

Prayer:

In the whole of history, Satan has been building and building and building towards what will be the climactic pre-kingdom capstone in his strategy of rebellion to overthrow God. And that capstone is the emergence of Antichrist as seen in Revelation 13, etc.

The Antichrist (known as the beast in the book of Revelation) prophetically and historically comes out of the sea, which is to say the Mediterranean Sea basin (Rev. 13:1, cf. Dan. 7).

He will be uniquely empowered by Satan and allowed by God to rule over the whole world. He will uniquely be allowed to make war on the saints the world over and to prevail against them. And he will uniquely be worshiped by all in the world whose names are not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb. These three things uniquely define the coming Antichrist as brought out in Revelation 13.

Slide # 1

THREE DEFINING TRAITS OF THE ANTICHRIST

1. Antichrist will uniquely be allowed to rule the whole world.
2. Antichrist will uniquely be allowed to destroy the saints worldwide.
3. Antichrist will be worshiped by the whole world.

After saying that the whole world of those not written in the Lamb's Book of Life will worship the beast, this strong appeal is made.

Slide # 2

Revelation 13:9 (NKJV)

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

The problem with the world is that they refuse to listen to God! Those that refuse to listen to God, but instead follow and worship the beast will be forever lost.

The Tribulation Period is a “TESTING” time in which the dross of the unsaved will be removed from those who, in conversion, become genuine believers (cf. Rev. 3:10).

This “testing” time will not be easy for those who get saved. The Antichrist will be allowed to make war with the saints and overcome them.

Slide # 3

Daniel 7:21 (NKJV)

21 “I was watching; and the same horn was **making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,**

Revelation 13:7 (NKJV)

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.

The saints destined to be imprisoned will be imprisoned and those destined to be killed will be killed. The Antichrist will be allowed to have his way with them.

Slide # 4

Revelation 13:10 (ESV)

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

This is the lot of the saints. This is the endurance and faith of the saints. This proves their genuineness. The genuine will not abandon the faith. They will be willing to die for their faith.

By the way, I believe that the nature of true saving faith is the same in all dispensations, as seen for example, in Hebrews 11.

Slide # 5

Acts 10:34–35 (NKJV)

34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows **no partiality.**

35 But in every nation whoever **fears Him and works righteousness** is accepted by Him.

[The Nature of Saving Faith]

Acts 10:43 (NKJV)

43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, **whoever believes** in Him will receive remission of sins.”

Revelation tells us the end of all things and how it comes about. We are given an inspired outline in Revelation 1:19.

Slide # 6

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which will take place **after this**.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- **“after this” – Future (Post-Church Age)** –Ch. 4-22
 - - Scene in heaven –Ch. 4-5
 - - **Tribulation – Ch. 6-18**
 - - Second Coming – Ch. 19
 - - Kingdom – Ch. 20
 - - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

In Revelation 13:1-10, the focus is on the beast coming up out of the sea, which is the Mediterranean Sea basin corresponding to the Roman Empire. This is to say, he arises out of the Revived Roman Empire as seen most clearly in Daniel 7.

But now in Revelation 3:11-18, we are introduced to another beast, and this beast comes up out of the earth.

Revelation 13:11–18 (NKJV)

11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

In Daniel 7:2-3, Daniel, in the form of a vision, saw four great beasts coming up out of the Great Sea. The Great Sea in the OT consistently represents the Mediterranean Sea. The last beast represents the Roman Empire, and as you follow it through, we find that there are two stages to the Roman Empire. Stage one was in place at Christ’s first coming and stage two will be in place at Christ’s Second Coming.

The final form will be headed up by an especially notorious horn (known as the Antichrist), and he is characterized by speaking outlandish, pompous, blasphemous words and persecuting the saints, as seen in Daniel 7 and also Revelation 13:1-10.

But this beast coming out of the sea, as seen in Rev. 13:1 (known as Antichrist), will not operate alone. He has a right-hand henchman described as “another beast coming up out of the earth” in Revelation 13:11.

The word “another” (Gk. *allos*) means “another of the same kind.” He will be of the same “beast” spirit as the Antichrist.

He comes up out of the earth in contrast to the first beast described in Rev. 13:1-10, who comes up out of the sea. Some understand “the earth” in reference to “the land” of Israel and therefore take it that this second beast, known as “the false prophet,” is therefore an apostate Jew. But this is not at all certain. I would note that this exact phrase, “**the earth**” is also used in the immediate context in verses 12-14 to refer to the entire world.

This false prophet comes out of the earth from somewhere, but we don’t know where. Evidently, he does not come up out of the Revived Roman Empire (the sea) from where the Antichrist emerges, but from where, specifically, we are not told.

He comes deceptively as a lamb having two horns, indicating a little strength. Coming as a “lamb” mimics the first coming of Christ Who also came as a lamb. Everything about what Satan does is imitation. It’s like he has no original ideas. As he said in Isaiah 14:14, “I will be like the Most High.” As a lamb, the false prophet comes off mild and docile, harmless. This is all part of the deception.

But how he speaks gives him a way. He speaks like a dragon. Going back to chapter 12, the dragon represents Satan, who deceives the whole world (12:9). Thus, this false prophet will come with all the deceptive talk of Satan himself.

With the emergence of this second beast (the false prophet), we have presented in Revelation 13 what is often referred to as the “*Unholy Trinity*.” The dragon representing Satan (12:9; 13:4) corresponds to God the Father, the beast from the sea represents the Antichrist and corresponds to Jesus Christ (Rev. 13:1,4); and the beast from the earth (also called the false prophet) corresponds to the Holy Spirit (Rev. 13:11-13, 20:10).

Slide # 7



12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

He exercises the same authority as the first beast (Antichrist). But note he does this in the presence of the first beast. Again, in verse 14, he is able to do supernatural signs “*in the sight of the beast.*” He is empowered by his relationship to Antichrist.

And as we will see throughout this whole surrounding context, this false prophet, as he is called in 19:20 and 20:10, serves in a support role for the Antichrist. His whole purpose is to promote the Antichrist. In effect, he speaks for the Antichrist and is granted his full authority to act on his behalf.

Again, this mimics the Holy Spirit Who never draws attention to Himself but rather promotes Christ. Jesus in John 16 said the Holy Spirit would not speak on His own but rather would glorify Christ (Jn. 16:13-14). Correspondingly, this is what the false prophet does. He does not promote himself, but rather the Antichrist.

The Holy Spirit points people to Christ.

The False Prophet points people to Antichrist.

The Holy Spirit is the instrument of divine revelation.

The false Prophet is the instrument of Satanic revelation.

The Holy Spirit seals believers.

The false Prophet calls for the sealing MARK of Antichrist.

The Holy Spirit builds the family of God.

The false Prophet builds the empire of Antichrist.

The Holy Spirit enlightens people with truth.

The false Prophet deceives people with miracles.

The false prophet reminds me Hitler's propaganda minister who was **Joseph Goebbels** (Paul Joseph Goebbels, 1897–1945). He served as the Minister of Enlightenment and Propaganda from 1933 until his suicide on May 1, 1945.

As one of Adolf Hitler's most devoted associates, Goebbels wielded near-total control over German media, arts, and information, utilizing these tools to enforce Nazi ideology and anti-Semitism.

He was most responsible for creating a cult of personality around Adolf Hitler, presenting him as a messianic, infallible leader to the German public.

Slide # 8

If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. – Joseph Goebbels

Using his Satan-empowered and Antichrist-approved influence, the false prophet will cause “***the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast (Antichrist), whose deadly wound was healed***”.

Recall from our study last week in verses 3 and 4 that the beast/Antichrist will suffer a mortal (deadly) wound and then uniquely will be allowed to come back to life from the dead. The world will marvel and follow him in worship.

This is actually the judgment of God in allowing the world to be deceived because they rejected the love of the truth that they might be saved, as seen in 2 Thess. 2:9-12.

This resurrection back to life is a MAJOR turning point in the career of the Antichrist. This is the KEY event that leads to him ruling the world in total dominance for 3 and ½ years. Therefore, it is mentioned repeatedly as seen here in verse 12 and then yet again in verse 14.

So note the connection between the false prophet’s promotion of the worship of Antichrist and the Antichrist’s miraculous restoration from a deadly wound. Again, we see this imitating and counterfeiting activity in relation to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ proved His deity in His resurrection and is therefore worthy of worship. What we have here is imitation in regard to the Antichrist. But what is true of Antichrist in regard to imitation is also true of his false prophet.

13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

“Signs” in the Bible often refers to “miraculous signs” – in other words, miracles that had a message. The signs authenticated the message being communicated. For example, in the gospel of John, the sign-miracles that Jesus did verified His Messianic claims (Jn. 20:30-31).

As the apostles gave forth NT revelation they and their message were affirmed by miraculous signs.

Slide # 9

2 Corinthians 12:12 (NKJV)

12 Truly the **signs of an apostle** were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

Hebrews 2:3–4 (NKJV)

3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a **salvation**, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

4 God also **bearing witness both with signs** and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Satan, through his instruments, is trying to show: “***Anything God can do, I can do too.***” God verifies His message and His messengers with sign-miracles, so does Satan on this occasion.

In performing these “great signs,” the false prophet will claim to have supernatural legitimacy. Thus, he will seek to imitate the two witnesses who had just previously witnessed with unstoppable supernatural power for 3 and ½ years. They, too, had a supernatural “fire” ministry.

Slide # 10

Revelation 11:5 (NKJV)

5 And if anyone wants to harm them, **fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies.** And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

But recall from chapter 11 that after 3 and ½ years, the Antichrist who is resurrected, will be allowed to kill them. These unstoppable messengers of God will be stopped by Antichrist risen from the dead. The world will see this as Antichrist having power over God’s messengers and thus power over God and they will worship Antichrist (Rev. 13:3-4).

As further proof of this power, the false prophet will call fire down from heaven in the plain sight of men. He calls it down from heaven, indicating he has power over the realm of heaven. The world will be impressed!

Just because something is miraculous does not necessarily mean it is of God. God is all-powerful, but Satan also has power, as allowed by God. However, Satan does miracles to deceive. God said He would multiply His signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, but then Pharaoh's sorcerers and magicians also, to a point, did likewise (Exodus 7). Satan is so deceptive that he is able to transform himself into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14).

To believe in miracles just because of miracles' sake is a setup for great deception. God's sign-miracles do not happen in a vacuum, but rather are attached to the established word of God. Right there is the great issue! Satan's miracles happen in a vacuum and wow people, but they are contrary to sound doctrine that rightly divides the Word.

Slide # 11

John 5:39 (NKJV)

39 You search **the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which **testify of Me**.

John 5:43 (NKJV)

43 **I have come in My Father's name**, and you do not receive Me; if **another comes in his own name**, him you will receive.

John 5:46 (NKJV)

46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for **he wrote about Me**.

Jesus came with a context – with the whole of prophetic Scripture behind Him, in perfect accord with the Father's name. In contrast, the Antichrist comes as an imitation, but with no Scriptural backing as being authentic. It's all feelings, emotions, experience, and the WOW factor! It's all about deception!

Yes, he prophetically will do great signs, but they are deceptive.

Slide # 12

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 (NKJV)

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.

14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

Again, note that this false prophet does these signs in the sight of the beast, giving the impression that it is the beast who empowers him to do it. This is to the glory of the beast. But this is all deception. We know the real source of the power is from Satan himself.

Slide # 13

Revelation 13:2 (NKJV)

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.

Revelation 13:4 (NKJV)

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?”

But in the doing of these signs in the sight of the beast (cf. v. 12), he deceives those who dwell on the earth. This whole thing is about deception. In John 8:44, Jesus called the devil the father of lies, and in Revelation 12:9, it says he “deceives the whole world.” This is what Satan does and he is good at it. He is the Master-Deceiver!

The object of deception is clearly the Antichrist. In his deception of convincing the world that Antichrist is GOD, he tells the earth dwellers to make an image to the beast (Antichrist) who **“*was wounded by the sword and lived.*”** Once again, reference is made to this deadly wound, and yet miraculously, he lived. This pivotal event is mentioned in 11:7; three times in chapter 13 (v. 3, 12, and 14), and again in chapter 17:8. This is THE LIE that convinces the whole world under the influence of the false prophet.

We know that according to 2 Thessalonians 2:4, Antichrist will himself go into the rebuilt Jewish temple and declare himself to be God, supreme over all.

However, it would seem that he will not reside there permanently but rather will move about.

Therefore, it would appear that the false prophet will instruct that an image of the beast be made, perhaps to remain there in the temple continually as a representation of the beast, even when he is not there. This is thought to be the “abomination of desolation” spoken of by Daniel the prophet (cf. Dan. 9:27; 11:36; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4).

Here in Revelation 13:14 is the first of ten references to the image of the beast in the book of Revelation, so it is a prominent emphasis (cf. 13:14, 15; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4).

Note that the worship of the first beast (Antichrist), his image, and “his mark” are inseparable. All of these are inherently related to the worship of Antichrist.

Note also that those who deceived are said to be those “who dwell on the earth”. That phrase is found twice in this verse. In the book of Revelation, “Earth Dwellers” is a technical term for unbelievers who are committed to the things of this life instead of to God. These people live for now and what this life has to offer. For them, it’s all about this earth!

15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

The false prophet is allowed power to give breath to the image of the beast. This is no normal idol. Psalm 115:5 says idols “**have mouths, but they do not speak.**” That is normal! But what happens here is not normal! This has never happened before. This again is a totally unique situation in keeping with the “**strong delusion**” that God will send “**that they should believe the lie**” (2 Thess. 2:11).

Somehow supernaturally, the false prophet will be able to, in effect, give the breath of life to this image. This is supernatural stuff! The word “**breath**” (Gk. *pneuma*) is the very same word used in reference to the resurrection of the two dead witnesses in chapter 11.

Slide # 14

Revelation 11:11 (NKJV)

11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the **breath** of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

“The word for breath is pneuma (“spirit”). This could indicate a supernatural miracle (performed by the power of Satan) that actually gives life to the image.” – **Charles Ryrie**

“...the remainder of v. 15 indicates that the image spoke and caused the execution of those who refused to worship the image. The pneuma is therefore the equivalent of ... “the breath of life”) so recently encountered in connection with the two witnesses (11:11).”

-Robert Thomas

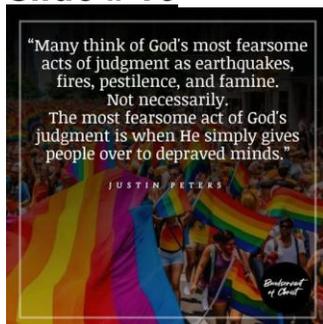
Keep in mind that this is a time of unusual supernatural activity on the part of Satan being allowed to work through the Antichrist and his promoter the false prophet. 2 Thessalonians 2:8 says it is “**according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders**” and that this is all part of a “**strong delusion**” sent by God as a matter of judgment because the world rejected the TRUTH clearly put before them (2 Thess. 2:8-12).

The Antichrist is supernaturally allowed to come back to life. The world marvels and worships Satan and the Antichrist (Rev. 13:3-4). The false prophet promotes making an image to Antichrist and then is allowed to supernaturally give it the breath of life.

Only God can do these things: Only God is the resurrection and the life (Jn. 11:25). Only God can breathe life into something; only God can bring the dead back to life! But in this situation, in keeping with God sending a “strong delusion,” Satan will be allowed to do so in reference to the Antichrist and the promotion of him.

You can see why Antichrist will claim he is all-powerful. Death can’t stop him; his right-hand man (the false prophet), in his name, has the power to give life. Those seem to be powerful credentials, things that only God can do. But in this situation, God allows it to happen in the form of a “**strong delusion**” to the point Antichrist will “**exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped**” (2 Thess. 2:4).

Slide # 15



The image of Antichrist, brought to life by the false prophet, seems to have a mind all of its own. It can speak, and it can command. And the command that it issues is that “**as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.**” In effect, the image demands that all worship it, and those refusing to do so are to be killed.

Realize that the image of the beast really represents the beast (Antichrist).

We know that the Antichrist will himself go into the temple and declare himself to be God. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 says he “**sits**” or “**takes his seat**” there. However, some surmise that when he is not able to be there, this image of himself will be a more permanent fixture in that place of worship. It will thus serve as an ongoing replica of himself, insinuating that he has now taken over the God of Israel’s position in the Holy of Holies.

A good argument for this is the language Christ used in Matthew 24:15.

Slide # 16

Matthew 24:15 (NKJV)

15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, **standing** in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

Yes, the Antichrist goes into the temple and SITS there declaring himself to be God, but when he can’t be there, his STAND in is this image of him.

Standing suggests it does not move. It stays there and is not mobile. This may very well be what is in view.

In effect, the image, which I surmise is probably placed permanently in the rebuilt Jewish temple as an ongoing representative of Antichrist, is not said to move, but only to speak. It speaks with the spirit of Antichrist. The command to worship the image is really a command to worship Antichrist because the image is representative of him.

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

The second beast (the false prophet) will also cause all to receive the mark of the beast (Antichrist).

Note that this command makes no distinction and has no exceptions.

It applies to every category of society, to both small and great, the lowly and the high, to the rich and the poor, free and slave. This demand will be for absolutely everyone on the planet – no exceptions.

The word mark (Gk. charagma) denotes an identifying visible mark, such as a brand or a tattoo, signifying ownership and allegiance. Note the double emphasis as seen in verse 12 and then again in verse 15 that this false prophet will in effect force the worship of Antichrist on the whole world. That is what this mark will indicate. It will indicate that one is a true worshiper of Antichrist.

And the demand is that everyone receive this mark on their right hand or on their forehead. This mark is the equivalent of the “name of the beast” or the “number of his name” (v. 17). In other words, it identifies one as a follower of Antichrist, as a worshiper of Antichrist. It is a mark of allegiance to the beast (cf. 13:16-18; 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4).

Receiving the mark is impossible without the act of worship (cf. 14:9, 11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4). - **Robert Thomas**

It is critical to recognize that nothing we see today is the mark of the beast. It won't appear until after the rapture has occurred, the Antichrist has been unveiled, and the seven-year Tribulation has reached its midpoint. No one today should worry that he will somehow take the mark of the beast by accident. All who take it during the Tribulation will do so consciously and intentionally and, in doing so, will seal their eternal fate. – **Mark Hitchcock**

All the way through here, we see the idea of Satanic imitation.

Slide # 17

SATANIC IMITATION – Revelation 13

1. v. 11 “like a lamb” versus Jesus THE Lamb of God
2. v. 12 “exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence.”
 - v. 14 “signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast” – this is in contrast to the Spirit who glorifies Christ, who takes what is His and declares it (Jn. 16:13-14)
3. v. 12 “whose deadly wound was healed”
 - v. 14 “wounded by the sword and lived” versus the resurrection of Christ.

Slide # 18

- 4. v. 13 “He performs great signs” versus the sign miracles of Christ
- 5. v. 13 “makes fire come down from heaven” versus fire that proceeds from the mouth of the two witnesses in Revelation 11.
- 6. v. 15 “power to give breath” versus “breath of life from God” (Rev. 11:11)
- 7. v. 16 “to receive a mark” – versus “seal of the living God” (Rev. 7:2-8; 9:4; 14:1)

17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Unless one openly identifies with the Antichrist in relation to the mark, the name of the beast, or the number of his name (which are all essentially interchangeable), then they cannot buy or sell.

“It’s the economy, stupid.” The false prophet will implement a worldwide economic system around the worship of the beast. Unless one takes the mark signifying total allegiance to Antichrist, they won’t be allowed to buy or sell. Thus, the pressure will be applied in a supreme and worldwide fashion. Three and a half years is a long time to go without buying or selling.

Currency will probably vanish, to be replaced by controlled credit. Instead of a credit card, which can be lost, people will have a mark (possibly a bar code) in their forehead or hand. Scanning people’s foreheads or hands would identify them to a central computer system.

– **John MacArthur**

This will be economic warfare. How will people feed their families or get even the basics of life? Well, they will have to go down to the local center and get the MARK! Without it there is no going to **Walmart**, no going to the **gas station**, no going to the **drug store**, no going to **McDonald's**, no going to the **hardware** store, no going to the doctor, no going to the **grocery** store. You will be totally disconnected from functional society! Frankly, there really is no going anywhere but into hiding. This will become a pure **survival level** for those who are true believers. And most won’t survive!

“This is constant pressure to become a worshiper of the beast, because receiving the mark and worshiping the beast are inseparable commitments.” – **Robert Thomas**

Slide # 19

Rev. 13:5 ...he was given authority to continue forty-two months.

Rev. 13:7...authority is given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

- One World Government
- One World Religion
- One World Economic System

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

The word wisdom (Gk. sophia) refers to the skill and understanding necessary to properly interpret the meaning. So far, no one has attained to this wisdom, and the reason is that no one will be able to figure it out until the revealing of the Antichrist. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8 clearly states that until the restrainer is removed, the identity of the Antichrist will not be known.

The restrainer is the Holy Spirit working through the Church. When the Church is removed in the rapture, then this restraining work will be removed, and the Antichrist will be revealed. Until then everyone is guessing.

In view here is special insight that will be given to believers alive during the Tribulation Period.

Through the God-given ability, they will be able to unravel the mystery of the number. -**Robert Thomas**

Daniel indicates that special “understanding” will be given to believers at this time.

Slide # 20

Daniel 12:10 (NKJV)

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.

This number, identified with the beast, has special meaning. It is the number of a man, and this number is 666.

In Hebrew and Greek letters of the alphabet were also used as numbers so every name was also identified as a number. For example there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet. The first nine letters corresponded to numbers 1 through 9. The next nine letters corresponded to numbers 10 through 90. The last four letters corresponded to numbers 100 through 400. Thus, every Hebrew name had a numerical significance. And the same was true in Greek.

For example, graffiti in the ruins of Pompeii reads, "I love her whose number is 545." – **David Guzik**

It seems that something of this nature may be in view. However, there is no end of possible names and arrangements.

If you work at it hard enough, almost any name will fit.

– **Warren Wiersbe**

Probably no other number in the Bible or in history has received as much attention and speculation as 666. – Timothy Demy

The most common speculation is that since it says this is the number of a man, 6 is the number of man. Man was created on the sixth day. God's number is thought to be seven, representing completion or perfection. Six is always short of seven. That is true, but here we have not just 6 but rather 666. Some suggest that whereas God is holy, holy holy, (Isa. 6:3) – in effect 777; in contrast, 666 corresponds to the unholy trinity. But again, the text specially ties this number to Antichrist's specific name.

This specific number in some way directly corresponds to the name of Antichrist. But again, there is no way to know who that is now, and won't be known until the revealing of Antichrist. Then it will all make sense to those who have understanding.

In discussing the last days Tribulation Period in the "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 24-25 the very FIRST thing Jesus said in Matt. 24:4 was, "**Take heed that no one deceives you.**" Satan's major thing is DECEPTION, and it will come to a climax under Antichrist.

Prophecy scholars have long referred to Israel back in the land as God's super sign that the end times are upon us. Israel has to be back in the land in order for last days prophecy to be fulfilled. But there is another major "sign."

Slide # 21

Two of the signs all pre-trib prophecy scholars most watch for are Israel and global government. – **Tim LaHaye**

We are not setting any dates. In Matthew 24:36 Jesus said, "But of that day and hour no one knows...". But then He went on to say...

Matthew 24:42 (NKJV)

42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

We in the Church Age are never told to watch for the Antichrist, but rather for Christ. We are looking for "the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). But we do see trends. We do see that the stage is being set. We do see as Hebrews 10:25 says, "the Day approaching." That is why we are to LIVE READY!

The spirit of Antichrist is very much alive. As 1 John 2:18 says, "even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour."

"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... Send us such a man, and whether he be God or devil, we will receive him". **Paul-Henri Spaak** (The first president of the United Nations General Assembly)

Be careful what you wish for!

Dr. Michael Vlach has written a great book titled "***The Bible Storyline***" with the subtitle "***God's Unstoppable Plan to Defeat Evil, Restore Creation, and Establish His Kingdom on Earth.***"

Recently, Peter Goeman (pronounced "Gameman"), professor of OT and Biblical Languages at the Shepherds Theological Seminary, interviewed Vlach about his book.

Towards the end of the podcast, Peter asked Michael if, in his research, there was anything that hit him with a fresh perspective. Michael said that what really struck him was that while God has a kingdom program regarding Jesus Christ, Satan at the same time has an Anti-kingdom program.

We often say that God has a plan, but note that Satan also has a plan. This Anti-kingdom program involves a one-world order intended to overcome God's plan. Right now, Satan is pursuing this plan, but the restrainer is keeping it at bay until the rapture.

Do not be deceived! Satan will be allowed to take his best shot through the Antichrist, but in the end, he will fail. A remnant of Israel will survive. A remnant of God's people will survive. In the end, the Lord Jesus Christ will emerge as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev. 19:16).

The only question is this: In the end, will you be found aligned with God's plan it which He promises that all who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior will be overcomers, or will you be aligned with the father of lies who deceives the whole world through counterfeit religion of all kinds culminating in the Antichrist?

Will you be a true worshiper of God through Jesus, or will you worship a Satanic counterfeit? God is seeking for true worshipers, and the only way to come to Him is through FAITH in Jesus, who alone is the way, the truth and the life (Jn. 4:23-24; 14:6).

The book of Revelation ends with this invitation:

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Come! Come to Jesus! "In Christ" is the only safe place on planet earth! It is the only safe place in time and for all eternity.

Come!

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved!