

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 42 (PART 1)

THE ANTICHRIST

REVELATION 13:1-10 | *PART 1*



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Revelation 13 gives us the clearest description and most complete picture of the Antichrist in the New Testament. He is the final world ruler in this age before the return of Jesus. He will be the ultimate vessel and counterfeit messiah of Satan, a person totally given to sin and evil, epitomising the ultimate pride and rebellion of man.

The word “*antichrist*” refers to **a person or a religious system that is counterfeit to the Messiah or in total opposition to Christ.**



There are three applications in scripture regarding antichrist:

- 1. A religious spirit** called the spirit of antichrist that is at work in every generation (1 Jn. 4:3; 2 Thes. 2:7).
- 2. Real people** through history with false anointing who rally and influence people against Jesus (Matt. 24:24; Mk. 13:22), e.g., Antiochus Epiphanes, a Greek king from 175 to 164 BC, and Adolf Hitler.
- 3. The final evil world ruler** who will arise at the End of the Age (1 Jn. 2:18; 2 Thes. 2:3).





1 John 2:18 tells us that it is the last hour and the Antichrist is coming. **He is a real man who will come in flesh and blood. He is fully human and fully demonic and will be an End-Time world leader who dominates nations.** The emergence of this man will be one of the major prophetic signs of the End of the Age (2 Thes. 2:3).

There is substantial information about the Antichrist in the Bible because God wants us to know with clarity so that we will not be deceived (Dan. 2:40-44; 7:7-8,19-27; 8:23-26; 9:26-27; 11:29-45; Ezek. 38 – 39; 2 Thes. 2;3-9; Rev. 6:1-2; Rev. 13; 17:7-14). We need to take time to study and develop understanding.

Revelation 13:18 is a key verse that exhorts us to **be wise and develop understanding concerning this man**

Three reasons why God wants us to develop understanding:

ONE

If we don't develop understanding, we will be deceived by the Antichrist

Jesus warned us about false christs and false prophets who will arise, showing great signs and wonders, to deceive even the elect (Matt. 24:24-25). Just like Hitler, who convinced the whole of Germany during World War II that it is God's will to kill the Jewish people, the Antichrist will be so eloquent, persuasive and convincing. If we don't develop understanding, we will be deceived.

So that we can prepare ourselves to resist and overcome

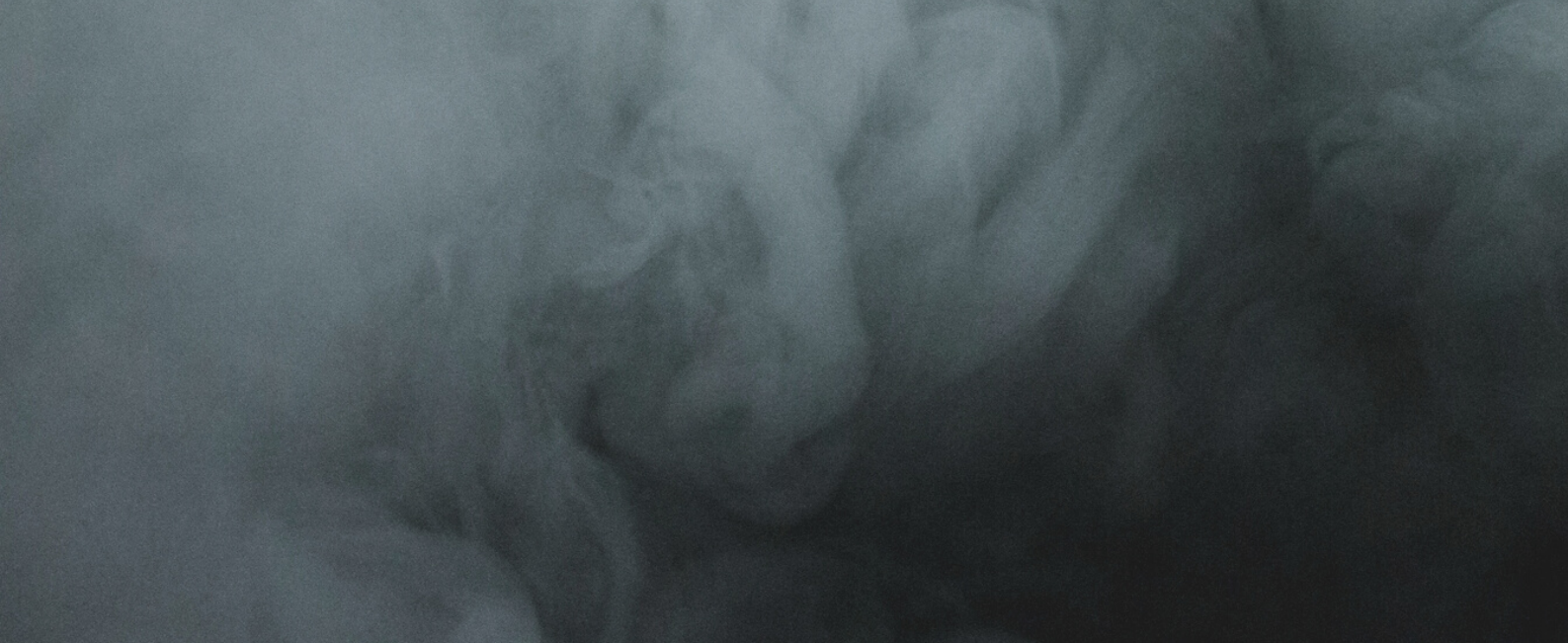
The Antichrist is a powerful adversary. Scripture tells us that God allows him to prevail over the saints for a season and to kill many (Rev. 13:5,7; Dan. 7:21,25). We have to take him seriously so that we can prepare, resist and overcome.

TWO

THREE

To become voices to warn people

Daniel 11:32-33 tells us that God is raising up forerunners and voices who have understanding to instruct many. In the context of Daniel 11, the voices were bringing understanding regarding the Antichrist.



Revelation 12 gives us the context for what is happening in Revelation 13. It tells us of a war in the heavens between the angels of God and Satan. The main goal of Satan in the final three-and-a-half years is to exterminate the nation of Israel and to persecute the Church that stands with her. That is why he raised up the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

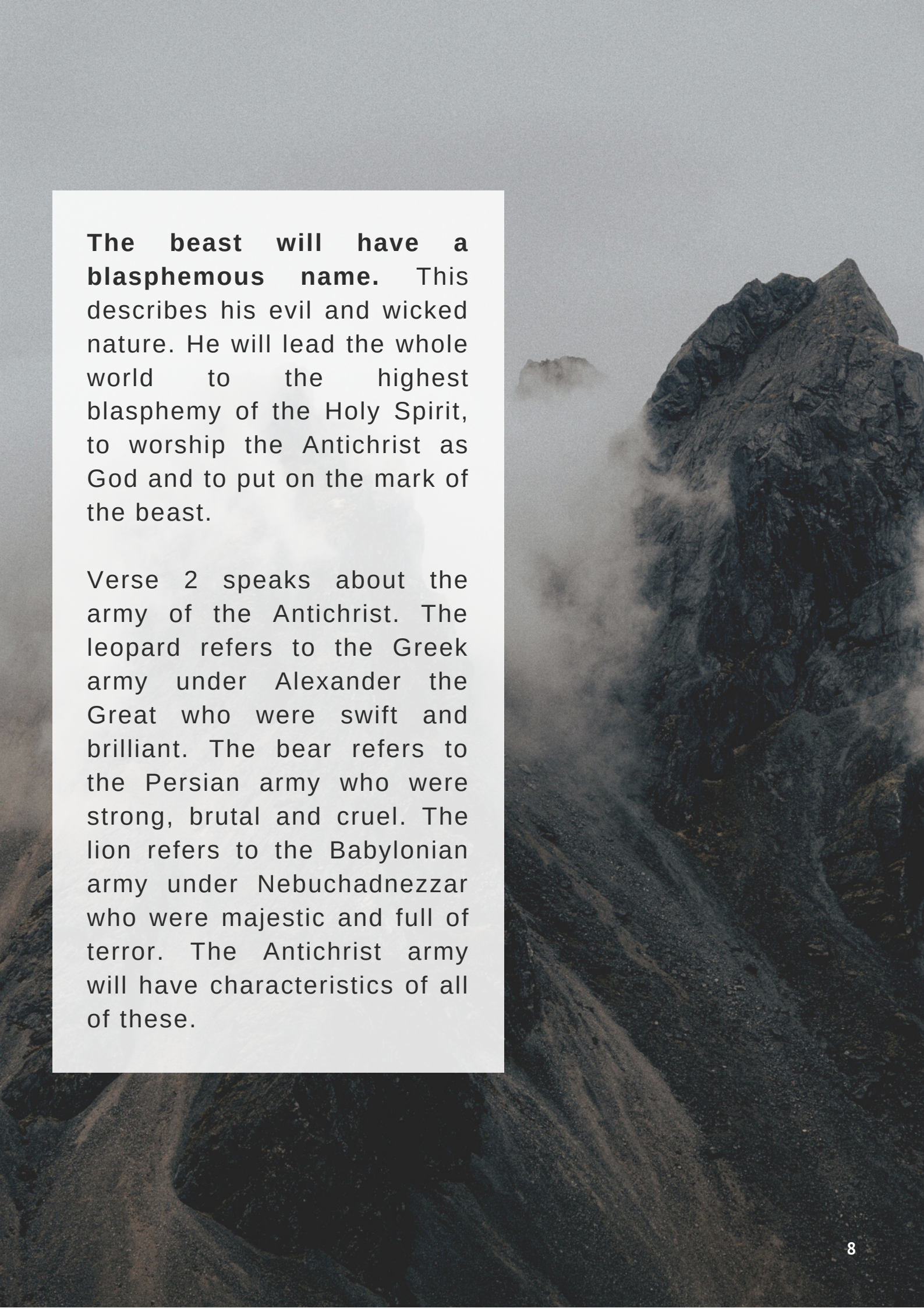
Revelation 13 gives us the most detailed description of the Antichrist in the New Testament. Verse 1 to 10 is about the Antichrist. Verse 11 to 18 is about the False Prophet, which we will talk about in a later session.

Verses 1 and 2 tell us about **the nature, the character, the origin, and the source of power of the Antichrist**. He is called "***the beast***" because he will have the character and nature of a beast. He will be cruel, brutal, sinister, murderous, and totally without mercy. He will legalize the killing of believers and the Jewish people. When murder is legalized, all the evil in human beings will be revealed and unleashed.

The Antichrist is described as a beast rising out of the sea. This means that **His rise will be sudden and will shock many**. Another name of the Antichrist is the little horn (Dan. 7:8) as he would seem totally insignificant in the beginning. His rise was dramatic because of an event that propelled him to global prominence. He was mortally wounded on his head, meaning either he was seriously injured or he could have died (Rev. 13:3). But he was miraculously healed! This is the counterfeit of the resurrection and it caused the world to marvel and believe that he is the Messiah!


Revelation 13:1 also tells us the source of power of the Antichrist. He has seven heads, ten horns, and ten crowns on his horns. The seven heads speak of the seven historical antisemitic empires which persecuted Israel – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and Nazi Germany. Each of these seven empires was backed by a principality (Dan. 10:13). The ten horns are the ten-nation confederation that will arise at the End of the Age to back the Antichrist and give him full control over four spheres – political, military, economic and religious.





The beast will have a blasphemous name. This describes his evil and wicked nature. He will lead the whole world to the highest blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, to worship the Antichrist as God and to put on the mark of the beast.

Verse 2 speaks about the army of the Antichrist. The leopard refers to the Greek army under Alexander the Great who were swift and brilliant. The bear refers to the Persian army who were strong, brutal and cruel. The lion refers to the Babylonian army under Nebuchadnezzar who were majestic and full of terror. The Antichrist army will have characteristics of all of these.



Verse 2 tells us that **Satan is the source of power for the Antichrist**. He empowers him to perform wonders and miracles (2 Thes. 2:9). The throne of Satan speaks of his control over the demonic realm. The Antichrist, being given Satan's throne, means that he will have access to and can control the demonic hierarchy.

Verse 4 reveals the **ultimate goal of the Antichrist**, which is to be worshipped by the nations. God will allow this to happen for a season. There are two reasons why the world will worship him — **fascination and intimidation**. "Who is like the beast" is an abomination where the Antichrist, quoting from Isaiah 40:18,25, is declaring himself to be God. Many will be fascinated and awestruck and will worship him. Others will be intimidated by him and will give in because he will seem powerful and invincible.

**VERSE 5 TO 7 TELLS US THE FOUR AGENDAS
AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ANTICHRIST:**

1

He was given a mouth speaking great things (v.5)

Many will be deceived and moved by his demonically empowered, eloquent, charismatic and convincing speeches (2 Thes. 2:9-10).

2

**His will blaspheme and accuse God of four things
(v.5-6)**

a. Blaspheme against God

The Antichrist will accuse God and say that Jesus is not the Messiah, and declare himself to be the real messiah.

b. Blaspheme against His name

The name of God speaks of His character and nature. The Antichrist will accuse God of not being good and being a liar. If we have any offense in our hearts against God which have not been dealt with, we will agree with him.

c. Blaspheme against His tabernacle

The tabernacle is the place of worship and where judgments of God are released. The Antichrist will accuse God of not being worthy to be worshipped and accuse His judgments to be unjust and unfair.

d. Blaspheme those who dwell in heaven

He will accuse those who have been martyred for their faith as being foolish and even convince Christians to follow him so that they will not be killed.

3

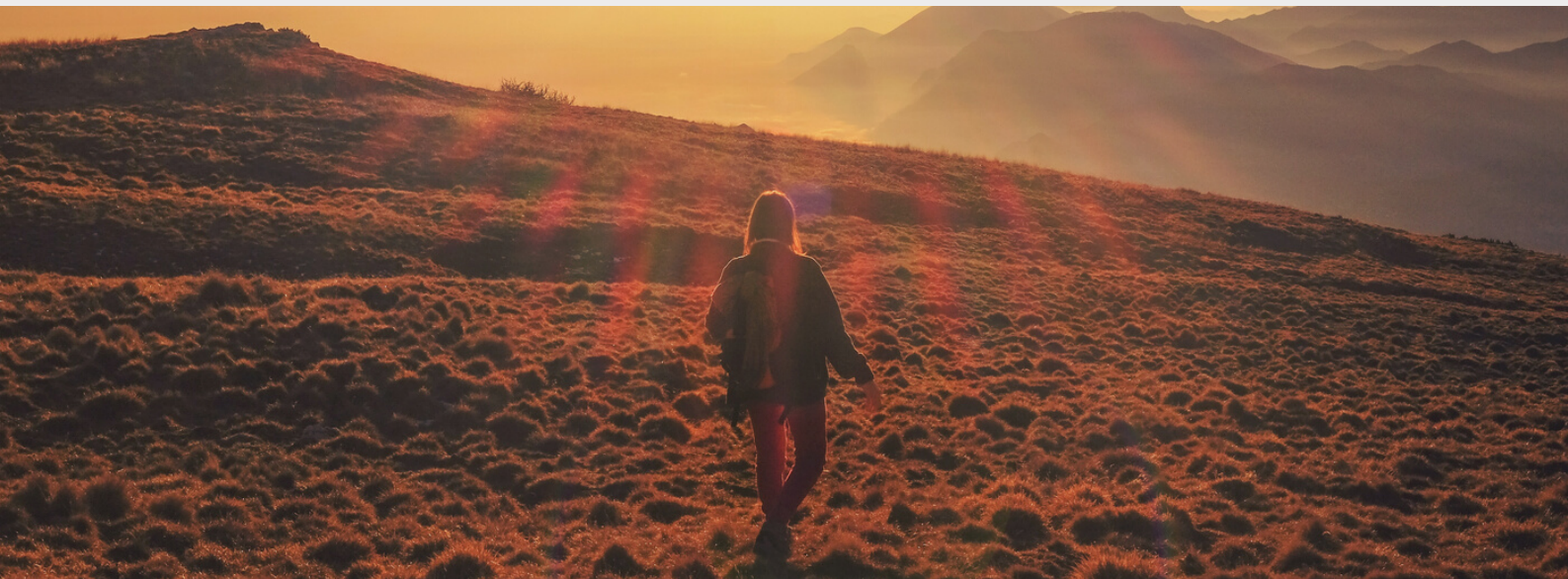
The Antichrist will be given authority by God to rule during the final three-and-a half years of human history.

4

The Antichrist will persecute Israel and the Church — God is the One who allows him to kill and prevail over the saints for three-and-a-half years (Rev. 13:7; Dan. 7:21,25).

Verse 8 tells us that many people in many nations will worship the beast. There is also a warning that whoever worships the beast, his name will not be written in the Book of Life. This is an unpardonable sin and we have to warn others (Rev. 14:9-11).

Sandwiched between verse 8 and 10 is an exhortation for us to take heed and an emphasis that the verses that precede and follow are important.



Verse 10 is an important verse. Firstly, Jesus is assuring us that God is the One who vindicates. The way of God is not to retaliate when we are persecuted, but to trust the Lord to judge rightly. More importantly, Jesus is giving us the keys to overcome. Revelation 12:10 gives us the key to overcoming Satan, by not loving our lives unto death. Here, the key is to **cultivate endurance, faith, and confidence in the Lord**. With confidence in the Lord and endurance, we can overcome fear, threats of death, accusations, and blasphemy of the Antichrist.

**INDEED, FAITH AND ENDURANCE WILL ENABLE US
TO INHERIT THE PROMISES OF GOD (HEB. 6:12).
MAY WE BE DILIGENT TO CULTIVATE FAITH,
CONFIDENCE AND ENDURANCE NOW SO THAT WE
CAN RESIST AND OVERCOME THE ANTICHRIST,
INHERIT THE ETERNAL KINGDOM, AND RULE AND
REIGN WITH JESUS WHEN HE RETURNS!**



CONTINUED IN
SESSION 42 (PART 2)



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