

Coming Soon The Monster on the Throne

Have you ever watched something on TV and then were sorry that you watched it? I've done that a few times. But there was one time that I vividly remember from over three decades ago.

A friend had asked me to check on their house while they were out of town. I stopped by one night and while I was there I decided to watch some TV. I didn't have a TV where I was living and not only did my friend have television, they had cable and HBO, which was still fairly new back then.

This Sci-fi movie that I'd never heard of was just starting and it looked pretty interesting. It ended up being one of the most frightening movies I'd ever seen. So here I was alone in a house that I wasn't familiar with, terrified for two hours as I watched *Alien*. It ended about midnight and then I had to go home in the dark.

So what's your most terrifying monster? If you combined the Hitlers, Stalins, Ayatollah Khomeinis, Osama bin Ladens, and Attila the Huns, then added every madman, serial killer, and despot of history, add in all of the ones created by Hollywood and you've not even scratched the surface of the coming beast, the future world tyrant, **The Monster on the Throne** that we know as the Antichrist. Turn in your Bibles to Revelation 13:1-10 (p. 1035).

The very word Antichrist sends a shudder through the hearts of Christians. Every believer has heard of him or read of him. Some of the fear comes from misunderstandings and confusion about who he is, when he will appear and what powers he can exercise over God's people. As we continue our series, **Coming Soon**, we want to clear up some of the confusion and show you what is going on in the world as it relates to Bible prophecy and descriptions of the Antichrist and his diabolical work.

The dominant person during the Tribulation will be the Antichrist. If you think that the world is evil now – you ain't seen nothing yet. There's a lot that Satan can't do because of us, because the Church of Jesus Christ is still here resisting his program and resisting sin. Because saints are on their knees praying, Satan is restrained in carrying out his evil plans by the Holy Spirit who indwells the Church. But imagine what this world would be like if the Devil had free reign to work his evil with no restraints. That's the definition of the Tribulation and that Day is coming. God will take the shackles off Satan and unleash his wrath on the earth.

Praise the Lord! We won't be here. Christians will be raptured. Tragically, every person who has not received Christ will be here. I don't know about you but I don't want any of my loved ones or friends to still be here. The Bible tells us a lot about this future world tyrant. It warns us about this monster who is coming. So let's look at what God's Word says about this coming **Monster on the Throne** and we want to ask some key questions.

1. Who is the Antichrist? Robert Jeffress, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, recently made the news when he said from his pulpit that President Obama's re-election victory would lead to the reign of the Antichrist. Pastor Jeffress said, *"I want you to hear me tonight, I am not saying that President Obama is the Antichrist, I am not saying that*

at all...But what I am saying is this: the course he is choosing to lead our nation is paving the way for the future reign of the Antichrist."

Please don't say things like that. Sadly, all that Pastor Jeffress did was alienate supporters of the President from the Gospel. For some 2500 years Bible students have been guessing who the Antichrist will be.

Do you know what Vladimir Putin, Prince Charles, the Pope, Saddam Hussein, Henry Kissinger, Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, Antiochus Epiphanies (170 BC), George W. Bush, and even Barney the Dinosaur all have in common? At one time or another each of them has been identified as a person known as the "Antichrist."

The term "*antichrist*" appears just five times in the New Testament, all in the letters of John the Apostle (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; and 2 John 7). As the word suggests, the Antichrist is a person who is against Christ. The prefix anti can also mean "*instead of.*," Both meanings will apply to this coming world leader. He will overtly oppose Christ and at the same time pass himself off as Christ.

The Antichrist will aggressively live up to his terrible name. He'll be Satan's superman, who persecutes, tortures, and kills the people of God and leads the armies of the world into the climactic Battle of Armageddon. He will be the most powerful dictator the world has ever seen, making Caesar, Hitler and Mao seem weak and tame by comparison.

Even though the Antichrist is identified by that name only five times in the Bible, he appears many more times under various aliases. He is also called: "*The people of the ruler who will come*" (Daniel 9:26); a "*fierce looking*" king and "*a master of intrigue*" (Daniel 8:23); "*a contemptible person*" (Daniel 11:21); "*the man of lawlessness*" and "*the son of destruction*" (2 Thes. 2:3); "*the lawless one*" (2 Thes. 2:8-9); and the "*beast*" (Rev. 13:1).

As a study of these passages shows, the Antichrist is introduced and described in great detail in the Bible, yet his identity is never revealed. If you Google "Who is antichrist?" you get 11,800,000 hits with some of the Web sites posting incredibly long and detailed articles—a sign of the extreme fascination generated by this sensational subject. But what do we know about this coming Monster? The Bible teaches that he will be a Gentile.

a. Biblical typology indicates that he will be a Gentile. Most Bible scholars agree that Daniel 11 speaks of Antiochus Epiphanes, a Gentile, who typifies the future Antichrist. Antiochus Epiphanes was a brutal Greek tyrant of the 2nd century B.C. He was a vicious enemy of the Jewish people, outlawing Judaism and desecrating the Temple. After Alexander the Great died, his empire was divided into four parts. Antiochus Epiphanes became ruler of one of those parts and is the subject of Daniel's prophecy. Daniel details some of the exploits of this political monster centuries before he existed. Since Antiochus is a Gentile, then so will be the Antichrist.

b. Biblical imagery supports a Gentile origin of Antichrist. Scripture pictures Antichrist as rising up out of the sea (Revelation 13:1; 17:15). In Bible prophecy, the sea is an image of the Gentile nations. Thus, Antichrist is seen as a Gentile progeny.

c. The nature of the "times of the Gentiles" supports a Gentile Antichrist. Luke 21:24 says, "*until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*" That time period known as *the times of the Gentiles* doesn't end until the second coming of Christ. The Antichrist is the

final ruler of the times of the Gentiles. So for the Antichrist to be a Jew would contradict the very nature of the times of the Gentiles.

d. The Bible implies that he will be of Roman descent. The Bible not only teaches that Antichrist will be Gentile, but also implies he will be of Roman descent. This is understood from Daniel 9:27, where the one making a covenant with Israel represents the revived Roman Empire, since it was the Romans who destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D. The revived Roman Empire comes from a second phase of the Roman Empire, "*feet partly of iron and partly of clay*" (Daniel 2:33,40-45).

2. What will it take to set the world stage for the Antichrist? Tolkien fans are counting the days until the release of *The Hobbit*. Though the films were out of order, in that *The Hobbit* was followed by *The Lord of the Rings*. In that trilogy the stage is set as the Dark Lord, Sauron, rises again to take over and destroy Middle Earth.

History teaches us that powerful rulers don't just arise out of nowhere. They come to the forefront within a certain context, a set of conditions that prepares the way for their coming. For example, the 1917 Bolshevik revolution in Russia that brought Vladimir Lenin and the Communists into power came after years of unrest and oppression under the czarist regime. The economic depression and unrest in postwar Germany made Adolf Hitler look like the Messiah instead of a madman.

a. There is a biblical context for the rise of the Antichrist. God gave the prophet Daniel a vision of four powerful beasts that would arise and rule the world. This prophecy was fulfilled in the Gentile world powers of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Daniel 7:7-8, "*After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.*"

King Nebuchadnezzar had a similar dream earlier, seeing a statue of a man with legs of iron and feet of iron and clay (Daniel 2:33). This statue outlined the four major Gentile powers that would dominate the Middle East. The ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's statue, which symbolized the breakup of the Roman Empire, are called the "*ten horns*" in Daniel 7. It's out of these horns, or rulers, that the little horn, the Antichrist, will arise.

b. The Antichrist will rise out of the revived Roman Empire. The old Roman Empire was divided, eventually falling apart in fulfillment of biblical prophecy. The ultimate result of this breakup was the formation of the various nations in Europe. But the Bible also prophesies a future revival of the Roman Empire. For many years sceptics dismissed this prophecy because for hundreds of years Europe has been divided into sovereign kingdoms and nations that fought each other to maintain their independence and/or conquer and rule their neighbours. Yet, all of a sudden in 1989, the Berlin Wall fell and Germany was reunified. Then the European economic union emerged, and we now have something called the Euro, a common currency used over most of Europe. The nations in the union have surrendered their currencies to unite under one monetary standard. A reunified Europe is taking shape.

Scripture says that this process will ultimately come down to a ten-nation alliance, out of which the little horn, or Antichrist, will emerge. Horns are a symbol of power in the Bible, so his power will be small at first. Apparently, the world won't notice the Antichrist when he first begins making his move.

Daniel said this being will have *"eyes like the eyes of a man"*—a reference to human intelligence and knowledge. The Antichrist will arise and uproot or overthrow three of the ten kingdoms of the revived Roman Empire. Now we don't know how or when this will occur, because we don't know when Christ is coming back. But the context is in Europe and the stage is set for the Antichrist to seize control.

c. *Technology makes all of this real for our day.* People used to wonder how the Antichrist would ever be able to imprint the number 666 on people so that he could wield absolute economic control. With microchips and technology we're seeing emerge today, it's not even a question any longer. A technological context is being created in which the right person at the right time could not only control the economies of entire nations, but track the whereabouts of every person in the world 24/7.

d. *A desire for world peace at nearly any cost makes all of this real for our day.* Be honest. If someone promised a growing economy, healthcare for everyone, world peace, the end of the TSA because terrorism is no longer be a threat, quality public education, affordable housing – would you vote for them? Would most people?

After the Church is raptured, the deterioration of civilization we're seeing today will radically increase. The anarchy will become so bad that the human race will cry out for a leader who can impose order and bring peace to the world. Our world today is longing for peace.

Imagine how the world would embrace a leader who could step in and once for all, settle the age-old conflict in the Middle East with one stroke of brilliant diplomacy. Imagine how people would welcome someone who could give them economic stability in return for a little more control over their lives. History proves that people will surrender their rights for stability and a sense of peace in times of chaos.

The Antichrist will be able to deliver peace and stability, and an unbelieving world will welcome him as he spends the first three-and-a-half years of the Tribulation solidifying his power base and gaining control. This leader will be able to bring all peoples together and appear to be able to end racial conflict, ethnic cleansing, class destruction, and religious tension. The conditions today are ripe for the emergence of such a dictator.

3. What kind of person is the Antichrist? According to Tim LaHaye, *"Just as Jesus Christ is the promised offspring of the woman (Gen. 3:15), the Antichrist is the promised offspring of the serpent. Counterfeiting the work of God has always been the work of Satan....The crowning piece of counterfeit will appear when Satan raises up a man to be a substitute for the Lord Jesus Christ – a man referred to as the Antichrist."* So...

a. *The Antichrist's character will be....*

* ***He will be a charismatic leader.*** The prophet Daniel described the Antichrist in these graphic terms: *"a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong...and a mouth speaking great things"* (7:7-8). Here Daniel gives us one of the characteristics of the coming world ruler—his charismatic personality enhanced by his speaking ability, which he will use to sway the masses with spellbinding words of power and promise.

We continually see the power of good speaking ability. We're attracted to leaders who have platform presence.

Add to that, apparently he's very handsome. Daniel continued his description of the Antichrist by telling us that he's a man *"whose appearance was greater than his fellows"* (7:20, NKJV). In terms of his outward appearance, this man will be strikingly attractive person. The combination of a magnetic personality, speaking ability, and extreme good looks will make him virtually irresistible to the masses. When he comes on the scene, people will flock to him, falling over themselves to do anything he asks.

* **He will be a shrewd leader.** Daniel was given a picture of this world leader in his dream recorded in the seventh chapter of his book. This is what he reported: *"I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots"* (7:8). We learn that this coming world leader subdues three other kings by plucking them out by their roots. This squeezes out the old to make room for the new. And he'll take over three kingdoms, one by one, not by war but by clever political manipulation. He begins as the little horn, but then he succeeds in uprooting three of the first horns and thus abrogates their power to himself. Daniel reiterated this event in the eleventh chapter of his prophecy, telling us that this future world leader *"He shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries"* (11:21). The Antichrist will be a political genius, a masterful diplomat, and a clever leader.

* **He will be an arrogant and blasphemous leader.** The Antichrist will inspire worship for himself (Rev. 13:4b). *"And they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?'"* He also blasphemes God, *"And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming His name and His dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven"* (13:5-6).

Why does the Antichrist blaspheme God? Because the great sin of the Beast's spiritual father, Satan, was pride and the Antichrist is going to reflect his father's character. That's why God hates pride above all other sins (Prov. 6:16-17). It reminds Him of Satan and his rebellion in heaven.

* **He will be a cruel leader.** The Antichrist will rule by violence. Anyone who doesn't accept his mark will die of starvation. He'll rule with an iron fist. When faced with a choice of resisting and dying or giving in and eating, most people will choose to eat. Those on the earth will be caught in a very traumatic situation. The Antichrist will use violence for his purposes— and we shouldn't be surprised, knowing who his spiritual father is. The Antichrist will be the very image of Satan.

b. The Antichrist's conduct will be.... Lets continue with a description of the Antichrist's rise to power and his subsequent temporary victories in ruling the world.

* **He will stage a resurrection.** We're not sure of the exact time in his career, but the Antichrist will stage a resurrection. We read, *"One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marvelled as they followed the beast. And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?'"* (Rev. 13:3-4). Whether or not the beast has a literal resurrection, he will look as if he died and then came back alive and to full strength. The response of the people will be that this is not just a man, but God.

Some Bible teachers believe that the Antichrist will actually die because the phrase that is used, "*a mortal wound*" is the same expression used of Jesus—"*a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain*" (Rev. 5:6). Of course, we know that Jesus actually died, so perhaps the Antichrist will actually die, too. However, I think it's clear that Satan can't raise people from the dead unless there is a very special power given to him by God. So, perhaps it only appears as if Antichrist dies and in some mysterious manner he deceives people about his death and apparent resurrection.

Just visualize it. This man is a world leader and somebody assassinates him. He's there in a coffin in some great rotunda, thousands are lining up, all the television cameras are on his corpse, and then suddenly he wiggles and crawls out of the coffin and says, "I'm your Messiah." Who would dare challenge someone who was dead and now is alive? Given our Western fondness for spirituality, it's not difficult to see why a gullible world will be ready for such a leader. Devoid of discernment, the masses will say, "This is our man!"

Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, but was seen by just a few of His disciples; this man rises from the dead for all the world to see! Thanks to television, in a mockery of the prediction about Jesus, it can be said, "*and every eye shall see him*"! No wonder the world asks, "*Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?*" (Rev. 13:3-4).

* **He will sign a false peace treaty.** The Antichrist will sign a peace treaty with Israel, guaranteeing the security of that tiny nation for seven years, according to Daniel 9:27. But in the middle of the "*seven years*," he'll break the treaty, declaring an end to Jewish sacrifice and offering. When he signs the treaty, by then he will have such stature that the world will give a sigh of relief, believing that peace has finally come to the Middle East and for that matter, to the world. He'll be respected internationally and will apply enough pressure on Israel's neighbours to broker peace and restrain their lust for war.

The Antichrist uses the first half of the Tribulation to solidify his power in preparation for his world takeover. He will be a masterful schemer, because he'll control the powerful forces of politics and religion, fusing them into one entity to serve his will.

Keep in mind that the signing of the peace treaty will be the beginning of what is called the Great Tribulation. However, the first three and one-half years will be a time of remarkable calm as the world believes that its new leader actually has the ability to maintain this global peace arrangement. Nationalism will be in check and the world will coalesce around the new messiah who will give evidence that his vision for peace will triumph. There will be a consensus that the world at last can destroy its weapons, because the nations will have agreed to live in peace under this man's mesmerizing influence. However, behind the doves of peace will be the weapons of war.

Once the Antichrist has total political and religious control, he'll be ready for his unveiling, when Satan pulls off the mask and shows the world his true nature. It is as though God is saying, "You wanted a world without Me. Now you have it. Satan, the earth is yours." The Great Tribulation is the closest Satan will come to his age-old desire, because for that brief period he will be the object of people's worship through the Antichrist.

* **He will rule the world.** The Antichrist will use fear to rule the world. Some of the biblical descriptions of his role should give us the chills. The Antichrist declares himself to be God and rules the world for the next three and one-half years until the seven years end and Jesus returns. He'll be given a mouth, a very big mouth, filled with evil and

blasphemy against God until King Jesus comes to destroy him. At that time there will be a one-world religion, namely Antichrist worship.

It will be a very difficult time to be loyal to Christ. The price for following Jesus will be martyrdom. Revelation 13:7, *"Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them."* Lost people will say, "We've found our Messiah. We've found the answer to the world's problems and search for peace. Here he is." And multiplied millions will bow to him and believe.

* **He reveals his Satanic trinity.** The one-world religion will be enforced by a one-world economy. In order to do this, Antichrist will enlist the help of another beast whose presence completes the satanic trinity and helps unify the world under one currency in order to enforce universal worship of the one rule (Rev. 13:11-18).

God exists in a Trinity, so it should be no surprise that Satan, who wants to duplicate the Almighty, also has his "trinity." We've been introduced to the dragon, who is Satan (corresponding to God the Father); we have been introduced to the Beast (corresponding to God the Son); and now we find a description of a third member of this unholy triad, a false prophet, who directs people to worship the Beast (recall that this is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Holy Trinity). *"Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He 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. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because 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 honour of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He 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. He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so 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."* (Rev. 13:11-17)

We should gasp at the audacity of Satan. His trinity tries to duplicate the Holy Trinity, and in the process forms a triad of unimaginable deception and evil. As this false prophet forces people to worship the Beast, he confirms his role with *"great and miraculous signs"* even as Paul predicted. The phrase *"great and miraculous signs"* is similar to that used of the miracles of the apostles (Acts 2:22), showing that Satan's ability to duplicate the miracles of God will be impressive, and a gullible world, desperate to believe what is false, will embrace these deceptions.

An image is erected, and *"He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak"* (Rev. 13:15). Perhaps through trickery and direct demonic power, the image is able to speak and insist that those who do not worship the Beast be slain.

Then, no one can buy or sell without the *"mark of the beast"* either on the right hand or on the forehead. *"So 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. This 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"* (vv. 17-18). This could be some kind of tattoo or it might be some computer chip. Every purchase, expenditure, and money earned would be recorded and known by

those who are assigned to keep people under control. Thus, Antichrist would enforce "economic equality."

Starvation will drive millions to desperation, willing to worship the Beast in order to live. If you want to eat, you have to submit to Antichrist; if you want your children to have food, you must swear personal allegiance to the only man who is able to save the world. The unconverted will worship anyone who promises them economic stability coupled with peace.

Hitler could only have dreamed of this kind of control for the inhabitants of his "kingdom." Antichrist will be able to implement a worldwide religious and economic system that will force compliance. The choice will be stark: worship the Beast or be executed.

4. What will ultimately happen to the Antichrist? For the end of the Antichrist's career we must return to a later chapter in the book of Revelation. "*Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and His army*" (Rev. 19:19). Who's the rider who comes to make war with the beast? It's none other than the Lord Jesus Christ who this time comes to conquer. Follow the Beast and you end in hell, the lake that burns forever and ever.

The Antichrist will be captured and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. "*And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur*" (Rev. 19:20). The Antichrist and false prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire before Satan joins them. Satan will be bound for a thousand years, and then after this he will join the Antichrist and the false prophet in the lake of fire, "*and the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever*" (Revelation 20:10).

Satan knows the address of his final destination. He can read the book of Revelation as well as we can. That's why when Satan is thrown out of heaven (probably in the middle of the tribulation), he's furious because he knows "*his time is short.*" Satan and his puppet win for a few years but Jesus wins for all eternity.

Conclusion: So how close is all this to reality? It's a lot closer than most of us think. Thomas Friedman in his bestselling book, *The World is Flat*, says that two events have reshaped our globe: 1) The fall of the Berlin wall, which signalled the end of the only other economic model in favour of capitalism, and 2) The Internet, which allows commerce and work to take place 24/7 from anyplace on the planet. Friedman contends that globalism is the new norm. All that's left is someone to arise on the world scene to solve the problem of world peace. That person will win tremendous power and will usher in the Tribulation by a seven year treaty with Israel. Let's wrap up this study with three final questions:

1) Is the Antichrist alive today? I don't know and don't think anyone knows. All speculation on that point is useless. Until the Antichrist is revealed, no one will have any idea who he is.

2) If he is alive today, does he know that he's the Antichrist? Probably not. If he is alive today, he's simply a man of the world—arrogant, ambitious, ruthless, calculating, and yet witty and personable, possessed of a dazzling personality that charms and disarms his harshest critics. His “career” as Antichrist will begin when Satan possesses him in a final attempt to overthrow God.

3) How should all of this effect us today? In the end this is the most important question. I don't think the Bible gives us this information simply to tickle our fancy so that we can play a game called “Name that Antichrist.” It's far more important that we take this teaching seriously and use it for our own spiritual benefit. So how should we respond to the truth about the coming Antichrist? Let me suggest five answers to that question:

* **Brace yourself.** The worst evil is yet to come. No matter how good the world seems to be in terms of technology, the moral compass is pointing in the wrong direction. The modern Unholy Trinity of Tolerance, Diversity, and Pluralism is paving the way for an outbreak of evil beyond anything we can imagine in our worst nightmare.

* **Be alert.** The Last Days will be a time of confusion and spiritual delusion. Don't be sucked in by the spirit of antichrist that's already in the world. That spirit tries to make us think that sin isn't really sinful and that there is no such thing as right and wrong. It also seduces us into silence when we ought to be speaking out.

* **Be Bold.** This is no time for compromise. In the days to come we'll see persecution grow worse as those who know Christ are ridiculed for their faith. That's happening already in many places around the world. All these things are a sign that as Satan's kingdom is being plundered, he is fighting back with all his infernal might. God bless Christians, particularly in faraway lands, who follow Christ openly and are even now paying a heavy price for their faith. May God give us that same kind of bold faith to stand up for Jesus no matter what it costs.

* **Be encouraged.** The Antichrist will rise and fall and then Christ will return to set up His kingdom on the earth. Even the Antichrist is an instrument in God's hand. He can do absolutely nothing without God's permission. When his time on earth is up, he'll be utterly destroyed.

* **Come to Christ.** There's never been a better day to become a Christian. Eventually the whole world will have to make a choice—Christ or Antichrist.

Why not come to Christ now? Today is the day of salvation. If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, then run to the cross. Lay your sins on Jesus. Believe that He died for you and that He rose again on the third day. Open your heart to Him. Trust Christ as your Lord and Savior. Then, no matter what the future holds, you will have nothing to fear.

If you're a Christian, these are great days to be alive. We have nothing to fear from the Antichrist and his evil plans. It's the Lord's will that we should be delivered from the wrath to come.

And for those who don't know Christ, and for those who aren't sure, this could be the best day ever if it's the day you come to Jesus. I pray that you will take these words to heart and reach out with the empty hands of faith and lay hold of Christ as your Lord

and Savior. Wouldn't it be wonderful if a sermon on the Antichrist helped you come to the living Lord Jesus Christ? If you don't know him, run to the cross right now before it is too late.

Do you know where the safest place to be is during an earthquake? Chuck Swindoll suggests that the best place during an earthquake is to be up in the air. The only safe place to be when the earth quakes during the terrible Tribulation is up in the air!

My friend, are you ready to meet the Lord? Will you be raptured when Jesus comes for His Church? Is your name written in the Book of Life?