

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: The Antichrists Part 3

Topic: The Beast

Scripture Text: Revelation 13:11–18

07/30/2017

Revelation 13:11–18 (NKJV) ¹¹ Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. ¹² And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth—by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. ¹⁶ He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Antichrist - An “antichrist” is simply one who is anti/against Jesus. The Bible informs us that anyone can be an “antichrist” if they “deny Jesus”.

Preterism - generally believe the antichrist/beast was the Roman emperor Nero who murdered Christians and Jews in the first century A.D. To Preterist, the beast is dead.

Futurism - By Far the most popular interpretation remains the “Futurist”. According to Futurists, the beast is still on the horizon;

Historicism - From the time of the Reformation (16th Century) until the late 1800’s the vast majority of Protestant scholars firmly believed the beast was snarling right in front of them. **They saw prophecy fulfilled throughout Church history until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

The theory of a future one man antichrist (futurism) was manufactured prophecy from the 15th century and was written by some people known as the Jesuits.

Through the course of history there have been many people labeled the “antichrist”. Promoted by this idea of a one man embodied as “the Antichrist”.

Just to name a few people that were said to be the antichrist include:

Nero, 4-5 Popes, Napoleon Bonaparte, Adolf Hitler, John F. Kennedy, Henry Kissinger, Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev, Pope Benedict XVI, Barack Obama and Bill Gates III

<http://blog.rose-publishing.com/2016/03/16/14-people-accused-of-being-the-anti-christ/#.WXImOFBrge0>

This one man antichrist idea was introduced and taught by the Jesuit order of the Roman Catholics. Many believe they did so to throw suspicion away from them as being part of the “antichrist” system.

Jesuit - The Society of Jesus, more commonly known as the Jesuits, is a society within the Roman Catholic Church that was founded by Ignatius of Loyola and instituted by Pope Paul III. The Jesuit society demands four vows of its members: poverty, chastity, obedience to Christ, and obedience to the Pope. The purpose of the Jesuits is the propagation of the Catholic faith by any means possible. They were fierce opponents to the reformation and known for their military style training.

We do not have the time to delve deeply into the topic of the “antichrist” and the Jesuits on Sunday mornings. But as we look at our focus passage, John’s words seem to support the **Historicism** view that “the Antichrist and “antichrists” are already here. (*1 John 2:18*)

There is not just one historical or future figure that can be labeled as being the true antichrist. There have been, there are and there will be people who are against God and Christ. There are those that are directly influenced by the spirit of the antichrist.

Many people are antichrists (anti – Christ). Anyone who denies Jesus, His church or His people are antichrists. Antichrists are simply those who are opposed to Christ and all that He stands for.

The question that is still out there is, “what about the antichrist often referred to in the Book of revelation?”

The antichrist is already here but not fully revealed
2 Thessalonians 2:3–4 (NKJV).³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Correlation of The End Times

Nebuchadnezzar image dream (<i>Daniel 2:32-33</i>)	Daniels Vision of Beasts (<i>Daniel 7:3-7</i>)	The vision of the beasts by John in Revelation (<i>Revelation 13:1-4</i>)	Historical Kingdoms/Empires
1 st kingdom. Image head of Gold	1 st . Like a lion with eagles wings (<i>Daniel 7:4</i>)	Beast from the sea, Mouth of a lion (<i>Revelation 13:2</i>)	Babylon (<i>Daniel 2:38</i>)
2 nd . kingdom. Chest and arms of Silver	2 nd . Like a bear (<i>Daniel 7:5</i>)	Beast from the sea, Feet like a bears (<i>Revelation 13:2</i>)	Meds and Persians (<i>Daniel 2:39a</i>)
3 rd . Kingdom. Belly and thighs of Bronze	3 rd . Like a leopard with four wings and four heads [4 divisions] (<i>Daniel 7:6</i>)	Beast from the sea, Like a leopard (<i>Revelation 13:2</i>)	Greeks (<i>Daniel 2:39b</i>)
4 th . ^t kingdom. Legs of Iron	4 th . Dreadful, terrible, exceedingly strong with teeth of iron. (<i>Daniel 7:7a</i>)	This may be the beast himself.	Roman (<i>Daniel 2:40</i>) Never defeated
Feet of iron and clay	Fourth beast had 10 horns representing 10 nations. (<i>Daniel 7:7b</i>) <i>Small horn arises</i> (The beast had 7 heads and 10 horns. (<i>Revelations 13:1</i>)	Revise of Rome. Union or Federation of nations. (European union?) Strong and fragile (<i>Daniel 2:41-43</i>)

Revelation 13:2-4 (NKJV) ² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

The beast has within it a representation of all the kingdoms, lion bear, leopard except no mention of the fourth, Rome. This beast is the one referred to as "The Antichrist" but its power comes from the dragon, Satan.

Points:

1. Had power, a throne and great authority given by the dragon (*Rev 13:2*)
2. Survived a mortal wound (*Rev 13:3*)
3. He spoke great things and blasphemies for 42 months [3 ½ years]/(*Rev 13:5*)
4. Required people to wear His mark or name or number of his name (*Rev13: 16 – 17*)

Revelation 17:12 (NKJV) ¹² "**The ten horns** which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

The first beast (beast from the sea) is said to be the “Antichrist”. The second beast, (beast from the earth). It has only 2 horns. A lesser beast than the one with 10 horns “Antichrist”. (*Revelation 13:11*). It is believed be a false prophet causing the earth to worship the first beast (*Rev. 13:15 – 17*). *Revelation 13:12 (NKJV)* ¹² *And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed*

So now that I thoroughly confused you let me share with you my understanding that I am sure there are many that may not fully agree with me. Of the three Antichrist camps, Preterism, Futurism and Historicism, I more closely align with the latter, Historicism. I believe that there is a personage with the title “Antichrist” that is of the spirit world and has influence on men down through the ages, now and in the future. That opinion is based on our series passage. *1 John 4:3 (NKJV)* ³ *and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

The relationship to “the Antichrist” in Revelation is identified by some to be the “First Beast” of Revelation 13:1-9. This beast is an agent of and empowered by the dragon, Satan.

The goal of the dragon and the beast was to cause the people to worship them instead of God. *Revelation 13:4 (NKJV)* ⁴ *So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”*

This has been the objective of Satan (dragon) all along.
Five times Satan voiced his desire to be like God. (*Isaiah 14:13–14*)

He wanted to be worshipped instead of God.
Matthew 4:9 (NKJV) ⁹ *And he said to Him (Jesus), “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”*

He instigated the war in heaven.

So where there is the attitude of “ANTI-” I believe it is more fitting that this beast in Revelation 13 is really a front for Satan who is ANTIGOD. But if anyone is anti-God is anti-Christ and anyone that is anti-Christ is Anti-God.

END

Scripture: Focus Passage: **Revelation 13:11–18**, *1 John 2:18*, *2 Thessalonians 2:3–4*, *Revelation 13:2–4*, *Revelation 17:12*, *1 John 4:3*, *Isaiah 14:13–14*