

THERE WILL BE A WORLD-WIDE LEADER

Daniel 7:7-8 John 2:18

Introduction: The leader of a recognized nation in the modern world made a statement at a General Session of the United Nations a few years ago and said: "...**The systems of man have failed, what we need is a leader, what we need is a man! Be he a god or be he the devil, let him come and we will follow him...**" This man's statement expressed his belief that the answer of the mounting problems of the world lies in a leader, a man who can bring the peoples and nations of the world together in unity and peace.

Will there be such a man? The Bible says YES! He is called "*...the prince who will come!*"

I. THE WORLD HAS ALWAYS DESIRED A WORLD-WIDE LEADER

1. Look back through history and it reflects men who have tried to conquer the world and be the leader of the entire world. Listen to the cry of humanity and it cries for a world-wide leader.
 - Assyria had Ashurbanipal and Tiglath Pileser.
 - Babylonia had Nabonidus and Nebuchadnezzar.
 - Medes/Persians had Cyrus.
 - Greece had Alexander the Great.
 - Rome had Pompey, Julius Caesar, Nero, Augustus, and Charles the V.
 - Franks had Charlemagne.
 - Russia had Peter the Great.
 - France had Napoleon.
 - Germany had Adolph Hitler.
 - There have been emperors, potentates, pharaohs, caesars, czars, kings, rulers, demagogues, all trying to rule the world. All are foreshadows of a world-wide leader who will be the satanic masterpiece, the **ANTI-CHRIST!**

II. JESUS TOLD/WARNED OF THE COMING OF THE ANTI-CHRIST

1. Jesus spent much of His last hours with His disciples telling them about the coming end of the world and He warned them about those who would come and try to take His place.
(*Matthew 24:23-26*)
2. Jesus warns His Children in every generation to beware of the false Christs and false prophets.
 - In every generation there has been someone who has tried to take Jesus' rightful place.
 - Who is a false Christ? Any person who assumes the position and power that belong to Jesus Christ alone. Jesus, alone is the God-appointed ruler of this world.
 - There have been midget messiahs, Jesus wanna-bes.
 - Some actually showing signs and works of power amazing and confusing people.
 - Jesus' warning is very clear: **Do not follow them!**
 - No matter what miracles are performed.
 - No matter the secret place he came from.
 - No matter the declaration of any man that "I am He!"

3. Jesus only is the One of the Trumpet Blast and the Cry of the Archangel at that great day.
 - Christians continually look for Him to snatch away His Church.
 - Christians will see Him at His Second Coming to defeat the anti-Christ and will set up His rightful reign on earth.

III. THE APOSTLE JOHN ALSO WARNED OF THE COMING ANTI-CHRIST

1. The last living disciple of Jesus, John, wrote a warning in *1 John 2:18*.
 - Even in John's time, everything had already been done and the "last days of the last time" were already there.
 - The Christians of John's time knew that the anti-Christ would come.
 - Even the unbelieving Jews believed that when the Messiah did come, there would be false messiah's also.
2. Every generation since John's warning of the anti-Christ has looked for him.
3. This generation also asks, is the real anti-Christ alive today? Are these days the real, "final, last days?"

IV. DANIEL, OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, HAD A VISION OF THE ANTI-CHRIST

1. God showed Daniel many things about the future and one of them was the coming of the anti-Christ.
(*Daniel 7:1-8*)
 - The Roman Empire would be revived, the union of Europe.
 - A little "horn" would arise, being the anti-Christ.
 - He would arise from the sea of humanity.
 - As a "horn" he would have tremendous strength.
 - With eyes, he would have wisdom, knowledge and intelligence.
 - He would be a man of tremendous strength, ability, wisdom, knowledge and would crush all opponents.
2. The Bible says that the anti-Christ will rule the world, be a miracle worker, and that the whole world will willingly follow after him.
 - To the Jews he will be the long awaited for Messiah. To Moslems, he will be their Immam or Maitreya and to the "left behind christians" he will be their "Christ."
3. Today, as in every generation since the Church was started, there are those who teach, under the Christian name, that proof of God's approval is "miracles" and that by electing Christians, the evil of the world will be overcome and a golden era of peace will come and that the Church is going to dominate the world. This is just NOT SO!
 - ONLY when Jesus comes back will the world know peace and evil be put down.

CONCLUSION:

1. The "anti-Christ" will be opposed to God and will place himself as a substitute for God.
2. The Bible says that:
 - The anti-Christ will come with a program for peace (*Daniel 8:2*)
 - The anti-Christ will persecute and kill those who are saved during the Tribulation (*Daniel 7:25*)
 - The anti-Christ will come from the area of the ancient Roman Empire (*Daniel 9:26*)
 - He will make a seven year peace treaty with Israel that will allow her to rebuild the temple (*Daniel 9:27*)
 - He will break the treat with Israel after three and one half years (*Daniel 9:27*)
 - He will occupy the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem (*2 Thessalonians 2:4*)
 - He will suffer a mortal wound but be resurrected as Jesus was (*Revelation 13:14-15*)
3. There well may be at this moment a person who has dreams of world-wide conquest, a man who will be empowered and indwelt by Satan, himself - the Anti-Christ.
4. All this prophecy may sound impossible, perhaps like science fiction but:
 - Hitler was once a little boy. Stalin was once a young man. Nero was once a child. Every man in history who tried to be a world conqueror was once a baby, a child, a young man. All that lacked was Satan's final touch and indwelling.
 - The tenderness of childhood of the anti-Christ will be shaped by Satan.
5. The world in every generation has cried out for a world-wide leader. Anybody, any leader. Anybody who could unite the nations and bring peace to the world.
 - Are these days the last final days?
 - Is there such a person alive today to become the anti-Christ?
 - Why not?
6. Christians, watch, be ready, for Jesus IS coming for His Church.