

What Does the Bible Say About the “Antichrist”?

Daniel 7:7–8 *After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, [representing the fourth kingdom, right before the kingdom of God] terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong.... it had ten horns. 8 ... and there came up among them another horn [king], a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. [he defeats three other kings] And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.... 11 “I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast [the kingdom, including the king] was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire.... 19 “Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast ... and [about] the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. 21 As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. 23 “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. 25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. 26 But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. 27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his [the Son of man from earlier in Daniel 7] kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’*

Daniel 8:9-14 [After the death of Alexander the Great and the division of the Greek empire] 9 *Out of [one of the divisions of the Greek empire] came a little horn, [a king, Antiochus IV, 175-164 BC] which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. [the land of Israel] 10 It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. [When Antiochus attacked God’s people in Jerusalem, he was assaulting heaven itself] 11 It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. [It looked like Antiochus was even greater than God, because he was overcoming God’s people and God’s place] And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. [Antiochus overtook the temple and stopped the regular Jewish worship] 12 And a host will be given over to it together with the regular burnt offering because of transgression, and it will throw truth to the ground, and it will act and prosper. [Antiochus seemed victorious against God’s people and God’s worship, and also outlawed the word of God] 13 Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to the one who spoke, “For how long is the vision concerning the regular burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be trampled underfoot?” [Antiochus desecrated the temple with pagan sacrifices and dedicated it to Zeus] 14 And he said to me, “For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state.” [the temple was rededicated in 164 BC]*

Daniel 8:23–25 *A king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise. 24 His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints. 25 By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand. [Antiochus died without outside intervention in 164 BC]*

Is Antiochus IV the same person as the terrifying politician in the 4th kingdom in Daniel 7?
Probably not,

- Because they're not in the same kingdom.
- Because Jesus and the kingdom of God did not come in conjunction with the fall of Antiochus IV.

On a timeline, the little horn of chapter 8 (Antiochus IV, 160s BC) apparently comes before the little horn of chapter 7 (who is overthrown by the coming of Jesus and kingdom of God).

If the terrifying politician of Daniel 8 is not history's final terrifying politician (Daniel 7), then why did God spend so much time telling us about him?

1. Because 370 years after Daniel the Jewish people would have to face him in their most horrific persecution yet.
2. Because Antiochus IV is the closest thing history has ever seen to what the terrifying final 4th kingdom ruler will be like.
3. Because God's people will often live under rulers who fit a similar profile.

Daniel 9:26-27 *And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one [probably Jesus] shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. 27 And he [the prince who is to come] shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week [maybe 3.5 years, like the time, times, and half a time of Daniel 7] he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.” [this sounds a lot like the abominations of Antiochus IV, but in this context (“after sixty-two weeks”) it seems to be talking about a ruler who comes many years after Antiochus IV and does similar things in the Jerusalem temple]*

Daniel 11:28-33 *his [Antiochus IV's] heart shall be set against the holy covenant.... 30 [he] shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant. He shall turn back and pay attention to those who forsake the holy covenant. 31 Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. 32 He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. 33 And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall stumble by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder.*

Daniel 11:36-45 *And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. 37 He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all. 38 He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price. 40 "At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. 41 He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall... 44 But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction. 45 And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.*

Matthew 24:15-28 *So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ... false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect... [but then Jesus could come -] 27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-10 *Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ ... 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. ... 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*

1 John 2:18-23 *Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.... 22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.*

1 John 4:2-3 *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.*

Revelation 6:2 *And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.*

Revelation 11:7 *And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them.*

Revelation 13:1–8 *And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. 2 And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon [Satan] gave his power and his throne and great authority. 3 One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. 4 And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?" 5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. [time, times, and half a time?] 6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. 7 Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.*

Revelation 16:13–14 *And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. 14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.*

Revelation 17:3, 7-17 *And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman ["Babylon the Great" (16:19), possibly representing the final antigod world government] sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.... 7 But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come....12 And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings ... they hand over their power and authority to the beast. 14 They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." 15 And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. 16 And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, 17 for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.*

Revelation 19:11–20 *Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war....17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.*

Conclusion

Revelation 11:15 *Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."*

Revelation 12:10 *And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come"*

Revelation 13:1 *And I saw a beast rising out of the sea...*

Brian R. Hand, [The Worthy Champion: A Christology of the Book of Revelation Based on Elements of Its Literary Composition](#) and [The Climax of Biblical Prophecy: A Guide to Interpreting Revelation](#).

Revelation 13:10 *Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.*