



### *Antichrist, the Great Pretender*

Being swindled is never fun. It leaves the person feeling used, abused and often just plain mad. Yet many Christians are unaware that the Antichrist has swindled them into a false belief and a false sense of security about their salvation. Many have never been taught to follow the teachings of the Bible including the biblical teachings about who Jesus is, creation, worship, the law, death, works, the second coming, the judgment, heaven and the new earth. Most have been content, unknowingly, to follow the great pretender.

- I. Many people who feel sure of being saved will actually be lost. Matthew 7:12-23
  - A. Test all teaching to avoid being swindled. Isaiah 8:20
  - B. Some will be lost because they have rejected God's truth. II Thessalonians 2:10-12
  - C. Those who get the victory over the mark of the beast will be saved. Revelation 15:2
  - D. Satan started it all, and is still today warring against God's truth and those who follow God's truth. Revelation 12:7
  - E. Satan desires to deceive even the elect. But the elect are safe in Jesus. Matthew 24:24; I Peter 5:8
- II. The Bible identifies the Great Pretender of truth, the Antichrist in Daniel 7.
  - A. The Antichrist would manifest itself in an earthly system of government.
  - B. The Pretender of truth will make war with God's true people. Revelation 12:7; Daniel 7:21;25
  - C. The Pretender, the Antichrist, will speak pompous words. Daniel 7:8
  - D. The Antichrist will intend to change God's law. He will set up a false system of worship. Daniel 7:25
  - E. The Antichrist will exalt himself over God. 2 Thessalonians 2:4

- F. The Antichrist will even claim to be God. 2 Thessalonians 2:4
- III. Revelation 13 gives a list of identifiers of the Antichrist:
- A. It must receive its authority from the dragon. Verse 2
  - B. It must be or have been a world power. Verse 7
  - C. It would rule for 42 prophetic months or 1260 literal years. Verse 5
  - D. It would receive a deadly wound and be healed. Verse 3
  - E. It would be a blasphemous power. Verse 6
  - F. It would persecute God's people. Verse 7
  - G. It must have the mystic number 666. Verse 18
- IV. History tells us that these points are all fulfilled in the Papal rule that sprang up from the old Pagan Rome kingdom.
- A. The papacy received its power, seat and authority from pagan Rome in 331 A.D. by Constantine. Seignobo's History of Rome
  - B. The papacy was a world power for 1260 years.
    - i. The papal power began to rule in 538 A.D. and continued to rule until 1798 A.D.
    - ii. One prophetic day equals one prophetic year in bible prophecy. Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34
    - iii. The papal power received a deadly wound and was almost wiped out when Napoleon's general, Berthier, took the Pope into exile. The Papal power lost its temporal power in 1798.
  - C. The papal leader, the pope, claims to be God on earth. The Great Encyclical Letter of Pope Leo XIII, p. 304
  - D. The papal power became a great persecuting power. "The church has persecuted. Only a tyro (novice) in church history will deny that... We have always defended the persecution of the Huguenots and the Spanish Inquisitions... When she thinks it good to use physical force, she will use it." The Western Watchman, Dec. 24, 1909
  - E. The papal leader, the pope, admits the horrible acts that the Catholic Church did in the past. "Act of Contrition In the jubilee year and the season of the Lent, Pope John Paul II confront the Crusades, the Inquisition the Holocaust,

and the other horrors in seeking to express regret for sins committed by Catholics in the past 2,000 years.” Time Magazine p. 23

- F. “The pope has power to change times, to abrogate laws, and to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ.” Decretal De Translat, Episcop, Cap.
  - G. “The Church, after changing the day of rest from the Jewish Sabbath of the seventh day of the week, made the third Commandment refer to Sunday as the day to be kept as the Lord’s Day.” The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 4, p. 153
  - H. Napoleon’s general, Berthier, broke the Roman Church’s political power in the year 1798 A.D.
- V. God’s truth will prevail. His word and His law never changes. His kingdom will be everlasting.
- A. “But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom...” Daniel 7:27
  - B. The Kingdom of Jesus will one day be sent up and all previous kingdoms will pass away. Daniel 7:13,14
  - C. You are invited to join God’s kingdom. The kingdom that is the real deal based on the truth as it is in Jesus. “...Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” Matthew 25:34