

The
ANTICHRIST

*All-powerful, Worse Than
Any Expect—and Close!*

by David C. Pack

Herbert W. Armstrong led the Worldwide Church of God (formerly The Radio Church of God until 1968) until his death in 1986. Hundreds of millions heard his voice and read his literature. God called him in the fall of 1926 and he was converted in the spring of 1927. Over the course of Mr. Armstrong's ministry, God revealed through him a great many true biblical doctrines, which had been lost to the Church through the centuries. After his death, his successors ceased to believe and teach these doctrines. Although copyright law prohibits The Restored Church of God from reproducing and distributing literature produced while he led the Worldwide Church of God, we are committed to the preservation and teaching of all of these truths!

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The Bible teaches that an Antichrist will appear just before the Return of Christ. Evangelical Christians most often speak of “the Antichrist is coming!” They see this figure as affecting “the masses who do not know what to look for” and who are spiritually “not ready for the rapture.” Such people themselves have absolutely no idea what to look for, and if they did, the Bible teaches nothing about a rapture.

Prophecy watchers and so-called experts *butcher* the truth about the coming Antichrist. Most reduce this prophecy and badly skew it. Others dismiss it entirely and still others declare it already fulfilled. This horrific deceiver is *not* a past figure, such as Nero, Saladin, Saddam Hussein, Hitler, or Putin or any other current world leader. On top of this, so-called Bible authorities speak with competing, disagreeing voices, and add to the confusion. The ignorance of these voices—ALL of them—is painful to hear. They have no idea what they are talking about.

Most Bible readers remain in near complete ignorance of the *speed*, *sequence* and *seriousness*—as well as the AWESOME MAGNITUDE!—of certain oncoming prophecies. And this is *on top* of not truly comprehending what any of them actually MEANS! So many just cannot untangle the maze of *what* happens *when*, and *why*, as well as *where* and *to whom*.

This could not be more true than on the subject of the Antichrist.

No booklet could be more important than this one. Read it all! A monstrous Antichrist is coming. His power and stature are *infinitely beyond* anything you have been told. This will be no Hollywood actor in a hooded robe with fangs—one popular image of him—but rather an unstoppable TITANIC figure of awesome worldwide power and authority that not *one person* you know is remotely prepared for. You must understand what God in His Word says is coming!—and how to know his arrival is close!

Literally terrifying understanding follows.

No One Is Prepared

We live in an age of terrorism. Attackers emerge from deep cover and strike without notice. No one sees them coming, but the bloody aftermath of their work is visible to all. One moment life is normal, but when a terrorist strikes, things are suddenly changed forever.

Such will be the case with the Antichrist—but on a WORLDWIDE scale—with billions of “survivors” who must endure his reign. Think of his coming as the greatest and longest terror attack in history—with every man, woman and child on Earth in his crosshairs.

World troubles—now including the real prospect of nuclear war—beg for a savior to come and “fix” mankind’s problems. But the Bible clearly teaches that a powerful Antichrist will arise to actually rule the world just before Jesus Christ returns. Unknown to almost all, he is referenced time and again through Scripture by terms including: Man of Sin, Son of perdition, Little horn, Fierce king, Foolish (or *evil*) shepherd, Wolf, Adversary, Beast, Fourth beast, Seventh head, That Wicked one, “He that comes” and even woman in a jar. He is connected to the terms: the snare, the fire, desolation and the place of dragons. All these terms, and others left out, relate to the misunderstood figure most commonly known as the “Antichrist.”

Satan counterfeits every doctrine of the Bible. The Antichrist would be no exception. While generally understood to be a figure of evil and a vague threat to mankind, the Antichrist is seen by most to be largely focused *against the Jews*. Based on a complete misreading of Daniel 9:27, tens of millions believe this world-deceiver will make a seven-year covenant with the modern nation of Israel, before breaking it halfway through, thus introducing the Great Tribulation for the last three-and-a-half years of his reign. It is commonly believed that *at this point* this man will throw off his cloak and reveal his true colors. This belief is WRONG—ALL of it!—as is the belief that millions will escape through a fictional rapture.

The Antichrist’s arrival involves domination of the entire world, from day one! You will learn *how*.

In all of this, everyone is looking in all the wrong places. You must know what to look for—and to avoid. You must be able to understand the setting—and gravity—of what is coming. After you have read this booklet, you will have learned the most essential knowledge about this subject. Basic prophetic understanding reveals that the Antichrist is not only alive but his appearance is imminent.

Those who are even looking are largely expecting a kind of far away, low level “bad guy” that only the wicked must endure. Instead, think of the coming world shock as a soldier expecting a pygmy and suddenly encountering GOLIATH—or dressing for a brisk wind and experiencing a CATEGORY 5 HURRICANE that lasts for months. Theologians and religionists are expecting a

firecracker but will be rocked by a NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. This man will reach every friend, co-worker and relative you know—near and far. This monster will personally affect the life of every human being on the planet, with no world leader even remotely able to slow or resist him, let alone stop him.

Complete Worldwide Takeover

Three passages describe the awesome scope of this man’s world control and power. First is from Luke’s version of the well-known Olivet prophecy. It ends with a sober warning few consider: “Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [hungover from drinking], and drunkenness, and cares of this life...” (Luke 21:34). Sadly, this describes the masses today. Continuing: “...so *that day* come upon you unawares. For *as a snare* shall it [one day] come on *all* them that dwell on the face of the *whole earth*” (vs. 34-35).

Snares are violent, unexpected and often lethal. Jesus said a snare will drop on the whole Earth. So this is not a localized event in the Middle East or elsewhere.

Jesus added, “Watch you therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to ESCAPE *all these things* that shall come to pass...” (vs. 36). Not by rapture but by special supernatural protection *on Earth*. He warned: “Take heed that you be not deceived: for many shall come in My name, saying, I AM Christ, and the time draws near...” (vs. 8). The word *Christ* is not in the Greek. This pictures *deceivers* pointing to one claiming to be “I AM”—a name reserved only for God. Think. Would deceivers actively point followers to the true Christ? Of course not. This case will later be expanded in irrefutable detail.

Christ’s stark warning about these coming deceivers follows: “...*Go you not therefore after them!*” (vs. 8). Related to this, *when* the Antichrist will arrive must be addressed. Can we at least generally *know*? Do specific conditions precede his arrival? For now, understand the Antichrist’s coming is imminent! But you need not take my word for it. This will be proven later.

The second passage is Revelation 3:10. Christ calls the Antichrist’s arrival “...the hour of temptation, which shall come upon *all* the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.” “*All*” comes from *holos*, meaning “whole, complete or absolutely all” (all definitions are from *Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries*, unless otherwise noted). “*Temptation*” means “experience of evil.” No wonder the apostle Paul called this “the evil day” (Eph. 6:13).

The prophet Daniel was just as expansive—and much more chilling. In chapter 12, this day is shown to be *1,335 days* from the time Daniel is resurrected—when Christ enters Jerusalem. Those who faithfully “wait” for the 1,335 and “escape” (recall Luke) are called “*blessed*” (Dan. 12:12). Why becomes clear in Daniel 7. He there recorded a vision of the Antichrist—calling it the “little horn”—who just before Christ’s Return, “...made war with the saints, and prevailed against them” (vs. 21). Christ returns in verse 22. Next,

Daniel presents a fuller picture of this man’s devastating power and reach, saying he will “devour [the Hebrew means “eat”] the *whole earth*, and...tread it down [the Hebrew means “trample”], and break it in pieces [the Hebrew means “crush”]” (vs. 23).

Come to grips with the staggering level of power a human being must possess to eat, trample and crush the ENTIRE EARTH! The question is, who will believe this? Most will not—and the evil day will take them.

Antichrist Defined

The word *Antichrist* is found in four scriptures, all by the apostle John. The Greek *antichristos* means “an adversary” (*Thayer’s Greek Definitions*) or “opponent of the Messiah”—in other words, *against Christ*. Here is John’s reference to this man’s arrival in the last time: “...You have heard *that Antichrist shall come*, even now are there many antichrists...” (I John 2:18). Clearly there have been *multiple* antichrists—those who operate *against Christ*. But a single, all-powerful Antichrist—“*that Antichrist*”—is the subject.

The apostle Paul placed Christ’s Coming right after the Antichrist. In II Thessalonians 1:7 he described “...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels...” but then clarified that the Antichrist’s rise comes *first*. Chapter 2 opens with “Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day* [of Christ’s Return] shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition” (vs. 3). This “falling away” has already occurred—the subject of other material produced by The Restored Church of God. Our focus is the Man of Sin, the son of perdition—the ANTICHRIST!

John records, “...*sin* is the transgression of the *law*” (I John 3:4)—God’s Commandments—and “This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments...” (5:3). The Antichrist will bring and promote *lawlessness*—SIN. Paul continues, “Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he *as God* sits in the *temple of God*, showing himself [the Greek means “show off, exhibit or demonstrate”] that he is God” (II Thes. 2:4). How will become plain. Many passages make clear that true Christians are the “temple of God” (I Cor. 3:16; 6:19; II Cor. 6:16-17; Eph. 2:20-22 and I Pet. 2:5).

This Man of Sin will be “revealed in *his time*” (II Thes. 2:6), meaning he will rise from obscurity. His arrival involves “the mystery of iniquity [lawlessness]” (vs. 7) and that he “*comes up out of the midst*”—the correct translation of this phrase. “Out of the midst” becomes crucial. Continuing, “Then shall that Wicked be *revealed*, whom the Lord will consume with the spirit of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming” (vs. 8). Again—this man precedes Christ’s Return. How else could he be destroyed *when* Christ returns? (To learn more about Christ’s completely misunderstood coming to establish His tiny “mustard seed” Kingdom, read our booklet *How God’s Kingdom Will Come – The Untold Story!*)

“All power, signs and lying wonders...”

The Antichrist’s power exceeds anything the world has ever seen. His coming is “...after the working [meaning “efficiency or energy”] of Satan with ALL power and signs and lying wonders” (II Thes. 2:9). Think of Satan himself, through a human being, bringing the full extent of his false miracles, wiles, devices and depths to bear. This is the devil *completely unleashed* as no one has ever witnessed!

What kinds of things might this man do? I have cast out many demons and know their staggering power. Here is a partial list: call down fire, use terrifying visions—and voices—mass destruction, foretell events, violent possession, project their presence, levitate, powerful storms—Satan is prince of the power of the air—turn inanimate objects into living creatures (recall the Egyptian magicians copying Aaron’s rod becoming a snake and turning water to blood), horribly afflict God’s servants (think of Job), temptation, intimidating accusations, loud noises to engender fear, outright murder, lies, subtle deceptions of all kinds and *many* more things.

This is the reality of “ALL power, signs and lying wonders.” These will appear on a scale never before seen, and over a short period of time.

Next comes *who* is affected and *how*. The Antichrist brings “all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because *they received not the love of the truth* [defined as God’s Word in John 17:17], that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them *strong delusion* [actually strong *fraud*], that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned [meaning “judged”] who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (II Thes. 2:10-12). The judging primarily involves certain Christians who knew the truth but were seduced into sin. The thing most to be avoided through this trial is disbelief of truth—and sin, starting with rejecting outright blasphemy by the Antichrist, but also much more.

The world has believed that the “holy, just, good and spiritual” Law of God (Rom. 7:12, 14) was kept for mankind by Christ and then done away. This lie has been accepted by uncounted billions through the centuries. The 10 Commandments and many other laws are real and in force today. If one breaks them, they break him. If one keeps them, they keep him. The Man of Sin will break them all and lead many willing adherents to follow his example on an unprecedented scale.

What Paul Knew

The apostle Peter recorded one of the great keys to understanding Bible prophecy: “...no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (II Pet. 1:20-21).

How did Paul know this evil man was coming? The Old Testament—where these “holy men” recorded God’s inspired words—holds clues. Notice the parallels in this curious vision recorded by the prophet Zechariah: “Then the angel...said...Lift up now your eyes, and see what is this that goes forth. And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah [an eight-gallon jar] that goes forth. He said moreover, This is *their* resemblance [more than one person—actually three are being described] through *all the earth* [their reach is *worldwide*. More on this later.]...And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and [the angel continues] this is a woman that sits in the *midst* of the ephah” (5:5-7). Recall the Man of Sin rises “out of the *midst*.”

Continuing, “And he [the angel] said, This is *wickedness*...” (vs. 8). (Recall Paul called the Antichrist “that *Wicked*” in II Thessalonians 2:8.) The angel “...cast it into the *midst* of the ephah [again—note the parallel]; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth...” (Zech. 5:8). This figure sits hidden today within a symbolic jar—covered with a poisonous lead top. It says the Man of Sin is “revealed” (II Thes. 2:8)—literally meaning “to take off the cover” in the Greek (*apokalupto*), as one would the lid of a jar.

Zechariah brings two other figures into the picture: “Then lifted I up my eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out *two* [other] *women*, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. Then said I to the angel...Where do these bear the ephah?” (5:9-10). These two men of great evil flank the Antichrist. They are typed in II Timothy 3 by Jannes and Jambres—the sorcerers who withstood Moses under Pharaoh. In Zechariah 11:8, they—with the Antichrist—are collectively referred to as *three shepherds* who *abhor*—meaning in the Hebrew *loathe*—God, the Antichrist being the evil shepherd there. This evil shepherd wields “*instruments*” (vs. 15)—his extraordinary power. God declares in verse 8: “...and My soul loathed them.” “Loathe” actually means “reap.” God ultimately intends to cut down these men like wheat.

A point of clarification. The woman of Zechariah 5 is plainly interpreted in the New Testament to be a man—the *Man* of Sin. The stork women are therefore also men. Much more on the Antichrist’s chief agents will come later. Understanding their power and nature provides insight about the even more powerful man they serve. For now, suffice to say they are sorcerers who possess immense supernatural power, including the ability to cast spells.

Verse 11 of Zechariah 5 holds a big clue about the Antichrist’s intentions. Remember, verse 10 ended with “Where do these bear the ephah?” The answer: “...To build it an *house* in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established [meaning erected, built], and set there upon her own base” (vs. 11).

Shinar is a plain in *Babylon* on the Euphrates River that is a symbol for modern *Jerusalem* (Revelation 17 and 18 proves this). Construction of a false Temple—called a “house”—will commence in Jerusalem after the Man of Sin explodes onto the world scene there—literally descending from “between

the heaven and the earth”—a precise counterfeit of Christ coming in the clouds to Jerusalem. More about the Antichrist’s world headquarters later.

Habakkuk’s Vision of Horror

Hebrews 10 speaks of, “...he that shall come will come, and will not tarry” (vs. 37). Paul was quoting the prophet Habakkuk, who recorded one of the grimmest prophecies of the Bible—yet one virtually no one connects to the Antichrist. This short book is divided into three chapters, with the final one devoted to a prayer Habakkuk uttered after receiving a horrifying vision. The prayer begins: “O LORD, I have heard Your speech, and was *afraid...*” (3:2). What so frightened this servant of God? (You will see the prophet Daniel got sick and apparently fainted when he saw the same vision Habakkuk did.) Chapter *two* of Habakkuk shows this prophet received a mysterious vision that he was to “write” and “make...plain...that he may run that reads it” (vs. 2)! Remember, the Antichrist is *lawless* and against Christ. Keep this in mind as Habakkuk’s vision unfolds with what Paul quoted: “For the vision is yet for *an appointed time* [the Hebrew can also be “season”], but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though [he] tarry, wait for [him]; because [he] will surely come, [he] will not tarry” (Hab. 2:3). Remember, the Antichrist is revealed “*in his time*” (II Thes. 2:6)—do not miss the clear connection!

Continuing, “Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith” (vs. 4). Reliance on God is the only way to endure this terrible trial. Next comes, “Yes also, because he transgresses by wine, he is a proud man...” (vs. 5). Think of a devil-empowered arrogant drunk governing the world! He “...enlarges his desire as hell, *and is as death*, and cannot be satisfied, but gathers unto him *all nations*, and heaps unto him *all people*” (vs. 5).

The Antichrist’s reach cannot be underestimated. This man will literally seize complete control of every nation and their governments at every level. This includes the global economy, all military activity, all education, the media, Internet, communication, intelligence, all commerce, transportation, shipping, all legal systems, energy distribution, food production and every religion. This will be ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT with the worst possible leader, exponentially beyond today’s worst tyrant. Over seven billion people will not like it!

Note what Habakkuk adds next: “Shall not *all these* [nations and peoples] take up a parable *against* him, and a taunting proverb *against* him, and say, Woe to him that increases that which is not his! How long?” (vs. 6). This man loots the world—and all nations see this but are powerless to stop him.

The Antichrist’s “House”

Remember, the Antichrist’s chief henchmen will supernaturally transport him to Jerusalem “to build it an *house...*” (Zech. 5:11). The same verse ends,

“...and it *shall be established*, and set there upon her own *base*,” meaning “spot.” This house *will be built!*

After addressing a unique group who rises up suddenly to *bite, vex* and *spoil* this man, the description becomes even clearer: “Because you have spoiled *many nations*, all the remnant of the people shall spoil you; because of *men’s blood*, and for the *violence* of the land [or Earth], of the city, and of all that dwell therein. Woe to him that covets an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!” (Hab. 2:8-9). This man will live untouchable—“delivered from the power of evil”—ruling from his “nest on high”—on the Temple Mount! The temple’s construction is funded by plunder acquired through this man’s *evil covetousness*—his boundless greed that *cannot be satisfied*. Don’t miss the connection between birds and nests, noting that storks always build at the pinnacle of tall structures.

Why Zechariah’s specific reference to the Antichrist’s house being built on its “own base”—its own foundation? A massive foundation—for previous temples—already exists. Daniel 8 says the Antichrist will “cast down” the “place” of God’s “sanctuary” (vs. 11). God’s physical sanctuary existed *on the Temple Mount*. Daniel could therefore be speaking of only one “place.” Christ removes all doubt, adding crucial chilling details.

What is commonly called the Olivet prophecy of Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 starts similarly in all three cases. Notice the connection.

Matthew 24:1-3: “Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and His disciples came to Him for to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See you not all these things? Verily I say unto you, *There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down*. And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be?...”

Mark 13:1-4: “As He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said unto Him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! And Jesus answering said unto him, See you these great buildings? *There shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down*. And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked Him privately, Tell us, when shall these things be?...”

Luke 21:5-7: “As some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with *goodly stones* and gifts, He said, As for these things which you behold, the days will come, in the which *there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down*. And they asked Him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be?...”

Why this repeated emphasis on *every stone* being thrown down—paralleling Daniel’s report that the Temple Mount would be “cast down”? To make room for this house, everything on Jerusalem’s Temple Mount will be demolished—fulfilling Christ’s emphatic prophecy. Despite the destruction in AD 69-70, this hasn’t *yet happened*. Many thousands of stones still sit “one upon

another” in the four walls of the foundation and on the plaza itself. Added to this, “thrown down” actually means “*disintegrated*.” One of these stones, called “The Master Course,” weighs an estimated 570 tons (1,140,000 pounds). I have seen it in Israel. It is 41 feet long, 15 feet deep, and 11.5 feet high. Consider the power required to “throw down”—never mind *disintegrate!*—a stone of this proportion.

This and every stone will be cleared, no doubt by Satan’s power, to make way for the Antichrist’s world headquarters built with stolen funds.

How long will this “house” take to complete? Without Satan’s extraordinary power at the storks’ disposal, demolition and excavation alone would take months—even years. And a temple fit for “god on earth” would certainly take years to construct. But Scripture reveals all of this must happen *extremely fast*. Many passages reveal the Antichrist’s reign is *short*—incredibly intense, but brief—meaning demolition and construction will be on a supernatural timeline. Recall he is sometimes referred to as the “seventh head.” This is because he leads the *seventh resurrection* of the Holy Roman Empire.

Notice Revelation 17:10: “There are *seven kings* [leading seven sequential revivals]: five are fallen [led by Justinian, Charlemagne, Otto the Great, Charles V, Napoleon], and one is [culminating with Hitler—this verse was first understood in the time of the *sixth* head], and the other [the Antichrist!] *is not yet come*; and when he comes [this is who Paul called “he that *comes*”—Heb. 10:37; II Cor. 11:4], he must continue a *short space*.” His reign is *short*—so temple construction is even shorter. All indications point to its completion at the 1,290 mark Daniel spoke of—meaning 45 days after the Antichrist’s 1,335 arrival.

Spell-casting Sorcerers

Of course the Antichrist does not operate alone. The devil-empowered religious hierarchy beneath him forms a veritable army, with the two chief cohorts at the top. Recall that Paul said the Antichrist is revealed “in his *time*” (II Thes. 2:6) and that the word for *time* is *kairos*—meaning “an occasion, that is, *set* or *proper* time.” The Man of Sin appears at a *specific* time—his time. The word *kairos* will now grow in importance.

Now an extraordinary series of verses no one reads as God intended, building to knowledge of staggering importance that should make you sit bolt upright with hair on end. It *opens* with a warning: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times [*kairos* plural] shall come” (II Tim. 3:1). Perilous means “difficult, dangerous, or *furious*”—and “reduce in strength.”

Continuing, “Men shall be lovers of their own selves [the Greek means *selfish*, so true today], covetous [so many now live to accumulate more], boasters, proud, blasphemers...” (vs. 2).

Sinful, degenerate, decadent conduct now exists everywhere. Yet it will grow much worse when the Man of Sin arises. Paul continues, “...disobedi-

ent to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection...false accusers... fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” (vs. 2-3).

Now verse 5: “Having a form [or appearance] of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

Paul quickly narrows the focus to leaders with a series of statements no one ever understood how or when to apply. Pay careful attention. Remember. Paul is not speaking generally—of bad leaders in every generation—but of the last days. Now, “For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins [ask: who has ever seen such a specific scenario occur? And], led away with [various] lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth [this describes thousands today!]. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses [these were two sorcerer/magicians who practiced under Pharaoh, making three men], so do these also resist the truth [a parallel coming three-man attack in the last days—stay with this!]: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith” (vs. 6-8).

Now another strange statement no one ever thinks about: “But they shall *proceed no further* [eventually this first duo is stopped, in fact, executed by Christ with *swift destruction* (II Pet. 2:1)—this is the swift witness of Malachi 3:5]: for their folly shall be manifest [made obvious] to all men, as theirs [Jannes and Jambres] also was” (vs. 9). Pharaoh and his two magicians were killed by God. Let this sink in. The ancient alliance of three evil men—Jannes, Jambres and Pharaoh—plainly types the Man of Sin and two others.

Pharaoh sought control over God’s people and to prevent their leaving Egypt. Jannes and Jambres helped Pharaoh by working false miracles at his bidding. Read II Timothy 3:13, with the last days still the setting: “Evil men and seducers shall wax [grow] worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”

This is a largely overlooked passage. The sobering discussion that follows is not pretty. It says EVIL men! Accept exactly what God said. Don’t alter it. The Greek meaning should hit like a sledgehammer: “*Hurtful...calamitous... degenerate...derelict, vicious...malicious...wicked... grievous...of the devil.*”

But God also—and this is crucial—calls these men “seducers.” The Greek here should strike like a lightning bolt. It means “wizards—those able to mutter or cast a spell.” God selected this word! He expects people to see this! It also means “*imposter.*” First, Jannes and Jambres were primarily sorcerers—magicians—they were wizards! Wizards cast spells. Ponder. God through Paul speaks first of ancient Egyptian sorcerers, and then of coming wizards. Why? Because that’s what He wants understood.

GET this, and then believe it!

“Resemblance through all the earth”

Again, Jannes and Jambres functioning beneath the Antichrist form the three “women” of Zechariah 5, whose “resemblance [is] through all the earth” (vs.

6). “*Resemblance*” is translated from a word meaning “*eye*” or “*fountain*.” Something related to *visibility* is being described. These deceivers have the ability to manifest themselves to those the devil is attempting to win over in “the temple of God.” These projections into the lives of God’s people who must prove themselves faithful will provide opportunity for the Antichrist to *personally* “show” (II Thes. 2:4) [recall *show off, exhibit, demonstrate*] that he is God.

Some “believe the lie” (II Thes. 2:11) and collapse. Others repeatedly turn to God under the almost unbearable pressure. A parable at the beginning of Luke 18 pictures this time. Before reading through the passage, note that it ends with a question: “...when *the Son of Man comes*, shall He find faith on the earth?” (vs. 8). The Antichrist is destroyed at the precise moment of Christ’s Coming. Keep this context in mind as we read from verse 1: “He spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.” The trial ahead can only be endured by reliance on God. Continuing, “There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: and there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, *Avenge me of my adversary*” (vs. 2-3)—one of the Antichrist’s many names.

This pictures Christians praying to God, the judge who fears nothing. Verses 4-5 show God allows the trial to continue—else there would be no test: “And he would not [avenge her] for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; yet because this widow troubles me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.”

Though a parable (God cannot be worn out), the plain message is that what is coming is so horrible it will require a seemingly *excessive* level of reliance on God. The parable ends: “The Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall not God *avenge* His own elect, which *cry day and night* unto Him, though He bear long with them?” (vs. 6-7). The intensity of this trial cannot be underestimated—but God will cut it short: “I tell you that He will avenge them *speedily*...” (vs. 8). Malachi 3:1 says, “...the Lord, whom you seek, shall *suddenly* come to His temple...” This “speedy, sudden” vengeance comes when Christ “destroys” the Antichrist “with the brightness [manifestation] of His coming” (II Thes. 2:8).

A Satanic Hierarchy

The Antichrist, Jannes and Jambres have at their disposal a large number of enforcers. A long terrifying passage from the start of Habakkuk requires little commentary. It sets up the Antichrist in chapter 2:

“The burden [or *doom*] which Habakkuk the prophet did see. O LORD, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear! Even cry out unto You of violence, and You will not save! Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? For spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention. Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment does never go

forth: for the wicked does compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceeds...For, lo, I [God] raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces that are not theirs. They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves. Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle that hastes to eat. They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity [of all nations and peoples] as the sand. And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every stronghold [or fortress]; for they shall heap dust, and take it” (1:1-4, 6-10).

Origin and Downfall

Daniel calls the Antichrist “a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, the east, and the pleasant land” (8:9). This is Judea—corroborating the Zechariah 5 “Shinar” reference. Traveling southeast to Jerusalem, this man obviously comes from the northwest, making his origin easy to know. Get a map. “And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven [God’s people]; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them” (vs. 10). Multiple Bible passages reveal that stars are *angels*. Some of these are apparently swallowed in this.

Verse 11 shows he sets himself up as God: “Yes, *he magnified himself even to the Prince of the host [Christ]...*” This closely parallels II Thessalonians 2.

The archangel Gabriel explains the incredible vision to Daniel: “In the latter time of their kingdom [the four beasts introduced in chapter 7], when the transgressors [revolters] are come to the full, a king of *fierce countenance*, and *understanding dark sentences*, shall stand up. And *his power shall be mighty*, but not by his own power [his source is Satan]: and he shall destroy [greatly], and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty [of the world] and the holy people [certain Christians]. And through his *policy* [intelligence] also he shall cause *craft* [*fraud*] to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of Princes; but he shall be broken [literally *burst*] without hand [by God not men]” (8:23-25).

This is a man who is personally and supernaturally executed by Jesus Christ—the Prince of Princes. It should now be clear why Paul wrote, “...the Lord shall consume [him] with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy [burst him] with the [manifestation] of His coming” (II Thes. 2:8). Daniel 7:11 says this man is *slain* and his body *destroyed* and burned.

Remember, Daniel received this in *vision*. He saw, in horrific detail, what would come to pass and recorded it for our time. His reaction to things now just ahead? “I Daniel fainted, and was *sick certain days...and I was astonished*

at the vision, but none understood it” (8:27). This suggests the great servant Daniel threw up and fainted at what you will soon see.

No one then understood because Daniel’s book was “sealed till the time of the end” (12:9)—our time now. You are learning what Daniel never understood.

Christ Warns

After foretelling the destruction of everything on the Temple Mount in Mark 13, Christ’s disciples asked, “What shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled? And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: for many shall come in My name, saying, I am *Christ*; and shall deceive many” (vs. 4-5).

On the surface this appears to mirror Matthew. It DOESN’T! A long-overlooked difference changes the entire meaning. In Mark’s account, “Christ” is in italics—meaning it’s *not in the Greek*. Mark should read: “...Take heed lest any man deceive you: for many shall come in My name, saying, I AM; and shall deceive many” (13:5-6). Get your Bible. Read this for yourself. The word Christ is not there. The translators put it on Jesus’ lips, believing He must have meant to include it, probably because Matthew did. But Jesus intentionally omitted it! He is God. He knew *exactly* what He wanted to say. He understood the enormous difference between saying, “I am Christ” and “I AM.” Strike the word Christ from this passage.

Rather than saying deceivers invoke Christ’s authority while acknowledging Christ is Christ, Mark’s account is a picture of imposters also claiming His authority but directing people to one they declare to be I AM! Recall Luke goes further: “[Jesus] said, Take heed that you be not *deceived*: for many shall come in My name, saying, I AM; and, The time draws near: go you not therefore after them” (21:8). Christ is again italicized. Again cross it out. *It’s not there!* Christ’s warning? “Go you not therefore after them.” The thousands who do will endure the horrors of prophecy—and loss of salvation.

There is not space in one booklet to show that all true Christians who follow these men lose their salvation. The Bible is most specific about this. But it should be obvious just on its face that one cannot switch allegiance from the true Christ to follow a blasphemous, sorcerer, false Christ and be saved.

Let’s summarize what was no accident. Matthew focuses on the *first* perilous time, Mark and Luke the second. Think from the apostles’ perspective. They *knew* Exodus 3: “Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers has sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is His name? What shall I say to them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, Thus shall you say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shall you say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham...Isaac, and...Jacob, has sent

Disagreeing Descriptions

Some have believed the Prince of Tyre, the False Prophet and Man of Sin are the same man. There are parallels between their descriptions, but even brief inquiry reveals the facts.

Just before referencing the *King* of Tyre (the devil), the prophet Ezekiel described the also-blasphemous *Prince* of Tyre: “Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyre, Thus says the LORD God; because your heart is lifted up, and you have said, I am a God [this man is obviously Satan-possessed], I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet you are a man, and not God, though you set your heart as the heart of God” (28:2). Here’s how this man dies: “...I [God] will bring *strangers* upon you, the *terrible of the nations*: [other passages show this to be a powerful Gentile alliance] and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, and they shall defile your brightness. They shall bring you down to the pit...Will you yet say before him that slays you, I am God? But you shall be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slays you. You shall die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the *hand of strangers*: for I have spoken it...” (vs. 7-10). This is a man executed by “swords” at “the hand of strangers”—called the “terrible of the nations.”

Now the death of the False Prophet in Revelation 19: “The beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were *cast alive into a lake of fire* burning with brimstone” (vs. 20). Keep this simple. Death with weapons by Gentiles cannot equate with burned alive. To be the same men, they must die in the same manner.

Now the Man of Sin. How does he die? Paul, in II Thessalonians 2, wrote this: “that man of sin...the son of perdition...that Wicked [or “lawless one”]...whom *the Lord shall consume* with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness [or manifestation] of His coming” (vs. 3, 8). This man is personally executed by Christ. That’s what it says! One man cannot die in three ways, never mind *very* different ones. Surely God left these clues for when they would be needed.

me unto you: this is My name forever, and this is My memorial unto all generations” (vs. 13-15). Remember. It was Jesus Christ telling Moses His name—that it is I AM.

Before His crucifixion, Jesus asked those who came to take Him, “... Whom seek you? They answered...Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus said unto them, I AM...” (John 18:4-5). These words struck fear into His listeners: “As soon...as He had said...I AM, they went backward, and fell to the ground” (vs. 6). Also read John 8 verses 28 and 58.

Get this. The coming deceivers will endorse a human being claiming to be I AM—the one who “as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he IS God” (II Thes. 2:4)—that He is I AM! This would make such a

man the greatest single imposter of all time. The other two wizard/sorcerers would rank with him.

Arrival Imminent!

The biggest remaining question is *how close* is the Antichrist? *When* will he arrive? Does the Bible offer one or more specific metrics to watch that signal his rise is near? It does.

Return to Luke and notice what immediately *precedes* this period of deception! In the very next verse, Jesus says, “But when you shall hear of *wars* and *commotions*, be not *terrified* [Mark adds “troubled”]: for *these things must FIRST* come to pass...” (21:9). Matthew 24 and Mark 13 add “*rumors of wars*” to the list. The wise person is watching for *wars*, *rumors of them* and *commotions* (meaning “*instability or disorder*”)! These have been steadily worsening—but have recently grown much more serious.

Wars, rumors, instability and disorder now dominate the headlines every day! There are *more* problems, coming *more* often and that are increasingly bigger and *more* intense, *more* complicated and *more* insoluble. This is why Christ told His followers not to be frightened. People will soon be terrified and troubled in great numbers—and in a growing number of places already are. Fear will become much more widespread.

Now think of today’s escalating scandals, protests, division on an unprecedented scale, the rise of populism and collapse of the old political order, Brexit, immigration crises, the fake news phenomenon, leaks of all kinds, surveillance and alleged surveillance, crises in Sudan, North Korea, Iran, Venezuela, Turkey, Russia, China, Egypt, Afghanistan, Iraq and Ukraine, terror spread by ISIS, Al-Qaeda and lone wolf attackers hitting the U.S. and many European nations like France, Belgium, Germany and Sweden—plus diseases like Zika and Ebola, the new heroin epidemic, social-media-videotaped rape and murder—think “Facebook killers”—as well as gang violence, televised manhunts, and the list goes on. Of course the American government, leading the most powerful nation in the world, is under the worst siege in its history.

Also think of 59 Tomahawk missiles fired into Syria, war there and 500,000 dead, and the “mother of all bombs” (MOAB) dropped in Afghanistan. Heads of state increasingly speak of potentially *devastating war*, with many now almost routinely speaking of World War III. The Israeli prime minister said, “Those who threaten to destroy us risk being destroyed themselves.” The American vice president warned, “We will defeat any attack and meet any use of conventional or nuclear weapons with an overwhelming and effective American response.” Russia, Iran and Syria have issued warnings to the West. North Korea now routinely threatens the United States and other countries with attacks, including they “will completely and immediately wipe out...the U.S. mainland.” These have been *new* and *terrifying* developments—far more serious than threats of recent decades.

The sudden worsening of world conditions that is now happening is being seen by the confused, frightened masses who will come to believe that the even worse conditions of Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 are occurring and that Jesus Christ's Return is imminent. Instead, these conditions will invite the *Antichrist*—a fraudulent savior to come fix the world and set up “God's kingdom.” Expect trends to culminate in terror across the globe—setting the world up for this figure's arrival.

“Revealed in *his time*”

Another critical “metric” springs from the Man of Sin being “revealed in *his time*” (II Thes. 2:6). This phrase unlocks one of the major KEYS to knowing the proximity of his arrival. “Time” here is the very specific word *kairos* and again means “an occasion, that is, *set or proper time.*” The Antichrist appears at a *set time*—in “*his season!*” Paul wrote the Thessalonians, “But of the times and the *seasons* [*kairos*, plural], brethren, you have no need that I write unto you” (I Thes. 5:1). God's people knew there were certain *set, appointed times*—seasons—that would be fulfilled as prophecy played out at the end of the age. The most important season to occur before the Return of Christ (which verse 2 also defines as a *season*) is what the Bible essentially refers to as *the season of the Antichrist*.

This is the same time spoken of at the end of Revelation. Several crucial verses build to this “season” reference. John recorded, “The Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show unto His servants the things which must *shortly be done*” (22:6). The word “shortly” means “*in haste.*” The next verse says, “Behold, I [Jesus Christ] *come quickly*”—meaning “*shortly, that is, without delay, soon, or (by surprise) suddenly.*” Get this! Christ is saying He is coming *without delay*. But you just saw from Paul that the Antichrist comes FIRST! This can only mean this deceiver's arrival is coming *very* “quickly.” John continues, “*Blessed* is he that keeps the sayings of the prophecy of this book” (vs. 7). Recall that those who make it to the 1,335 and escape are *blessed*.

Now verse 10, “Seal not”—meaning in the Greek *don't keep* secret and instead *attest to*—“the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the *time* [*kairos*]”—the Antichrist's season—“is *at hand.*” This phrase means “*to squeeze or throttle, near!*” Understand what is being said! This prophecy is IMMINEENT.

Of course, one would logically ask: If the book of Revelation was written almost 2,000 years ago, why is the season of the Antichrist only *now* at hand? This is answered by studying a similar passage at the beginning of the book: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass...*Blessed* is he that *reads*, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the *time* [again, *season*] is *at hand*” (1:1-3).

The word “reads” here does not carry the intended meaning in the Greek. It comes from the word *anaginosko*, meaning “to know *again*, that is, (by

extension) to read.” The prefix *ana* not only connotes *repetition*, but also *greater intensity*. Many who think they know Revelation must know it AGAIN!

Only within the last year has Revelation been truly understood—in terms of context *and* correct time setting. If you doubt this, read my booklet *Revelation Explained at Last!* This very recent “knowing again”—of knowledge that The Restored Church of God has SEALED NOT—started the very short clock on the Antichrist’s arrival. But as close as it is, Mark warns, “Take you heed, watch and pray: for you *know not when* the time [season] is” (13:33). God uses the uncertain timing of this man’s arrival to keep His servants alert!

God’s Great Purpose

In all this we must ask: Why would God send the devil in a Man of Sin unleashed upon all nations? Yes, *why*? What PURPOSE could He be serving? The nations of Earth have rejected the God of the Bible and chosen to serve sin and the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4) instead. Mainstream Christianity, really Churchianity, is no exception, with its “the law is done away” theology. So God is going to ram the devil and sin down the throat of a world that is in love with both. He is saying, “You want the devil and you want sin? Here is the devil unleashed through a man who will force you into sin.” This man’s coming is the second of several stages of world punishment—the first being the lesser time of wars and commotions setting him up.

Notice Christ’s words in Luke 12: “I am come to send *fire* on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?” (vs. 49). This devastating “trial by fire”—the Man of Sin—afflicts everyone on “the earth,” but to varying degrees. One category of Christians knows better, but says “...My lord delays His coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; the lord of that servant will come in a day when he looks not for Him, and at an hour when he is not aware [he will be caught *unawares* by the very snare that reveals Christ’s Return is close], and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers” (vs. 45-46).

A second category is described in verse 47: “That servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.” People of this category know better, but do not meet the high standard of Christianity set by God. They must endure the coming monster.

A third category did *not* know better—most of Earth’s more than 7 billion inhabitants. They are however still deep in sin and must be punished, though with far less severity: “But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes...” (vs. 48).

Only the “faithful and wise steward” of verse 42 is “blessed” (vs. 43) and will be “made ruler over all that He [Christ] has” (vs. 44).

I repeat: What is coming is a counterfeit unlike anything mankind has ever experienced. The Hollywood disaster movies that depict outer space invasions

always end well. So will this one but not of men's efforts. The Antichrist's power will be unimaginable—infinately beyond what most can even begin to grasp. His arrival will slam head on into unsuspecting billions. Do not be fooled by events and trends that beg a strongman savior, but actually one who will enslave billions. Remember Paul's words about the Antichrist: "Let no man deceive you by any means..." (II Thes. 2:3). Will *you* be deceived?

The TRUTH—obeying God and relying on Him for protection—is your only defense against the Antichrist's violent, mesmerizing power. World trends and events fairly thunder his coming is soon.

**The following literature expands
on topics discussed in this booklet:**

- How God's Kingdom Will Come – *The Untold Story!*
- Revelation Explained at Last!

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