeptical scholarship and is based on historical interpretations of the rise and fall of empires, etc. so that, unless you are an ancient history buff, it takes a pile of reading to check up on someone’s claims, even when they are footnoted. An in depth study of Islamic history would also be helpful, but for our purposes, we only have time to skim the surface and show the parallels and contrasts between Islamic and biblical eschatology, and to demonstrate that it is possible to present as much if not more evidence supporting Islam as the end times dominating empire.

I was greatly encouraged to hear a sermon by John MacArthur recently wherein he expressed exactly what I had been reading about and thus provided me with

modern evangelical & scholarly support for this position.^v It is a lengthy quote, so I won't reprint it here – it comprises a good 3 pages of the transcript for his sermon – but he takes the position that parallels what I will be sharing in this lesson that he believes the Antichrist will be a Muslim, and the revived Roman Empire will be that geographical area under Muslim control! You can hear this sermon for yourself or download it and read it.

For as important a personage as the Antichrist, there is a lot of biblical data to sort through where he is described along with his deeds. I do believe it is 'a him', and not a corporation, nation or coalition of nations as some would interpret the data. However, he will rule over a coalition of nations, through which he will rule over then whole world, but he is a man.

In order to follow the evidence in an orderly way, even before we get into our text in Rev. 13, let's assemble some of the pertinent passages and assess them, because they all occur to describe this person long before we get to Revelation 13 chronologically.

II Thessalonians 2:1-12

Alongside Revelation 13, and parts of Daniel, this is arguably the key passage in the Bible to describe the Antichrist. In Paul's 2nd letter to the church at Thessalonica, he addresses an apparent concern in the church regarding the return of Jesus Christ. Verses 1 & 2 set up the context for us. Someone was spreading rumors or false teaching that the Day of the Lord had come and the Thessalonians had missed it. Paul tells them not to be alarmed or shaken up – even if a letter purported to be from Paul himself should refute what he says here – in fact, notice **II Thess. 3:17** – here Paul shows them how a real letter from him can be authenticated; "it is the way I write". 7

³ *Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.*

The Day had not come and would not come until this person had been revealed and the rebellion against God had come. He is called "the man of lawlessness" and "the son of destruction" which nails down his character and pedigree. Then his actions are listed – "who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship". He will take his seat in the Temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. See also **Dan. 9:26-27; 8:23-25; 11:36-37; Rev. 13:15**.

Obviously Paul is not referring here to "the (original) abomination that causes desolation", (see also **Matt. 24:15**) an event that would have been historic to those in the 1st century AD. He is writing as if it is still future to him. The historic event took place under Antiochus Epiphanes, a Syrian of the Seleucid empire, when he attacked and sacked Jerusalem and then sacrificed a sow on the altar of what was then the rebuilt or 2nd Temple in 171 BC. This enraged the

Jews and prompted the Maccabean rebellion, and the Jews took back the Temple and city by 168 BC. This Temple was the one still standing when Jesus was on earth, only it had been beautified and reconstructed by Herod the Great over a period of many years prior to Jesus' arrival.

The one whom Paul describes as the man of lawlessness takes his seat in the Temple and proclaims to be God is the ultimate abomination associated with the Temple, and is yet future. It is widely agreed upon that II Thessalonians was written in 51 AD, 19 years prior to the destruction of Jerusalem & the Temple by forces led by General Titus (who was a Roman). Since we have no event recorded that could be called “the abomination that causes desolation” per Paul’s designation of it here in v. 4 since 171 BC, and the destruction of AD 70 does not fit the context, then this has not yet occurred. However, there has been no 3rd Temple built, and at present, the Muslim Al Aqsa Mosque occupies what is thought to be the original Temple site over the “dome of the rock” where tradition says Abraham sacrificed Isaac, & Islamic history says that Mohamed ascended to heaven from this same rock and which since AD 1291 has been under Muslim control (and really, even for a few centuries before that).

One problem we’ll have to address as we seek to identify the nationality of the Antichrist is tied to Daniel’s prophecy in Dan. 9:26, “and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.” To which destruction of the Temple & city is this referring to? Does it refer to the 171 BC sack of Jerusalem by Antiochus Epiphanes; to the AD 70 destruction by General Titus of Rome; or to a third Temple, as yet unbuilt – all future from Daniel’s perspective? ⑧ We will look at that in the next section of this lesson.

Paul reminds them in II Thess. 2:5 that he had already told them about this regarding Christ’s return when he had been with them. He mentions in v. 6 that they know what is restraining the arrival of this evil man who must precede Jesus Christ’s return. He is restrained “now” so that he might be revealed “in his time.” Note also **II Peter 3:8-9**. By II Thess.2 :7, there are 2 things occurring here. The mystery of lawlessness is already at work – IOW, evil is being done in the world in AD 51 and in AD 2011 – but there is also a restraining power at work so that lawlessness is contained and corralled, limited & directed “until He is out of the way”. So this restraining power is a person, a “He”. When it says “He will be taken out of the way”, what on earth does that mean, and who is this “He”?

As far as the “He” is concerned, in most translations, it is capitalized, so “He” is deity, undoubtedly the Holy Spirit. Only God could ever restrain and control evil, or desire to, so that part makes perfect sense, however, what does “being taken out of the way” mean? If it means the complete removal of the Holy Spirit from the world, too many theological problems are created: 1. If He is deity & thus omnipresent, how could He be removed from anything? 2. If He were somehow completely removed, it would explain the escalation of evil in the Tribulation, but then there would be no possibility of anyone being saved during that time period, because the Holy Spirit’s ministry is vital in salvation, and people do get saved in the Tribulation.

Here is what makes the most sense – the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit, that convicting aspect of His role which Jesus spoke of in **JN 16:8-11** – will cease. He will remain, but will no longer restrain sin. Along with that, a strong argument can be made for the pre-Tribulation Rapture here, because another aspect of the restraint of evil is found in the church, and if the church is gone, and the Holy Spirit stops restraining evil, then the world is now opened up to accept the ministrations of a one-world leader who will seemingly provide the world with all the answers they crave, along with peace – brought in by the opening of the 1st Seal in Rev. 6:1-2. John MacArthur is convinced that this pulling back of the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit does not take place until mid-way through the tribulation, and the first inkling of it being gone is the Antichrist's bold declaration to be God from the Temple.

Verses 9-10 show us where the Antichrist gets ruling authority. He will be a pawn of Satan (probably indwelt by Satan) and his rise to power will be accompanied by “power, false signs and wonders”. His success will at first be a result of human charisma, oratory skills with demonic influence and then, 3 ½ years into the Tribulation, he is indwelt by Satan himself. Verse 10 adds that a 4th element of his success is tied to “all wicked deception”...for those who are perishing”. IOW, there are some – God's elect – who will not be fooled by this usurper of Christ's authority. Only those who “are perishing” will be successfully deceived.

Paul's final words on this matter in vv. 11-12 are powerful. “Therefore” seems like an odd way to respond to what he has been saying so far, because what God is doing here is solidifying what Satan is already intending to do. God adds to Satan's deception by “sending a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false” (KJV – “believe the lie”).

If we are correct about the Rapture occurring prior to the Antichrist's initial rise to power by making peace occur, (see lesson 41) one of the first things he will need to do is spin some sort of explanation – which will obviously be a lie – as to why a couple of hundred million or half a billion people are suddenly missing. God's strong delusion could very well begin with allowing this whopper of a tale to be believed alongside his declaration that by his ‘divine’ power, he stopped the invasion of Israel. But the entire career of the Antichrist will be based on lies and deceptions.

God has a purpose for sending this strong delusion on the world (v. 12), “in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” Does this verse bother you? It certainly does not include everyone on earth after the Rapture, because some are going to be saved during the Tribulation (cf. **Rev. 13:8**). Those who will not be deceived are God's elect. They may not be saved yet, but they will be sometime within the 7 years, but those who are not elect will be condemned. There is ample evidence in the bible that God does plan this sort of thing – **Rom. 9:22-23; I Sam. 2:25; Rom. 1:24,26,28**. We must recognize that God has decreed who will be saved before

Christ returns, and it is in this belief that we find our best interpretation of **II Peter 3:9**, where the context of the passage is that Christ's return is delayed until all the elect have been saved, as we have observed in previous lessons.

Once again, we see God's sovereign overruling of what is taking place in His world. He is not standing by and watching what is unfolding as Antichrist comes to power, but He is entirely engaged to the extent, not of restraining evil, but ensuring to a certain extent that Antichrist will be successful, within God's prescribed limits. He is the One who sets those limits to fulfill His own purposes. Notice **Dan. 8:13-14, 19; 11: 2,27, 29,35,37; 12:11; Rev. 17:17; 13:5**. In fact, it is God who raises up Antichrist for this very purpose – cf. **Zech. 11:16**. Compare that to **Romans 9: 17** & **Ex. 9: 16-17**.

Can We Know Who the Antichrist is Before He Rises to Power?

An odd practice has gone on since the Bible was written regarding speculation as to who this character, the Antichrist, might be. In just about every generation since the first century, people have made attempts to identify this person, often in novel and convoluted ways. Since about the 1970's this practice has taken on an almost cult-like obsession with trying to figure out who he is before he rises to power, with people always wondering if he is alive right now as a child, or perhaps as a low level politician somewhere waiting in the wings for his shot at fame.

In fact, just about every national leader has had a turn at being thought to be the Antichrist. Nero Caesar, Judas Iscariot, Hitler, Stalin, Henry Kissinger, Bill Clinton, Gorbachev, virtually every president of the USA since Eisenhower, and as you can imagine, especially now, Barak Obama. What has been a common practice is to attempt to use gematria (assigning number values to alphabetical letters) to come up with a name that adds up to 666, because Rev. 13:18 says that this is the number of his name. They will try it in English, or change it to Latin or Greek, then use the middle initial or drop it, or add the middle name or the title, anything to get them to 666. I believe John's point is that when he arrives, people will know how that number associates with his name, but not before that, so speculation is silly.

To give you an example of how silly it can get, Mark Hitchcock (who also believes this is silly) gives us the example of some of the speculation based on coincidences noted after Obama became president of the USA.

"...the winning lottery ticket in his home state of Illinois the day after he won the election was 6-6-6...his zip code is 60606. One blogger listed the alleged "coincidences"...birth date August 4 (216th day of the year), 216 = 6 x 6 x 6; birthplace: longitude 21.6 (again 216)...his name has 18 letters & 18 = 6 + 6 + 6...the day after the 6-6-6 lottery numbers, the winning numbers were 7-7-7-9 & ... 666 = Antichrist, 777 means perfect completion; 9 = judgment, therefore 6667779 = 'Antichrist perfect completion judgment (time?)'".^{vi}

It is this kind of ridiculous speculation that too many people fall for that makes real bible students and theologians distance themselves from Rapture theories and futuristic views of Revelation. They rightly call people who believe that sort of foolishness “idiots”.

In **II Thess. 2:6**, Paul tells the Thessalonian believers that “he may be revealed in his time”, but for now, he is being restrained. God will finally allow the Antichrist to be revealed and recognized when the time is right. The passage goes on to say (**vv. 8-9**) that his coming is by Satan’s activity, “with all power, signs and wonders”. IOW, it will be obvious by what he does that he has arrived on the scene. It is not necessary that believers recognize him as he ascends through the ranks of power as a low level politician with promise of greater things. That would describe literally hundreds of thousands of men in today’s world or at any given time. However, once he is on the scene and has risen to that final ultimate position of world domination, he will be recognizable to those who understand the prophecy. That will be necessary, because at that time, they must make sure they are wary of him and do not take the Mark.

As indicated in our last lesson, it is likely that the Rapture along with the failed invasion attempt against Israel could be the springboard that launches him into a position of worldwide authority as he takes credit for the thwarted invasion and spins a tale about where all those people went, and this would occur months or even a few years prior to this covenant of peace that starts the 7 year Tribulation.

Only at that point will the prophetic word make sense, so that the elect who are as yet unsaved, and unraptured may be able to protect themselves against spiritual idolatry by not taking his Mark, which would seal their fate forever as unbelievers. Meanwhile, the world at large will be falling at his feet in adulation.

Paul Henri Spaak, first president of the UN General Assembly and a key planner in the formation of the EEC said in 1957 (54 years ago!), “*We do not want another committee, we have too many already. What we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of all the people and to lift us up out of the economic morass into which we are sinking. Send us such a man, and whether he be God or devil, we will receive him.*”^{vii} When he arrives on the world stage, the now divided world will be ready to place their allegiance on 1 man to rule over everyone, perhaps even believe that he is the returning Christ.

I do not believe we – or anyone – can know who he will be until he is in the position of ultimate authority he is destined to rule from, so we need to spend less time speculating on his identity and more time looking for the return of our Saviour. We must follow the advice of Peter in **II Peter 3:10-14**.

Daniel 9:24-27

This section of Scripture has long been interpreted to mean that the Antichrist would be a Roman, especially because of v. 26. “And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.” People’s minds go immediately to the last historic destruction of the city of Jerusalem, which occurred after Messiah came in AD 70 at the hands of Roman General Titus, thus making Italians “the people of the prince”, and the prince logically a Roman.

However, I am unconvinced that the context of this prophecy must refer to AD 70 and nothing else. For one thing, if the 69th “week” ends with the death of the Messiah, then the prince and the final 70th “week” is reserved for the Tribulation period (with the parenthetical church age separating the two in time). If so, why presume that something as important as this event and the ID of the person will fall outside the pattern of the 70 weeks? If Christ died in AD 30, then 40 years separate His death (or “cutting off”) and the destruction of the city. Yet, the remainder of the prophecy is obviously referring to the end times, and there is a time period separating the two weeks.

Without doubt, Jerusalem will be front and center in the Tribulation. We have seen that already in our study of Revelation. The people of Israel, Jerusalem & the Temple are the subject of Daniel’s prayer and the answer provided by the angel has that as the context of the answer from God which is this prophecy.

The very next sentence, v. 26b, “It’s end shall come with a flood and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.” This is not describing AD 70. What does it mean, “to the end there shall be war?” To the end of what? Could it be to the end of the 70th week? That certainly fits the context. I believe so, and if so, then AD 70 is not the destruction which identifies the people of the prince to come, and based on this prophecy, the prince is not Italian. If AD 70 is not part of the 70th week, then it is not what Daniel is referring to. If it were, then the Tribulation would be AD 70, local to Jerusalem, and by AD 77 at the latest, Jesus Christ would have returned, the Millennium would have begun and ended by now, and believers would be in heaven. 12

I. The Beast from the Sea

Rev. 13:1-2

It is about at this point in the book of Revelation that the chronology of what John is recording gets difficult to understand. It does contain symbolic language and does not fit into the flow of what is already ongoing in the judgments. A certain measure of thought and comparison has to be applied by referencing some pertinent OT passages as well as discerning why God is delaying this detail until we are already at the 6th Trumpet, and chapter 12 is describing things that have been in place since the 3 ½ year point of the Tribulation.

John records a beast rising out of the sea as Satan stands on the shore of the sea. This beast has 10 horns and 7 heads. It has 10 diadems (royal crowns) on its’ horns and blasphemous names on the heads.

The first question that arises is, “what sea is the beast arising out of”? Is this some literal sea like the Mediterranean or is ‘sea’ symbolic of something else? Some see the sea as symbolic of the Gentiles, since “the land” is symbolic of Israel many times in Scripture, however, this makes it difficult to decipher what the “sand of the sea” is where Satan is standing in 12:17. Then the 2nd beast rises up out of the earth (13:11), and this confuses the issue even more. It seems doubtful that the Antichrist rises dripping wet out of the literal sea (like the Mediterranean) though, so some interpretive work is definitely required.

We need to retain the context of chapter 12 which directly precedes this account, because chapter 13 now describes in detail the warfare between the Dragon and the seed of the woman, who are called ‘saints’ in v. 7. If we compare v. 1 here to **Rev. 17:15**, we acquire a clue that the sea (the waters) are the vast multitude of people on earth, but this leaves the sand of the sea where the Dragon stands questionable as a symbol and makes us wonder what symbolism the earth represents in 13:11.

In ancient times, the sea was thought to be the reservoir of evil things and the description of the appearance of this beast seems to follow a literal pattern. However, Rev. 11:7 & 17:8 tells us he ascends from the Abyss, where demonic powers are incarcerated. Does the sea then stand for the Abyss? According to passages like **Job 26:12-13; Pss. 74:13-14; 87:4; 89:9-10; Isa. 27:1; 51:9-10**^{viii} – the sea is the source of Satanic sea monsters, so this could be representative of the Abyss. ⑬

In fact, the sea here in our verse is most likely the Abyss, which seems to be connected to the sea, so that what we have is a human being who will rise to power with Satanic authority – cf. **II Thess. 2:9-10**; and cf. **Rev. 11:7** – and if the sea represents the Abyss, that makes perfect sense. In fact, when the eternal state arrives in Rev. 21:1ff, one of the ‘evils’ done away with is the sea.

At this point, in order to comprehend the scene that John records, we must look at some OT passages, so turn first of all to **Daniel 7:1-8**. We have here in vv.7-8 a beast, the 4th beast of this vision and note some of the detail;

- This beast has iron teeth; it devours & breaks in pieces; stamps on what is left with its’ feet
- It is different from the 3 beasts before it
- It has 10 horns
- An 11th horn comes up from the midst of the 10
- 3 of the original 10 are plucked up by the roots (Ezekiel 38-39?), leaving 7 of the 10, and add to that this 11th and you are left with 8 horns
- The 11th horn has eyes like a man
- It has a mouth speaking great things

This picture is terrifying and interesting, but what on earth does it mean? Even Daniel is confused at first – note **Dan. 7:15-16,19**. He is still in the vision, so “one of those who stood there”, one of the thousands who serve the Ancient of Days (v.

10), is likely an angel, & he gives him an explanation of what is happening in vv. 19-27.

The Antichrist will rule over this kingdom, a worldwide kingdom, and his rulership will be fierce because v. 23 says he will trample it down and devour it. In v. 25, he will speak words against the Most High (he'll be a blasphemer), and shall wear out the saints of the Most High – he will try to kill them. Verse 25 also goes on to say...

Antichrist Changes Times & Laws **Dan. 7:25**

This seems like a minor detail regarding Antichrist, but once in power, he will desire to change the times and the law. Of course he will want to change the times – our current Gregorian calendar runs based on Christ's birth, which is why we have BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini – the year of our Lord). Secularists have long been offended by this terminology, and have lately come up with BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era). Prior to the BC / AD terms, history was based on AUR – from the founding of the City of Rome (Annus Urbanis Romanus – the City), which, based on our current calendar was April, 753 BC.

Well, just as the Jews have their own calendar, Islam has one too. It is based on the Qur'an (Surah 1 x 36-37), following the lunar cycle rather than a solar cycle. It is based on Muhammed's flight to Medina in 622 AD – specifically July 16, 622^⑭. On that date, AH time began (Anno Hegirae or year of the Hijra), therefore, for Muslims, 1998 AD is 1419 AH.

Here are the 12 months of the Islamic calendar:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Muharram | 7. Rajab |
| 2. Safar | 8. Sha'ban |
| 3. Rabi' al-awwal (Rabi' I) | 9. Ramadan |
| 4. Rabi' al-thani (Rabi' II) | 10. Shawwal |
| 5. Jumada al-awwal (Jumada I) | 11. Dhu al-Qi'dah |
| 6. Jumada al-thani (Jumada II) | 12. Dhu al-Hijjah |

In order to bring the world under control, a change to the Islamic calendar could be a valuable tool used both to disorient & to control people. A Roman dominated Tribulation empire would have no need to change the calendar, as it was a Roman Catholic monk who devised the Gregorian calendar we use now.

He will also desire to change laws. Wherever Muslims go, their desire is to establish & enforce Sharia Law. Once they overtake a country and have sufficient numbers to be a majority, that is exactly what they put in place. Sharia Law is very strict and unyielding – virtually merciless. The laws vary with the seriousness of the crime but here are some examples:

- A woman caught in the company (unchaperoned) of a man who is not a close relative is assumed to have committed adultery and punishment can be as serious as death by stoning.
- Homosexuality is punishable by death.
- Thieves have their hands cut off.
- Women who are raped are often assumed to have committed adultery unless they can prove they were victims. This is punishable by 100 lashes or death by stoning. The men involved are often not even prosecuted, especially if the woman is non-Muslim. Then, the argument is that she ‘enticed’ the men by wearing suggestive clothing.
- Alcohol is illegal, and so is gambling.
- There are strict dietary laws as well as strict laws on prayer.
- In most Muslim countries, women are not allowed to vote or have driver’s licenses.

There is no room under Sharia Law for unbelievers. At present, those who are allowed to live in Muslim countries as non-Muslims (called Dhimmis) have to pay a special tax called a Kharaj & Jizya, which is like a license to occupy Muslim land and breathe their air. Payment of this tax is monetary, based on one’s ability to pay, and is to be accompanied by an act of humility.

In the Tribulation, this will become a severe problem, and very well may be part of the Mark of the Beast. Rather than tax you for being non-Muslim, and allowing you to remain in unbelief, you will be forced to either take the mark or you will not be allowed to participate in the economy and will become a target for disposal (death). No unbelievers will be tolerated by the Antichrist. Only the elect will refuse to take the Mark – cf. **Rev. 13:8b** & 17:8...at great peril. ⑮

There is no question that an Islamic Antichrist will impose Islamic time measurement and Sharia Law and will enforce them by basically forcing everyone to become a Muslim or they will be eliminated.

Back in Dan. 7: 17, Daniel is told that the 4 beasts are 4 kings who shall arise (future to Daniel), but the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever & ever. So this is referring to the final stage of history (v. 27), along with some idea regarding what had to come prior to that from Daniel’s historical perspective.

The details of the 4th beast is laid out in vv. 23-26, and we are told that this beast’s realm or empire is “it shall devour the whole earth” – worldwide power & influence, in which it will trample down and break it to pieces. It will have military might, and this 4th beast will differ from all the other kingdoms.

“Kingdoms” here is not referring to local or even national kings, but rather dynasties or empires – eras on earth where a nation rises to world dominance, at least dominance over the world in which they live – the known world at that time. Even the strongest ancient dynasty had no control over North or South America, Australia or other territories not yet discovered by the civilized world.If

we go back to **Daniel 2:31-45**, we get a slightly different viewpoint of the world empires. This vision takes us from Daniel's time to the Millennial Kingdom & the eternal state.

Since it appears that these kingdoms are empires, not local governments, and that they seem to be in dominance over the known world during their time of power, and the first ones are historical, we can decipher who they were. Daniel wrote this vision down 2,600 years ago – 605-560 BC, and some of the vision has come to pass. The ones past are simple to identify, but the final world empire prior to Christ's return is the tough one to figure out.

You have all likely seen the image of a warrior that represents what Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream which Daniel is interpreting in Daniel 2. It has a head of gold, a chest & arms of silver, a torso and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and ten toes of iron mixed with clay. Here is the traditional interpretation of this:

- The head of gold is Nebuchadnezzar's empire – vv. 36-38 – Babylon – notice that this is the empire in power as Daniel tells this prophecy – only the next 5 are future.
- The chest & arms of silver is the Medo-Persian empire – v. 39; Dan. 5:30
- Torso & thighs – Greece under Alexander the Great – v. 39b
- Legs of iron – the Roman empire, which was in power when Christ came to earth – v.40. If so, the two legs probably denote the split in 1054 between Rome and Constantinople (now Istanbul).
- Feet & toes of potter's clay mixed with iron – vv. 41-43 – it is this empire that people say must be the revived Roman empire.
- The next empire is the Kingdom God will set up – vv.44-45 – His Millennial Kingdom, which will lead right into the eternal state, and which destroys all the other preceding kingdoms.

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Notice that there are 5 earthly kingdoms listed here, and one heavenly kingdom. This vision was given to Nebuchadnezzar to show him the future, so it does not cover what went on before Babylon began to rule. Since Babylon is presently in power, it is not 1 of the 4 to come before the final empire. Before Babylon, there were 2 empires:

- Egypt
- Assyria

That makes 7 world empires or “7 heads” before Christ comes, just like the vision of Rev. 13:1-2 tells us – 10 horns & 7 heads. But what is the final empire or 7th represented by the feet & ten toes? Is it a revived Roman Empire or not?

It would be easy at this point to go off into a detailed history lesson showing who the leaders of these empires were and how the empires interconnect, what the great battles were that ended one empire and began another, but we have to focus on the final empire prior to Christ's return to determine how it fits into our future, because it clearly has not taken place yet. Is it a revived Roman Empire or some other powerful force working in concert with a Roman influence or in

territories which were once part of the Roman Empire? Notice **Dan. 2:40-43** & then **v. 44**, “in the days of those ‘kings’, not ‘king’”. Now see **Dan. 7:23-26** – where $11 \text{ minus } 3 = 8$, so 7 leaders report to the 11th horn who is now the leader of the 8th.

The Feet & Ten Toes – Final World Empire

In Dan. 2:35, 5 parts are crushed by the stone which symbolizes Christ’s Millennial Kingdom – iron, clay, bronze, silver & gold. In the first 4 empires, there was no clay, but it is added to the iron in the 5th empire.

If the 5th empire was a revived Roman empire, shouldn’t it be just iron to capture the symbolism? Where does the clay come in? The addition of the clay should tell us this is not referring to Rome alone. Now, since the iron is still there, perhaps a similar realm or geographic extent of the empire of Rome is being signified, the land being the clay, but with a different element associated with it now. But since the other elements are also crushed, the clay may have some connection to the other empires as well.

Here is how Jack Smith^{ix} presents his case;

Regarding the feet of iron and clay...

- Islam – the iron is the Sunni sect / the clay is the Shia sect
- Rome – the feet have dominion over the ancient Roman empire
- Greece – the feet have dominion over the ancient Greek empire
- Medo-Persia – the feet have dominion over what was the Medo-Persian empire
- Babylon – the feet have dominion over the ancient Babylonian empire

The ancient kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece are now almost all Muslim. Most of the ancient Roman empire has also been or is being absorbed by this final Islamic empire as well. The iron & clay mixture could be pointing to a Muslim empire – 2 sects who do not normally see eye to eye - united with a common purpose – to dominate the world, and ruling over the same territory & more that Rome had. It is not however, a cohesive mixture due to the internal conflicts that exist between Shias and Sunnis.

Today, within Islam, Sunnis are the majority – 85-90%, while Shias are a 10-15% minority. Some Sunni Muslims, specifically the Wahhabi branch, don’t even consider Shias as true Muslims.^x The dispute between the 2 sects goes back to a division caused when Abu Bakr (632-634 AD) was chosen to be the first Caliph (like a Muslim Pope) of Islam – he was Muhammed’s 1st convert – over Ali, who was Muhammed’s son-in-law. A bitter feud ensued and people were murdered at the Battle of Karbala (Iraq) in 680 AD. The division between the 2 factions became a permanent rift, and they continue to hate one another. While still united against all non-Muslims, they still argue over who has the authority to choose the next Caliph.

The Shias (most of them) believe that the caliphate ended with the 12th Imam – Muhammed Ibn Hasan, who was the last male descendent of Muhammed through Ali & Fatima (Muhammed’s daughter). This group is called the “Twelvers” and they comprise the majority of Shiite Muslims – 90% of the population of Iran & 60% of Iraq.

It is their belief that this man - Muhammed Ibn Hasan – has been hidden away & preserved somehow since 847 AD^{xi} and will reappear in the last days as Muh-al-Mahdi (the Islamic Messiah), and when he comes he will right the Sunni wrongs against the Shiites. Although they disagree on this particular angle of eschatology, all Muslims have a common enemy – Jews and the West (synonymous with Christianity) – and the Mahdi will arrive to unite Sunnis and Shias to convert the non-Muslim world to Islam.

It is an interesting fact, that, of the 19 Muslims who piloted the hi-jacked planes on Sept, 11, 2001, 15 were Sunni / Wahhabi Muslims. They have a special hatred for Shiites and obviously for the West.

Dan. 8:23-25 describes the one who will rise to world domination and finally meet his end at the hand of God. The nationality of the Antichrist is given to us as a clue in **Dan. 9:24-27** (esp. v. 26). If the Antichrist is “the prince who is to come”, then it is his people who will destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (the Temple), so if we can identify his people we can see if he is a Roman, a Persian, an Assyrian or whatever. This is therefore an important clue for us. 18

Some of the early church theologians (ie. Irenaeus AD 120-202) believed that Antichrist would be a Jew from the Tribe of Dan^{xii}, based on an interpretation of **Jer. 8:16**, coupled with the fact that there is no tribe of Dan in the Rev. 7:4-8 list. **Genesis 49:17** is also added to the “evidence’ for this view. The early church fathers held this view for a long time – at least up until Jerome (AD 331-420).

Further substantiation for this position is sought in **Dan. 11:37**. “Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers.” So, whoever he is, he converts from one religion to another. It could be that he starts out as a Jew or even a Christian, but the point is, all we can say for sure is that he will reject whatever religious system his ancestors practiced.^{xiii}

However, as mentioned earlier, the question is; to which destruction of Jerusalem & the Temple is Daniel referring to? Is it 171 BC & Antiochus Epiphanes, an Assyrian or AD 70 and General Titus of Rome? (neither one of these men is the Antichrist, but this identifies their nationalities only). As we have already seen, this event in it’s final form (the preceding events being types), is future to Jesus (MT 24); Paul (II Thess. 3) and John in Revelation.

But since AD 70 is the most recent historically and effectively began the spread of the Jews throughout the world, taking them out of the Land God had given them, most people assume that this is the event Daniel is talking about. In AD

132, Emperor Hadrian (also Roman) completed the job of completely ransacking Jerusalem.

Daniel 11 is known as one of the most detailed prophecies in the OT. It is so detailed and historically accurate that textual critics argue that it could only have been written after the events had occurred and is thus history, not prophecy. However, textual critics aside, there is no doubt among true scholars that it was written some 500 years before Christ came, thus predating the events being prophesied by Daniel.

However, at v. 36ff, something changes, and the prophecy now swings to something that can't be paralleled in known history, so most commentators believe that at that point, Daniel is looking to the future and Antichrist. Let's read **Dan. 11:36-12:4**.

By comparing the accounts from II Thessalonians 2 & from Daniel, we begin to get a picture of who this beast in Rev. 13 is and what his character traits will be:

- He is a man – Dan. 7:21-25; Dan. 9:26
- He will rise to power as the 11th power of 10 already existing, and he will be one of the 10 originally – Dan. 7
- He will eliminate 3 of the 10 – Dan. 7
- The remaining 8 will be run by him as their leader, and this union of nations will become a dominant world empire – Dan. 7
- His far-reaching power will be accompanied by peace – Rev. 6:1-2
- He will be deceitful – II Thess. 2; Dan. 8:25
- He will claim to be God in a rebuilt Jewish temple – II Thess. 2:3-4; Dan. 11:36-37
- He will speak great things – Dan. 7:8
- He will persecute God's people – Rev. 13:7; Dan. 7:21
- He will dominate the world, but will be resisted by some – Dan. 11:2-145
- He will not follow the gods of his fathers – Dan. 11:37
- He will not pay heed to the "one beloved of women" – Dan. 11:37
- The number of his name is 666 – Rev. 13:18
- He will blaspheme God – Dan. 11:36; Rev. 13:5-6
- He will destroy many – Dan. 8:25
- His power will be given to him; it is not his own – Dan. 8:24; Rev. 13:5
- He will change times and laws – Dan. 7:25
- He will be given authority for 3 ½ years – Dan. 7:25
- He will be destroyed & his kingdom removed – Dan. 7:26; 2:44-45
- His kingdom will be like iron & clay mixed – Dan. 2:40-43
- His power & authority are Satanically inspired and authorized – II Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:4
- He will force people to take some sort of mark without which people will not be able to buy or sell – Rev. 13:15-18
- People will be forced to worship him or be killed – Rev. 13:15

Back in Rev. 13, we see that the beast has “10 horns & 7 heads”. We have already looked back in Daniel to see the connections there, and we have more said about this in **Rev. 17:3,7-14,17**.

The 10 horns are 10 kings, and Daniel 7:24 says that one is different from the others and Rev. 17:12 tells us that they have not received royal power (but will receive authority for ‘one hour’ (a limited time period) with the beast. IOW, they have not yet received royal power in their respective nations yet, but will in time to offer their allegiance to this one who will rule over all of them. He will put down 3 of the 10, leaving 7 (probably 3 who will not knuckle under to his totalitarian demands or are killed during the failed invasion of Ezekiel 38 & 39). The 10 will be reduced to 7, and with the Antichrist also as a king, this means a coalition of 8 nations, with Antichrist leading the 8th as well as the entire coalition.

But the 7 heads are also said to be kings in Rev. 17:9-11, so how do we compare the 10 to the 7? Well, for one thing, the 10 have diadems on them – they represent ruling authorities, but the 7 have blasphemous names on them instead, and they likely represent past empires. Robert Thomas postulates that the 10 horns (standing for power) are 10 kings of end times kingdoms or nations who will support the Antichrist, and the 7 heads represent the 7 world empires from the ancient past up until the time of the vision. That would be Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and then this 7th regime, which most say is a revived Roman Empire, but I believe will be an Islamic Caliphate which will comprise all the nations originally under Roman domination (& more) which would then be under Islamic rule & authority. This empire is the 2 feet and ten toes of Daniel’s vision in the 2nd chapter of his book. This will be the final human empire which Christ will smash along with very other empire on His return to earth to rule & reign. (20)

The blasphemous names on the heads of the 7 are emblematic of the fact that none of the 7 empires throughout world history has ever honoured God or operated in humility to bring about His will. We will examine Rev. 17 in more detail when we get there, but I want to point out a couple of things from there. Notice; 1.) **Rev. 17:9-10** – 7 heads = 7 mountains = 7 kings; 5 have fallen (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece), 1 is (Rome at the time John wrote this book), and the other is yet to come. The one yet to come will be the Antichrist’s empire, and when it comes, it will remain a little while (7 years). The beast is an 8th, but belongs to the 7 (leads the 7th), and the 10 kings will give him allegiance as it is his authority that makes them into the 7th world empire. He will somehow tie together all the desires, strengths and weaknesses of the 10, will eliminate 3 to make it 7. In the process he will form an 8th kingdom or nation which will rule over the other 7.

Secondly, look at **Rev. 17:16-17** – especially v. 17, which is a direct statement regarding the sovereignty of God over all this.

Rev. 13:2 – the beast is said to be like a leopard, with bear’s feet, and a lion’s mouth. This harkens back to Daniel 7:3-7 again, where the beast is a composite of the first 3 beasts of the image in that vision. Symbolic of these empires or dynasties again, and it is this combination of deadly, merciless animalistic attributes which the Tribulation saints will face.

The beast’s authority comes from Satan, who gives the Antichrist his power, throne & authority. It seems like Satan is attempting to setup an unholy trinity to counterfeit the Holy Trinity. He is the authority (as a father) and passes that authority along to the Antichrist (the son figure), and then the False Prophet comes onto the scene and becomes in a sense the unholy spirit. Since Satan is depicted as the “god of this world” in II Cor. 4:4 (in the most common interpretation of that verse, his authority given to the beast has worldwide implications and effect. It may be that Satan even indwells this person, as he did Judas. I think so.

II. Dead & Risen

vv. 3-4

Verse 3 is a source of much conjecture. However, we can eliminate the ancient personages of Caligula, Nero, Domitian and Judas Iscariot as candidates for those who have died and come back to life to be the Antichrist. There is no evidence that they or anyone from any previous era has come back from the dead, apart from Christ Himself. Even if someone from ancient history were to come on the scene now and claim to be Nero Caesar or Judas Iscariot (for example), 21 how on earth could they ever prove it?

Seeing this as a revived empire or nation rather than an individual as some do, does not fit the facts either. Why would the “whole earth marvel” because some nation that had been defeated long ago sprang up again? Isn’t that what happened to Israel? No one (apart from Christians) is marveling too much at that because it came about in such a natural way.

In the context of this verse and passage, this has to be referring to the death of a king, a head, the Antichrist. Whether Satan resurrects him or indwells him after he has been mortally wounded, perhaps by an assassination (obviously by God’s allowance), or deceives people into seeing him as still alive, something miraculous does take place and the world is one step closer to worshipping this beast as god. It says here that after this event “they followed the beast.” Verses 12 & 14 both make mention of this event, making it clear that this is some sort of resurrection and this is part of the deception Satan employs, and it is effective. Cf. [Luke 16:30-31](#).

III. 42 Months of Authority

vv. 5-6

God is sovereign over world governments – He always has been. Note Dan. 2; 11; Prov. 8:15-16; 21:1; Rom. 13:1; Ps. 2:4-5,8; 105:14-25; Isa. 41:2; 40:29,23, etc. Numerous verses in both the OT and the NT attest to that fact.^{xiv} So who are we

to understand has given the Antichrist the authority mentioned in v. 5? ⁵”And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months”. Satan gave the beast authority & power in v. 2, but this is different. This is specific and more to the point, it is for a limited duration. Satan would never limit the duration, only God would, and remember **Rev. 17:17 (& Rev. 6:4,8; 7:2; 9:5)**. So Antichrist operates under Satan’s authority which is under God’s authority. He is arrogant & blasphemous, but is only in control for 42 months or 3 ½ years. Remember the first seal judgment in Rev. 6:1-2, where peace is brought to the earth (for 3 ½ years), then war happens because the Antichrist makes a bold, blasphemous declaration – he enters the Temple of God and proclaims himself to be God, demanding worship, and that brings an end to peace and war is unleashed. His authority to make war against the saints and to prevail – his reign really begins at the middle of the Tribulation. He is given 42 months before Christ returns and sends him alive to Hell.

Recall also that God is the One in II Thess. 2:9-12 who sends a delusion to those on earth so that they will believe the lies of this evil man, thus assisting him in his quest for world domination.

IV. The Authority to Wage War and Win **v.7**

We are told who the Antichrist will explicitly target. He will make war with the saints – meaning mostly Jewish converts during the Tribulation, but also 22 Gentile converts – cf. **Rev. 12:17** - as the church proper will have been raptured before the Antichrist rises to full power. This verse goes even further though – “and to conquer them.” This is not talking about a victory where people are taken captive and jailed or made to assimilate into the population. No, this “conquer” refers to killing them, both in battle and in execution of those captured who will not reject Christ & give their allegiance to the Beast. In fact, public executions will help his cause, as it will act as a deterrent against those who might not want to follow him. What better way to make everyone else submit than to behead some as examples? – cf. **Dan. 7:21,23** & note **v. 22** & **Rev. 6:9-11**. Who is most well known on earth in modern times for using the barbaric execution technique of beheading as a punishment? Hint - Not the Romans.

The Antichrist’s authority will extend around the world – over every tribe, people, language and nation – an evil contrast to the saved who gather to praise God and the Lamb in Rev. 7:9-12. Without the authority given to the Beast, his reach would not be so widespread, and he would be confined, as so many despots are today, to a small area of land and a localized source of victims to antagonize. The Antichrist will accomplish for awhile what every ruler dreams of – worldwide domination & (forced) adoration by the people, this fulfilling Satan’s ancient dream – “I will be like the Most High.” – Isa. 14:13-14.

V. The Fate of the World

vv. 8-10

There is a change in tense here – from past to present & future, and at this future time the entire world will worship the beast. If the sentence ended here, we would assume that God had lost control and Satan had won, but the sentence goes on to describe one group of people who will not worship the beast – the elect. Note that some of them will be already saved, and others will not yet be saved, but they will be saved before they die. Notice how this is worded – negatively – “everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain...”^{xv} – it is these who will perish, but this implies that those whose name is written therein will not perish.

This is an astounding verse – covering both election and reprobation & tells us that before the world was created, before Adam & Eve were placed in Eden, before the Fall, before anyone did good or evil in their lives, God had chosen whom He would save, and if there are those not chosen, they will not be saved. This is not talking about double predestination here. There is no equivalence between the decree of God to save some and His decision to allow the rest to perish. We need to understand that there are no innocent people. All have sinned, so that everyone gets either justice or mercy. No one gets injustice. Tough to take maybe, but quite simple to understand here. This verse also calls to mind **Rom. 9:22-23; Prov. 16:4; Acts 15:18 & Rev. 20:15.**

The elect are certainly in need of the sort of comfort found in this verse and others like it, because many will suffer severe persecution and even death because they refuse to worship the Beast. They will realize that it is God’s keeping power, His providential predestination plans for them which ensure that they will endure to the end, even if that end is death for them personally. Note the last part of **v. 10.**

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Verse 9 – “If anyone has an ear, let him hear”. This sentence is used 7 times in Revelation 2 -3, & is now repeated an 8th time, but note what is missing, “What the Spirit says to the churches”. Why is this missing here? Well, you could argue context, but the plain truth & simplest explanation is that the church is no longer there on earth to ‘hear’. The ‘saints’ are newly converted believers, mostly Jewish. The church is in heaven, and those newly martyred believers will soon join it there. Those believers who survive – and some will survive – remember the 144,000 & those God preserves in the wilderness from chapter 12 – they, along with others, will enter the Millennial Kingdom on earth at the end of the Tribulation period. The Church Age ends at the Rapture.

The sovereign decretive will of God, has determined (v. 10) before hand how and when each person’s life will unfold, how they will live and how they will die. **Psalm 139:15-16** conveys this perfectly. See also Job 14:1-5; 12:10; Ps. 39:4-5; Acts 17:24-26; Ps. 56:8; Isa. 42:5; 46:3-4; etc.

For example, if God had determined that you would die in the Worlds Trade Center Tower # 1 on Sept. 11, 2001, even if you would not normally be there or visit there, on that day, something would compel you to need to be there.

Likewise, if that is where you worked and were not meant to die on 9-1-1 – perhaps you called in sick that day, or were on assignment at another office. Conversely, we have all heard many stories of people who missed a flight due to an accident, traffic tie-up, sleeping in or whatever, only to find that the plane they were supposed to be on had crashed on take-off. Luck? Coincidence? Or providence? What about the people who did not miss that plane? God is working all things out for His purposes and for His good pleasure.

Finally, v. 10b – “Here is a call for the endurance of the saints.” People’s endurance and faith are strengthened and encouraged by passages like the one we’ve been examining. There is no encouragement found in saying “God was not in that tragedy”, because that sort of thinking, that sort of theology relegates whatever befalls us or our loved ones to the status of accident, happenstance and worse – purposeless. If God was not in it, why wasn’t He? Where was He? Is His power limited, or is His goodness in question? Did Satan overcome Him or outwit Him? There is no comfort in that sort of thinking as far as I can see. Why would we want to worship such a powerless God?

Mark Talbot comments, *“In God’s saints, suffering ultimately tends to produce hope that is steadfastly “set on the living God,” which enables us to labor and strive in godly ways both in this life and for the life to come (I Tim. 4:10); see the context from 4:7b-10). The hope that God Himself causes by regeneration to live within us becomes (in no small part by the suffering He gives us) what orients us by anchoring our souls (Heb. 6:18-19).^{xvi}*

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But when we hear of His control over the events listed here in Rev. 13:1-10, although we may not understand the why, we can see that God has purpose, all power, all authority and He has eternity for His loved ones prepared as He promised.

VI. Other Reasons I Believe Antichrist Will Be a Muslim

I have shown above by examining OT passages and looking at some of the history of that region of the world, that we do not have to follow the traditional view of a revived Roman Empire, led by a Roman as the Antichrist. Where history can be shown to allow for a potential prophecy fulfillment that makes more sense than what has been offered, we must examine that evidence without bias and see where it leads us. It does not appear to lead us to Rome. Here are some of the things that got me thinking about the viability of the traditional Protestant view of the end times being a revived Roman Empire. It was my attempt to sort these things out in my mind, based on what I saw going on in the world that led me to search the Scriptures and to read some books on the topic by authors I normally would not have sought out to see if there was an alternative that made better sense.

Here are some of those things I was pondering:

The existence of a Jerusalem Temple. There has to be a Temple in existence 3 ½ years into the Tribulation because it is in this temple that the Antichrist desecrates the sanctuary. There is no Temple now, but there are plans afoot to build one. If it is built to biblical specifications, it will have to be built exactly where the current Muslim Al Aqsa Mosque is – on the Dome of the Rock. Under what circumstances would the Muslims ever allow a Jewish Temple to replace that mosque?

This is an extremely important point, and opponents to the Pre-Trib Rapture attempt to discredit that position by interpreting Revelation as history, especially placing the writing of the Revelation by John somewhere in the AD 60's prior to the destruction of the Temple in AD 70. This way, the Temple was still standing when John wrote, because since then there has been no Jewish Temple there, and for the futuristic view of Revelation to make sense there has to be a Temple in Jerusalem for Antichrist to enter and defile.

Unless there is an attack or perhaps an earthquake that eliminates the mosque, and then Islam is brought to a state of submission, so that the Jews can build their Temple unhindered (very unlikely), I can see only 1 way. If the Antichrist is a Muslim, he will have the power to use this as a bargaining chip to bring peace. I personally cannot imagine how any non-Muslim could ever acquire the power to make this happen. Isn't virtually all of the current conflict in the mid-east centered around Jerusalem, Israel and the Muslim states around her? As I showed in lesson 41, there is a good possibility that the attack described in Ezekiel 38-39 plays a role in this as well.

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Beheading as a form of execution. It is clear from passages like Rev. 20:4 that martyrdom will be chiefly a result of beheading in the Tribulation. Historically, this sort of execution style is favoured by Barbarians, Arabs and Muslims. It is not typical of RC persecution, which usually centered on fire (burning people at the stake) or hangings – and only in ancient times.

The recent rise of Islam against all odds and against logic. For a comprehensive and extremely interesting read, I would strongly recommend Melanie Phillips' book, "Londonistan", as well as Bat Ye'Or's "Eurabia", and especially Bruce Bawer's "While Europe Slept".

The unique combination of political / religious power inherent in Islam, which is exactly the combination of elements described in the Bible for the End Times world power. Islam is being handled with 'kid gloves' worldwide over the last 10 years, mostly because people are afraid of offending them. Offense (real or imagined) seems to be always followed by intense violence and hatred by Muslims against whoever has 'offended' them.

This is the Time of Jacob's Trouble (Jer. 30:7) – who has always hated the Jews and attempted to kill them off? Muslims / Arabs, etc. Not the RC church or Rome in general, although there is a very sobering and shameful record in history of the church's anti-Semitism, including the Protestant church. I highly

recommend that every believer read Barry Horner's book called "Future Israel", which will open your eyes to the (even recent) history of anti-Semitism in the world.

The Ottoman Empire which ended only in 1923, and controlled virtually every area that had been under Roman rule during the Roman Empire has been overlooked in world history as bible interpreters have focused on how to assimilate a European world power into the End Times scenarios. In virtually every battle listed in the biblical prophetic end times accounts, the nations who come against Israel are almost without exception, nations which are today Muslim. It is doubtful that we should expect a mass conversion of Muslims to Christianity of any kind in the near future, but a surprising number of so-called Christians are converting to Islam.

The Dome of the Rock

Why is Jerusalem so important to the end times, in fact, to history itself?

Historically, and even geographically, there appears to be little reason for Jerusalem to have such a major role in world history. Eric Clines comments bring it all into focus;

"In the three millennia that have passed since David captured the city and made it his capital, Jerusalem has been fought over again and again.

Why is this? Why have dozens of armies – from minor tribes as well as great civilizations – fought to conquer and rule Jerusalem? It lay far from major ports and did not dominate any historically important trade routes. It sat on the edge of barren and forbidding desert poorly suited for the building of an important commercial center or strategic military base. The answer may lie on a hill called the Temple Mount – known in Arabic as the Haram al-Sherif (the "Nobel Sanctuary") – that looks down upon the surrounding city; Gershom Gorenberg has called it "the most contested piece of real estate on earth."

On this mount stands a great rock that is central to the story of the struggles for Jerusalem. It has seen kingdoms rise and fall, great empires come and go. It once lay within the Temple of King Solomon and later inside Herod's Temple. Today, this great stone still has a commanding presence on the Temple Mount. It now lies beneath the golden-roofed Dome of the Rock and is a vital part of the third most sacred site of the Islamic world. According to Moslem tradition, the Prophet Mohamed ascended to the furthest reaches of heaven from this rock. According to Jewish tradition, this is the rock upon which Abraham offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God. It was here that David brought the sacred ark of the covenant of his people."^{xvii}

The Dome of the Rock mosque was built by Caliph Abel-al-Malik in the Muslim year 72 AH (691-692 AD). It is physically located on the Temple Mount (the Al-Aqsa Mosque) is also built here) in Jerusalem. Except for a period of 88 years during the 2nd Crusade, the Temple Mount has been under Muslim control until today, even though the city of Jerusalem is mostly under Israeli control.

In the 20th Century, the Temple Mount came under Jordanian Rule (1948-1967) and Jews were forbidden from entering the area. After Israeli forces gained control of the Old City in 1967's Six Day War, non-Muslim visits to the site resumed on occasion, but are closely monitored under tight security.

Karen Armstrong, an atheistic historian, who is pro-Islamic, yet claims to be a liberal Christian, comments:

"In Jerusalem, the Dome of the Rock was completed in 691, the first major Islamic monument, which proudly asserted the Supremacy of Islam in this holy city which had a large Christian majority. It announced that Islam had come to stay."^{xviii}

For the Muslims, this site is 3rd in stature, after Mecca (Muhammed's birthplace) and Medina. Jerusalem is important to them because this Muslim control of a primarily Jewish and Christian holy site is a monument displaying Islamic domination of these other 2 religions. It seems pretty apparent that being seen as dominant is a key element in Islamic religious passions.

It is interesting prophetically that the very key, "abomination of desolation" both in type (Antiochus Epiphanes in 167 BC; Titus in 70 AD, and Hadrian in 132 AD) and in an as yet unfulfilled prophecy will take place at Jerusalem on this very spot.

The site is holy to Christians & Jews because it is said to be the very place that Abraham sacrificed Isaac (Gen. 22); is also the threshing floor of Araunah (II Sam. 24:24) which David purchased for God's Temple site, and where Solomon built the first Temple, and where Jesus Christ was crucified. Since Islam also claims Abraham as their ancestor (through Ishmael), the site certainly has religious significance for them, and is the site where they claim that Mohamed ascended to heaven from, but the domination angle seems much more important to them. 27

Due to the militant, violent responsive nature of Islam to any threats, insults or attacks, it will be interesting to see how God will resolve the problem of how Jewish worship in a Temple on this site will take place when it is currently inconceivable that Israel could ever resume control over the area, knock down the Mosque & build the Third Temple! Yet the Bible predicts that a Jewish temple will be standing in Jerusalem when the peace of the world is shattered by the blasphemous act of Antichrist in that Temple. Incidentally, this Temple is not the one that will be standing in the Millennial Kingdom as depicted in Ezek. 40-48.

Appendix I – The 7 Heads of Revelation 13:1 & 17:9-11

In a very interesting book by Joel Richardson, entitled “The Islamic Antichrist”, he provides a non-traditional view of the 7 heads, and what he says makes a lot of sense to me.

The angel explains to John about this vision of the beast out of the sea...with regard now to the 7 heads (read Rev. 17:9-11). Five are fallen – IOW, in the past, and he adds “one is”. When John wrote Revelation in about AD 95, the Roman Empire was just short of its’ apex of power, which was reached in AD 116, 20 years later. Rome was the 6th empire. The 7th one we want to understand because it is a revival of the 7th empire out of which Antichrist will arise and form the 8th.

Rome is # 6, not # 7, therefore it is not also 8. Every one of the first 6 empires ruled over Jerusalem as part of their territory. Remember that the bible holds a special place for Jerusalem and Israel, so any 7th or 8th empire must also have Jerusalem under it’s control. It is doubtful that any revival of the Roman Empire, given the politics, economics and military tensions extant today could ever satisfy that element. A coalition such as the European Common Market or European Union^{xix} as it is now known is not going to gain control over the middle east & Israel anytime soon.

Each new empire historically either wiped out or absorbed the preceding empire. If that trend holds true for the first 6, then we need to see what empire overcame Rome, including control of Jerusalem, and that should bring us closer to a solution^{xx}.

What happened to Rome? Although it had a 500 years history as a world power and Republic, Rome became an empire proper in 27 BC under Augustus Caesar. Rome was powerful and subdued many nations, extending their influence over much of what is now modern Europe, Central Asia, Greece and the Middle East.

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By AD 395, the empire was divided (two legs of the image?) into 2 regions, eastern & western. Eastern became the Byzantine empire. In 410 AD, the western capital of Rome fell to the invading Germanic peoples and the Visigoths or Barbarians. But Rome was not done yet though, and shifted power to Constantinople (what is now Istanbul, Turkey). Rome’s fall was not complete until 1453 AD when they were finally defeated and pushed out of the Middle-East by the Turks.

The empire that succeeded Rome was the Ottoman / Turkish Empire. They ruled over the entire mid-east including Jerusalem for nearly 500 years! This empire existed until 1909. Turkey was the seat of the Islamic Caliphate (like an Islamic Pope) until 1923^{xxi}. This is the empire that will be restored and out of which the Antichrist will arise. The empire will be Turkish / Islamic / Ottoman, not Roman, although the geographical territory involved will cover most of the original Roman Empire and more.

Appendix II – A Summary Of Comparisons Between The Islamic And Biblical Narrative Of The End-Times

“...we conclude this section with a final review of the many startling similarities that exist between the biblical narrative of the last-days and the Islamic narrative of the same period.

- Bible: The Antichrist is an unparalleled political, military and religious leader that will emerge in the last-days.
- Islam: The Mahdi is an unparalleled political, military and religious leader that will emerge in the last-days.
- Bible: the False Prophet is a secondary prominent figure that will emerge in the last-days who will support the Antichrist.
- Islam: the Muslim Jesus is a secondary prominent figure that will emerge in the last-days to support the Mahdi.
- Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet together will have a powerful army that will do great damage to the earth in an effort to subdue every nation and dominate the World.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will have a powerful army that will attempt to control every nation of the earth and dominate the World.
- Bible: The False Prophet is described essentially as a dragon in lamb’s clothing. 29
- Islam: The Muslim Jesus literally comes bearing the name of the one that the world knows as “The Lamb of God: Jesus Christ.” Yet the Muslim Jesus comes to murder all those who do not submit to Islam.
- Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet establish a New World Order.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus establish a New World Order.
- Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet institute new laws for the whole earth.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus institute Islamic law all over the earth.
- Bible: The Antichrist is said to “change the times.”
- Islam: It is quite certain that if the Mahdi established Islam all over the earth, he would discontinue the use of Saturday and Sunday as the weekend or days of rest but rather Friday, the holy day of Islam. Also, he would most certainly eliminate the Gregorian calendar (A.D.), and replace it with the Islamic calendar (A. H.) as is used in every Islamic country.
- Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet will both be powerful religious leaders who will attempt to institute a universal world religion.

- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will institute Islam as the only religion in the earth.
- Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet will execute anyone who does not submit to their world religion.
- Islam: Likewise, the Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will execute anyone who does not submit to Islam.
- Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet will specifically use beheading as the primary means of execution for non-conformists.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will use the Islamic practice of beheading for executions.
- Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet will have a specific agenda to kill as many Jews as possible.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will kill as many Jews as is possible until only a few are left hiding behind rocks and trees.
- Bible: The Antichrist and the False Prophet will attack to conquer and seize Jerusalem.
- Islam: The Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus will attack to re-conquer and seize Jerusalem for Islam. 30
- Bible: The Antichrist will set himself up in the Jewish temple as his seat of authority.
- Islam: The Mahdi will establish the Islamic Caliphate from Jerusalem.
- Bible: The False Prophet is said to do many miracles to deceive as many as possible into supporting the Antichrist.
- Islam: The Mahdi himself is said to control the weather and the crops. His face is said to glow. We can also assume that since Jesus is viewed as having been empowered by Allah to work miracles when he was here on earth the first time, he will most likely be expected to continue to do so when he returns.
- Bible: The Antichrist is described as riding on a white horse in the Book of Revelation
- Islam: The Mahdi is described as riding on a white horse (ironically from the same verse).
- Bible: The Antichrist is said to make a peace treaty with Israel for seven years.
- Islam: The Mahdi is said to make a peace treaty through a Jew (specifically a Levite) for exactly seven years.

- Bible: Jesus the Jewish Messiah will return to defend the Jews in Israel from a military attack from a vast coalition of nations led by the Antichrist and the False Prophet.
- Islam: The Dajjal, the Islamic Antichrist will gain a great Jewish following and claim to be Jesus Christ and fight against the Mahdi and the Muslim Jesus.
- Bible: The antichrist spirit specifically denies the most unique and central doctrines of Christianity, namely the trinity, the incarnation and the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross.
- Islam: Islam doctrinally and spiritually specifically denies the most unique and central doctrines of Christianity, namely the trinity, the incarnation and the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross.
- Bible: The primary warning of Jesus and the Apostle Paul was to warn Christians of the abundance of deceit and deception in the last-days.
- Islam: Islam is perhaps the only religion in the earth that practices deceit as one of its tools to assist its own ascendancy. It actually has a specific doctrine which allows and even calls for deception to be used to achieve its desired end.
- Bible: The specific nations pictured in the Bible as being part of the final empire of the Antichrist are all Islamic nations.

- Islam: All Muslims are commanded to give their allegiance to The Mahdi as the final Caliph and Imam (leader) of Islam.
- Bible: From the Bible and History we learn that the final Antichrist empire will be a revived version of the Empire that succeeds the Roman Empire
- Islam: The Empire that succeeded the Roman/Byzantine Empire was the Islamic Ottoman Empire
- Bible: When Antichrist emerges, there will already be some form of system in place that will be poised to receive him as a Savior and to give allegiance to him.
- Islam is already the second largest religion and will at present growth rates become the largest religion within a few decades. Islam is awaiting the coming of the Mahdi with a universal anticipation.”

All of the above in this appendix derives from;

Source: Joel Richardson; The Islamic Antichrist; PP. 171-175; WND Books; 2009

Appendix III More Biblical Facts About Antichrist

1. He will appear in the latter times of Israel's history – Dan. 8:23
2. He will not appear until the Day of the Lord has begun – II Thess. 2:2
3. He will not be revealed until the Restrainer stops hindering him – II Thess. 2:6-7
4. His appearance will be preceded by a departure from the faith (II Thess. 2:3) or a departure of the saints to be with Christ (II Thess. 2:1)
5. He will be a gentile, because he rises from “the sea” – Rev. 13:1 – since the sea is said to depict gentile nations – Rev. 17:15
6. He is a ruler of the people who will destroy Jerusalem – Dan. 9:26
7. He will be the head of the last form of gentile world dominion – like a leopard, bear & lion – Rev. 13:1; Dan. 7:7-8,20,24; 17:9-11. He will be a political leader...the 7 heads & 10 horns (Rev. 13:1; 17:12) are federated under his authority.
8. His influence is worldwide, because he rules over all nations (Rev. 13:8). His influence comes through the alliances he makes with other nations (Dan. 8:24; Rev. 17:12)
9. He has eliminated 3 rulers in his rise to power (Dan. 7:8,24) & 1 of the kingdoms over which he has authority has been revived, because 1 of the heads (a king or kingdom) has been healed (Rev. 13:3)
10. His rise to power comes as a result of his peace program (Dan. 8:25)
11. He is personally marked by intelligence, persuasiveness (Dan. 7:8,20; 8:23), subtlety & craft (Ezek. 28:6), therefore his authority over the nations is by their consent (Rev. 17:13).
12. He rules the nations with absolute authority (Dan. 11:36) – he is depicted as doing his own will. He is able to change laws and customs (Dan. 7:25)
13. His chief interest is in might & power (Dan. 11:38).
14. He makes a 7 year covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27), which he breaks after 3 ½ years (Dan. 9:27).
15. He introduces idolatrous worship (Dan. 9:27) wherein he sets himself up as god (Dan. 11:36-37; II Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5) in Israel's temple
16. He is a blasphemer because he presumes himself to be deity (Ezek. 28:2; Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:1; 5-6).
17. He is energized by Satan (Ezek. 28:9-12; Rev. 13:4), receives his authority from Satan & is controlled by Satan's pride – Ezek. 28:2; Dan. 8:25
18. He is head of Satan's lawless system – II Thess. 2:3 - & his claims are validated by signs & wonders under Satan's power – II Thess. 2:9-19
19. He is received by the people as god and ruler because of the blindness of the people – II Thess. 2:11
20. He becomes Israel's great adversary – Dan. 7:21,25; 8:24; Rev. 13:7
21. An alliance will come up against him – Ezek. 28:7; Dan. 11:40, 42 – to contest his authority

22. In the conflict with this alliance, he will gain control over Palestine & surrounding territory (Dan. 11:42), he will make his headquarters in Jerusalem (Dan. 11:45)
23. At the time of his rise to power, he is elevated through the instrumentality of the harlot – a corrupt religious system, which subsequently seeks to dominate him (Rev. 17:3)
24. This system is destroyed by the ruler so that he can rule unhindered – Rev. 17:16-17
25. He becomes the special adversary of the Prince of Princes (Dan. 8:25), His program (II Thess. 2:4; Rev. 17:4) & His people (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; Rev. 13:7)
26. He holds power for 7 years, but his satanic activity is limited to the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation (Dan. 7:25; 9:27; 11:36; Rev. 13:5)
27. His rule will terminate by a direct judgment from God (Ezek. 28:6; Dan. 7:22,26; 8:25; 9:27; 11:45; Rev. 19:19-20). The judgment will take place as he is engaged in a military campaign in Palestine (Ezek. 28: 8-9; Rev. 19:19. He will be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20; Ezek. 28:10
28. This judgment will take place at the return of Jesus Christ (II Thess. 2:8; Dan. 7:22; Rev. 19, and will constitute a manifestation of Christ's Messianic authority (Rev. 11:15).
29. The kingdom over which he ruled will pass to the authority of the Messiah and will become the kingdom of the saints (Dan. 7:27).^{xxii}

Next lesson – Lesson # 42 The Beast from the earth / the False Prophet Rev.13:11-18

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ⁱ Quoted in Eric H. Cline; Jerusalem Besieged; University of Michigan Press; 2004; page 1

ⁱⁱ Karen Armstrong; Holy War – The Crusades & Their Impact on Today's World; Anchor Books; 1088, reprint 2001; p. 3

ⁱⁱⁱ IBID; pg. 453

^{iv} From an internet website which contains world population statistics – accessed August 2010

^v John MacArthur, sermon entitled, "The Grim Reality of the Last Days; Mark 13:1-13; March 20, 2011; accessed on line at Grace to You

^{vi} Mark Hitchcock; Who is The Antichrist?; Harvest House; 2011; p. 14

^{vii} IBID, p. 107

^{viii} Robert Thomas; Revelation 8-22; Moody; p. 151

^{ix} Jack Smith; Islam – The Cloak of Antichrist; p. 29; "Feet of Clay; source – Internet.

^x IBID; p. 29, chapter 4

^{xi} If he is the Antichrist, it would explain why he is said to arise from the sea or abyss.

^{xii} Mark Hitchcock, Who is the Antichrist?; Harvest House; 2011; p. 57ff

^{xiii} IBID, p. 58

^{xiv} Dan. 4:17,25,32,35; Prov. 21:1; 8:15-16; Pss. 33:10; 47:8; 59:8; 72:11; 75:67; 105; Isa. 10; Habakkuk; Jn. 19:11; I Sam. 15:28; etc.

^{xv} The phrase "before the foundation of the world" or "from the foundation of the world" is also found in: Matt. 13:35; 25:34; LK 11:50; Heb. 4:3; 9:26; Rev. 17:8. Similarly, see JN 17:24; Eph. 1:4; I Pet. 1:20. These things refer not just to the start of human history, but before the created order was put in place.

^{xvi} Mark R. Talbot; For the fame of God's Name; Sam Storms & Justin Taylor, eds, P. 95

^{xvii} Eric L. Cline, OP CIT; pp. 3-5

^{xviii} Karen Armstrong; Islam – A Short History; Modern Library; NY; 2000; p. 44

^{xix} Joel Richardson, The Islamic Antichrist; 2009; WND Books; pp. 94-95

^{xx} IBID; p.95

^{xxi} IBID; p. 96

^{xxii} J. Dwight Pentacost; Things to Come – A Study of Biblical Eschatology; pp. 332-334; Acadamic Books; 1958; reprint 1964 --- I made a few minor adjustments