

Session 9

The Antichrist

– Part 2: The Antichrist, False Prophet, and 10-Nation Confederation –

A. Introduction

1. Besides the Antichrist, there are other key personalities and institutions that will emerge in the End Times that will be crucial for God's people to be aware of.
2. These include the False Prophet and the Ten-Nation Confederation, that will be closely linked to the Antichrist's agenda and activities.

B. Four Main Goals and Activities of the Antichrist

“He was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for 42 months. He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and overcome them. Authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.” (Rev. 13:5–7)

1. a mouth speaking great things...
 - a. The Antichrist will deceive the nations into following him through his speech. He will be eloquent, impressive, and convincing.
 - b. He will be able to give demonically anointed messages that will be confirmed by demonic signs and wonders. Many will be moved by his speech and will follow him fanatically (2 Thes. 2:9–10).
 - c. As believers, we need to take heed to not be deceived by his outward charisma and display of supernatural power.
2. He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.
 - a. The Antichrist will blaspheme God (Rev. 13:1, 6; 17:3; Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 25; 11:36).
 - i. The Antichrist is full of blasphemous names and shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High.

- ii. The Antichrist empire will have a blasphemous name over it. The Antichrist will be full of pride in his speech. He will accuse God of many things and speak great things against God that have never been spoken by man (Rev. 13:1).
- b. He will accuse and blaspheme God in four things:
 - i. Blasphemy against God — He will reverse the roles of God and Satan, claiming that God is the great deceiver and that He will be defeated by Satan.
 - ii. Blasphemy of His name — He will accuse God of not being who He says He is. He will call into question God's nature and character and will accuse Jesus of being a liar and being responsible for all the pain in history.
 - iii. Blasphemy of His tabernacle — The Tabernacle is the place of worship and where God's judgments are issued. He will accuse that God is not worthy of worship and that God's judgments are unfair and unjust.
 - iv. Blasphemy against those who dwell in heaven — He will accuse the martyrs of having wasted their lives and proclaim that it is not worth it to love God, to pay the price, and to die for the faith.
- 3. 42 months
 - a. The Antichrist will be given authority by God for 42 months or 3½ years to make war against the saints (Rev. 13:7; Dan. 7:25; 8:24).
 - b. This period will end with the Second Coming of Jesus. The Antichrist's reign begins when the Two Witnesses begin their ministry which will last 42 months (Rev. 11:3–6).
- 4. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and overcome them.
 - a. The Antichrist will make war with the people of God and overcome them (Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:33–35; 12:7; Rev. 6:9–11; 7:9, 14; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 16:5–7; 18:24; 19:2; Matt. 10:21–22, 28; 24:9; Lk. 12:4–7; 21:16–19; Jn. 15:18 – 16:4).
 - b. One of the major agendas of the Antichrist is to persecute and kill Christians. Many Christians will be captured, humiliated, tortured and killed. Many will deny Jesus in the face of pressure, while others will arise without fear and prevail in faith, being unafraid of death (Rev. 12:11).

C. The Ultimate Goal of the Antichrist

“They worshipped 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?’”
(Rev. 13:4)

1. The ultimate goal of the Antichrist is to be worshipped by the nations. Many nations will follow and worship the Antichrist because they will be fascinated and intimidated by him.
2. Who is like the Beast? — Worship through being awestruck
 - a. Nations will be awestruck and fascinated by the miraculous healing of the beast (i.e. Antichrist) and worship him as a result.
 - b. The military conqueror will suddenly turn into a religious leader. The nations will be surprised to see that his spiritual agendas are more ambitious than his military and political ones.
3. Who is able to make war with him? — Non-resistance through intimidation.
 - a. He will appear invincible to unbelievers; this is intimidating to the nations. All will ask, “Who can resist or war against the Antichrist?”
 - b. It would seem like the only way to survive during this time would be to serve the Antichrist as the Church is driven underground.

D. The False Prophet — An Introduction

1. The False Prophet is another major personality who will emerge during the End Times.
 - a. The Bible prophesies about the rise of many false prophets in the Last Days to deceive many, including believers (Matt. 24:24; 2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 4).
 - b. In Rev. 13:11–18, this passage talks specifically about *THE* False Prophet who will work hand-in-hand with the Antichrist during the Great Tribulation.
 - c. He is referred to as “another beast!” in Rev. 13:11.
2. The False Prophet will be a real person and not merely a representation of a false religious system, philosophy or influence.
 - a. Every one of his activities as described in Scripture points to a real person. We ignore the prophetic details of Scripture by failing to recognize this person as an individual.

- b. For example, the False Prophet is cast alive into the Lake of Fire. A religious entity cannot be cast into the Lake of Fire.
 - c. Throughout Scripture, all prophets, whether true or false, have been actual persons.
3. The context of the rise of the False Prophet in Rev. 13.
- a. Satan has two primary goals in His war against God's people. Rev. 12 – 13 gives us rare and helpful insight into Satan's role in the End Times.
 - i. He will establish a global worship and prayer movement in which Satan and the Antichrist will be worshiped and obeyed by many people worldwide (Rev. 13:4; Matt. 4:9; Isa. 14:12–15).
 - This worship movement will cause the people in the kingdom of darkness to have a deep heart-connect with Satan. They will be loyal and pledge allegiance to Satan and the Antichrist.
 - Many will inquire of Satan so as to acquire power. This will be the most powerful, passionate and dangerous time in world history (Rev. 1:4, 8, 12, 5).
 - ii. He will seek to destroy the Jewish people so that the remnant of Israel cannot invite Jesus back to Jerusalem to rule them as their Messiah King. He will seek to kill Christians who stand with God's purposes for Israel (Matt. 23:37–39; Rev. 12:13–17).
 - b. Satan's two primary strategies in achieving his goals will be to give his power to the Antichrist and the False Prophet — the two “beasts” that John saw coming against Israel (Rev. 13:1, 11)
 - i. The False Prophet will be the Antichrist's “propaganda minister” who will publicize the Antichrist's “greatness” as he speaks for him. He will present himself as a counterfeit “Elijah” who has been prophesied to come and prepare the way of the Messiah (Mal. 4:5–6).
 - ii. They will both give “demonically anointed” messages that will be confirmed by demonic signs and wonders to mobilize their worship and prayer movement.
 - iii. We gain insight into their “powerful” public speaking skills by looking at the example of Adolf Hitler and Joseph Goebbels, his minister of

propaganda in Nazi Germany. They both powerfully moved the masses to tears, then to fanatical commitment to Hitler.

E. The False Prophet — An Overview

1. The False Prophet has three primary strategies:
 - a. The False Prophet will seduce and deceive the nations to follow and worship the Antichrist, initially through the Harlot religious entity in Rev. 17.
 - i. The Antichrist will raise up the Harlot-Babylon to prepare the world to ultimately worship him (Rev. 17:3).
 - ii. When the Antichrist crushes the Harlot-Babylon in Rev. 17:16, the False Prophet will likely “defect” and come under the Antichrist.
 - b. He will establish a worldwide worship movement by creating the image of the Beast. This will be a counterfeit of the House of Prayer movement that God is raising up in the Last Days.
 - c. He will create the Mark-of-the-Beast economic system to finance the Antichrist’s worship movement and to oppress those who resist the Antichrist.
2. The False Prophet will carry out five major activities:
 - a. Demonically empowered public messages (Rev. 13:11–12)
 - i. He will persuade and convince many to follow the Antichrist. Joseph Goebbels (Hitler’s right-hand man) gives us a powerful picture of the False Prophet where his speech moved masses to tears and to fanatical commitment to Hitler.
 - b. Demonic miracles (Rev. 13:13–14)
 - i. This will be a counterfeit of God’s promise of power in Joel 2:18–32, he will also be the counterfeit of the Two Witnesses of God in Revelation 11.
 - c. Worldwide economic oppression (Rev. 13:15–17)
 - i. He will set up an economic system that will control the world’s finance and trade.

- d. Establish a counterfeit worship movement (Rev. 13:15)
 - i. The False Prophet and many false prophets will prophesy via demonic power as a counterfeit to the true End-Time prophetic movement (Acts 2:17–20; Mal. 4:5; Rev. 11:3–6).
 - ii. Worship and intercession as well as “supernatural prophetic” preaching in both kingdoms will reach their highest levels in history.
- e. Legalise unrestricted persecution, oppression, and murder of those who refuse to follow the Antichrist, which will include the saints (Rev. 13:15).

F. The Goal and Agenda of the False Prophet

“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.” (Rev. 13:12)

- a. He exercises all the authority of the first Beast in his presence
 - a. The False Prophet will exercise all the authority of the Antichrist. John emphasized three times that the False Prophet will work miracles in the Antichrist’s presence.
 - b. This may refer to being under the watchful eye and scrutiny of the Antichrist (Rev. 13:12, 14; 19:20).
 - c. This may also mean that it is the Antichrist who raises up the False Prophet and also gives him the authority.
- 2. Causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first Beast
 - a. The False Prophet’s primary goal and agenda is to raise up a worldwide worship movement in which Satan and the Antichrist are worshipped (Rev. 13:4, 8, 12, 15).

G. The False Prophet’s Great Miracles

“He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs...” (Rev. 13:13–14a)

- 1. He performs great signs
 - a. The False Prophet will perform great signs that will be great in power as well as great in significance and deception (Rev. 16:14; 19:20; 13:14; Matt. 24:11, 24; Mark 13:22; 2 Thes. 2:9).

2. *He even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth*
 - a. The False Prophet will call down fire as a counterfeit to Elijah who called fire down from heaven in his “clash of power” with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:38; 2 Kings 1:10–12).
 - b. The False Prophet will have a clash of power with the Two Witnesses who will call fire down from heaven (Rev. 11:5).
3. *“And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs...”*
 - a. The goal of the False Prophet is to deceive the nations to follow and worship the Antichrist.
 - b. False prophets often give accurate prophetic words. How can we discern if someone is a false prophet and works false miracles? — They seek to turn people away from obeying Jesus.
 - c. The primary issue is not the power of the gift but the fruit of the prophetic ministry (Matt. 24:24; 7:15–16). There are three tests of fruit:
 - i. Do they motivate people to love Jesus more?
 - ii. Do they inspire people to worship Jesus?
 - iii. Do they turn people towards obeying Jesus?
 - d. God allows great miracles, signs and wonders to be performed by false prophets in order to test His people to see if they will love and obey Him (Deut. 13:1–5).

H. Introduction to the 10-Nation Confederation

1. Rev. 17:12–13 describes the ten-nation confederation that will fully support the Antichrist. It has not arisen yet, but when it does, it will only last for a short time (i.e., 3½ years).
2. The 10 horns speak of a future 10-nation confederation that will rule simultaneously over their own nations as they come into an enthusiastic agreement or partnership under the Antichrist’s authority (Dan. 2:41–42; 7:7, 20, 24; 11:36–45; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).
 - a. Rev. 17:12-13 tells us of the emergence of the ten-nation confederation:

“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the

beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.”

3. The Antichrist will have a political, military, and economic alliance with the ten-nation confederation.
4. The identity of the ten-nation confederation can be identified in the Bible, specifically through Dan. 2:31–43; 7:19–27; and Ezek. 38:1–23 (these names refer to nations during the time these Scriptures were written, and we will need to take reference from the boundaries during that time to gain clarity as to which nations today will be included in the confederation):
 - a. Magog;
 - b. Meschech;
 - c. Tubal;
 - d. Persia;
 - e. Cush;
 - f. Put;
 - g. Gomer;
 - h. Togarmah;
 - i. Babylon;
 - j. Greco-Syria.

I. Conclusion

1. The ultimate goal of the Antichrist and his empire, including the ten-nation confederation, is to come against Jesus, His End-Time Church, and Israel, firstly through seduction and deception, and ultimately outright persecution.
2. It is important for God’s people to be aware and develop understanding regarding these personalities and entities in the End Times so that we can prepare ourselves and not be deceived.