

Key Questions

- Is the antichrist a singular future figure?
- How do the beast and prophet relate to the antichrist?
- My view: There have been many antichrists through the ages who are forerunners of the final antichrist to come.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- Antichrist is described as the man of lawlessness or the lawless one.
- He proclaims himself to be god in the temple of God.
- He will be killed by Christ's breathe when he comes.
- His rise is the activity of Satan and accompanied by false miracles.
- He is being restrained until Christ allows him to come.

1 John 2:18-27

- There is a singular coming antichrist, but There are many antichrists now.
- These antichrists come from within the church.
- Anyone who denies Christ is God is an antichrist.
- 2 John 7 the antichrist are those who deny Christ.
- They need to prepare in order to not be deceived.

Matthew 24:15-28/ Daniel 11-12

- The abomination in Daniel is expected to come in the future
- There are many false christs and prophets with false miracles.
- Many will be deceived, even the elect.
- King arises who takes away burnt offering, ruins the temple, and demands worship.
- He will rule for 3.5 years until his end comes.
- I think this describes a historical antichrist who will prefigure the final antichrist.

Daniel 7

- Daniel has a vision of the 4th beast, usually identified as Rome.
- There is a horn on the beast that makes war on the saints until Christ returns.
- Rules for (time, times, and half a time) 3.5 years.
- His kingdom is taken away and given to the saints forever.

Revelation 13 First Beast

- I do believe this beast is the coming antichrist.
- There is not a mention here about the temple or abomination of desolation.
- It is somewhat similar to 4th beast of Daniel, but is not the identical.
- The dragon gives the beast power and authority for 3.5 years.
- Makes war against the saints and worshipped by the world.

Revelation 13 Second Beast

- This does not appear to be the same figure as the first beast.
- This is a prophet who leads the world to worship the first beast.
- It helps recreate a parody of Christ for the antichrist.
- This beast leads the world to be marked by the beast.

Revelation 19

- Christ returns on the white horse to conquer the nations.
- The beast and false prophet are captured and thrown into the lake of fire.
- The dragon is then bound for a thousand years.
- It seems the dragon/satan is a separate figure from the antichrist.

Historical Identification of Antichrist

- Early Christians believed the beast was the antichrist.
- The Roman empire was seen as the beast
- There was a growing belief the antichrist would be from Dan (Rev 7, Gen 49:17).
- Roman Emperors, like Nero, were identified as the antichrist or the horns.
- By the 4th century the antichrist was primarily identified as false teaching.
- In the 11th century the idea was raised a future pope could be the antichrist.
- By the 14th this idea continued to blossom until the reformation where the papacy was seen as the antichrist, since he was in the temple of God.
- Today, most political leaders are identified as possible antichrists.

Putting it Together

- There are more antichrists today than we imagine.
- There is a coming singular antichrist figure the previous antichrists pointed towards.
- I believe Satan is always raising antichrist figures in preparation.
- The antichrist will kill and temporarily triumph over the church before dying.
- We should be more worried about antichrists today than the antichrist tomorrow.
- We should spend more time looking to Christ than we do looking for antichrist(s).