

Family Night Special Feature Study
What in the World is Going On?

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	SUMMARY
NINE	March 11	The Antichrist	The most powerful world leader that has ever been seen in all of history. He comes as a messenger of peace but brings about destruction. Who is he?

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. . . .”

– Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Today is not much different than the time Dickens penned these words. For some people the second coming of Christ and the signs of prophecy coming true will signal the best of times for their heart and soul but for others it will signal sorrow, hatred, and death. ***What does it signal for you?***

Study #8 – The Anti-Christ

Twenty years ago I would have said you were crazy if you told me that some day the world would be governed by one leader and that he would rule the world in a time of great chaos. Yet today I see how this could easily be a reality. Our world is becoming increasingly smaller as technology advances. We can now contact an individual within seconds or minutes by picking up a phone and calling just about anywhere in the world. We can travel from one side of the world to the other in a matter of hours as opposed to weeks. We also see the worldwide collapse of financial institutions, a rise in Islamic controlled governments, and increased influence among government and law officials of drug cartels. The world is getting smaller and it is becoming more morally depraved at the same time, eventually chaos will ensue and it will look to a leader to bring peace.

Don't be surprised! God has told us that this would happen as we draw our attention to His Word. Actually He declares that it **MUST** happen in order for the second coming of Jesus Christ to occur. In our study tonight, we focus our attention on the rise of a one world leader known in Scripture as the Anti-Christ. Believe it or not, Scripture has a lot to say about this individual.

The Definition Exposed

We begin our study by examining the definition of the term anti-Christ. It is a term that sends chills down your back and each one of you already have an image in your mind of who or what the anti-Christ looks like or you might even have a specific identity in your mind.

What does the term Anti-Christ mean?

The term anti-Christ is used only 4x in the Bible: 1 John 2:18...1 John 2:22...1 John 4:3...2 John 7.

- **1 John 2:18** – Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.
- **1 John 2:22** – Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son.
- **1 John 4:2-3** – This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge

Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

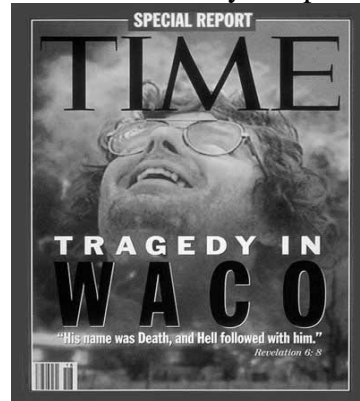
- **2 John 7** – Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

Can there be more than one anti-Christ? Explain.

As we consult the Word of God we observe that God declares that there are many anti-Christ. The reason for this basic statement is because Scripture declares that the term literally means “Against Christ”. It is someone who opposes Christ. There have been many examples of anti-Christ in years past.



Jim Jones – People’s Temple
Est. 1954 – 900 People Died



David Koresh – Branch Dividians
1993 Waco Texas – 83 Died

There are many anti-Christ in this world but Scripture also declares that there will be one that will stand out among all others and he will be the one world leader that will come on the scene during the end of days and he will be known as the ultimate Anti-Christ that will wage a worldwide war against God himself and anyone associated with God. He is the one that the remainder of our study will focus upon.

The Setting of the World

We begin this section of our study by examining the setting of the world in order for a one world ruler to arrive on the scene and take over. We begin setting the stage for the Anti-Christ by examining several different aspects of the world that must be acknowledged.

Stage #1 – The Rapture Occurs

The first stage that must be set for the arrival of the Anti-Christ to take over the world is that there will be worldwide chaos and instability due to a worldwide disappearance of massive amounts of the worldwide population due to the rapture.

Stage #2 – Decline in Morality and Rise of Evil

The second stage that must be set for the arrival of the Anti-Christ to take over the world is that there will be worldwide chaos and instability due to nation after nation walking away from God.

2 Timothy 3:1-4 – But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

Stage #3 – Wars, Famines, Earthquakes

The third stage that must be set for the arrival of the Anti-Christ to take over the world is that there will be worldwide chaos and instability due to wars, famines, earthquakes, & natural disasters that will occur.

Matthew 24:4-7 – Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, ' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Questions to Consider

- Describe in your own words the setting of the world in which the Anti-Christ comes to power.
- Why is it important for us to understand what the Scriptures explain about the state of the world when the Anti-Christ arrives on the scene?
- How does the setting of the world described in the texts above lend itself to a one world government with a one world leader?

The Character of the Anti-Christ

The next section of our study comes to us we begin examining the character of the Anti-Christ. He is a man ready to wage war against God but he comes on the scene as if he is a man of peace. We are not told the specific identity of the Anti-Christ in Scripture but we are told about his characteristics. He is also given other titles throughout Scripture.

Titles of the Anti-Christ			
Satan’s Seed	John 8:44	A Contemptible Person	Dan. 11:21
The King of Babylon	Is. 14:4	The Destroyer & Oppressor	Is. 16:4
The Little Horn	Dan. 7:8	Man of Lawlessness	1 Thes. 2:3
The Worthless Shepherd	Zec. 11:17	The Evil Man	2 Thes. 2:9
A Master of Intrigue	Dan. 8:23	The Beast	Rev. 13:1

What do these titles from the Word of God tell us about the Anti-Christ? Explain.

As we have already mentioned in the previous paragraphs, we not only are given different titles for the Anti-Christ but we are also given a glimpse into his evil personality and character traits that he will exhibit.

Character of the Anti-Christ			
Charismatic Leader	Dan. 7:7-8, 25	Brilliant Military Leader	Dan. 11
Cunning Leader	Dan. 7:8, 11:21	Blasphemous	Dan. 7:25, 2 Thes. 2:4
Cruel Leader	Dan. 7:23,25	Persecute, Torture, & Kill Christians	Rev. 13:7
Politically Inconspicuous	Dan 7	Force the 666 Symbol	Rev. 13:18
Audacious	Dan. 8	Demonic	2 Thes 2
Sexually Perverted	Dan 11	Demand to be Worshiped as God	Rev. 13:8

What do these character traits from the Word of God tell us about the Anti-Christ?

It is important that we understand that the Anti-Christ is a man that will first appear to be a peaceful man that only wants to help the people of the world to be delivered from the chaos that they find themselves facing. He appears to be a man that has the world's best interest in mind but he only has evil in mind.

Scripture continually reiterates that the Anti-Christ is a man who will be possessed by Satan and therefore will be Satan incarnate upon this earth. We have seen the results of this before and it was even directly recorded in Scripture.

Luke 22:3 – Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

Daniel 8:24 – He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people.

The Career and Fate of the Anti-Christ

The final section of our study examines the career and fate of the Anti-Christ. We examine the Scriptures that give us a glimpse as to what the end of the world will really look like.

The Rapture Launches his career

- **2 Thes. 2:7** – For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

Why would this jump start his career in an extreme manner?

Take over European Union & Establish his headquarters in Rome

- **Daniel 8:23** – In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise.
- **Revelation 17:3,18** – ³Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. ¹⁸The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

Tribulation begins with his Peace Treaty with Israel

- **Daniel 9:27** – He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing *of the temple* he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.

A Third World War Begins

- **Dan. 8:24** – He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people.
- **Rev. 6:8** – I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Will the whole world desire to follow the Anti-Christ? Explain

Institute Economic Control with the Mark of the Beast

- **Rev. 13:16-18** – ¹⁶He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, ¹⁷so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name.

¹⁸This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.

Institute Religious Control

- **Rev. 13:11-15** – ¹¹Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. ¹²He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. ¹³And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. ¹⁴Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. ¹⁵He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

Could it be possible for the Anti-Christ to persecute any who profess faith in God? Explain

- **Rev. 12:17** – Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring--those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

He will become Possessed by Satan

- **Revelation 12:12** – Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

What does it mean for the Anti-Christ to be Satan incarnate?

He will be the Abomination of Desolation

- **2 Thes. 2:4** – ⁴He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

Why will Jews and Christian's revolt at this moment in time? Explain.

He Will Set His Armies Up for the World's Final Battle

- **Daniel 11:40-45** – ⁴⁰ "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood. ⁴¹ He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. ⁴² He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. ⁴³ He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission. ⁴⁴ But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. ⁴⁵ He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.

He is Defeated by the Lord and Thrown into the Lake of Fire

- **Revelation 19:20** – But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

- **Revelation 20:10** –And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Jesus Christ will ultimately conquer the Anti-Christ and will destroy Him forever.

Key Question: *Why would a loving God who sent His only Son to die on the Cross, destroy mankind in this manner? Is there any hope? Explain.*

The Answer is found in Romans 1:18-25

