

David O. Cofield
CrossRoads Baptist Church
November 29, 2009 10:15 am

Daniel 7-8
Daniel Series #10

“The Anti-Christ; Opposite of Jesus”

There is most likely no other subject, except possibly spiritual gifts, in Christendom that is as controversial and has seen as much abuse as the subject of prophecy and end times.

People have named the Anti-Christ as the Pope, Hitler, John F. Kennedy, Henry Kissinger and now even President Obama.

In 1988 we had the book “88 Reasons Why The Rapture will Occur in 88.” by Whisenant 4.5 million were sold. He further wrote about it happening in 1989, 1993 and 1994. But of course these books did not sell as well.

Then in 1999, one famous Baptist preacher made the statement “The Second Coming probably will be within 10 years.” although later he did say “that no one knows the date). But he did say the anti-Christ would be Jewish and that since he would be an adult at the time of his presentation “that he must be alive somewhere today.” (That was 1999).

While he may be alive, I would not want to say that he “must be alive.”

The last empire from which the beast and false prophet coms has thought to have been Napoleon and then the European Common Market which was going to include ten members. We must be careful about placing dates and trying to fit Scripture into our time.

This we can know, we are living in the last days. Every since Jesus left this earth, it has been the last days.

Let me remind you that the visions of chapters 7 and 8 are the same interpretation of the visions of chapter 2. The Babylonians lasting 70 years (head of gold, lion Medo-Persian empire lasting 200 years (chest of silver, bear, ram with two horns)
Greek empire lasting 180 years (belly of bronze, leopard, goat
Roman empire lasting 500 years (legs of iron, horrible beast with ten horns

But let's look at the Scriptures.

I. Titles Given to the Anti-Christ

1. Little Horn (Daniel 7:8; 8:9) These are not the same person; but 8:9 is a shadow of the Anti-Christ.
2. Man of Sin (II Thess. 2:3) Man of Lawlessness (II Thess. 2:7)
3. Beast (Rev. 13:1) Dragon (Revelation 12:9, 13: 4) (Serpent, Devil, Satan)
4. Anti-Christ (I John 2:18)

Some facts we know about the Anti-Christ:

1. Anyone who denies Christ is anti-Christ (I John 2:18-23)
2. The spirit of anti-Christ is already here (I John 4:3)
3. Antichus IV Epiphanes was a foreshadowing of the anti-Christ (he killed thousands of Jews, he banned circumcision; cruelly punished Jews who observed their

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religious laws; ended sacrifices; defiled the Temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar and placing an object to Zeus in the Holy of Holies; Temple was deserted for 3 1/2 yrs.; burned copies of the Scriptures; had “God manifest” on his coins) Jews nicknamed him “The Madman” which is a play on words from his name. Remember, this is where Hanukkah comes from with the overthrow of Antichus by the Maccabees in 164 B.C.

Bible Knowledge Commentary “reveals Israel’s history ...under Antiochus during the time of Greek domination, but it also looks forward to Israel’s experiences under Anti-Christ, whom Antiochus foreshadows.” Thus, “it may be concluded that there is a dual reference in this striking prophecy.”

Daniel 8:17 “the vision refers to the time of the end.”

II.Descriptions of this Anti-Christ

1. He is definitely a human being, most likely a Gentile.
2. His attack is against Israel and the people of God.
(Daniel 7: 25; 8:9-10, 24) He will persecute them.
ESV says “wear out.” Wear out like a garment.
Constantly pounding on them.

New American Commentary says these are the “followers of Jesus Christ”

In the Tribulation, the saints will either be the church that goes through some of the Tribulation, or persons saved during the Tribulation or both.

3. He shall seek to change the laws and seasons (Daniel 7:25) Make a very secular society by removing all signs and institutions of religion so he can set up his own system and laws.

4. He exalts himself as the Prince of Hosts (Daniel 8:11)
5. His period of reign is restricted (Daniel 8:14, 23) 1,150 days here. 3 1/2 years (Daniel 7:25; 9:24-27; 11:2-3; 12:6; 13:5, Rev. 13:5)
8:23 says “when the transgressors are come to a full.” If God can wait 400 years in the days of Abraham (Gen 15:13-16), he can wait now.

II Thess. 2:7 “..only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.” This “restrainer” has been said to be the church - but the reference is to “He.” that could be the Holy Spirit or Michael (Daniel 10:13, 20-21; Rev. 12:7).

6. He will be very strong, but not by his own power (Daniel 8:23-24) the expression of “fierce, bold countenance” is that of a harlot who is brazen and shameless (Prov. 7:13).

Verse 24 - he is a destroyer getting his power from Satan. He comes to “kill, steal and destroy.”

He will prosper at first. People will applaud him and follow him. Success is the sure sign of integrity, right? No

7. He will draw multitudes by his speech and appearance.

He will be a great communicator (7:25) says he speaks against the Most High. John MacArthur says he will be able to increase his power by his ability to speak and move masses with his speech.

7:20 says he will be very attractive - furthering strengthening him. Magnetism attracts people. Our Lord "had no beauty to attract us." Isa 53:2

8. He is very deceitful, manipulating and seducing (Daniel 8:23, 25) He is a deceiver (23). He will be willing to use every trick to persuade a gullible world that he is the answer to its needs. He will understand "dark sentences" or riddles or schemes.
9. He will take his stand against the Prince of Princes (Daniel 8:25)
10. He will be destroyed, but not by human power. (Daniel 8:25) Defeated at the Battle of Armageddon by the stone of Neb. dream. Cast into the lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20)

III. Our Response to this

1. Daniel experienced great worship Daniel 8:17
2. Daniel had a unique experience Daniel 8:18
3. Daniel was physically affected Daniel 8:27
4. Daniel went about his calling Daniel 8:27

Daniel did not sell his house, quit his job and sit waiting. He went back to his minor government post.

He was ready for action and always had a strong hope.

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We will see in chapter 9 that all of this drove him to seek God by prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Of this we can be sure from the New Testament, that Jesus Christ has already defeated evil and all powers that will rise up against Him, His people and His will. But we also know that these foes of Christ are still active, thus the Christian should engage them by worship, witnessing and no worry.

Only God wears the Royal Timex.