

Summer Series: "Facts for the Future"

Message Summary: When people think about the end times, they tend to think about the person of the Antichrist. Because he will be the embodiment of evil in the last days, they see him as dark and sinister. While the Bible certainly describes his character and motivations as wicked, his personality won't be at first. He'll come on the scene poised, charismatic and brimming with confidence – sort of like someone we might hope will provide us with a cure for a worldwide pandemic or some other crisis.

Keep our Eyes Peeled - The Antichrist will have Worldwide Appeal

Revelation 13:1-10

- 1. Wickedness** - This man is called a beast because that's how God sees him. **Revelation 13:1**

Revelation 13:1 – "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 Thessalonians 2:3,4 – "Let no one deceive you by any means; for the 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.'

- 2. World dominance** - This leader will form a global confederacy, a final, world-governing empire. **Revelation 13:2,7**

Revelation 13:2,7 – "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." V.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.

Daniel 7:23 – "Thus he said: The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces."

- 3. Wonder** - The Antichrist's head will be mortally wounded and then healed. **Revelation 13:3**

Revelation 13:3 – "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. Worship - He will be the guy who wants to be the messiah instead of the real, authentic Christ. **Revelation 13:4**

Revelation 13:4 – “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?”

Revelation 13:8 – “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.”

2 Thessalonians 2:4 – “the son of perdition, 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.”

Isaiah 14:12-14 – “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation. On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.”

5. Words - This leader will have the ability to sway people with his words. **Revelation 13:5,6**

Revelation 13:5,6 – “And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months, Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.”

(Daniel 7:8, 11, 20, 25).

Daniel 7:8 – “I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words” v.11 – I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was peaking; watched till the best was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.” V.20 -

and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which there fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words (great things)whose appearance was greater than his fellows.” V.25 – “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.”

6. War – He will persecute and kill those who come to faith in Christ during the tribulation period. **Revelation 13:7-10**

Revelation 13:7-10 – *“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. 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. If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Her is the patience and the faith of the saints.”*

Daniel 7:25 – *“He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.”*

Titus 2:13 - *“The blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”*

LifeGroup QUESTIONS:

BEGIN IT (5min) – Praise the Lord & pray that God leads the study.

OPEN IT (10min) – What names of living and/or dead individuals have you heard End Times enthusiasts mention as being the “Antichrist”?

EXPLORE IT (60min) – Read Revelation 13:1-10 and through the sermon points making time for any comments or contributions people might have.

1. What is significant about the way the beast is described?
2. What are the clearest examples of the existence of Satan that you're aware of?
3. What can we learn about Satan (his character, activities, and destiny) from this passage/message?
4. If you were facing death because of your Christian beliefs, how do you think you might respond?
5. What insights into spiritual warfare and blindness does this passage/message give you?

APPLY IT (15min) – What are some current situations you are facing that call for patient endurance and faithfulness? Ask for prayer from the group.