

THE CHURCH IN THE LAST DAYS

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ANTICHRIST

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 Jeff Schreve

Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. 1 John 2:18

What does God want us to know about the Antichrist?

1. The Antichrist will be revealed after the rapture.

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. And then that lawless one will be revealed 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8

A. He will rise from obscurity.

B. He will appear to bring peace and prosperity to the earth.

And I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer. Revelation 6:1-2

C. He will appear to be Israel's savior and defender.

"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another shall come in his own name, you will receive him. John 5:43

D. He will be a counterfeit Christ with false wonders.

And I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" Revelation 13:3-4

2. The Antichrist will claim to be God and demand worship.

... and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

"And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete

destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate." Daniel 9:27

A. He will bring an end to temple sacrifices.

B. He will make everyone get a mark of allegiance.

"If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb." Revelation 14:9-10

C. He will murder by the millions.

And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. Revelation 13:5-7

3. The Antichrist will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:8

* Jesus will defeat him at the Battle of Armageddon.

And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army.

And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat upon the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Revelation 19:19-21

What about those who miss the rapture?

1. Millions will come to faith in Christ, especially the Jews.

2. Those who heard and did not respond will believe the lie.

... that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that

they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

Which will you choose: God's Son or your sin?