

PROPHETIC STUDY SERIES



**THE ANTICHRIST**  
HIS THRONE AND TATTOO

WAKE UP AMERICA SEMINARS  
Proclaiming Revelation's Story

ANTICHRIST PART 4 OF 4

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On occasion, I have inserted italics and brackets in Scripture quotations to enhance understanding, not to change the meaning.

There are eight questions in this booklet which I hope you will answer. The author's answers are listed at the end. May God bless you as you study this fascinating topic!

Larry Wilson

#### Other Booklets in this Series

The Antichrist Pt. 1 – The Man of Lawlessness

The Antichrist Pt. 2 – When Will He Appear?

The Antichrist Pt. 3 – His Worldwide Deception

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P.O. Box 273

Bellbrook, OH 45305

# The Antichrist

## Part 4 - His Throne and Tattoo

The titles, “man of lawlessness,” “great red dragon,” “Satan,” “beast from the Abyss,” “false prophet,” “angel king of the Abyss,” “Abaddon and Apollyon,” and “son of the dawn” are assigned to the devil and describe dimensions of his character and work. The Bible uses the same application for Jesus. Titles for Him include, “Lamb of God,” “Son of God,” “Son of man,” “Holy One,” “Messiah,” and “Word of God.” Each title adds an important dimension to enhance our understanding. Bible students need to carefully consider each dimension to understand the person being studied.

I have mentioned titles for Jesus and the devil because, at first, the title “Antichrist” may be misleading. The Antichrist will not imitate the Christ most Christians perceive. However, Satan will certainly imitate the Christ who currently rules over Heaven and Earth as Almighty God! If possible, read the reference material posted on *wake-up.org/studies* and consider this background information

In 1798, Jesus was found worthy (Revelation 5) to receive the Book of Life which was secured with seven seals. At that time, the Father recused Jesus by giving Jesus His (the Father’s) throne and sovereign power. Thus far, while ruling over Heaven and Earth (Daniel 7:13-14; Ephesians 1:9-10), Jesus has broken the first three seals on the Book of Life. The Father gave His throne and sovereign power to Jesus because the Father wants the universe to understand Jesus is also a God now living

in human form. By stepping aside, the Father wants everyone to know that Jesus is as powerful and capable of running the universe. They are self-existing Gods; this means both Gods have no beginning or end. They were together in the beginning before anything existed and their relationship will never end. When the Father gave His throne to Jesus in 1798, He started a process called, the “revelation of Jesus Christ.” This process will conclude at the end of the 1,000 years after everyone in the universe learns Jesus is Almighty God like the Father.

After the revelation of Jesus is completed, He will return to the Father the throne and sovereign power received in 1798. Paul says, **“Then the end will come, when He [Jesus] hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He [Jesus] has destroyed all dominion, authority and power [on Earth]. For He [Jesus] must reign [on the throne] until He [Jesus] has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For He [the Father] has put everything under His [Jesus?] feet. Now when it says that everything has been put under Him [Jesus], it is clear that this does not include God [the Father] Himself, who put everything under Christ. [Ephesians 1:9-10] When He [Jesus] has done this [destroyed the curse of sin which produces death], then the Son Himself will [once again] be made subject to Him [the Father] who put everything under Him, so that God [the Father] may [return to His throne and] be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:24-28, insertions mine)**

Jesus was given the throne and sovereign power to bring the drama with sin to a close in a specific way that allows for no omissions or additions to complete the task associated with each seal on the Book of Life. Jesus, ruling as Almighty God, will soon break the fourth seal and eight billion or more people will experience the divine authority and devastating power of a “Sovereign Jesus.” He will send four judgments (the first four trumpets in Revelation 8:7-12) which will destroy most of Earth; two billion people will die. This coming apocalyptic horror will be devastating, but it will cause people to learn about Jesus’ authority and divinity. Billions of non-Christians will be stunned when they learn that Jesus is Almighty God having greater authority than the false gods of the world. Jesus is the Creator of Heaven and Earth returning to gather His people and to destroy the governments and false religions of the world.

Meanwhile, millions of Christians who worship a “Santa Claus” icon of Jesus will become very bitter toward Him when they learn He is responsible for all the death and destruction caused by the first four trumpets. Although most Christians have a Bible, they do not search it for truth. Sadly, thousands of Christian clergy have created a mistaken perception of Jesus. There is much more to Jesus than one title can declare. Yes, He was a “man of sorrows” (Isaiah 53:2-3), but He can also be a fierce king. (Psalm 2:12) John describes Jesus at the Second Coming as an angry general, leading an army bent on conquest: **“Out of His mouth comes a sharp sword with which**

**to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter.’ He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: King of kings and Lord of lords.”** (Revelation 19:15-16)

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**Quiz #1:** Circle the first three words in the sentence best describing why the Father gave Jesus His throne in 1798.  
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Understand, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three equal, distinct, self-existing Gods who love mercy as much as they love justice. All three Gods love righteousness as much as they hate evil. When Jesus breaks the fourth seal and releases the fury and wrath, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will be in perfect agreement because they are one in purpose, plan, and action.

This background information is important because the devil will use Jesus’ *current position*, as Almighty God, for his masquerade. Remember, the Antichrist will imitate a Christ most people do not know! If the devil appeared claiming to be Jesus, what effect would he have on Atheists, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, and Jews? The devil knows he and his demons will have five short months at the fifth trumpet to deceive the whole world. He has to appear as Almighty God from the start to make his deception work. If he appeared claiming to be Jesus, he would alienate a large ma-

jority of the world! This is why Paul says the man of lawlessness will *oppose* all that is called God or is worshiped.

### **The Great Enlightenment**

Before we discuss the Antichrist's throne and tattoo, we need to address a short period of time which I call the "Great Enlightenment." The "Great Tribulation" is a term Christians use to describe a future event which will be the most difficult period in Earth's history. However, few people realize the Father has embedded one *great purpose* within the Great Tribulation which is to enlighten the world about the "revelation of Jesus." Only God's wrath could grasp the attention of a rebellious world mired in religious contempt and political gridlock.

After one-third of the Earth is burned, thousands of cities destroyed, and global darkness causes famine, some people will finally understand the authority of Jesus as Almighty God. Then, the 144,000, with Holy Spirit power, will tell the world about Jesus. The world has seen His authority; now, the world needs to hear about the love Jesus has for sinners. The 144,000 will proclaim His offer of salvation, but this enlightenment will cause many problems. The devil will persecute each person who receives Jesus as his Savior. Nevertheless, the whole world will be enlightened with the truth about Jesus. His gospel will separate the sheep from the goats as a magnet separates steel from aluminum.

When our Creator came to Earth as a baby, He came in obscurity. Only a few wise men and some shepherds were aware of His birth. Even the religious leaders in Jerusalem did not know. Long ago, the Father ordained the return of our Creator would be entirely different. Jesus' next appearance on Earth will not be for a friendly visit. Instead, He is returning to rescue and resurrect each repentant sinner and to destroy His enemies. For 1,260 days, the 144,000 will present the terms and conditions for salvation so people can intelligently *choose* whether they want to obey and worship Jesus as Almighty God and inherit His coming kingdom.

Initially, most of the world will reject what they hear. The truth about Jesus and His coming kingdom will be contrary to the belief of Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Catholics, Protestants, Atheists, and Pagans! However, since two billion people have died from the horrific destruction caused by God's wrath, the extremity of these circumstances will subdue most people and provide them a chance to hear and consider Jesus' first message.

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**Quiz #2:** Circle the first three words in the sentence best describing a purpose for the great enlightenment.  
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### **Timing is Everything**

Shortly before Jesus breaks the fourth seal on the Book of Life, He will select and empower 144,000 servants to



speak for Him. If there are eight billion people living on Earth today and 25% are destroyed by God's wrath during the first four trumpets, six billion people will survive. If six billion people are equally served by 144,000 prophets, each servant of God will minister to approximately 42,000 people over the course of 1,260 days which represents about 34 per day. These estimates highlight two points:

First, because of God's love for all mankind, we can assume the 144,000 will be *equally* distributed around the world so each survivor hears the gospel of Jesus. If India has a population of 1.25 billion survivors after the first four trumpets, this indicates ~26,750 of the 144,000 will be serving in India! If the population of the United States is reduced to 270 million after the first four trumpets, about ~6,425 of the 144,000 will be serving this country.

Second, reaching 34 per day is not unreasonable when we consider the trauma and terror of the time. Initially, most survivors will have a great thirst for knowledge. Because communication infrastructures will be non-existent, little information will be available. However, God's servants will be in place and, empowered by the Holy Spirit, ready to proclaim the everlasting gospel on Day One! God's wrath will have the crucial effect of silencing mankind. Believers and nonbelievers will be speechless, and this will give God's servants the opportunity to be heard. This is how the great enlightenment begins. Each kindred, tongue, and people will hear the "testimony of Jesus" as He speaks through the mouths of His servants.

If the severity of the first four trumpets is overwhelming, the great enlightenment that follows will be no less traumatic. According to Revelation 7:9-17, the revelation of Jesus will cause the honest in heart to leave (exit, renounce, and abandon) their religious and political heritage. Jesus, reigning as Almighty God, will speak His truth and decisions will be made. **“When a man who is honestly mistaken hears the truth, he will either quit being mistaken or cease being honest.”** – Richard J. Humpal, Attorney. John saw a numberless multitude embrace Jesus as their King and Redeemer! Six billion people will hear four messages.

### **The First Message**

The Holy Spirit will work through the 144,000 as He did through Jesus! Their miracles will affirm their divine appointment and mission. (See Acts 14:3 for a comparison.) The 144,000 will exalt the Bible which becomes the book of great importance as it is closely studied. The Bible will confirm their testimony is true! Jesus will give the 144,000 words to speak when arguments against His truth are encountered. (Mark 13:11) This will be a replay of when Jesus was on Earth! As the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus with His own words, the Father instantly gave Jesus the words to speak! Jesus said, **“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you I do not speak on My own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work. . . For I did not speak on My own, but the Father who sent**

**me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.’”**  
(John 14:10; 12:49)

Before we examine the first message, you need to understand a basic fact. Jesus, not the Father, is the Creator of Heaven and Earth. The Father designed them, but Jesus built them. Paul wrote, **“For by Him [Jesus] all things were created: Things in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”** (Colossians 1:16-17, insertion mine)

Paul also wrote, **“In the past God [the Father] spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe.”** (Hebrews 1:1-2, insertion mine)

John wrote, **“Through Him [Jesus] all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. . . He [Jesus] was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own [people] did not receive Him.”** (John 1:3, 10-11, insertions mine)

It is important to understand Jesus is the Creator because the 144,000’s first message during the great enlightenment period will come as a demand from Jesus.

**“Then I [John] saw another angel flying in midair [the angel’s midair position indicates he has a message from God for the world below], and he had the eternal gospel [the eternal or everlasting gospel is a law which the Father put into effect before anything was created. This law existed long before sin occurred and it requires everyone to worship Jesus as they worship the Father (John 5:22-23) because Jesus is a God like the Father. (John 1:1-2, 10, 18) The divinity of Jesus is veiled in human form, but Jesus is much more than a human! John saw a messenger sent from Heaven] to proclaim [this law] to those who live on the Earth – to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, ‘Fear God [show great reverence and respect, be cautious and afraid of Jesus] and give Him glory [by recognizing His authority and obeying His demands], because the hour of His judgment has come [everyone will be judged by Jesus – 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14]. Worship Him [as the everlasting gospel requires,] who made the Heavens, the Earth [the land], the sea and the springs of water.’”** (Revelation 14:6-7, insertions mine)

Did you notice in the last sentence that the Heavens, Earth, sea, and springs of water are mentioned? These are the elements our Creator will destroy with the first four trumpet/judgments! The first trumpet/judgment burns one-third of Earth, the second destroys one-third of the sea, the third poisons the water supply of a continent, and the fourth fills the Heavens with darkness and debris. Therefore, the 144,000 will say, “Give Him glory; rever and obey your

Creator, He is Almighty God! There is no God like Jesus! If you are willing to give Him glory, He will eagerly save you and grant you eternal life!”

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**Quiz #3:** Circle the first three words in a Bible verse best describing who created the Heavens and the Earth.  
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This enlightenment will be inflammatory for these reasons.

1. Because the 144,000 will be selected from all religious systems, Atheists, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, Catholics, Protestants and others will be appalled to hear “one of their own” saying, “Jesus Christ is Almighty God who will soon return to Earth. He has sent judgments to signal His displeasure with the wickedness of mankind. He is the Creator and must be respected, revered, and worshiped on His holy day which is Saturday, the seventh day of the week!” It will be one matter to hear that Jesus Christ is Almighty God; it will be another to hear that Jesus commands everyone to keep holy His seventh day. These two topics will infuriate billions of people. If it were not for the devastating destruction, the loss of life, and the power of the Holy Spirit resting upon them, the 144,000 would be killed quickly for these inflammatory declarations.
2. The 144,000 will also tell the inhabitants of Earth that Jesus is the judge of mankind and the time for

judging the living has arrived. If any person wishes to have a part in the coming kingdom of God, he must put his faith in Jesus and obey the eternal gospel without regard for consequences. Additionally, all sinners must make conditions right with those they have wronged by providing restitution, if possible. They must repent and forsake any unrighteous behavior before the end of mercy.

3. Another message the 144,000 will give to the six billion people is that Jesus is not returning for a visit. For those who choose to put their faith in Him, He comes as the “Lamb of God.” For those who choose to defy His everlasting gospel and gracious offer of salvation, He will appear as the “Lion from the tribe of Judah.” As our Creator, He is entitled to our loyalty and submission. He is the only Savior and wants to save every sinner. He loves us and gave His life for us so we could have salvation. Therefore, He says, “Do not harden your hearts. Receive Me as your King and Redeemer; I will gladly save you! I will call for you when I set up My kingdom and give you eternal life and endless happiness!”
4. Another purpose for the Great Tribulation will be to separate the sheep from the goats. Consider how this will be accomplished: First, God’s wrath will be released on a degenerate and wicked world. Then, the leaders of the world will react to God’s wrath by creating a seven-headed beast – a global religious authority. Its mission will be to appease God so His

judgments will cease. This beast will create laws designed to exalt God and eliminate sinful conduct. It will make laws concerning the worship of God which openly and clearly conflict with the laws of our Creator, specifically, His fourth commandment.

Be aware of four conditions that will arise:

First, the Great Tribulation will be a time of *great* injustice for God's people. The devil has been preparing to make war on the saints since 1798! Notice what the Bible says: **“And the [great red] dragon was wrath [became angry when Jesus brought Satan's control over Europe through the Catholic Church to an end in 1798, the devil was furious] with the woman [God's people], and went [off to prepare] to make war with the remnant of her seed [that is, the last generation of God's people – see Genesis 3:15], which keep the commandments of God [including the fourth commandment], and have the testimony of Jesus Christ [among them, spoken through the mouths of the 144,000].”** (Revelation 12:17, KJV, insertions mine)

Second, you need to understand that the idea of creating a seven-headed beast to appease God's wrath will be a giant smoke screen. Like any statist government, the devil will facilitate the creation and empowerment of the seven-headed beast to obtain what he wants. **“The dragon gave him [the seven-headed beast] his power, and his seat, and great authority.”** (Revelation 13:2, insertion mine) The devil is so interested in establishing the perception of appeasing God's wrath

because he wants to destroy the remnant of God's people before Jesus can arrive to rescue them!

Third, contemplate the following thought: **“It [the seven-headed beast] was given power to wage war against the saints and to conquer them. And it [the seven-headed beast] was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.”** (Revelation 13:7, insertions mine) When we connect the dots, we find the devil's primary objective is to destroy God's people. The destruction of billions of people in two groups, the religious wicked and non-religious wicked, is merely collateral damage. By depriving God's people of justice and persecuting them in every way possible, the devil plans to eliminate the saints before his allotted time expires.

Fourth, the efforts of the devil to annihilate God's people will have destructive effect but not produce the murderous result he wants. God will give His faith-full people courage, patience, and endurance to stand firm because salvation only comes through faith! The furnace of persecution will make their faith purer and stronger. They will be more determined than ever to worship Jesus as the first message demands. A numberless multitude out of every religious system and government will be saved! **“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. . . ‘These are they *who have***



***come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.***’” (Revelation 7:9, 14, italics mine)

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**Quiz #4:** Circle the first three words in the sentence best describing the devil’s primary objective for the seven-headed beast.

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## **The Second Message**

The beast of a government is described in Revelation 13:1-2 as a beast rising out of the sea, which represents the nations of the world, and resembles a leopard. (Revelation 17:15) It will have seven heads and ten horns and the dreadful powers of the devil.

A brief description explains how the seven-headed beast rises. Leaders of the world will assemble and conclude that God’s wrath has fallen on mankind because of wickedness. The solution, they think, is to eliminate all vice. The religious leaders will insist that a worldwide religious authority be established to eliminate global wickedness. This crisis-driven government will be tasked with the mandate to appease God and be given power and authority to severely punish everyone who disobeys its laws. This religious authority (beast) will have seven governors (heads) because there are seven religious systems on Earth. The Bible gives this beast the title, “Babylon” because it will be a church/state like ancient Babylon. (Daniel 3) This background

is needed to understand the enlightenment that comes with the second message:

**“A second angel followed [in midair] and said [to the inhabitants on Earth below], ‘Fallen! [False, corrupt, blasphemous] Fallen is Babylon the Great [the seven-headed beast, Babylon, is an insult to Jesus. In its effort to appease God, it actually leads the world into defiance against the eternal gospel and Christ’s demand to keep holy His Sabbath day! The clergy of the world will insist on worshipping God, but not according to our Creator’s demand! The beast], which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries [is drunk with arrogance and ignorance. Babylon defies God’s Word and it is highly offensive to Jesus.]’”** (Revelation 14:8, insertions mine)

The phrase, “drink the maddening wine,” is taken from Jeremiah 25. It means the religious “experts” from the seven religious systems of the world will advocate a solution to appease God which is totally false. They will not understand God’s Word and listen to the 144,000, so they will offer a solution that opposes Almighty God! The political leaders, not knowing what to do, will swallow the false solution (maddening wine) “hook, line, and sinker.” The result will be religious and political chaos. The effect is similar to when people drink too much wine and cannot reason or think straight. Babylon will severely punish millions of innocent people (saints). When religious leaders and political leaders unite, nothing good develops from it, because the union of church and state is an

adulterous union in God's sight. Fearing more judgments are coming, political leaders will go along with the religious experts and a ferocious worldwide religious police state will suddenly appear demanding compliance. These religious police will be similar to the Islamic *mutawa*, but much more ruthless.

The second message to the world will be religiously and politically inflammatory. It will put the ministry of the 144,000, and those who embrace their ministry, in direct opposition to the world leaders' agenda. This is how a great war over worship will begin. The 144,000 will proclaim Jesus is Almighty God and the seventh day of the week is His holy Sabbath. Most of the world will defy the first two messages. Even the Jews, who recognize the seventh day is holy, will resist the testimony of the 144,000 because they will strenuously oppose the declaration that Jesus Christ is Almighty God. Muslims, Catholics, and Protestants will strenuously oppose the holiness of the seventh day.

The second message will be a universal call, sent from Jesus to the people of Earth, to separate themselves from their religious and political heritage which support the mission and goal of the seven-headed beast. This call will separate the faith-full from the faith-less.

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**Quiz #5:** Circle the first three words in the sentence best describing the purpose of the second message.

## The Third Message

After a period of about two years (as I calculate it), most of the inhabitants of Earth will have made a decision regarding the first two messages. The gospel proclaimed by the 144,000 will stall and then the fifth trumpet will occur, **“Because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.”** (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

It is so ironic to realize that man’s efforts to reduce global wickedness will only cause it to increase! After Jesus releases the devil and his demons from the Abyss, a third message will be given. **“A third angel followed them [the previous two angels, flying in midair] and said in a loud voice [to the inhabitants on Earth below]: ‘If anyone worships the beast [he is referring to the beast (the great red dragon) that comes up out of the Abyss. The appearing of the devil is also described in Revelation 13:11-18 as a beast coming up out of the Earth.**

This beast is the Antichrist, the devil, the man of lawlessness, the great red dragon who was thrown out of Heaven. He will be released from the spirit realm at the fifth trumpet as “a powerful delusion.” This message is a serious warning: **If anyone worships the beast] and its image [that is, if anyone worships the devil as God and participates in his theocracy] and receives his mark [the Greek word, *charagma*, which means an engrav-**

ing, etching, or tattoo] on the forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of His wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.'” (Revelation 14:9-10, insertions mine)

The third message will light up the world because the angel speaks with “a loud voice!” The third message will be a warning from Jesus which states the consequences for worshipping the Antichrist. This will be a very difficult time. If a person worships the devil, he will receive the wrath of God. If he worships Jesus, he will receive the wrath of the devil! The third message will make the devil and his demons furious with the 144,000 and their followers. Therefore, the devil, the beast from the Abyss, will kill most, if not all, of the 144,000 as quickly as he can.

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**Quiz #6:** Circle the first five words in the sentence best describing the purpose of the third message.  
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### **The Fourth Message**

Five months later, during the period of the sixth trumpet, a final message will be sent to the inhabitants of Earth. This message will impact the whole world even more than the previous messages! Jesus wants to save sinners. This message is designed to rescue anyone who is in turmoil about what to do. Some people may have received

the mark of the beast out of fear, but they have not yet committed the unpardonable sin. In other words, some people may take the mark of the beast and then regret doing so. This message is for such people: **“After this I saw another angel coming down from Heaven. He had great authority, and the Earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted: ‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt [a dwelling place] for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the Earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the Earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.’ Then I heard another voice from Heaven say:** [at this point, Jesus will speak from Heaven to the people on Earth through the mouths of the 144,000. Jesus is calling out those who have been afraid to put their faith in Him:] **‘Come out of her [the whore in Revelation 17, the devil’s theocracy, come out], *my people*, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; for her sins are piled up to Heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup.’”** (Revelation 18:1-6, insertions and italics mine)

### **Sixth Trumpet – Revelation 9:13-21**

Now that we have discussed the four testing messages given by the 144,000, let us go back in time to the fifth trum-

pet. After five months of world travel and deception, many people will refuse to worship the devil as Almighty God. This group will mainly consist of the non-religious wicked. When the sixth trumpet occurs, the devil will suddenly cease to be a “very wonderful and gracious God.” Overnight he will morph into a cruel dictator because he will receive permission from Jesus to kill one-third of mankind. (Remember the story of Job when the devil was allowed to kill Job’s children.) The devil will give orders and everyone refusing to obey will be subject to death. He will abolish the religions and governments of the world in order to establish himself as the undisputed “King of kings and Lord of lords.” As he reorganizes his domain, the whole world will become agitated, and a great war will ensue between those who believe the devil is Almighty God and non-religious people who refuse to obey the Antichrist. John saw this war, and you need to understand it to appreciate the purpose and timing of the mark of the beast.

Some people cannot accept the idea that Jesus would give the devil permission to kill one-third of mankind. Killing people is not out of character for Almighty God. Revelation 19 indicates that at the Second Coming, Jesus Himself will kill His enemies with a command (represented by a sharp sword that comes out of His mouth). Keep in mind that Jesus is the same God who killed 25% of the Earth’s inhabitants with the first four trumpets. Our Creator also killed everyone outside the ark in Noah’s flood, all of the firstborn in Egypt who did not have blood on the doorposts, and 185,000 soldiers in

one night! (Isaiah 37:36) At the time of the sixth trumpet, the world will be *almost* divided into two distinct groups of people: the saints and the enemies of Jesus. Whether the devil kills the enemies of Jesus or Jesus Himself kills His enemies, there is no difference.

Jesus also breaks the fifth seal at the sixth trumpet. This means that during the slaughter of the sixth trumpet, many saints will also perish. Jesus permits many of His saints to die as martyrs so, if possible, the few people who are not fully decided can be saved. “Come out of her, my people!” The strongest testimony a saint can give for Jesus is his life. **“And they [the saints] overcame him [the beast, the great red dragon] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”** (Revelation 12:11, insertions mine)

**“The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden Altar [of Incense] that is before God.** (Revelation 9:13, insertion mine) The Altar of Incense was used in the Earthly tabernacle to represent corporate intercession. Corporate intercession was conducted each day because God wanted to teach Israel that life on Earth was only possible because sinners had an intercessor. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were supposed to be killed on the very day they ate the fruit. (Genesis 2:17) When Jesus agreed to the Father’s plan of salvation, this made Jesus man’s intercessor. Jesus came between the demand of the law (death) and the guilty pair as their shield (intercessor).



Jesus has been shielding all sinners for 6,000 years. John heard an angel speak from the Altar of Incense at the sixth trumpet indicating the intercession of Jesus is about to end forever. Then God will release His wrath (seven bowls) without mercy on the wicked. After the thousand years are over the wicked will be resurrected to die the second death in hell.

**It [the voice at the Altar of Incense] said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.** (Revelation 9:14, insertion mine) This language has roots in the geography of ancient Israel. The great river Euphrates was a natural boundary for the northern border of Israel. Each spring the Euphrates River flooded from melting snow and the rushing river kept kings and armies from invading Israel from the north. In Bible times, it was also understood that divine judgment came, “out of the north.” (See Jeremiah 4:5,6; 25:9; Isaiah 41:25; Ezekiel 1:4; 38:15; Daniel 11:36 and Job 37:22.) This understanding was perhaps based on the idea that God’s throne was located on the north side of the temple. Speaking of the devil’s ambition, Isaiah wrote, **“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into Heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.”** (Isaiah 14:13, KJV) At the sixth trumpet, the release of four angels which were bound at the north border, held back by the great river Euphrates, means a divine judgment is coming. There will be no further

protection for the wicked from the Antichrist and his demons. Remember, during the fifth trumpet the devil and his demons were not permitted to kill anyone.

**And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.** (Revelation 9:15)

Long ago, the Father set a date, down to the very hour, for the sixth trumpet. This indicates God's mercy for sinners is not endless. God's probation for sinners has a deadline. I anticipate the sixth trumpet will last a little more than seven months. During this time, the devil will be permitted to kill one-third of mankind. He will gladly do this to establish his throne and theocracy.

**The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number.**

(Revelation 9:16) Some translations say 200 hundred million troops. Currently, the number of standing troops from all nations is less than 20 million. The devil will be able to create and supply an army that is ten times larger in such a short time because he will offer everyone volunteering to serve him a position of authority in his kingdom and generous rations. Because the 144,000 will withhold the rain (Revelation 11:6) and the global famine caused by the fourth trumpet will be ongoing, millions of starving people will gladly join the devil's army. The devil will use a deceptive offer to use people to annihilate his enemies. After the devil's army has done his bidding, he will double cross his volunteers and have them killed because there will be an insuf-

ficient supply of rations. Many non-religious people will resist the devil's efforts to establish his throne and a world-wide-church-state (theocracy). This will lead to a world-wide civil war, brothers fighting against brothers in every nation. John saw the battle:

**The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.** (Revelation 9:17-19) John used metaphors to describe this vision. In John's day, when armies from different cities and tribal nations assembled together against a common foe, the soldiers did not know one another. Therefore, soldiers wore bright colors so that in the fog of battle, they could quickly distinguish between friend and foe. The same idea applies here. The devil's military will not be a standing army in uniform, there is no money or time for equipping an army of 200 million troops. The Antichrist's armies will largely consist of civilians who rallied and joined up with the devil for authority and rations – only to discover at the end, the devil lied.

John also saw very strange, but powerful horses in his vision. God used this imagery so that we can understand this battle will be incredibly brutal (even nuclear).

Every weapon created by man will be used. The cities will be left in ruins. The world will be turned into a wilderness. No wonder Isaiah wrote, **“Is this the man who shook the Earth and made kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a wilderness, who overthrew its cities?”** (Isaiah 14:16-17) The man of lawlessness and his demons will rejoice when they see men and women tearing each other apart, treating one another with demon inspired hatred and cruelty.

**The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood – idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.”** (Revelation 9:20-21) The final two sentences of the sixth trumpet reveal the failure, foolishness, and stupidity of the seven-headed beast. Nothing stops a sinner from sinning if he does not first have a change of heart and mind. Persecution and punishment only drives a determined sinner to circumvent whatever obstacle he faces. From God’s point of view, the last two sentences are profound. When you consider the impact of the first four trumpets, the work and ministry of the 144,000 for 1,260 days, the tenacious effort of the Holy Spirit to win every heart, the testimony of Jesus, the great enlightenment period, God’s generous offer to seal and save every repentant sinner, and, then, on top of all this, the horrible brutality and atrocities committed by the An-

tichrist, it “boggles the mind” there is no change in the behavior of the wicked.

By the end of the sixth trumpet, Jesus will have done everything possible to save each sinner and each person will have made a decision. When Jesus sees extended mercy has no redeeming effect, He will close the door to salvation with this benediction: **“Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.”** (Revelation 22:11)

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**Quiz #7:** Circle the first three words in the sentence best describing why Babylon’s laws cannot achieve their purpose.  
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### **The Mark of the Beast**

Remember, when Jesus grants the devil permission to kill one-third of mankind, he will suddenly change character and become a ruthless dictator. He will abolish the religions and governments of the world. He will also throw religious and political leaders “under the bus” and divide Earth (Daniel 11:39) into ten sectors, appointing ten “puppet kings.” (Daniel 2:44) Incidentally, these kings are represented by the ten horns on the seven headed beast. (Revelation 13:1; 17:12-13) The devil will give them the task of building his “kingdom of God.”

The devil will decree everyone must work if they want to eat. The sick, elderly, and injured will be left to die.

Because he will be opposed to all that is worshiped or called “God,” I believe the devil will change the weekly cycle and declare a new day as his holy day. If true, it will accomplish two goals. First, for all mankind, there will be no further controversy over which day is holy. “God” has spoken and when God lives among mankind, there is no room for religious or political diversity. Second, by changing the weekly cycle, those who honor the Sabbath of the Creator will be easy to identify because they will not work on the Lord’s seventh day Sabbath. The devil’s primary motive will be to quickly expose all “Sabbath keepers” so he can capture and destroy them. **“He [the Antichrist] was given power [from Jesus at the sixth trumpet] to give breath [authority] to the image of the first beast [the devil’s theocracy], so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image [obey the laws of the theocracy] to be killed.”** (Revelation 13:15, insertions mine)

Because of the global famine and no rain (Revelation 11:6) at this time, food and water will be carefully rationed. God’s wrath (first four trumpets) will destroy many infrastructures of Earth created by mankind during the past century. Power grids will be lying on the ground and nuclear reactors will be inoperable. There will be thousands of broken dams, fallen bridges, and great cracks in highways and runways caused by the global earthquake making travel almost impossible. Without electricity, manufacturing will cease. Commerce, banking, and communication will cease.

The Great Tribulation will be painful, deeply affecting everyone.

The devil will resort to an ancient method for dealing with large numbers of people to manage his subjects in this extreme and rapidly deteriorating environment. He will require his puppet kings to divide their subjects into groups of one thousand. (See examples of this in Exodus 18:24-26, Numbers 31:48-54, Deuteronomy 1:15, 1 Samuel 22:7, and 1 Chronicles 27:1.) One person will be chosen from each group to serve as its captain. After the divisions are made, each captain will be told to tell his group that the first 666 people willing to step forward and receive a tattoo on the right hand showing “666” will receive rations. The others will be put to death. This decree will create the global civil war described in the sixth trumpet. This is why and how one-third of mankind will be killed.

Mathematically, 999 people minus 333 (one-third) people equals 666 people. This horrible and gruesome tactic will expose and eliminate those who have the slightest reservation about worshipping the devil and obeying his laws. Those who rush forward will be rewarded with a tattoo which allows them to buy rations.

The phrase, “the mark of the beast” is a popular, but poor, translation from the Greek language. The phrase should be translated, “the engraving of the beast.” The Greek word “*charagma*” is translated “mark” in English Bibles, but the word means an engraving, such as an engraving on a tombstone or an engraving on the flesh, a tattoo or brand. Tattooing requires embedding

pigment under the skin and branding requires a hot iron to sear the skin. Both are simple, low-tech, easy procedures to control people in large numbers. Hitler tattooed millions of prisoners living in primitive conditions, and the devil will do the same. A tattoo/brand is not subject to theft or counterfeiting and is not reversible or transferable. It does not require electricity. A tattoo/brand showing “666” on the right hand will be required to conduct business during the rare opportunities possible. This topic, when properly placed within the context of the dire circumstances on Earth at the time of the sixth trumpet, is easy to understand. Each captain over one thousand will also wear an indelible mark on his forehead to signal his rank. From ancient times, field grade military officers have worn various flourishes or designs on their hats so that everyone can see when a high level official is approaching or present.

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**Quiz #8:** Circle the first four words in the sentence best describing why the phrase “the mark of the beast” is not a good translation.  
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The devil will delightfully execute one-third of mankind because killing them will intimidate the survivors. Everyone will tremble, seeing that the “stern-faced king” (Daniel 8:23) has absolute control over life and death. Those receiving the devil’s tattoo will be reminded that they can only live for as long as they worship and obey their demonic master/monster! Killing one-third of mankind also



insures life on Earth can last a little longer. Sustaining people in misery will only increase the devil's sadistic nature because he can torment his subjects for longer periods of time. The devil has no compassion and love for human beings. His pleasure is in wielding demonic power over his subjects. The devil is sick, rabid, and powerful. Therefore, receiving permission from God to kill one-third of mankind will be his great pleasure. His depth of twisted cruelty and hatred for God and man is impossible to comprehend.

One final remark about the devil's mark. If the kingdom of God had been established on Earth as the Father intended, there would have been a period of enlightenment and an ingathering of the honest in heart. The twelve tribes would have been sent from Jerusalem to announce the end of the world, and all who wished to be saved would have had to do as Abraham; leave their homes and go to Jerusalem. (This is similar to leaving home to enter Noah's ark.) When the period of enlightenment ended, Jesus would have destroyed the devil and the wicked. (Ezekiel 38-39) Foreigners who believed the testimony of the twelve tribes and entered Jerusalem would have rejoiced when these events occurred because their faith in God saved them! This is the context for the following prophecy: **“One will say, ‘I belong to the Lord’; another will call himself by the name of Jacob; *still another will write on his hand, ‘The Lord’s,’ and will take the name Israel.*”** (Isaiah 44:5, italics mine)

I have mentioned this matter to close this study with a concept that I hope you will never forget. Whatever Jesus

intends to do, the Antichrist will imitate. Jesus will kill two billion people (25% of eight billion people); the devil will kill two billion people (33% of six billion people). Jesus made the seventh day holy at Creation; the Antichrist will declare a holy day. Jesus will have a mere 144,000 prophets speaking for Him; the devil will have ten times more. Jesus will warn the inhabitants of Earth that anyone worshipping the Antichrist will be destroyed; the Antichrist will tell the world that anyone refusing to worship him will be destroyed.

Jesus will appear in clouds of glory at His Second Coming and every eye will see Him as Earth rotates beneath His throne. The Antichrist and his demons will descend from the sky with a great show of glory and power; however, unlike Jesus who does not descend to Earth (the saints are caught up to meet the Lord in the air), the Antichrist and his demons are limited to local events. That is, the devil and his demons will have to descend in many places to deceive the inhabitants of Earth. Also, the devil has to descend to Earth to establish his throne and kingdom. Jesus will abolish the religions and governments of the world and so will the devil. The devil will accomplish this through brute force and a global war. Jesus will abolish religions and governments through His gospel. All who are honest in heart will be disowned by their families, religions, and governments.

Finally, the Antichrist will require everyone permitted to live to wear a tattoo or brand. Jesus will require and provide the seal of God for everyone who obeys the

everlasting gospel and puts their faith in Him. Those receiving the indelible mark will suffer during the seven bowls and die when Jesus appears. Those receiving the seal of God will not be affected by the seven bowls, although many saints will die and sleep through the seven bowls. A few saints will live through it all. **“Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.”** (Daniel 12:12)

### **Summary**

If you have read the previous three parts of this study, you have learned the Bible reveals much about the coming Antichrist. It is a huge story and the topic has many threads. Please review the following concepts and, more importantly, do not forget them. We have briefly discussed the following in this four part series:

1. The identity of the Antichrist as the man of lawlessness
2. The appearing of the devil, after there is a great rebellion against truth, when the gospel has stalled
3. Why Jesus releases the Antichrist from the spirit realm and is permitted to appear “in the flesh”
4. The terrifying destruction and death of ~2 billion people during the first four trumpets (judgments)
5. The knee-jerk response of the world’s religious and political leaders to appease God’s wrath
6. The purpose and reach of the seven-headed beast (crisis-government)

7. The three convenient lies to justify creating the seven-headed beast
8. Why the seven-headed beast will have seven “governors” leading seven different ways to appease one God
9. The hardship people will endure before the Antichrist is released from the Abyss at the fifth trumpet
10. Why the Antichrist will perform amazing miracles and proclaim himself to be God
11. Why the Antichrist will be opposed to all religions: he cannot align with one without alienating the others
12. Why the three lies created by religious leaders will perfectly align with the devil’s lies
13. The “rule and ruin” objectives of the Antichrist
14. The exaltation of Jesus in 1798 as Almighty God
15. A period of great enlightenment consisting of four messages
16. The first message: Fear God, worship the Creator, judgment has begun
17. Why a global conflict over the deity of Jesus and His Sabbath will ensue
18. The second message: Babylon’s efforts to appease God’s wrath are blasphemous to God
19. The third message: If anyone worships the Antichrist, Jesus will kill him

20. The fourth message: Last call, come out of Babylon so that you can escape her guilt
21. Why the devil is given permission to kill one-third of mankind at the sixth trumpet
22. Why the devil abolishes religions and governments of the world to rule as king and lord
23. Why the Antichrist divides the world into ten sectors and appoints ten puppet kings
24. Why the people of Earth will be divided into groups of one thousand
25. Why a global civil war breaks out: nonreligious people refuse to obey and worship the Antichrist
26. Why the devil offers rations to all who will receive his tattoo
27. Why the Antichrist will imitate a Jesus that most of the world does not know and imitate everything Jesus intends to do

When valid rules of interpretation are used to interpret apocalyptic prophecy, this is the story that Daniel and Revelation produce. I wish this story was not true. I do not like what the Bible predicts about tomorrow. I do; however, love what the Bible says about the “day after tomorrow”: spending eternity with the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and all the saints. Until then, I pray this short series on the Antichrist awakens your interest and prompts you to redouble your Bible study efforts.

Ready or not, believe it or not, like it or not, the end of all things is near. Prepare now for the fulfillment of God's Word by filling your mind with God's Word. Most of all, prepare to meet Jesus by living a life that is pleasing to Him. Surrender your life to Him each day. Worship Jesus, give Him glory! Keep His Sabbath day holy by resting from your labors. Spend the Sabbath in Bible study and prayer, visiting and spiritually encouraging others. If you struggle with a known sin, confess it to Jesus and ask Him to send the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome the sin. Make past wrongs right as far as possible. Last, share this message, booklet, or website with friends and family so they will not be deceived by the coming Antichrist. God's people have a King and Redeemer. The wicked do not know it yet, but they also have a king who is a destroyer of souls. Choose carefully between Christ and the Antichrist because we each actually serve one or the other.



#### Answers to Study Questions:

1. Jesus was given
2. However, few people
3. **“Through Him** [Jesus]
4. When we connect
5. The second message
6. The third message will be
7. Nothing stops a
8. The Greek word *“charagma”*

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