

THE GREAT DECEPTION

The Antichrist, the Beast, his Image, Mark, Name & Number

Introduction

Who is a liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denies the Father and the Son. 1 John 2:22

And deceives them that dwell on the earth ... saying ... they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live ... 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. Rev. 13:14,17

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 1 John 2:18

Careful analysis of the aforementioned text tells us that they were many antichrists in John's day, but at the same time he is saying that the antichrist was to come, i.e. in the future. Having made the above statement, the Apostle goes on in verse 22 to identify the antichrist. "Who is a liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denies the Father and the Son." 1 John 2:22. (1 John 2:23 (first part); John 5:23). The Apostle again repeats this statement making it even emphatic who is antichrist. "... every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." 1 John 4:3.

Here John is emphatic who is the antichrist. He states clearly that antichrist is someone of prominence and influence who denies that Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, did not come in the flesh.

He dismisses the other antichrists of his day by stating that, "even now are they many antichrists." And even in our day they are many antichrists who like the antichrist are liars not only in their denial of Christ having come in the flesh but also in their deceptive behavior (Rev. 13:14). They shout love, but such are reminiscent of the "original antichrist," Satan, the murderer and liar from the beginning." (John 8:44)

Love Truth (Zech. 8:16; John 8:44; Rom. 13:10; Eph. 4:15; 2 Thess. 2:10; 1 Peter 2:22; 2 John 1:3). There is no tension between love and truth, but rather a wonderful coalescing (merging; uniting; blending; fusing; mingling) of the two.

Does Love destroy Truth? Certainly not, they corroborate each other. They are expressions of who YHWY/Jehovah is. (EW 55.1, 56.1)

In order to identify the antichrist, we must first identify the real Christ who the antichrist seeks to replace. The original language of the New Testament was Greek. In both the Old Testament Hebrew and the New Testament Greek the word Christ means the anointed one which translated into English is the Messiah which is a title. Luke 4:14-19; Acts 4:27; 10:38. These texts all refer to Jesus of Nazareth who lived in the days of Herod and Pontius Pilate as the real Christ. Knowing the real Christ, it becomes easy to identify the antichrist.

Turning to the mark of the beast. God pronounces a startling denunciation on anyone who receives it. It is therefore important that all right-thinking persons consider what would cause our merciful God, who willingly gave his Son to save humanity from eternal destruction, to give such a warning.

In this series of presentations, we shall especially discuss who or what is the antichrist, the mark of the beast, the number, and his name. The apostle Paul introduces us to the antichrist in 2 Thess. 2:3-10; without saying his name, but John calls him out by name in 1 John 2:18-22. In the book of Revelation chapter 13 verse 1, and later in the same chapter verses 14 to 18 John tells us of the beast, his mark, his name, and his number.

And 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. Rev. 13:1

And he causes 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. 18 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. Rev. 13:17, 18

Much mystery and speculation surrounds what seems to be very difficult verses in the Bible. But the Bible is clear that only those who have wisdom which comes from the source of wisdom (James 1:5) will be able to decipher these apparent difficult verses. And the Apostle tells us that it takes wisdom to understand the number of the beast (rev, 13:18). As this is a prophecy, like all the Bible to be correctly understood, we shall follow the principles outlined by its author.

THE HOLY GHOST

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 Ghost. 2 Peter 1:21

THE PRINCIPLES

1. *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. John 14:26*
2. *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. John 16:13*
3. *But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. 1 Cor. 2:10*
4. *Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little. Isaiah 28:9, 10*
5. *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15*

Armed with these principles under the guidance and teaching of the Holy Spirit we shall be able to accurately identify and interpret who or what is the antichrist, his number, and his name.

May as we continue in this study you may understand and be prepared for the time which is not far distant when "no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" is my sincere wish for you.

Yours in the Service of God

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