Greetings in the name of the Lord of Life, King of kings, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise, honor, and glory be to Him forever and ever. Amen.

Welcome to this Bible study. Today we will explore the key biblical signs that identify the Antichrist who is prophesied to appear on earth before the end of the age. In recent times, many misunderstandings have arisen some claim the Antichrist is a Freemason leader, others suggest he comes from hell, or that the COVID 19 vaccine is the mark of the beast (666). But what does the Bible really teach?

Jesus warned of many antichrists already present in the world

> *(1 John 2:18, ESV: “Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come.”),*

yet He also foretold one final Antichrist who will arise to bring great destruction (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, NIV). This final Antichrist will appear during the “time of the end” and his reign will be short

but intense.

When you see all these signs in one person, you will know that the end times are at hand, for this man will have been revealed and the world corrupted for no more than seven years (Revelation 13:5; Daniel 9:27).

Here are the biblical characteristics that identify the Antichrist:

1) HE WILL COME FROM AN ANCIENT RELIGION

Contrary to popular opinion that the Antichrist will appear suddenly without background, Scripture reveals he will come from a great and historic religious political power specifically the revived Roman Empire, a “spiritual” empire with roots going back centuries. This empire will regain authority near the end times.

The Bible points specifically to the office of the Pope as the seat of this power. Revelation 17:11 (NIV) says,

> *“The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.”*

This “eighth king” corresponds to a resurrection of a previous power the Roman empire manifested in a religious political figure.

2) THE WHOLE WORLD WILL MARVEL AT HIM

The Antichrist will astound the world by his miraculous works and influence. Nations, peoples, tribes, and languages will follow and worship him (Revelation 13:3-4, ESV):

> *“All the world marveled and followed the beast… and they worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast…”*

He will not be viewed as evil by the majority, but as a benevolent savior. Only a faithful remnant will resist him.

3) HE WILL BE CALLED A MAN OF PEACE

He will be known for bringing peace and security, ending wars and conflicts at least for a time. Daniel 11:21 (NIV) describes him as:

> *“...a contemptible person will arise, one who is avoided by others and will come to power... He will come in peaceably and seize the kingdom by intrigue.”*

His peace will be deceptive, serving as a means to gain worldwide acceptance.

4) HE WILL PERFORM FALSE MIRACLES AND SIGNS

Enabled by Satanic power, the Antichrist will perform signs and wonders to deceive many (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10, ESV):

> *“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.”*

Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses by Satan’s power (2 Timothy 3:8), so the Antichrist will counterfeit the works of God to mislead.

5) HE WILL DEMAND WORSHIP AS GOD

The Antichrist will exalt himself above every so called god or object of worship. His ultimate goal is to sit in God's temple and be worshiped as God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, NIV):

> *"The man of lawlessness... opposes and exalts himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped... He sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."*

6) HE WILL SPEAK BLASPHEMIES AGAINST GOD

He will blaspheme God and persecute the true Church, seeking to replace God's truth with lies (Revelation 13:5-7, NIV):

> *"He was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months... He opened his mouth to blaspheme God... and was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them."*

7) HIS NAME WILL HAVE THE NUMBER 666

His name will correspond to the number 666, the number of the beast (Revelation 13:16-18, ESV):

> *“He causes all... to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, so that no one can buy or sell unless they have the mark...*

This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.”

This number symbolizes imperfection and rebellion, falling short of divine completeness (seven).

When all these traits appear together in one person, you can be sure that the Antichrist has been revealed and the final tribulation has begun. The world will have no more than seven years left before the end.

Those who have not been taken in the rapture will suffer under his rule, unable to buy or sell without his mark, enduring a time of great tribulation (Revelation 13:17).

This man may well be alive today, seated on the Papal throne, awaiting his moment. The rapture will trigger his rise to power, after which he will begin to execute his plans for global deception and destruction.

This is the very “Abomination of Desolation” spoken of by Daniel and Jesus (Matthew 24:15).

Dear friend, the question is: whose side are you on? If Jesus were to return today, would you be ready to meet Him? The choice is yours.

Maranatha Come, Lord Jesus.

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