

Approaching hoofbeats - The Book of Revelation

Sessions 5 & 6

Chapters 12-18 The main players in history:

1. Ch 12: Israel and the Church

Who does the woman represent? There are five ways in which God brought the man child (Christ) into the world, and the woman represents all of them culminating in the day of Pentecost when Israel entered into the New Covenant.

(i) The Old Covenant. As God gave instruction to Moses to build a tabernacle for God to live among His people, so the Covenant of the Law shaped the people for God to live among them. The people were to obey the law and be Holy and ready for the Messiah.

(ii) Israel. The people were to be offered up to God to both receive Messiah and be a "virgin nation" holy and ready for Messiah to take shape in them.

(iii) Mary. The Virgin Mary was an individual who was holy because of the work of the law, and as such she represented the fulfilment of God's plan with Israel through the Law.

(iv) The New Covenant. The New Covenant was God's gift to Israel to bring the Messiah into human flesh and blood. Christ was to be formed in believing Israel and then the Gentiles were to be included.

(v) The Church. The Church began with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Jews first. Israel was brought into the New Covenant, and Gentiles were soon made partakers of the Commonwealth of Israel. The Church, as the Bride of Christ, brings forth Christ the man-child. The woman on the day of Pentecost appears in heaven. This is Israel in spiritual victory, bringing forth Christ in the flesh. The man child is Christ the man and Christ in us in spiritual maturity. We are not to remain babes but are to bring forth the mature manhood of Christ. He is caught up into heaven and we in Him are in heavenly places.

Satan was cast down:

- 1) In Isaiah 14, his original fall is described, when he coveted the throne of God.
- 2) Gen 3, Satan attacked the human race to prevent the plan of God. Satan has a temporary victory but is further reduced in spiritual power and influence.
- 3) On the cross this event in Rev 12 is described, when Satan is cast out of heaven (John 12:31).
- 4) In the Millennium Satan is further bound for a thousand years.
- 5) At the close of the millennium Satan suffers his fifth and final defeat when he is forever consigned to hell – the lake of fire, not to rule it as his kingdom, but to suffer eternal punishment.
- 6) The dragon persecutes the followers of Christ on the earth, and this is allowed by God, but the Church has the victory over the dragon by 5 things:
 - (i) The blood of the lamb.
 - (ii) The word of their testimony.

- (iii) Selfless love.
- (iv) The wings of a great eagle – faith, prayer, worship, waiting on God. The Church is given a unique place in the spirit where she finds hidden food.
- (v) The earth helps the woman, and governments are made to favour the Church against their will.

2. Ch 13: The Antichrist

This is a description of 'the great chameleon,' the Antichrist, who changes his shape in every generation. We can see many of the qualities of Antichrist from this and other parts of the Bible:

Daniel's Prophecies:

Antiochus Epiphanes as Antichrist – 167 BC

Daniel 7:8: Antichrist is the little horn that replaces three other nations (**v25**), speaking pompous words against God. He persecutes the people of God, by permission of God. He changes times - the calendar (as in the French and Russian revolutions).

Daniel 8:9: In 167 BC, Antiochus Epiphanes exalted himself above God (**v11**) and stops sacrifices. Antiochus ordered the public burning of the Torah in Jerusalem and forbade circumcision and Sabbath observance. He offered pigs on the altar in Jerusalem, dedicating it to the Greek god Zeus. He had athletes compete naked in Greek tradition in Jerusalem. He massacred some 40,000 in Judea, while another 40,000 were sold into slavery. The family of Maccabeus rebelled and the temple was cleansed in 164 BC 42 months after the desecration occurred. He (**v 24**) receives power from the devil; but dies suddenly but not by human means (**v25**). Antiochus died suddenly of disease in BC 164.

Nero as Antichrist – 54 to 68 AD

Nero was the first persecutor of Christians and the killer of Apostles Peter and Paul. Early Christians believed that Nero was Antichrist. When treated as Hebrew numbers, the letters of Nero's name add up either to 616 or 666 by spelling his name in Hebrew (NERO and NERON). The concept of Nero as the Antichrist is often a central belief of Preterist eschatology.

Titus as Antichrist - AD 70

Daniel 9:26: Titus destroys Jerusalem (**v27**), sets up abomination of desolation (the Roman standard). In 70 AD Titus the Roman general overran the city, slaughtering thousands. There was a frenzy of killing and the troops set fire to the temple. The gold melted and ran between the stones. As it cooled the troops tore them apart to get at the gold. Prior to destroying Jerusalem the siege had been a great tribulation, with internecine war among factions in the city. There were claims of Messiahship by different individuals. Some escaped; some were caught and crucified in the sight of the city to encourage defenders to lay down their weapons. Others swallowed money, but when the Romans found this out, they killed everyone they caught alive, and cut open the bodies of the dead.

Mohammed

688 AD the dome of the rock was completed - with its internal inscription to Allah, his prophet Mohammed and the denial of the Son. 1260 days/years reaches 1948 the year of the declaration of the state of Israel. One inscription says "God has no Son, It is blasphemy to say he has taken a son.'

Number of his name in Greek:

Mohommaad

M	40
O	70
H	400
o	70
M	40
m	40
a	1
a	1
D	4

666 Total

The Popes and the Roman Catholic Church

Many Protestant reformers, including Martin Luther, John Calvin, Thomas Cranmer, John Knox, Cotton Mather, and John Wesley, identified the Roman Papacy as the Antichrist. The pope's Mitre or crown has a title inscribed "VICARIVS FILII DEI," and these letters have a number value as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccccccc} V & I & C & A & R & I & V & S & & F & I & L & I & I & & D & E & I \\ 5+1+100+0+0 & + & 0+1 & +50+1+1 & + & 500+0+1 \\ 112 & + & 53 & + & 501 & = & 666 \end{array}$$

A secular history book declares: "That the Church of Rome has shed more innocent blood than any other institution that has ever existed among mankind, will be questioned by no Protestant who has a competent knowledge of history." — W. E. H. Lecky, *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*, (reprint: New York: Braziller, 1955), Vol. 2, pp. 40-45. The number of dead is estimated around anything 50 -150 million though the exact number can never be known. Some of this number were soldiers who died in religious wars and cannot be counted as martyrs. However it is believed that between 5,000 and 30,000 died in the St Bartholomew's day massacre alone in 1572.

Hitler - When it was important for Hitler to perform, the normal halting speech transformed into powerful, spellbinding oratory that literally hypnotized his listeners. But, when the performance was finished, the demonic possession abated, leaving Hitler glassy eyed and bathed in sweat. Hitler's tremendous influence and power was not his own, but Satan's.

Communist leaders – Stalin, Mao Zedong

Caused the death of millions in the 20th century

The final Antichrist:

The Bible references to the Antichrist:

2 Thess 2:3 "the man of sin, the son of perdition" a title given also to Judas "sits as God in His temple" the pope - the most high God. Pontifex maximus. **2:8** the lawless one, **2:9** power signs and lying wonders
Daniel 11:36: He exalts himself above God (**11:37**) shall reject his own God (Jewish? Muslim? Christian)?
11:37: no interest in women - homosexual? Asexual? (e.g.Hitler). He honours the god of fortresses (war) (**11:38**) honours a foreign god.

Revelation 13:

- He rises out of the sea, humanity agitated perhaps by revolution or economic woes (as in Russia and Germany in the first part of the 20th century Rev 13:1
- Has seven heads and ten horns and ten diadems (unmerited crowns), a confederation of nations, forming alliances Rev 13:1
- Receives power from the most evil source of all – the dragon (in Matt 4 Satan offered political power to Jesus if He would bow to Satan. Antichrist bows to Satan.
- The Antichrist is popular to the point of adulation: Rev 13:4 – he is worshipped by the whole world (not Mohammed, Hitler, Stalin and Mao though they were worshipped by their people).
- He is blasphemous – Rev 13:5.
- He has military supremacy – Rev 13:4.
- He persecutes and kills Christians and closes Churches.
- He is a combination of former beasts (antichrists) with a combination of a leopard, bear and lion.
- He suffers assassination attempts but survives as if by miracle. This may mean an attempt on his life or a political setback, followed by a revival of his fortunes.
- His end is inevitable – he will be destroyed.

The false prophet: is the political ally of the Antichrist.

- His power is also spiritual – he has the face of a lamb and the voice of the devil/dragon
- His function is to represent the beast, rather like a priesthood. The Jesuits represented the pope.
- He gives life to the beast's image.
- He enforces economic dictatorship. The forehead (the appearance) and the hand (activity) are the places which are to be marked out as different. 666 = the number of the beast.
 - www. = 666, - Nero = 666, - Mohammed = 666
 - VICARIUS FILII DEI – vicar of the Son of God, the pope =666
 - Greek word *paradosis* tradition = 666
 - Greek word *euphoria* wealth = 666

The Lamb – the precious jewel is set against this black background – He was slain before the foundation of the world. This is also the meaning of John 3:16.