

Word of Prophecy Fellowship



THE GOOD NEWS - LETTER

A Terrible Night Is Arising Upon Us

Part 1 of 2

There is a darkness that is swiftly arising upon this generation, a darkness that is both spiritual and physical. Many years ago, I learned a word from Billy Graham which he used to describe this terrible night. He called it “stygian” darkness—and that means **hellish**. Everywhere we look, we can see the gathering storm of world-wide violence and moral corruption that is leading us directly into that stygian darkness, and today I want to tell you about the two greatest and most terrible things that are going to emerge from it: **the antichrist and the false prophet**. They are coming to subjugate the people of this world, everyone whose name is not written in the Book of Life.

THE BEAST

Let us begin with the words of the great Apostle John, from a scripture found in I John 2:18. “Little children, it is the last time [or, the last days]: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.” John said that antichrist *shall come*—a statement which was futuristic when he wrote it—but now, we are more than 1,900 years closer to the fulfillment of that prophecy, and we can see the signs and indicators that the day of antichrist’s appearing is quickly approaching. What kind of person will the antichrist be? The Bible describes him as **a beast out of hell!** “The beast that thou sawest

was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition:” (Revelation 17:8). John wrote many things about this beast from hell in that wonderful book of Bible prophecy, the book of Revelation; but there is another great prophet from the Old Testament named Daniel, who also received revelations concerning this end-time in which we live. Daniel and John both gave us synoptic accounts of the stygian darkness out of which the beast will come forth, and their prophecies reveal how he will inflict extreme terror upon the citizens of this world, in the dark night that is arising.

DANIEL’S VISION

Daniel saw four beasts in his vision from the Lord (Daniel 7:4-6), but he was only able to identify the first three. “The first was like **a lion**...a second, like to **a bear**...another, like **a leopard**.” But when he saw that fourth beast—the same beast the Apostle John saw emerging from the stygian darkness of the bottomless pit—he was so shocked by its appearance that *he could not put a name on him!* He said, “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold **a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly**; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.” (Daniel 7:7). How terrible! That fourth beast symbolizes the antichrist and his kingdom, and it reveals him to be an

indomitable tyrant who will exalt himself against God, and brutally oppress God's people. Daniel 7:23-25 says "the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and **shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces...**and they [God's elect] shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time [3½ years]."

GOD-EMPEROR

As the supreme god-emperor of this world, antichrist will assume control of government through the United Nations, and will rule the world with a terror and brutality which even Hitler was not guilty of. He will work to unite all religions and nations under his absolute authority, demanding that everyone worship him as God! Daniel 11:36 tells us that "the king [the antichrist] shall do according to his will; and **he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god,** and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done." And in Revelation 13:1-4 the Apostle John declared, "I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy...and the dragon [the devil] gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority...**and they worshipped the beast,** saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

PERSECUTION

The antichrist will have control of the world's greatest army and the world's largest secret police, and he will mobilize them with the intent of bringing everyone on the earth into subjection to his regime—particularly Christians. In Daniel 7:25 the scripture foretells, "and he shall speak great words against the most High, and **shall wear out the saints of the most High,** and think to change times and laws." Continuing in Daniel 11:33, "and they that understand among the people shall instruct many: **yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil,**

many days." John's revelation also warns of the severity of antichrist's persecution of God's elect, and that he will pursue the saints to their death: "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him **to make war with the saints, and to overcome them:** and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues and nations." (Revelation 13:6-7).

"666"

The antichrist will exercise his power over the world's population not only through military might, but also by threat of starvation. Whoever refuses to submit to receiving his mark in their right hand or forehead will be denied the right to take part in the antichrist's economic program—which means *they will not be able to buy food!* Listen to this (Revelation 13:16-18): "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, **to receive a mark** in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is **Six hundred threescore and six** [666]." This policy will be enforced world-wide.

BOOK OF LIFE

Millions will be willing to take that mark of the beast in their bodies, rather than starve. But there are a few who will resist, refusing to take the mark or to worship the antichrist—all those whose names are written in the Book of Life. In Revelation 13:8, John said "all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Every person whose name is not written in the Book of Life will worship the antichrist—and they are going to be lost. Only God's elect will not be deceived nor seduced by the machinations of that beast from hell; but "they that dwell on the earth shall wonder [they will be in awe of antichrist's supernatural power and

abilities], **whose names were not written in the book of life** from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.” (Revelation 17:8).

MANY ANTICHRISTS

The Apostle John left us with a scripture that provides clear evidence that our present generation is rapidly approaching the fulfillment of these prophecies. He wrote, “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that the antichrist shall come, even **now are there many antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time.” (1 John 2:18). The “last time” refers to that period of time also known in Bible prophecy as the Last Days. It is an era which began in John’s day and extends to the present; and now we have arrived at that time in which there are many antichrists. The term “many antichrists” applies to the multitude of preachers and teachers who are claiming to be sent by Jesus Christ and anointed of God, but they are not—they are imposters, and hypocrites! The Bible calls them *mockers*, which means “phonies”—in other words, they are only pretending to represent Christ. “But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you **there should be mockers in the last time**, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.” (Jude 1:17-18). We are nearing the rendezvous with that phenomenal prophetic revelation and fulfillment, whereby we know that it is the last time.

FALSE PROPHET

The beast is going to have a preacher that accompanies him everywhere he goes, and the Bible calls him “the false prophet.” He is the man that will work miracles in order to deceive the world into believing that antichrist is Christ; and the gospel that he preaches will declare that antichrist ought to be worshipped as God. John describes the false prophet here, in Revelation 13:11-12; “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he

exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed.” The false prophet will also have the United Nations backing him with their mandates, declaring the lie that “We are the brotherhood of man, and the fatherhood of God, and we respect that all men are created equal; and if you just speak God’s name, then you are saved!”

DECEPTION

Many televangelists today get their popularity through phony miracles, the source of which is that same spirit of antichrist which the false prophet will possess. The false prophet is a master of deception! Revelation 13:13-15 tells us, “**And he doeth great wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast [the false prophet stays within sight of the antichrist because antichrist is the incarnate of Satan, and he is the source of the false prophet’s power: they must be paired together in order for the false prophet to have the ability to perform his miracles]; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he [the false prophet] had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

DAY OF CHRIST

At the beginning of the tribulation period, the true identity of antichrist will not be fully manifested to the world—not until the Day of Christ. Paul warned, in II Thessalonians 2:1-3, “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that **the day of Christ** is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come

**Calvary Chapel Church of God
Word of Prophecy Fellowship**

P O Box 10200
Jacksonville, FL 32247

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Jacksonville, FL
Permit 766

Return Service Requested

a falling away first [that is, people turning away from the true Word of God, leaving the church of Jesus Christ, departing from their faith in God and their loyalty to Jesus Christ, and ceasing to maintain a lifestyle in subjection to God's Word], and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition." This is the point in time when antichrist is manifestly declared to be the super-deceiver that he is, and it marks the beginning of the day of Christ. It will occur sometime in the latter part of the 7-year Tribulation period. During the first half of the Tribulation, God will be restoring the church back to divine love, unity, and power through his great judgments; antichrist will be concurrently rising to power, but (as John showed us in Revelation the 13:5), after that deceiver is unveiled he will only have power to continue his tyranny for another forty-two months. "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months.**"

GREAT TRIBULATION

This period of forty-two months—3½ years—will be a time of *great* tribulation. God have mercy! 3½ years is a lifetime when you are being subjected to the terror and the hellish darkness of the antichrist's kingdom. Jesus spoke of this time period in Matthew 24:21, when he said, "For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." This is when the stygian darkness of this

age will be at its greatest, but it will be a time for Christians to strive mightily. John revealed, "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 7:13-14). God's saints will face tribulation and severe persecution by the antichrist before the return of Christ—and before the catching away or "rapture" of the Bride of Christ.

To be continued ...

*This message will be
concluded in our
Winter 2007 newsletter.*

Word of Prophecy Newsletter **www.wordofprophecy.org**

**Published by: Word of Prophecy Fellowship
P O Box 10200, Jacksonville, FL 32247**

**Editor Bro. Ray Pringle, Jr.
an ordained minister of the
Calvary Chapel Church of God, Inc.
Associate Editor June Carpenter
Copyrighted - All rights reserved**