

Unit 9: Post-Rapture Eschatology

Unit Introduction



In today's modern society, there is much emphasis placed on eschatology – the study of end things or last days. However, modern man looks to things such as the “prophecies” of Nostradamus, or the Mayan calendar, and has no problem leaving out God's Word.

The Bible has a lot to say regarding the last days, and in this unit we will look at what happens after the return of Jesus for the Church.

The last seven years of this earth before Christ sets up His kingdom, will be the worst 7 years in history. It will become very clear, though, that there is a God, and that He longs to get man's attention, so that man will put his trust in Jesus Christ.

Unit Outline:

Lesson 20: The Anti-Christ

Lesson 21: Tribulation, Armageddon, & Millennium

Lesson 22: The Last 3 Judgments

Lesson 20: The Antichrist

Lesson Introduction

In this lesson we will look at one of the most infamous, villainous characters in history – and that is history that has yet to be fulfilled. We will see that the Antichrist will be an extremely smart person, able to conquer by words, and able to take control of the entire world. However we will also see that though he is a genius in so many areas, he will not be able to fight against the end that God has spelled out for him in His Word.

Lesson Outline

Topic 1: Who is the Antichrist?

Why 666?

Topic 2: The Genius of Antichrist

Names of Antichrist

Topic 3: Acts of Antichrist

The Career of Antichrist

Topic 1: Who is the Antichrist?

What will the Antichrist be like? The first thing that we see is he's pictured as the seed of the serpent. You read about him in Genesis 3:15, where it says (Genesis 3:15). Now this is kind of a vague and veiled prediction, but a prediction none the less. This is the first prediction we find in Scripture about the coming messiah. The promise that there is one to come, that will basically save us from our sins. This prediction in particular says there is going to be "enmity between thee and the woman." Who is thee? It is referring to the serpent, or Satan himself. Satan appeared before Eve in the form of a serpent. So we're speaking about the devil, and there's going to be this enmity, this warring that's going to go on between the devil and the woman. We're all from the same person; they can look at genetics and tell this to be true and we would also be filtered through Noah, that would be another point that we would be filtered to but it all goes back to Eve. So there's this enmity between the devil and the woman, between "thy seed and her seed". Who is the seed of the devil? Well it's none other than this man of sin, this future one that is coming on the scene, that will be at the beginning demon possessed and influenced by the devil, and at the halfway point of the tribulation he will be possessed by Satan himself. I don't find that any other place in Scripture that the devil indwells a person. We see demon possession quite a bit, but here we're going to find that Lucifer is going to indwell this man that comes on the scene. Now maybe that's how he rises from the dead, or appears to, at that point. But we know it's all about the same time, this deadly wound happens to this man of sin, and then Satan is kicked out of heaven and indwells this man of sin, the Antichrist. We first see him way back there, and we see that the seed of the devil is the Antichrist; the seed of the woman is the Son of God, Jesus, born of Mary, and the legal son of Joseph. Without having the human father, you don't pass on the sin nature, and he was without the nature of sin, neither did he exhibit sin and he was perfect. Of course the Antichrist would be the opposite of, or the antithesis of everything that Christ is. He will be imitating a lot of those things that Christ is, but will be opposed to everything that Christ is for. And so we find him mentioned here, it says it shall bruise thy head, thou shalt bruise his heel. What does that mean? Well the heel wound is a less severe wound than a head wound. The head wound is a fatal wound. The wound that Jesus endured on the cross wasn't a fatal wound. He died, but he rose again as only God could. It was a wound nonetheless, he died but he rose

again. But the wound that the devil took at that moment, will take at Armageddon, and will take cast into the eternal lake of fire, is a head wound. So we find the antichrist pictured way back there in Genesis 3:15.

Assignment:

- Memorize Genesis 3:15

QUESTION 1

The first promise of _____ is found in Genesis 3:15.

QUESTION 2

The _____ will be the “seed” of the devil.

QUESTION 3

The Antichrist will be the _____ of everything that Christ is.

QUESTION 4

Though He was dealt a “heel” wound on the cross, Christ dealt Satan a “head” wound that will be fatal throughout _____.

Why 666?

We also know that he’s a man Why 666? The number of the antichrist. 6 is the number of man, seven is the number of completeness. When you see 7 in scripture, you see 7 days of creation, a complete day. There are 7 days in a week, and many places we find 7 is prominent, it’s called the number of perfection or the number of completeness. One number less than that shows humanity. It shows that we’re not perfect, that we’re not complete, it shows that we need the Lord, that number means something. So 6 is mans number, as illustrated in many places in the word of God. I think the best interpretation of 666... The number 6 is less than 7, and the threefold repetition indicates that they are pretending to be deity, but they’re not; they’re nothing but created beings. The antichrist, the false prophet, and the devil himself are all created beings. That number, 666, has to remind satan of that and has to remind him that he is a created being and is not greater than the creator. We know that he is called 666, the number of man. Some have speculated, and I have thought, I don’t know if this is true or not, that he’ll have Jewish blood. There’s several reasons for this, although some don’t think so, and I don’t know that’s really that important, but that he will have some Jewish descent. He’s accepted by Israel, and they rejected the true Christ but accepted the false Christ. But in Daniel 11:36, it says (Daniel 11:36-37). So whether or not he is Jewish I don’t know, Either way he is going to be accepted by the Jewish people but will have no regard for God or the true God, and he’ll be all about false gods, eventually magnifying himself as god. We know he’ll be a man.

QUESTION 5

The number of man is _____.

QUESTION 6

The number of completion is _____.

QUESTION 7

The number 6 shows that _____ is not perfect, not complete.

QUESTION 8

Israel _____ the true Christ, but will accept the false Christ.

Topic 2: The Genius of Antichrist

He's going to be a very smart man, he'll be a genius in speaking or rhetoric. (Daniel 11:21) so he's going to come in with just the right words, and be that orator of orators. This guy will top anybody that's ever come across the scene of the world as far as speaking abilities. He'll be able to speak so well, that he'll be able to convince the world to give him the reigns. He'll come in as a man of peace. He'll come in with right ideas, then everyone will buy into it, give him the authority and power, and then it will go downhill from there. But he'll be a genius, governmentally. He'll have the right answers of how the government can solve all the problems. He'll have the answers. be able to just pull it all together and he'll say these programs, and this and that we'll stop doing this, we need todo that, and he'll convince governments that we should all come on board, and he'll be in control governmentally. (Revelation 17:12-13) Why are they doing that? Well he has a way to convince them that he knows how to rule and how to govern, and how to make it best for all people. Obviously he'll come in with some sort of democratic platform. I don't think anyone these days would buy anything other than that, but with a lot of restrictions. A democratic system, or republic as we have in the United States depends on a document, but if we ignore the document then it really doesn't mean anything. So he'll come in with the promises, probably with democracy as something he believes in, then obviously he doesn't and it will become a dictatorship really quickly. They give their power to him. He'll be a commercial genius, No one can buy or sell without his mark. Commercially, how can one person control transactions for the whole world, and like I said, I really believe the mark of the beast will be a literal mark, probably some impression or tattoo, on the people's right hand or forehead that will be really obvious. The name, the number of the antichrist. Now could also with be an implanted biochip? It could be. He'll have some mechanism to where people can't buy or sell. What a genius commercially, that he will be. Military genius, revelation 6:2. Remember how the white horse comes riding in, he comes in on the white horse, with a bow, and a crown given to him, going forth to conquer. We know though, as a man of peace, using flatteries to obtain his government, but we also know he was a genius militarily, being able to do what he can do. how about religiously? He will be able to pull all the factions together. Do you know how many years the muslims and jews have been fighting?

You know how many years, different groups within different areas of the world have been fighting? He's going to be able to pull all this together and get everyone on board at the same time. (2 Thess 2:4).

QUESTION 9

Antichrist will be an amazing speaker and have just the right _____ to persuade people.

QUESTION 10

Antichrist will convince _____ to give their power to him.

QUESTION 11

Without Antichrist's _____, no one will be able to buy or sell.

QUESTION 12

Antichrist's will be able to _____ religions.

Names of Antichrist

HE's called the man of sin, he's called the son of perdition, he's called the lawless or wicked one. The lie; how would you like that as a title? Your name is, the lie. The antichrist, the king of Babylon, the secular, humanistic world system that manifested itself in Babylon will remanifest itself in the antichrist. The mystery religion, mystery Babylon. We know Babylon has several different facets, he is called the king of Babylon. I don't think it's the geographic, historic location of Babylon, because that's gone. The king of Babylon, the little horn, the willful king, Daniel 11, he's called the beast, we just read about that. Revelation 13, 17, and 19 will talk a lot about the beast. The profane, wicked prince of Israel – Ezekiel got it right, didn't he? The profane wicked prince of Israel. Then back to Daniel 9, the prince that shall come. Let's look at Zechariah 11, calls him the idol shepherd. That's another interesting name, isn't it? Verse 16 (Zechariah 11:16-17) so we find that he is called many things, the idol shepherd, son of perdition, and man of sin. So just the names should tell us a lot about the guy.

QUESTION 13

In the Bible Antichrist is called the man of _____ and the son of _____.

QUESTION 14

The secular humanistic world system that manifested itself in _____ will remanifest itself in the Antichrist.

QUESTION 15

It is not clear that the historic geographic location of _____ will be restored.

QUESTION 16

The name “idol shepherd” shows the _____ to the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Topic 3: Acts of Antichrist

What are some of the other facts we know about what he’s going to do? We know he’s going to appear in the latter times of Israel. We know that latter times is that 70th week of Daniel. 69 have been fulfilled, there’s one week, that’s seven years left to go, and he’ll appear during those times. 2 Thess 2:2 says that he’ll appear after the day of the lord begins. What’s the day of the Lord? It’s the same time. It’s the seven year tribulation period. The day of the lord, it’s a terrible time. The last seven years of the earth until the 1000 year rule and reign. Then 2 Thess 2:6-it says the restrainer currently hinders him. That’s why we believe today the Holy Spirit that indwells us is hindering and restraining the progress of the devil and not allowing the antichrist to manifest himself today. You say is he alive today? We don’t really know the answer, but judging by how things are going, I think he very possibly is alive today, but is being restrained. But even if he isn’t, I agree with some commentators that think there has always been one waiting in the wings. Satan has had that wicked person in the wings waiting to manifest himself, but the Spirit of God is repressing that until the church is removed, and the spirit that indwells the believers is not here anymore. So he’s being restrained as of right now. His appearance according to the same chapter is preceded by apostasy. If you want to know when he’ll come, you’ll find apostasy is rampant. That’s happening in our world today. (Daniel 9:26) says that he will arise out of a revised roman empire. The fourth world kingdom that came on the scene, Rome, will regather. It’s the toes of the statue of Nebuchadnezzar. This ruler that is the antichrist will rise out of that. He will be a political leader, will have worldwide influence. He will be ruthless in his rise to power, and he will rise to power through a peace program. Let’s look at (Daniel 8:25). Revelation 17:3, he’s crafty so that his position comes by consent, Daniel 9:27 – he’s going to have a pact with Israel; he’s going to finally be able to solve the Israeli-palastinian conflict. There has to be a solution, and he’ll come up with that solution. This guy is going to figure it out, he’ll make it happen and there’s going to be a 7 year peace treaty brokered that will start this tribulation. So we know all of these things that will happen. We also know that he’s a great adversary of Israel; although he makes a pact with Israel, he’s going to be attacking Israel. He’s a blasphemer, sets himself up to be God. Satan’s going to energize him, he’s the head of satan’s lawless system. He claimes deity and power through Satan. Revelation 17:3 tellls us the harlot will be instrumental in putting him into power and then he’ll destroy that same harlot, as we find in revelation 17:16-18. He will be in power for 7 years; the prince that shall come, shall cause sacrifices to cease, he’s called the prince to come, he will stop the sacrifices that will be in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. We also know that his rule will end with judgment by God. Armageddon is coming, and then his reign is over at that time. His judgment will take place with the second coming, with the second advent of Christ and we know his kingdom is overthrown and then the kingdom of the saints, the kingdom of the millennium will begin. So these are events that we know will transpire during his tenure as the leader of the world.

QUESTION 17

Antichrist cannot be _____ until the Day of the Lord begins.

QUESTION 18

The Day of the Lord cannot begin until the Holy Spirit is _____ in the rapture of the Church.

QUESTION 19

Antichrist will broker a peace treaty for Israel for _____ years.

QUESTION 20

After the midpoint of the Tribulation, Antichrist will declare himself to be _____ in the Temple.

The Career of Antichrist

What about his career? We know that he has a deep hatred of Christ, a deep hatred of the Jewish people. This is what is motivating him, this is what is driving the antichrist. Again he's going to recognize that covenant with Israel; that's going to be a huge thing for him. He's coming out of the roman empire, he's the prince of the people that shall come and destroy the city; he's going to destroy the city of Jerusalem. He's going to have a head wound, and live again. He's going to cause the world to wonder after him. I think one of the passages that says a lot about him that we've already referred to a little bit is (2 Thessalonians 2:4-10) This says it all; it talks about his power and deceptiveness, it talks about his doom. The day of the Lord cannot come until the antichrist is revealed. Since the antichrist has not been revealed, we know the day of the Lord has not occurred. We know we will not be here to know who the antichrist will be, because the rapture of the church will happen before all of this. But it says the day of the Lord cannot come until the antichrist is revealed. The fourth verse says the antichrist declares himself to be God, he sets himself up in the temple, and he cannot be revealed until it's God's timing. They were probably wondering, because they had already been taught this, where is he? It hasn't happened yet. Well this all comes to pass in God's time. Aren't you glad God waited until at least this point, before all of this happened, because it gives you and I a chance to be born, a chance to live. We don't understand why he's waited but I'm glad he did, and maybe there's others that he wants to be saved, so we must be busy doing that. The coming of Christ will destroy him, he has satan's power and he deceives those who do not love the truth. So we find a very wicked man, a very powerful and convincing man, a very brilliant man, but a man who is diametrically opposed to everything that Christ is.

QUESTION 21

Antichrist will be driven by a hatred of _____ and a hatred of the _____.

QUESTION 22

Antichrist will suffer a head _____, and will appear to live again.

QUESTION 23

Even though Antichrist will be a powerful genius, his _____ has already been spelled out and is sure.

QUESTION 24

Nothing about the Antichrist or the Tribulation can occur _____ the Rapture of the Church.