

Antichrist

(Pt. 2)

Revelation 13:1-10



The Theme of Rev. 13:1-10

During the future, 7-year Tribulation that follows the Rapture of the church, Satan will raise up and empower a profoundly evil human ruler as a false Messiah who will rule and receive the worship of the entire world.



Antichrist (Pt. 2)

Rev. 13:1-10

- I. The Person of the Antichrist (1-4)
 - A. His Meteoric Rise (1a)
 - B. His Political Power (1b)
 - C. His Beastly Character (1c-2a)
 - D. His Supernatural Patron (2d)
 - E. His Counterfeit Death & Resurrection (3-4)
 - 1. An Apparent Death & Resurrection (3a)
 - 2. His Followers' Response
 - They Follow Antichrist (3c).
 - They Worship Satan (4a).
 - They Worship Antichrist (4b).



Antichrist (Pt. 2)

Rev. 13:1-10

I. The Person of the Antichrist (1-4)

II. The Career of the Antichrist (5-10)

A. He Will Ultimately Be Governed by God (5, 7).

1. God decides to allow him to live and prosper in spite of his blasphemies (5a).
2. God decides to allow him unopposed rule for 42 months (5b).
3. God decides to allow him to successfully persecute the saints (7a).
4. God decides to allow him political control of the whole world (7b).



“The Eternal Decree”

- Westminster Conf.: “GOD from all eternity did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures, nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established.”
- Theologians divide God’s decree into two classes of events...
 1. Directive – God determined to effect certain events either through necessary causes or His own actions.
 2. Permissive – God determined to allow created free agents to effect certain events.



God's Eternal Decree & Man's Sin

1. God does not act on or in our wills to cause us to sin.
2. Man's sin is not simply passively permitted, out of God's control and separate from His plan.
3. God's decree renders every sinful act absolutely certain.
4. God simply determined a) not to hinder the sinful choices of the sinner's will and b) to direct and control the results of the sinner's choices to accomplish His own divine purposes.



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Rev. 13:1-10

I. The Person of the Antichrist (1-4)

II. The Career of the Antichrist (5-10)

A. He Will Ultimately Be Governed by God (5, 7).

B. He Will Be Personally Dominated by Sin (5b-8).

1. Arrogant Blasphemy (5-6)

a. He will blaspheme God Himself (6a).

b. He will blaspheme God's People (6b).

2. Violent Persecution (7a)

3. Political Domination (7b)

4. Religious Worship (8)



“The Book of Life”

- Ex. 32:32-33 - "If You will, forgive their sin — and if not, please blot me out from Your book which You have written!" The LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book."
- Ps. 69:28 - "May they be blotted out of the book of life and may they not be recorded with the righteous."
- Dan. 12:1 - "There will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued."



“The Book of Life”

- Phil. 4:3 – “My fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.”
- Luke 10:20 – “Rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”
- Heb. 12:23 – “Church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven.”
- 7x in Revelation: 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19
- It is a divine register of those chosen for salvation in eternity past.



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- II. The Career of the Antichrist (5-10)
 - A. He Will Ultimately Be Governed by God (5, 7).
 - B. He Will Be Personally Dominated by Sin (5b-8).
 - C. He Will Be Patiently Endured by Believers (9-10)
 - 1. A Call to Carefully Hear Christ's Words (9)
 - 2. A Call to Patiently Accept God's Providence (10)



Implications...

1. God sovereignty allows evil but governs and directs it to accomplish his ultimate purposes.
 - a. God Himself determines to allow human rulers to live and prosper in spite of their blasphemies.
 - b. God determines how long—to the day—rulers will be in power.
 - c. God determines when, to what extent, and how long He will allow earthly rulers to successfully persecute His people.
 - d. God determines the exact scope of every ruler's political authority.
 - Their geographical boundaries
 - Their political roles



Implications...

2. God will ultimately judge all who commit evil, from Satan to world rulers, to the most insignificant sinner.
3. The only way anyone ever comes to belong to God is through His own gracious, unconditional choice in election.
4. The saints are always called to patiently endure the evil of world rulers, who are almost always Satan's pawns.
5. Christ has the book of life, containing the name of everyone God chose for salvation in eternity past, and He will preserve them to the end.

