

THE WAR OF THE DRAGON UPON THE EARTH

Rev. 13:1-10

Study #27

Introduction: This chapter is the key to the entire book of Revelation for it covers the antichrist, the terrible ruler who is going to rise in the end time and be indwelt by Satan. To understand the antichrist is to understand:

- how and why the end time will have so much evil and horror.
- how and why the judgments of God will fall upon the ungodly so severely.
- how and why God will end the world when He does.
- how and why such glorious promises are given to Israel and believers who will follow Him in the end time.
- how and why so many of the Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled at this time.

This chapter discusses the two terrible rulers that will rise to power, the antichrist and the false prophet. Satan knows that he has but a short time and he will unleash a wrath and fury beyond anything the world has ever known.

I. THE BEAST OR ANTICHRIST RISES OUT OF THE SEA (v1)

1. The world will be clamoring for someone who can offer them help and hope. The antichrist will rise from among the sea of people of the world to give them hope.
2. The antichrist will be a political leader. He will have enormous ability, a genius.
3. The antichrist will have ten horns or absolute power over the ten nations.
4. The antichrist will wear ten crowns or reign and rule over the ten nations.
5. The antichrist will have ten blasphemous names which indicates that he will be the epitomy of blasphemy against God. He will be the one who invades the holy place of the Temple. He will be the one who opposes all religion except his. He will speak great and boastful words against God. He will demand that the world worship only him and his state.
6. The antichrist will combine three of the world's greatest nations as described by the three animal characteristics. Daniel and John describe these nations.
(see attachment)

II. THE ANTICHRIST WILL RISE DRAMATICALLY TO POWER (vv2,3)

1. Satan, himself, will propel the antichrist into power as the antichrist will completely give himself over to Satan. Satan will give these things to the antichrist:
 - power of inner strength and energy and spirit
 - power of personality
 - power of ability, persuasion, and influence
 - power of force and might

- his seat, throne, government (what he offered Jesus)
- his authority, the greatest power and rule ever known on earth

2. The antichrist will be killed but made alive again by Satan.

III. THE ANTICHRIST WILL SECURE WORLD RULE (vv4-8)

1. He will secure power because of the worldly and ungodly living of people.
2. He will secure power by personal ability and appeal.
3. He will secure power by military and economic strength.
4. He will secure power through speech, oratory, persuasion, and blasphemy.
5. He will secure power by being able to offer the world peace and prosperity.
6. He will secure power through atheism and humanism.
7. He will secure power through religious persecution.
8. He will secure power through conquering many nations.
9. He will secure power through imperial worship.

IV. THE ANTICHRIST'S ENEMIES WILL BE BELIEVERS IN JESUS (vv8-10)

1. True believers in Jesus will not worship the antichrist. (Refuse the "mark.")
2. True believers will be easily known in the last days. Millions will deny Christ, but also millions will be martyred because of their belief in Jesus.

CONCLUSION

1. The antichrist will be the most powerful, knowledgeable, persuasive, able, God hating man ever to live. He will be indwelt by Satan, himself.
2. The world will turn to him as one for a while (3 1/2 years) and follow him without question but then many will try to rebell against him.
3. The antichrist will hunt and kill every believer he can find but will be killed only to be given life again by Satan.
4. The world will be forced to worship the antichrist as god.