

THE ANTICHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (Part #1)

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We are living in times of unprecedented social and moral chaos. It is a time of turbulence, the likes of which has never been seen before. There are crisis situations taking place all over the world that we would never imagine 25 years ago. For example, who could have imagined that you would have to be afraid to fly, fearing someone might blow up your airplane? Who could have imagined a time, when if a little child is murdered, the first place you look is to the parents? All of this is setting the stage for a unique man to surface who can calm things down and bring some sense to this troubled world, especially the Middle East world.

Imagine what it would be like if a man surfaced right now who could bring harmony between the Arabs and Israelis, and the Americans and the Iraqis. Imagine what it would be like if a man could rise to power who could seemingly end all terrorists' threats all over the world. I believe there is such a man who is presently alive and immediately following the Rapture of the church, the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit will cease, and this unique man will be revealed (II Thess.2:6-8). **He is known as the coming Antichrist.**

There is a great deal of information given in Scripture about him- in the Old Testament, in the New Testament and of course in the book of Revelation. This study is designed to track information about him in the O.T.. The Old Testament is filled with tremendous, inspired detail about the Antichrist. In fact, with the exception of Revelation 13, there is much more information about him in the O.T. than there is in the N.T. and for good logical reason.

Although the Satanic spirit of the Antichrist is operative during the Church Age, the Antichrist does not surface until after the Church Age is over and God's program once again swings back to Israel. When that happens, the Antichrist will make his primary target- the nation Israel. Since the O.T. gives great detail about God's program for Israel, it stands to reason that much data concerning this diabolical agent would show up in the O.T..

There are six O.T. passages we want to examine that give us at least 52 specific facts about the Antichrist.

ANTICHRIST OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE #1- Genesis 3:15

Just as God has His one special seed, so does Satan. **The Antichrist will be the seed of Satan.** Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer (Vol.2, pp.94-98) said if you start in Genesis and track Satan, there are four milestones in the progress of his plan: **1)** He wanted to be like the most High God after he had been created (Is.14:14); **2)** He tempted Eve in Eden to become like God (Gen.3:5); **3)** He tempted Christ to worship him but could not claim to be deity for Christ was deity (Mt.4:9); **4)** He will produce his masterpiece- the Antichrist- who will say he is God. Satan has always had his own ministers (II Corinthians 11:14-15), but the Antichrist will be his ultimate production. This is Satan's own special seed.

ANTICHRIST OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE #2- Isaiah 14:16-20

The prophecies in Isaiah 14 have to do with the king of Babylon(Is.14:4,22). However, because of the unique language, the prophecies look beyond just him to Satan himself and ultimately his masterpiece, the Antichrist. As Dr. Walvoord observed, this kind of wording and form of revelation, that refers to an immediate and remote application, is often found in prophetic Scriptures(*Prophecy Knowledge Handbook*, p.100). From this text, there are five facts brought out about Satan and the Antichrist:

Fact #1- He will make the earth tremble. 14:16a

The word “tremble”(zgr) means to agitate, excite and enrage the entire world(B.D.B., p.919). This one who surfaces as a peace-maker will actually be world agitator.

Fact #2- He will make world kingdoms shake. 14:16b

The word “shake”(Vur) refers to a literal trembling or quivering(B.D.B.,p.950). People all over the world will be so afraid of him they will literally shake in fear of him.

Fact #3- He will conquer the whole world, overthrow cities and take many prisoners. 14:17

He will kill so many people that populated areas will become like a wilderness. Every now and then Satan produces a power crazed madman who wants to rule the world and will slaughter people to do it. Men like Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin or Saddam Hussein. But this man will geographically accomplish this goal. This man **will** rule the whole world and every one in the whole world will be deathly afraid of him. He will be a ruthless dictator, who not only controls his own little corner of the world, but he will control the whole world.

Fact #4- He will ruin his own originating country and kill his own national people. 14:20

There have always been traitors in history who turned against their own country. For example, 10 years into his reign, Nero burned out his own people in Rome, while playing a harp and singing a song about destruction. To divert suspicion away from himself, he accused Christians and started killing them. In all reality, Nero was the traitor against his own people. However, even Nero does not compare to the Antichrist. The Antichrist will be a real person with a real nationality. His own nation will initially love him, probably elect him and give allegiance to him, but he will eventually turn against his own national people and kill them. He will not try to divert suspicion away from him, in fact he will take full credit for doing this.

Fact #5- He will not be buried like a normal person but be cast into hell. 14:18-19,15

This truth is seen over and over again in the Bible. The Antichrist will be cast alive into hell and not go the normal death body route of funeral and burial(Rev.19:20; 20:10).

ANTICHRIST OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE #3- Daniel 7:7-11, 19-26

There is no question that the book in the O.T. that gives us the most detail about the Antichrist is Daniel. He is a key feature of Daniel 7,8,9 and 11. In Daniel 7, there are at least 23 facts brought out about the Antichrist. Some facts in these four chapters seem redundant, but in all reality they are facts God keeps repeating because He wants the data clearly known.

Fact #1- He is a dreadful, terrifying, extremely strong beast. Dan.7:7a

According to Brown, Driver and Briggs, the noun “beast” is used to describe a living, wild, unclean, relatively young, strong beast who is evil and viciously destroys even other beasts(Hebrew Lexicon, p.312). This is a fitting noun for him, because this is exactly who he is and exactly what he does. He will be relatively young as opposed to old and will quickly destroy those around him.

Fact #2- He is a beast who had iron teeth. Dan.7:7d

This does not just describe how he rules- with iron fist, but what he does- he chews people up with iron teeth.

Fact #3- He is a beast who devours, crushes and tramples with his feet. Dan.7:7c

What is described in these first facts is a vicious beast who will tear people to shreds and crush them.

Fact #4- He is a beast different from all others who have ever existed. Dan.7:7d

In fact, he is so different that the entire world will acknowledge that none have ever been like him(Rev.13:4). This is staggering to think about when one considers some of the terrible beasts who have ruled in history. When Edward Gibbon wrote his famous book “Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire”, he used various adjectives to describe the beastly emperors who ruled- **furious Caligula, cruel Nero, beastly Vitellius, inhuman Domitian**. In fact, Gibbons called them “**monsters**.”(One Volume Abridgement, p.3) When you think of them and others such as Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin and then consider this one will be worse than all of these combined, we must admit this will be the most evil and scary man ever to exist in this world.

Fact #5- He is a beast who has ten horns. Dan.7:7e/23-24

When the Roman Empire dissolved, it was not replaced by any succeeding power, but just merged into various geographical locations(see maps). According to Daniel 2:43-45, there will be ten political powers who are also ten toes who stand side by side as a united force. This Antichrist will unite ten European powers and ultimately he will have total control of them.

Fact #6- He will initially surface as one of the ten kings. Dan.7:8a

This is a critical key to spotting him. He will be one of the ten world leaders who unite together. When he first surfaces, he appears to be one of the ten, but he is not just one of the ten, he will end up the leader of the world. When Michael Jordon first joined the Chicago Bulls, he initially appeared to be just another player, but it didn't take long until he stood out way above all the others. So it will be with the Antichrist as a leader.

The Roman Empire, at its zenith of power in the first century A.D. included, generally speaking, what is now England. Spain was in the Empire; West Germany was in it, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, France, Italy, Belgium, Holland.

On April 4, 1949, NATO was established and this was a major eschatological moment because the Roman Empire was starting to regroup. NATO originally featured twelve nations(Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States). In 1952 Greece and Turkey were added. In 1955 the Republic of Germany was added. In 1982, Spain was added. So by 1982, all of the players are in place to revive the Roman Empire and produce this world leader. Then, in 1989, the Berlin Wall fell and Germany was reunified and a new European economy emerged and a common currency called the Euro was introduced and right now is in the process of reuniting European nations. More than likely, ten of these nations will strongly unite together and the Antichrist will be one of the ten leaders.

Fact #7- He will initially surface as a dictator who took control of three nations. Dan.7:8b

This point is stressed three times in this chapter which means this is a critical key to his identity, he will surface by taking over three nations(Dan.7:8,20,24). His identity will be progressive in that he will surface within European developments.We do not know specifically which three nations he will control, but something fascinating happened in 1958, there was a rise of Arab nationalism in which ironically three countries united together to form an Arab federation, thus distancing themselves from NATO- Syria, Egypt and Iraq. Just recently there seems to be an alliance forming between Russia, Syria and Iran because of the Middle East tension. Sooner or later three major political players will unite behind one man. Since he starts small(v.8- "little one"), it could be 3 small countries- Austria, Hungary, Romania; or Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia.

Fact #8- He will possess the look of a normal man, but he is not a normal man. Dan.7:8c

He will be intelligent, charismatic, and persuasive. He will be a wonderful politician who can talk peace, prosperity and plenty. He will appear to be a tremendous humanitarian. However he is a vicious satanic ruthless monster.

Fact #9- He will boast about great things. Dan.7:8d

He will speak arrogantly even against God. He will take credit for things God does. He will make impressive claims, which are all arrogant lies.

Fact #10- He will be eventually judged and cast into the Lake of Fire, body and all. Dan.7:11

God wants all to know that He will destroy him Personally.

Fact #11- He is a different beast more dreadful and devouring than any other. Dan.7:19

There have been some dreadful, beastly humans who have lived in this world- Ted Bundy, Jeff Dahmer, John Gacy, David Berkowitz. The Antichrist will make them look like nice school boys who sing in a choir.

Fact #12- He will exist at the same time the other ten key nations exist. Dan.7:20a

This is a key point, the Roman Empire will be revived, and there will be ten European nations who will band together. It is interesting that one of the main purposes of NATO is military defense. Once the Antichrist gets his hands on power, he will use it as his own militia for his own purposes, to go to war with the whole world.

Fact #13- He will rise when three nations fall. Dan.7:20b

The specific nations are not stated, but they will be eventually- could be France/Germany/Italy or it could be Bulgaria/Greece/Turkey

Fact #14- He will look like a normal man. Dan.7:20c

Nothing about his look will initially give the impression he is the Antichrist. He will be a suit and tie man, not a Satanic worshipper dressed in a black robe.

Fact #15- He will make arrogant boasts. Dan.7:20d

He will exalt himself above every so called god or object of worship(II Thess.2:4). He will actually call himself “god.”

Fact #16- He will be larger than the other horns. 7:20e

No world leader has ever come close to the magnitude of this one. He starts as a “little” horn(7:8) and ends as the largest horn to have ever existed in world history. This tells us that when he surfaces, he is not initially one of the big political players. He will not initially have the political clout of a Tony Blair, or President Bush or Mr. Putin, Mr. Chirac or Mr. Gorbechev. Those are big name world players. The Antichrist will start small but will grow into the ultimate Satanic monster.

Fact #17- He will wage war with God's people and overpower them. Dan.7:21

During the first half of the Tribulation, after the Rapture, he will kill any believer who trusts Christ after the rapture(Rev.6:9) and during the second half of the Tribulation he will try to destroy every single Jew all over the world(Rev.12:17). Zechariah predicts that only 1/3rd of the Jews will survive(Zech.13:8-9).

Fact #18- He will devour the whole world. Dan.7:23

He will have unlimited geographical power and resources. Carefully observe in Dan.7:17, he is identified as a King. This is critical because he is a dictatorial king of the world, not an elected president who is interested in some form of democracy. What will exist in this world will not be a democracy in which the people rule or a Theocracy in which God rules, it will be a Satanic dictatorial monarchy in which the Antichrist rules the world.

Fact #19- He will arise by subduing three kings. Dan.7:24

We come back to this point again because God wants His people to realize that this will mark his initial rise to power. He starts out as a dictator over three countries and ends up a dictator of the whole world.

Fact #20- He will speak out against God. Dan.7:25

Fact #21- He will stamp out God's people. Dan.7:25b

Notice these reoccurring themes for emphasis. This is his goal- stamp out everything connected to God.

Fact #22- He will be the law of the world for 3 ½ years. Dan.7:25c

“Time” equals one; “times” equal two and half a time equals one-half for a total of 3 ½ years. For 1260 days, 42 months or 3 ½ years the Antichrist will have his power(Rev.12:6; 11:2; 13:5). He is the law. God is still sovereign and still time regulates this man.

Fact #23- God will judge him and destroy him. Dan.7:26

His power and his existence will all be brought down by God.

ANTICHRIST OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE #4- Daniel 8:23-25

From this chapter we glean 11 more facts:

Fact #1- He will be insolent. Dan.8:23b

Most people do not like fights, this one will love fights. He will be a fierce fighter who is a power crazed maniac. (i.e friend liked to fight another man; Antichrist fights the whole world)
Fact #2- He will be skilled in intrigue. Dan. 8:23c

He will have a very high I.Q.. During WWI psychological tests became important to try to determine the emotional stability of a soldier. In 1943, the MMPI(Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory) was developed and by the late 1980's 700 true/false questions were developed to try and measure I.Q.. Colleges use an SAT test with a maximum of 2400 points and the ACT test with a maximum of 36 points, to determine whether one has the scholastic aptitude to make it in college. **The Antichrist will have an I.Q. which is off the charts.** In fact, his number 666 is just shy of the Divine number for the Trinity 777. He will be the smartest man the world has ever seen. He will have a brilliant mind capable of solving difficult crisis problems, such as the Mid-East mess.

Fact #3- He will have unusual power, not his own. Dan.8:24a

He will be empowered directly by Satan himself(Rev.13:2; II Thess.2:9). Satan, himself, will actually take up residency in this evil man and possess him.

Fact #4- He will be unusually destructive. Dan.8:24b

He will destroy things and people at a very unusual level. We gasp at destructive people and destructive programs. When McVeigh blew up a Federal Building in Oklahoma and when Islamic radical fanatics flew Jet Airplanes into the Twin Towers in New York, we were devastated, we were numb. When I have seen Jewish survivors of the Holocaust share what they went through, many of us have cried. These same kinds of things will make the Antichrist happy. He Antichrist will glory in destruction. He will love it.

Fact #5- He will be very prosperous. Dan.8:24c

He will prosper with everything he has and in everything he does. No person on earth will be able to stop his prosperity.

Fact #6- He will destroy God's people. Dan.8:24d

The Scriptures teach us that if he were not time regulated by God, all of God's people would die by his hand(Mt.24:22). If you are God's property, you will not want to be on earth when this evil tyrant reigns.

Fact #7- He will be a skilled liar who can deceive the whole world. Dan.8:25a

He will be able to look cameras and people in the face and say he is a caring man who wants peace and safety and prosperity for all, when nothing could be further from the truth. When the Linburgh baby was kidnapped and killed back in 1932, before Richard Hauptman was convicted and executed in 1936, 200 people came forward and confessed they did it. Police said, they knew most of them were lying. The Antichrist will be such a skilled liar, that no one will have

any idea that he is lying. He will be able to pass any polygraph test in the world and the normal indicators of a rapid pulse or dilated pupils will not be detectable for this skilled liar.

Fact #8- He will elevate himself in his own heart. Dan.8:25b

People will not initially be able to see or detect this.

Fact #9- He will destroy many who think they are secure. Dan.8:25c

Many will believe this person is their friend, especially Israel, when in all reality he is their worst nightmare who will destroy them suddenly(I Thess.5:3).

Fact #10- He will oppose the Prince of Princes. Dan.8:25d

He will oppose Jesus Christ which gives him the fitting title “Anti Christ.” He is against Christ.

Fact #11- He will be destroyed but not by any human means. Dan.8:25e

God, Himself, in the Person of Jesus Christ will destroy him by casting him alive into the Lake of Fire(Rev.19:20-21). No normal human can bring down the Antichrist.

ANTICHRIST OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE #5- Daniel 9:27

There are two very important facts revealed here about the Antichrist:

Fact #1- He will make a covenant with Israel at the beginning of the seven year Tribulation, which sanctions her worship of God. Dan.9:27b
He pretends to have a caring interest for Israel, but it is all a big lie.

Fact #2- He will break the covenant with Israel in the middle of the seven year Tribulation and demand that he be worshipped. Dan.9:27c
He will put a stop to temple worship and sit in the Temple and commit a terrible abomination.

ANTICHRIST OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE #6- Daniel 11:36-45

From this passage we learn ten facts about the Antichrist:

Fact #1- He will do as he pleases all over the world. Dan.11:36
A. Concerning himself- no restraints
B. Concerning God- blaspheme the true God
C. Concerning prosperity- he will take all he wants and flourish

Fact #2- He will show no regard for any but himself. Dan.11:37
A. No regard for religious heritage- probably raised to respect religion
B. No regard for women- will kill Jewish pregnant women(Mt.24:19); possibly

he is a homosexual

C. He will magnify himself- he will deify self as God and demand to be worshipped.

Fact #3- He will worship war. Dan.11:38

The Antichrist will actually worship war. This is his “god”- he loves war, worships war. Other political leaders have gone to war, but this one worships it. It is said that Alexander the Great actually cried when there were no more worlds for him to conquer. The Antichrist will not run out of things to conquer, for he will wage war against more and more for that is his “god.”

Fact #4- He will go to war against the strongest of military powers. Dan. 11:39

He will not be intimidated by the United States or Russia or any military power. The bigger the better will be his philosophy. He will honor those who follow him and support him and redivide and restructure the whole world, giving them various parts of the world.

Fact #5- He will be attacked from a king of the south and the north. Dan.11:40

To the south of the promised land is Egypt and to the north is Syria. I do not believe that problems in Lebanon are any coincidence, the stage right now is being set for future hostilities that will play right into the hand of the Antichrist. More than likely these two Arab powers will move against Israel because the Antichrist entered a peace treaty with her. Arab fanatics will decide to try and take Israel.

Fact #6- He will ultimately move into the promised land of Israel. Dan.11:41

When the Antichrist learns of this movement, he will make Israel’s land his European base of operations. Some argue that the Antichrist must be Jewish to be able to move into the promised land and be accepted by the Jews. However, this is not true. Because he has entered into a peace agreement with Israel, she will probably welcome him into her land as a base of his operations. For example, Oskar Schindler has a memorial in Israel and is honored by the Jews for helping them. Last couple of weeks it has been eerie to see UN vehicles in the Middle East, trying to stop the problem between Israel and Lebanon.

Fact #7- He will go to war against other countries but will based in Israel. Dan.11:42

Although he starts in Europe, he will end in Israel and will meet his end there.

Fact #8- He will gain control over the treasuries of many Arab nations. Dan.11:43

Such countries as Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia. He will incite many Arab people against him, which will further cement his relationship with Israelies. Israel will be duped into believing that the Antichrist is her friend, when in all reality he is out to destroy her.

Fact #9- He will learn of rumors of major powers moving against him. Dan.11:44

Probably powers from the east such as China or India and a major power from the north, perhaps Russia will turn him around and he will go back to Israel to prepare for a fight.

Fact #10- He will pitch his tents in Israel's sacred land places and eventually come to his end.
Dan.11:45

He will set himself up in Jerusalem in the Temple and demand to be worshipped as God., but ultimately he will be executed by God.

Now one logical question we must ask is why would God allow this power crazed, satanic mad man to even exist? The answer to this question is found in Ezekiel 39:21-29. God has decreed that He will permit horrific things to happen to His own people because of her iniquity and specifically for acting treacherously against Him when they killed His own Son, Israel's Messiah and King. The Antichrist fulfills a role in that he is part of filling up the indignation and anger of God against His own nation, Israel.

See if you reject Jesus Christ you eventually become the recipient of the wrath of God. God permitted His son to come to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of Israel and for the sins of us. He who knew no sin became sin for us. He took on the form of a human body. He went to the cross and He took our sin and He bore God's wrath against our sin. If you reject Jesus Christ you will receive the wrath of God and this is precisely why the Antichrist is permitted his existence.

If you enjoy freedom, you will not want to be on earth when the Antichrist reigns. There is a way of escape. Those who believe on Jesus Christ never have to worry about even seeing the Antichrist or the wrath of God. Those who believe on Jesus Christ are the freest, most secure people in the world.