

SCRIPTURAL OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE ANTI-CHRIST

Daniel 7:8 While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth uttering great *boasts*.

Daniel 7:24-25 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Daniel 8:23-25 "And in the latter period of their rule, when the transgressors have run *their course*, a king will arise insolent and skilled in intrigue. And his power will be mighty, but not by his *own* power, and he will destroy to an extraordinary degree and prosper and perform *his will*; he will destroy mighty men and the holy people. And through his shrewdness he will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; and he will magnify *himself* in his heart, and he will destroy many while *they are* at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, but he will be broken without human agency.

Daniel 9:27 And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

Daniel 11:36-39 Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. And he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any *other* god; for he will magnify himself above *them* all. But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor *him* with gold, silver, costly stones, and treasures. And he will take action against the strongest of fortresses with *the help of* a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge *him*, and he will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.

1. A "little" horn indicates that the Antichrist will have an insignificant political beginning.
2. The Antichrist rises to power by subduing or supplanting three leaders or nations.
3. The Antichrist is a boastful man.
4. Out of the Roman empire, ten kings/kingdoms emerge (i.e., a division of power follows the empire's fall). The Antichrist emerges from the area previously occupied by the Roman empire.
5. The Antichrist will oppose God and the Jews, and will try to set up a system against them.
6. The Antichrist will exert power over the Jewish nation for 3 1/2 years.
7. Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164 BC) foreshadows the future Antichrist. Antiochus attempted to hellenize the Jewish nation and stop the Jewish religion. His greatest abomination was sacrificing a pig on the Jewish altar. His atrocities eventually led to the Maccabean revolt.
8. The Antichrist will be a deceitful, manipulative political ruler who will exalt himself and destroy all who oppose him. He will also try to destroy the Jewish race and oppose the worship of God.
9. The Antichrist will be revealed when he makes a seven-year treaty with the nation of Israel, promising to bring them peace.
10. At the mid-point of the treaty, the Antichrist will break his promise by stopping the Jewish sacrifices and seeking worship for himself.
11. The Antichrist will secure absolute power and will magnify himself as a god.
12. The Antichrist will honor a "god of fortresses," perhaps a reference to his love for power and military strength.
13. The Antichrist will have no regard for traditional religion or for any kind of natural affection.
14. The Antichrist will maintain his power by doling out honor, land, and power to those who serve and support him.

1 John 2:18, 21-22 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. ... Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

2 Thess. 2:3-4 Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

2 Thess. 2:7-10 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains *will do so* until he is taken out of the way. And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

Revelation 13:1-8 AND he [the dragon] stood on the sand of the seashore. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns *were* ten diadems, and on his heads *were* blasphemous names. 2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like *those* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. 3 And *I saw* one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. 4 And the whole earth was amazed *and followed* after the beast; and they worshiped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" 5 And there was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies; and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is*, those who dwell in heaven. 7 And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. 8 And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

15. The preposition "anti" can mean "against" or "instead of." The Antichrist will oppose Christ and seek to replace Him as the world's "savior."
16. The Antichrist will be a culmination of many other people and systems that oppose Christ.
17. At the heart of opposition to Christ is a denial of who He is--the Messiah, God in the flesh.

18. Before the arrival of the Antichrist, there will be a general apostasy (falling away) from the truths of Scripture.
19. The Antichrist will exalt himself above every other god and will sit in the temple demanding worship.
20. "He who now restrains" may refer to the Holy Spirit's ministry of restraining evil and working through the church. Thus, during the tribulation, evil is allowed to go unchecked.
21. The Antichrist will be energized by Satan and will have the ability to perform false signs and wonders. He will deceive people who do not have a "love of the truth."
22. The Antichrist will arise out of the Gentile nations (the sea).
23. Ten horns may refer to the ten kingdoms/nations from which the Antichrist emerges. The seven heads, based on Revelation 17:8-14, may refer to seven forms of government, seven emperors, or seven kingdoms which have opposed Israel down through history (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and Revived Roman).
24. The Antichrist's rule is a conglomeration of the characteristics of the Grecian (leopard), Persian (bear), and Babylonian (lion) empires (cf. Daniel 7:1-7). He gains power over "every tribe and people and tongue and nation" for 42 months (i.e., 3 1/2 years).
25. The "fatal wound" which is healed may refer to the fact that the Roman empire, which appeared to be dead, is revived under the Antichrist. Or it may be a reference to some kind of "simulated resurrection" in which the Antichrist gains the world's sympathy and awe.