



The coming of the Antichrist

Part One

(Matthew 24:15-21) "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel let the reader understand then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of his house. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers" Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now-and never to be equalled again."

The Bible clearly teaches that just before the Lord Jesus comes back there will be an Antichrist. He will in fact be the last in a long line of antichrists who have come going all the way back to the book of Genesis itself.

There have been many antichrists and they were around in the first century during the time that the Apostle John was alive.

(1 John 2:18) "Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour."

The first century believers always lived in the expectancy of Jesus' return and when you look at time from God's

perspective a thousand of our years are like one day to him. (2 Peter 3:8) So they could say even then that they were in "the last hour." The first century believers expected the Lord Jesus to return in their lifetime so they always lived everyday in the light of His Second Coming. There were antichrists around in John's time and there have been many antichrists down through history and there are undoubtedly many antichrists today, however, there will be an ultimate Antichrist.

All previous antichrists were demon possessed men but this guy will be an incarnation of Satan himself embodied in a flesh and blood man. The Only two people to be called "the son of perdition" were Judas Iscariot and the man of sin who is still to come. Judas was actually possessed by Satan himself and the final Antichrist will also be possessed by Satan. So with these things in mind lets begin to look at the subject, "The Coming of the Antichrist." Part 1

There are four major types of the Antichrist in history.

1. Antiochus Epiphanies.

When the Lord Jesus spoke about "the abomination that causes desolation" in Matthew chapter twenty four verses fifteen to twenty one he was referring to the Seleucid Greek general who devastat-

ed Jerusalem and the Jewish nation around 160 years before Jesus Himself was born. The Lord Jesus was speaking about a past event that actually happened in history and said very clearly that it would happen again at the end of this present age.

The name "Epiphanies" itself means "god manifest" and this guy was one who exhibited the spirit of antichrist. He was not a godly man but totally the opposite who had no regard for God or for His word. His enemies called him "Madman" as he was very violent and cruel. In fact he was one of the cruellest rulers in history, a total despot who slaughtered innocent women and children. Antiochus first approached the Jews with the pretence of a benefactor. The apostate Jews were prepared to make concessions with Antiochus. Some saw through his deception but said nothing. Daniel tells us how Antiochus deceived those who were unfaithful to God or had compromised. *"With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant."* (Daniel 11:32)

Right now Israel's leaders are selling the Jewish people out as they contemplate giving up more of the land to the superpowers. This of course is also a deception. God's Word tells us that in the end Israel will be betrayed and attacked by all the nations. Israel will have a false peace treaty thinking they will be secure when God calls it, *"a covenant of death."* (Isaiah 28:15)

Now the "abomination of desolation" perpetuated by Antiochus did not happen suddenly but came after a period of compromise by the Jewish leaders. Antiochus had an agenda to unite all peoples of his kingdom in religion, law and custom and even issued an edict to this end. He issued prohibitions against observing the Sabbath, practicing circumcision and keeping all Jewish food

laws. He also introduced cult prostitution. Eventually many Jews not only went along with his agenda but also actually ended up participating in the pagan rites he introduced. What followed was the abomination itself.

(Daniel 11:31) "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation."

Antiochus desecrated the altar of burnt offering by offering up the sacrifice of a pig on it and then erected an image of the Greek god Zeus. Not only that but the Jewish people were actually forced to participate in the pagan Greek festivals and anyone who was even caught with a copy of the Torah was put to death. Daniel also tells us that Antiochus actually thought he was a god.

(Daniel 8:11-12) "It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the Host; it took away the daily sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was brought low. Because of rebellion, the host (armies) of the saints and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did and truth was thrown to the ground".

Now Antiochus met resistance from a faithful remnant called the Maccabees. These patriots came from a priestly family who saw through the deception perpetrated by Antiochus and started a guerrilla war against him. Many of them were slaughtered and betrayed by false brethren who joined their ranks pretending to be fellow patriots but in reality were traitors. Daniel also tells us about these events.

(Daniel 11:32-34) "With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will resist him. Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered. When

they fall they will receive a little help (Judas and the patriots) and many who are not sincere (false brethren) will join them."

(Daniel 8:24)"He will destroy the mighty men and the Holy people."

This is precisely what he did to the Jewish nation and the Antichrist will do the same thing. What Antiochus did was a foreshadowing of what the Antichrist will do at the end of this age. The Antichrist himself will come in the character of Antiochus and this was what the Lord Jesus was conveying. In fact he will come from the same geographical area that Antiochus came from. (The ancient region of Babylon)

Just as Antiochus persecuted the faithful Jews so the Antichrist and his global empire will persecute the Jews and the Christians just before Jesus comes back.

(Rev 13:7) "He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation."

(Dan 7:21) "As I watched, this horn was waging war against the saints and defeating them."

(Dan 12:7) "It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

(Zech 13:7-9) ""Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!" declares the LORD Almighty. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones. In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on My name and I will answer

them; I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.' "

Eventually Antiochus was defeated, the Seleucids driven out of Israel and the temple reconsecrated. "Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power" (Daniel 8:25).

The same thing will happen to the Antichrist and his empire when Jesus comes back to rescue Israel, the faithful Church and to judge the nations. The Antichrist will appear on the world scene as a mighty general and politician with great charisma, power and authority to command many nations to follow his agenda. Multitudes of apostate Christians and those of other religions will support him and many western governments will try to appease him but in the end he will reveal his true character when he desecrates the Temple Mount in Jerusalem perpetuating the final abomination of desolation. At that time the whole world will be plunged into a nightmare of global chaos death and destruction unparalleled in history and never to be equalled again!

(Matt 24:21) "For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equalled again."

When the Antichrist appears only those "who are wise" will understand because his deception will be hidden from the majority at the time he is first revealed to the world. The faithful remnant of believers will try to warn others as the Maccabees did in their day and like the Maccabees multitudes will be systematically hunted down and martyred for their faith by the Antichrist and his new world order.

2. Titus the Roman General.

In 68 AD Vespasian with the Roman army laid siege to Jerusalem however due to a political crisis in Rome he withdrew his legions for a very brief time and returned to Rome where he was crowned Emperor of Rome. At that time all of those who believed what Jesus had said around forty years before escaped from the city and were miraculously protected as they passed unseen through the remaining Roman lines. Simeon, who had replaced James as the pastor in Jerusalem, led them out of the city. King Herod had killed James with the sword years before.

In 70AD the Roman army returned in full strength led by Titus Vespasian's oldest son and he kept up the siege until the city fell into their hands. After the Temple had been demolished Roman soldiers set up pagan emblems on the Temple Mount and worshipped them declaring political dominion over the house of God. This was another "abomination of desolation" just like the one perpetuated by Antiochus Epiphanies around 200 years before.

Josephus the Jewish historian who actually witnessed these events mentioned this in his writings. The Lord Jesus accurately prophesied this historical event and it occurred exactly in the way He said it would happen.

(Luke 21: 20-24) "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners

to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."

Matthew, Luke and Mark all record what Jesus said. The Holy Spirit in His wisdom revealed the same truth to all three men but showed them different aspects of what Jesus was talking about. The unique feature of Matthew's gospel is that the "abomination" would not only occur around forty years later but would happen again at the end of this present age by the Antichrist himself. This context is clearly seen. *"For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equalled again (Matthew 24:21)."*

Just as the faithful believers escaped in 70 AD just before the judgement fell so the faithful believers at the end of this age will escape the bowls of God's wrath. As the Church ascends the fire descends. As the Church goes up the wrath comes down! This is how it will be at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

What Titus did teaches us about what the Antichrist will do when he attacks Jerusalem and desecrates the Temple Mount at the end of this present age.

3. Mohammed the founder of Islam.

Today an "abomination of desolation" stands on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The Dome of the Rock Mosque has a quote from the Koran written on it that says, "God has no Son." John tells us in his first letter whoever denies the Father and the Son's relationship in the Godhead is the Antichrist. Mohammed, the founder of Islam, was familiar with Jesus teaching and even though Mohammed believed Him to be a prophet actually denied that Jesus was the Son of God. This is the clear teaching

of the Koran and lies at the heart of the Muslim faith. Islam denies the Sonship of Christ.

-Surah 5:17 (Yusuf Ali) "In blasphemy indeed are those (the Christians) that say that God is Christ the son of Mary."

-Surah 19:88-92 (Rashad Khalifa) ""The Most Gracious has begotten a son"! You have uttered a gross blasphemy. The heavens are about to shatter, the earth is about to tear asunder, and the mountains are about to crumble. Because they (the Christians) claim that the Most Gracious has begotten a son. It is not befitting the most gracious that He should beget a son."

-Surah 9:30 (Yusuf Ali) "the Christians call Christ the son of Allah. That is a saying from their mouth; (in this) they but imitate what the unbelievers of old used to say. Allah's curse be on them: how they are deluded away from the truth!"

The Koran literally pronounces a curse on those who believe that Jesus is God's Son. People who say such things utter "gross blasphemies" and are likened to "unbelievers" or "infidels." Without question then, in this regard, Islam is an antichrist religious system. Islam also denies the Trinity and the same claim of blasphemy is also applied to those who believe in the Trinity.

-Surah 5:73 (Yusuf Ali) "They do blaspheme who say: Allah is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except One Allah. If they desist not from their word (of blasphemy), verily a grievous penalty will befall the blasphemers among them."

In the light of present events in the Middle East and the global expectation of Muslims waiting for the arrival of the Mahdi it is possible that the abomination will have its final and fullest expression through a Muslim general who will come in the character of Mohammed and

stand on the Temple Mount demanding to be worshipped as God.

Certainly the Mosque is the most prominent sign historically as it was first erected in the year 688AD. Before this time Christians and Jews could freely worship in Jerusalem and on the Temple Mount.

Islam is not a religion of peace but a religion of war and bloodshed. Allah is not the God of the Bible at all but the ancient moon god of war. All over the globe Islam persecutes Christians and even in the Koran there are quotes that tell Muslims to hate and to destroy Jews and Christians that they also call "the people of the book."

Ironically there is a photograph of the late Pope kissing the Koran! Even more recently the present Pope was seen praying in a Mosque! The great apostasy is well and truly here! Remember it is the final great apostasy of the Christian Church that will bring the Antichrist to power. (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

4. The Roman Emperor Hadrian.

In the Second Century there was a rebellion perpetuated against the Romans in Israel by a man called Bar-Kochba. Evidently someone called Rabbi Akiva promoted this man as the Messiah and deliverer of Israel. What followed was a blood bath against the Jewish nation. Hadrian was so determined to destroy the Jewish identity as a nation that he rebuilt the city of Jerusalem and erected a temple to Jupiter on the Temple Mount. This was another "abomination of desolation."

So then the Antichrist himself will come in the character of Antiochus and will be a fierce and cruel dictator with great political and military power. Just before the Lord Jesus comes back his

forces will attack Jerusalem and he himself will desecrate the temple mount and proclaim himself to be God.

However the one thing that must occur on a global scale is the apostasy of the Professing Christian Church. When you look at the trends, the fads and the doctrines being perpetuated in the Church today especially in the western nations it is very clear that "The Apostasy" is well under way!

"Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction (the son of perdition). He opposes and exults himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, and even sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."

(2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION

" For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ "

