

End-times Revealed through Bible Prophecy Pt. 1

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Subtitle: The Rise of the Antichrist

We are embarking on a series of messages that will give us an understanding of the End Times, and of certain events that will take place in the near future.

The ultimate event of End Times will be the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ. He is coming soon to establish His literal Kingdom on the earth.

Consider this: The Return of the Lord Jesus Christ is mentioned more often in the New Testament (318x) than any other doctrine. It is taught extensively, along with its preceding signs and events:

1. Through the visions of Daniel the prophet (Book of Daniel)
2. Through Christ's teaching in the gospels (Matthew 24 & 25)
3. Through apostle Paul's teaching (1 & 2 Thessalonians)
4. Through apostle John's Revelation (Book of Revelation)
5. Through other Scripture passages in both Old and New Testament

Daniel 8:15–17 (NLT) *As I, Daniel, was trying to understand the meaning of this vision, someone who looked like a man stood in front of me. 16 And I heard a human voice calling out from the Ulai River, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of his vision." 17 As Gabriel approached the place where I was standing, I became so terrified that I fell with my face to the ground. "Son of man," he said, "you must understand that the events you have seen in your vision relate to the time of the end."*

Daniel 12:8-10 (NKJV) *Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?" 9 And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for **the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.** 10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.*

Daniel had a series of visions which he recorded in a book. The angel told him that the words (& their meaning) were "closed up" and "sealed" so they could not be understood until the time of the end (end time).

➤ We are in the time near the end now!

- None of the wicked (unsaved) people shall understand, ever
- But wise people will understand

Daniel 12:10 (Msg) ... *But the wicked will just keep on being wicked, without a clue about what is happening. Those who live wisely and well will understand what's going on.'*

Living Bible ... *Only those who are willing to learn will know what it means.*

The Rise of the Antichrist:

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (NKJV) *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Verse 1 speaks about 2 separate events:

- The Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the literal 2nd Coming of Christ)
- Our gathering together to Him (the Rapture of the believers)

Verse 2 speaks about the Thessalonian believers' mistaken belief that the Day of Christ had already come.

Verse 3 *Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.***

Paul said: "That Day" (the Day of The 2nd Coming of Christ) cannot come unless 2 other things will happen first:

- a. The falling away comes first (Gr. 'Apostasia' – departure [Rapture])
- b. The man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition (The Antichrist)

Various names of the antichrist:

- The prince (Daniel 9:26)
- Man of sin (2 Thess. 2:3)
- Son of perdition (2 Thess. 2:3)
- The lawless one (2 Thess. 2:9)
- **The antichrist** (**1 John 2:18**)
- The beast (Rev. 13:1)

Anti-christ Gr. anti-christos

- anti – against, instead of, in place of
- (a false, substitute christ who is trying to take the place of Jesus Christ)

Verse 4 *Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

Once the antichrist is identified after the rapture of the church, he will:

- a. Broker a 7 year peace deal in the Middle East, specifically between Israel and its sworn enemies (Daniel 9:27)
- b. Break the agreement after 3 ½ years & betray the Jewish people
- c. Set up an image of himself in God's temple to be worshipped

Jesus spoke about this very thing in His teaching on end times.

Matthew 24:15–16 (NKJV) *"Therefore when you see **the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place**" (whoever reads, let him understand), **16** "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains".*

Of course, all of this pre-supposes that the temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem, and O.T. animal sacrifices will be re-instituted.

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8 *Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? **6** And **now you know what is restraining, that he***

may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed ...

Apostle Paul speaks about a restraining force that hinders the antichrist from being revealed (Gr. apokalupto) and be made known:

- We, the church, are the restraining force that holds back the antichrist
- Once we are removed through the rapture, antichrist will be revealed

Suppositions & conjectures:

- The antichrist is alive today
- He is a rising charismatic political leader
- He is part of the one world government brigade
- He will have the support of the false prophet who is the leader of a one world religious system

Revelation 16:13–14 (NKJV) *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the **dragon**, out of the mouth of the **beast**, and out of the mouth of the **false prophet**. 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

Here, the Bible speaks of the operation of a deceptive trio in the last days:

1. The '**dragon**' is reference to the **devil** (Revelation 20:2)
2. The '**beast**' is reference to the person called the **antichrist**
3. The **false prophet** is reference to a **prominent religious leader**

2 Thessalonians 2:8 *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish.*

Multitudes of people will be deceived through these supernatural signs & lying wonders, and they will follow after the antichrist and think he has become the saviour of the world.

Revelation 13:1–8 (NKJV) *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. 2 Now the*

*beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And **all the world marveled and followed the beast.** 4 **So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"** 5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. 6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. **And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.** 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in **the Book of Life** of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Questions:

- Is your name written in the Book of Life?
- Are you born again and living a holy life?
- Have you received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour?

Prayer:

Dear God, I admit that I am a sinner and that I have broken your laws. I ask you to forgive me, and cleanse me from all my sins. Lord Jesus, I believe that You died on the cross for my sins, and that You rose again from the dead. I now receive You as my Lord and as my Saviour. Please come into my heart, and make me born again. I ask you to lead me and guide me, and help me to live for you, for the rest of my life. Amen.