

20 DOES THE ANTICHRIST ALREADY EXIST?

Although there are many theories about the antichrist, there is only one revelation that is trustworthy - Bible prophecy. What does the word antichrist mean? Anti = against Christ. It opposes both the doctrine of Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ Himself. The study of this subject may cause awe, sadness, anger, disappointment or satisfaction. Daniel the prophet was very disturbed when he received this revelation (Daniel 7:15, 28). God has given us prophecy so we have light and know the truth (2 Peter 1:19).



THE ANTICHRIST

1. Were there antichrists at the time of the apostles? 1 John 2:18, 19; Galatians 1:6, 7.

They were brethren, because it says: "They went out _____."

2. Was the antichrist an atheistic power, or did it claim to be Christian? Titus 1:16.

They profess _____ God; but _____.

- They attribute to themselves virtues that apply only to God: sanctity, infallibility, unchangeableness (2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4).
- It opposes and persecutes the disciples of Christ (Revelation 13:7).
 - The method that Christ used was love -not threat, torture, fear, or persecution.
- It attacks the law of God and establishes human laws and tradition (Matthew 15:8, 9).
 - On the contrary, Christ established, taught, and kept the commandments. (John 15:10).
- The antichrist preaches salvation through human works (2 Thessalonians 2:10).
 - Christ shows that salvation is by faith and our works are the fruits of Christ's love working in us. Who is the antichrist in prophecy? The book of Daniel, which was written more than 2,600 years ago, reveals this mystery.

THE SEVEN KEYS OF THE PROPHECY

3. What do winds and waters symbolize in prophecy?

- Winds represent wars (Jeremiah 49:36, 37).*
- Waters represent _____ (Revelation 17:15).*

4. What do beasts, heads, wings and horns represent?

Beasts represent kingdoms (Daniel 7:23). Heads and horns represent division of kingdoms (Daniel 7:24). Wings represent speed (Habakkuk 1:8). Many nations are still represented by similar symbols: the USA, by an eagle; Great Britain, by a lion; Russia, by a bear; China, by a dragon; France, by a cock. In prophecy, a day equals one year (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34).

FOUR NATIONS IN PROPHECY

6. What did Daniel see in vision? Daniel 7:2, 3.

- The four _____ strove upon the _____, which means there would be wars among multitudes of people.
- Four _____ came up from the sea.

Keys to the interpretation of prophetic symbols used in the Bible



7. What do the four beasts represent? Daniel 7:16, 17, 23.

-
- They are the same kingdoms represented in the statue of Daniel chapter 2.

8. What were the characteristics of the first beast? Daniel 7:4.

A _____ with two _____.

- Represents Babylon (606 - 538 B.C.).
- Just as gold is the most precious metal, the lion is the king of the jungle.
- The two wings represent Nebuchadnezzar's speedy conquests.

9. What did the second beast look like? Daniel 7:5. _____

- Represent Medo-Persia (538 - 331 B.C.).
- It leans on one side, representing the superiority of the Persians over the Medes.
- It held three ribs in its mouth, depicting its conquest of three provinces - Babylon, Lydia and Egypt.
- It devours much meat, meaning they were very vicious in their conquests.

10. What characterized the leopard depicted in verse 6?

It had _____ and _____. This represents the Greek Empire (331 - 168 B.C.).

- The four wings represent the speed of conquest - twice that of Nebuchadnezzar. It took Alexander the Great only 8 years to conquer an area of 5 million square kilometers.
- Four heads: When Alexander the Great died (323 B.C.), his empire was divided among his four generals: Lysimachus ruled over Thrace; Cassander over Greece; Seleucus over Syria and Babylon, and Ptolemy over Egypt.

11. What was the fourth beast like? Verses 7, 19, 20, 23. _____

- The fourth beast represents Rome (169 B.C. - A.D. 176). Its cruelty is represented by its bronze nails and iron teeth.
- The ten horns are equivalent to the ten toes in Daniel 2, and they represent the ten nations of Western Europe, which remained at the end of the Roman Empire (Verse 24).

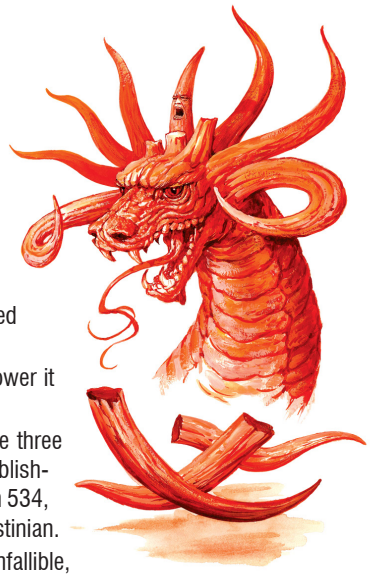
THE SMALL HORN

12. What characterized the small horn that came up?

Verses 8, 20-25.

When this horn came up, _____ were plucked up. It had _____ like of a man and a _____ that spoke great things.

- It was different from the other horns, which means that it was not a political power but a religious one. Which power assumed the place of Imperial Rome? The papacy.
- It was bigger than the other beasts, apart from its religious power it also had political power. Its influence is still powerful today.
- The three horns that fell when this one came up represent the three Aryan kings who were defeated and destroyed before the establishment of the papacy. In the year 493, the Heruli were defeated; in 534, the Vandals; and in 538, the Ostrogoths were conquered by Justinian.
- It would speak against the Most High. The Pope calls himself infallible, gives indulgences, and calls himself the Holy Father, attributes that belong only to God (Matthew 23:9).



13. What would the little horn do to the saints, the true believers? Daniel 7:21.

This reminds us of the dark ages mentioned in history, when millions of Christians who were called heretics were put to death by various horrible means during the "Inquisition."

14. What did that power think to change according to the prophecy? Verse 25.

The Ten Commandments were changed. In the catechism, the second commandment is omitted and the tenth is divided into two. The fourth commandment, which commands the observance of the Sabbath (Saturday) as the true day of rest, has been substituted by "keep holy the Lord's day." God has not authorized anyone to change His holy law (Matthew 5:16, 17; Ecclesiastes 3:14).

15. How long was the persecution to last? Daniel 7:25, last part.

A time is equal to a year; times is equal to two years; and the dividing of times is equal to half a year, totaling three and a half years. If we calculate a biblical year as having 360 days, it's 1,260 days. This



is the same calculation that is mentioned in Revelation 12:6, 14 and 13:5. These 1,260 prophetic days are 1,260 literal years. This is the period starting in 538, when the papacy's supremacy began, to 1798. During the French Revolution, Napoleon sent General Berthier to take Pope Pius VI captive. This Pope died in exile.

CONCLUSION

- God Himself guides the destiny of nations.
- Prophecy outlines the development of history and the war between light and darkness, but Christ is the victor, and all who believe in Him will share in this great victory.
- This prophecy clearly shows that Christ does not change His law, but the antichrist attempted to do so. Let not men change God's truth.
- Let us acknowledge the eternal validity of the Ten Commandments because Jesus Christ wants us to keep them and He wishes to bless those who accept Him as their Savior and Lord.

.....
My decision: *I acknowledge that Christ did not change the Holy Law but was the work of the antichrist.* Yes No
.....