

## The Antichrist Part 1

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (KJV) 1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

### Revelation 13 (NLT) The Beast out of the Sea

1 Then I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. 2 This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority.

3 I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast.

4 They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. “Who is as great as the beast?” they exclaimed. “Who is able to fight against him?”

5 Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months. 6 And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and his dwelling—that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 And the beast was allowed to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation. 8 And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered before the world was made.

9 Anyone with ears to hear  
should listen and understand.

10 Anyone who is destined for prison  
will be taken to prison.

Anyone destined to die by the sword  
will die by the sword.

This means that God’s holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful.

### The Beast out of the Earth (2<sup>nd</sup> beast)

11 Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon. 12 He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. 13 He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching. 14 And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. 15 He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die.

16 He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. 17 And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name. 18 Wisdom is needed here. Let the one with understanding solve the meaning of the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. His number is 666.

### **Twenty facts about the first beast of Rev. 13:**

1. He will be a man (Rev. 13:18).
2. He will rise out of the sea of humanity (Rev. 13:1; Dan. 7:24; 9:27; 11:36-45).
3. He will become ruler of the territory of the 7 kingdoms symbolized by the 7 heads (Rev. 13:1; 17:8-17, notes).
4. He will become ruler of the 10 kingdoms that are yet to be formed inside the old Roman Empire territory (Rev. 13:1; 17:8-17 Dan. 7:23-24).
5. He will be a blasphemer (Rev. 13:1,5; 17:3).
6. He will revive the old Grecian Empire. The beast is like a leopard, which, in the book of Daniel, symbolizes the Grecian Empire (Dan. 7:6; 8:20-23, notes; Rev. 17:8-17, notes).
7. He will also have characteristics of Medo-Persia (the bear, Rev. 13:3; Dan. 7:5, note) and Babylon (the lion, Rev. 13:3; Dan. 7:4, note).
8. He will receive his power, throne, and great authority from Satan (Rev. 13:2; 16:13-16 2Th. 2:8-12 Dan. 8:24-25; 11:38-39).
9. He will not be assassinated and resurrected from the dead, as taught by some. It is one of the heads on the beast that is wounded to death and is healed, not the beast itself (Rev. 13:3). Therefore, all the theories of Antichrist being a resurrected man, a reincarnation of some historic man, an incarnation of the devil, etc., are false (see Seven-Headed, Ten-Horned Beast).
10. He will have all the world wondering after him (Rev. 13:2-4,8-18).
11. He will be an object of worship (Rev. 13:4,14-18; 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 20:4-6).
12. He will be a supernaturally gifted orator (Rev. 13:5-6 Dan. 7:8,11,20,25; 8:23; 11:36).
13. He will be given power and success for 42 months (Rev. 13:4; 11:1-3; 12:6,14; Dan. 7:25; 12:7).
14. He will defy God and claim to be God himself (Rev. 13:6; 2Th. 2:3-4 Dan. 7:25; 8:25; 11:36-39).
15. He will make war on the Jews and Christians and multitudes will be killed by him (Rev. 13:7,15; 7:9-17; 14:13; 15:2-4; 20:4-6 Dan. 7:21; 8:23-25).

16. He will be given power over all nations inside the 10 kingdoms of the old Roman Empire territory (Rev. 13:7; Dan. 7:23-24; 8:23-25; 11:36-45).
17. He will be worshiped as God (Rev. 13:8,14-18; 14:9-11; 20:4-6).
18. He will have a religious leader in the false prophet of Rev. 13:11-17; 16:13-16; 19:20; 20:10.
19. He will permit image worship of himself (Rev. 13:14-17; 14:9; 15:2; 20:4-6).
20. He will cause the mark or emblem of his kingdom, or his name, or the number of his name to be branded upon the right hand or forehead of his followers (Rev. 13:16-18; 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 20:4-6).

### **3 Brands of Antichrist**

1. A mark (Rev. 13:16-17; 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 20:4-6). That this is different from either the name or the number of his name is clear from these scriptures. What kind of mark it will be is not stated. It may be the emblem of his kingdom and that is not known. It will be a literal brand upon the right hand or forehead (Rev. 13:16; 14:9).

2. The name of the beast (Rev. 13:17; 14:11). It is not stated here or elsewhere what his name will be, and all speculation is unscriptural and valueless. People have chosen no less than 35 names for the Antichrist. They have made him a reincarnation or a resurrection of man from Nimrod in Gen. 10 on, including a number of conquerors of kingdoms and Judas Iscariot. Modern names hailed as the Antichrist have included popes, Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, and others. Many have been chosen because their names in Greek would equal 666. On this basis others could be chosen. All this is pure human speculation without scriptural backing.

3. The number of his name, 666 (Rev. 13:17-18; 15:2). This is the number of a man, and is the only one of the 3 brands that is given (Rev. 13:18). Many Greek and Hebrew names have a numerical value of 666. The idea is that in the Greek and Hebrew alphabets there is not a separate system of numbers, as in the English. The letters of these alphabets stand for numbers. The letters in the name of the future Antichrist will have a numerical value of 666. We cannot know what his mark or name will be, but we can all know what the numerical value of his name will be, for it is stated to be 666. Since he will not come until after the rapture of the church and until after the formation of 10 kingdoms inside the old Roman Empire (notes, Dan. 7:24; 2Th. 2:7), and until the beginning of Daniel's 70th week (Dan. 9:27), we can also know that no man will be able to take his mark, his name, or the number of his name before the last 3 1/2 years of this age (Rev. 11:1-3; 12:6,14; 13:5).

Notes For Verse 2

a [power]

#### **Twentyfold power of Antichrist--power to:**

1. Blaspheme God (Rev. 13:5-6 Dan. 7:8-25; 11:36)
2. Overcome saints (Rev. 13:7; 7:9-17; 20:4)
3. Overcome Jews (Rev. 12:13-17 Dan. 7:21)
4. Conquer many nations (Rev. 13:7; Dan. 7:8,23-24; 11:40-45 Ezek. 38-39)
5. Destroy mystical Babylon (Rev. 17:12-17)

6. Kill the two witnesses (Rev. 11:7-12)
7. Change times and laws (Dan. 7:25)
8. Understand mysteries (Dan. 8:23)
9. Do as he will for a period (Dan. 11:36; 2Th. 2:3-4 Rev. 13)
10. Perform miracles (Rev. 13:1-18; 19:20; Dan. 8:24; 2Th. 2:8-12)
11. Cause craft to prosper (Dan. 8:25)
12. Control money and commerce (Dan. 11:38-43 Rev. 13:17; 18:1-24)
13. Cause great deceptions (Rev. 13:13-18 2Th. 2:8-12 Jn. 5:43; Dan. 8:25)
14. Control religion (Rev. 13:1-18; 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 20:4-6 Dan. 11:36)
15. Control all lives in his realm (Rev. 13:15)
16. Control kings (Rev. 13:7; 17:12-17)
17. Make all nations fear him (Rev. 13:4)
18. Reign for 42 months (Rev. 13:5)
19. Mobilize nations to Armageddon (Rev. 16:13-16; 19:19-21 Ezek. 38-39)
20. Fight Christ (Rev. 17:14; 19:11-21 Dan. 8:25; Zech. 14:1-5)

[another beast coming up out of the earth]

**Sixteen facts about the second beast of Rev. 13:**

1. He also will be a man. The Greek: *allos* (G243), means another of the same kind. The first beast is a man (Rev. 13:18), so the second one must also be a man (Rev. 13:11; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10). Personal pronouns are used of them, indicating they are persons.
2. He will come out of the earth (Rev. 13:11), which is the same as coming out of the sea (cp. Dan. 7:3 with Dan. 7:17). There is no intimation that he will be from the underworld of departed spirits, or that he will be a man resurrected from the dead. Both beasts symbolize two natural men who will be born in these last days, will fulfill prophecy and die at Armageddon (Rev. 19:20; Dan. 7:11; Isa. 11:4; 2Th. 2:8).
3. He will come after the first beast and will be his prophet (Rev. 13:13; 19:20; 20:10).
4. He will come with a lamb-like appearance to deceive, but will speak like the dragon (Rev. 13:11).
5. He will exercise all the power of the first beast or Antichrist before him (Rev. 13:2,12; 19:20; 2Th. 2:8-12).
6. He will cause people on earth to worship the first beast (Rev. 13:12; 17:8-11, notes).
7. He will do great miracles, even to calling fire from heaven before people, counterfeiting God and His works (Rev. 13:13; 19:20; cp. Num. 11:1-3; 26:10).
8. He will deceive people by the miracles he will do in the sight of the first beast (Rev. 13:14; 19:20).
9. He will cause people to make an image of the first beast to be worshiped (Rev. 13:14; 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 20:4-6).
10. He will have power to give life to the image causing it to speak and do personal acts (Rev. 13:15; cp. Ex. 7:10-12).
11. He will cause the image to demand the death penalty for all who will not worship the Antichrist (Rev. 13:15; 7:9-17; 15:2; 20:4-6).

12. He will cause people in the kingdom of Antichrist to take a mark, or the name of the Antichrist, or the number of his name in the right hand or in the forehead (Rev. 13:16; 14:9-11; 15:2; 16:2; 20:4-6).
13. He will make a law that no man might buy or sell if he does not take one of the three brands (Rev. 13:17).
14. He will be equal to the first beast in sending demon spirits, working through ambassadors, to gather the nations to Armageddon (Rev. 16:13-16; 19:19-21).
15. He will be taken with the Antichrist at Armageddon and be cast alive into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20).
16. He will still be in the lake of fire in conscious torment one thousand years later (Rev. 20:10).

### **Extent of Antichrist's Reign**

#### **Fifteen proofs Antichrist will not reign over America, Canada or be a worldwide dictator:**

1. Four statements in Rev. 13 have led some to believe that Antichrist will literally rule the whole world and cause every man on earth to take a mark or be killed.

They are:

- A. Power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations (Rev. 13:7)
- B. All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (except Christians, Rev. 13:8)
- C. He causeth all, both small and great ... to receive a mark (Rev. 13:16)
- D. No man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, name, or number (Rev. 13:17).

On the surface it might seem that these statements prove Antichrist will be a world ruler, killing all on earth who do not take his mark, name, or number. But, the contrary is true because "all" in these passages is simply a figure of speech, in which a whole is put for a part, as we would say, "Everyone in town," or "the whole country." If Canada would make a law that "all men" of all nations, and tongues must register on a certain day or be killed, we would naturally understand the law to apply only to all people of all nations and tongues who are under the government of Canada, not to the people of these nations and tongues who are under other governments. The word "all" is used in a limited sense hundreds of times in many Scriptures (Gen. 6:17; Josh. 6:21-25 2Sam. 6:5,15; 1Ki. 11:16-17 Mt. 3:5-6 Lk. 2:1-3 Rom. 1:8; 10:18; Col. 1:23; etc.).

2. Such terms as in Rev. 13 have been used of other rulers and kingdoms who did not literally rule the whole world. It was said of Nebuchadnezzar--Wheresoever the children of men dwell ... hath made thee ruler over them ALL (Dan. 2:38). Of Greece--Which shall bear rule over ALL the earth (Dan. 2:39). Of Rome--Shall devour the WHOLE earth (Dan. 7:23-24). None of these kingdoms ruled the whole world.

3. Rev. 13 itself limits the kingdom of Antichrist to the 10 kingdoms that are yet to be formed inside the old Roman Empire territory (Dan. 7:23-24). The beast has only 10 horns, not 65, plainly teaching that a limited part of the earth will be under Antichrist (Rev. 13:1; 17:12-17).

4. Rev. 17:8-17 also limits the kingdom of Antichrist to the 10 kingdoms--the 10 horns ... are 10 kings, which have received no kingdom as yet, but received power as kings with the beast ... these shall give their kingdom unto the beast.

5. In Dan. 7:7-8,23-24 we have the definite location of the future 10 kingdoms. They are to be inside (out of), not outside the old Roman Empire territory. America and many other lands were never a part of the old Roman Empire, so they will not be a part of the 10 kingdoms to be formed in the last days inside that empire. No country outside the 10 kingdoms will be ruled by Antichrist and no mark of the beast will be forced upon any man outside the kingdom of Antichrist.

Daniel 7:22-23 [out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise] If, as many Bible students teach, there will be a revived Roman Empire, we are to expect only one king over one kingdom formed inside the old Roman Empire territory. This is not what is stated here though. It is not one horn on the beast symbolizing one king reigning from Rome over one kingdom, as was true of the old Roman Empire, but ten kings out of this kingdom. This means that there will be a revised Roman Empire, not a revived empire. This further means that there must be another great European, Asiatic, and African war to form ten future kingdoms out of the 24 present states of the old Roman Empire territory (Dan. 7:23-24). That these ten kingdoms are yet future and will exist and reign together inside the old Roman Empire territory is clear from ten proofs given in Eight Mountain Kingdoms and Israel. They will not include all the world--only the then Roman Empire, only a part of southern Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa.

6. In Dan. 9:27; 11:40-45 Antichrist breaks his 7-year covenant with Israel and takes over Palestine and many other countries, "but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon," which would be Modern Jordan and Arabia. Jordan is a tolerant, Islamic state that welcomes all religions. A majority of Jordanians are Muslim, about 92% are Sunni Muslim, and 1% are Shia or Sufi. If these countries escape Antichrist, these on the border of Palestine which does not escape him, then it is surely conceivable that many countries across the vast oceans will also escape him.

7. The nation of Israel escapes the Antichrist arriving safe in the wilderness of Edom and Moab where they are protected of God for 3 1/2 years, or during the time the whole world is supposed to be taking the mark of the beast, but is only this 10 nations under the Antichrist.

8. In Dan. 11:44-45 it is stated that the countries north and east of the 10 kingdoms under Antichrist will make war on him. These countries too, then, are not ruled by him and are and are NOT therefore forced to take the mark.

9. In Rev. 16:13-16 we have 3 unclean spirits like frogs going forth working miracles through ambassadors thus seeking the cooperation of many nations to help Antichrist against Jesus Christ at Armageddon. These will not have been conquered by him or be under him or they would not have to be persuaded to help him at Armageddon. If he ruled them and they loved him enough to worship him and take his mark, such demonic ministries would be unnecessary.

10. In Rev. 13:4 we have proof that there are nations whom the Antichrist has not conquered. If there were no nations who were not under him it would be foolish to raise the question about who can conquer him.

11. In Rev. 14:9-11 it is stated that every man who does take the mark of the beast, or his name, or the number of his name, will be sent to eternal hell without exception. If, as some teach today, Antichrist will kill every man who does not take the mark of the beast, and if, as stated here, every man who does take it will be sent to eternal hell, there will not be one person left on earth to populate it in the Millennium and the New Earth. Thus, such a doctrine as Antichrist killing all on earth who do not take his mark and worship him is literally untrue.

12. The truth is that Antichrist will make a law that all in his 10 kingdoms must worship him and take his mark, but the law will not and cannot be literally enforced in such a vast territory in as short a time as 3 1/2 years. It would be impossible for one human Antichrist to contact every man in the whole world and to see that every man is killed who does not take his mark. To say that, he could be virtually teaching that one man can do more in 3 1/2 years than what God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, angels, and all the redeemed people of over 1,900 years have been able to do. The gospel has been preached that long and still multiplied millions of people on earth have never heard the name of Jesus Christ. How could a new doctrine and a new religion of the beast be made known to all the world in 3 1/2 years? One reason why Antichrist cannot enforce such a law even inside the Roman Empire territory in 3 1/2 years is because of the wars between his 10 kingdoms and the many nations north and east of his empire (Dan. 11:44). These wars will keep him so occupied that he will not be able to pay full attention to the enforcement of his religious laws. Then, too, there will no doubt be ways of avoiding such laws in certain localities as there are concerning any other manmade law. Local officials, money, bribery, and many other things will enable some in his kingdom to escape literal compliance to such a law. Guerrilla warfare against Antichrist can be carried on in all parts of his kingdom, making it impossible to enforce such a law literally. Antichrist will come and go without millions of people in various parts of the earth knowing that he ever existed. This is true of Jesus Christ, and it will be true of Antichrist. Many peoples in the interior of certain lands do not yet know that there have been two world wars in a generation. Many do not know we have automobiles, airplanes, etc. The Bible teaches that in the Millennium Christ will be reigning in Jerusalem for some time before His agents contact certain peoples on earth and seek to bring them under His government (Isa. 2:2-4; 40:9; 52:7; 61:6; 66:18-21 Zech. 8:23; 14:16-21). So it will be in the days of Antichrist.

13. In Zech. 14:16-21 it is clear that many from every nation, even those that are under Antichrist, will be left alive on the earth in the Millennium. These will not take the mark of the beast. If so, they would be sent to eternal hell by Christ at His second coming. Since they are left to enter the Millennium, it is proof that every man on earth will not take the mark or be killed. For example, Egypt is spoken of in Dan. 11:40-45 as not escaping the Antichrist, but we find Egyptians left to enter the Millennium in Zech. 14:16-21. So it will be with many people of

all the nations under Antichrist. Some will not take the mark or obey his law and yet escape death by him. Multitudes will be killed, but not all (Rev. 7:9-11; 14:13; 15:2-4; 16:2; 20:4-6).

14. In Mt. 25:31-46 we read of many of all nations that are called blessed of My Father who will inherit the millennial and eternal kingdom. These people will not take the mark of the beast or they would be sent to eternal hell (as stated in Rev. 14:9-11). The basis of the judgment of the nations here is their treatment of Israel. Such kind treatment of Israel could not be possible on the part of any nation if all were directly controlled by Antichrist.

15. The remnant of the woman in Rev. 12:17 escape the mark of the beast and the worship of Antichrist. This is made possible by new wars in the north and east of his kingdom, forcing him to let them alone for the time being so as to conquer these new enemies. The ministry of the two witnesses helps protect them the last 3 1/2 years. Then when Antichrist conquers his enemies after nearly 3 1/2 years of war he gathers his forces against the Jews to destroy them. He is defeated by Jesus Christ at Armageddon before he even takes all of Jerusalem, which by some means has been suddenly delivered from Antichrist and is back in Jewish hands (Zech. 14:14-15).

Thus, we conclude that Antichrist will not rule America or be a worldwide dictator; that his kingdom will be limited to the old Roman Empire territory during the time he seeks to enforce the new beast worship; that he will be in constant wars with other nations during the whole 7 years he is here (Dan. 7:23-24; 9:27; 11:36-45); that multitudes of all nations will escape the mark of the beast and his worship; and that Antichrist will be defeated by Christ before he conquers all of Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas, and all other parts of the world.