

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Revelation: The Beast from the Sea - Rev. 12:18-13:10

Different Perspectives on the Doctrine of Antichrist

	Time of Antichrist Appearing	Distinctive Emphases
Church Fathers (Irenaeus, Hippolytus)	Many antichrists (false teachers) will appear, but the Antichrist is yet future.	Antichrist will be an apostate Jew and false Messiah. He will appear after the fall of the Roman Empire in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem.
Dispensationalism (John Walvoord, Hal Lindsey, Tim LaHaye)	Many antichrists (false teachers) will appear, but the Antichrist is yet future.	Antichrist appears during the seventieth week of Daniel after the rapture (see Dan. 9:24-27) and makes a peace treaty with Israel at the beginning of the seven-year tribulation period. He reveals his true identity in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem by betraying Israel.
Historicism (Reformers, Westminster Confession of Faith)	Antichrist is identified with the papacy.	The temple mentioned by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 is a reference to the church, not the Jerusalem temple. The harlot Babylon (Revelation 17) is a reference to the Roman Catholic Church.
Preterism (B. B. Warfield, Ken Gentry)	Many antichrists (false teachers) present throughout the course of this age. The beast of Revelation 13 was Nero and the Book of Revelation depicts events of the first century that are already largely fulfilled.	Jesus Christ returned in judgment upon Israel in AD 70, closing out the end of the Jewish age. When Paul refers to the temple in 2 Thessalonians 2:4, he is referring to the Jerusalem temple, which was destroyed in AD 70.
Reformed Amillennialism (Geerhardus Vos, Anthony Hoekema)	Many antichrists (false teachers) appear throughout the course of this age. A final Antichrist is yet to come in the form of state-sponsored heresy and the persecution of the church.	The temple mentioned by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 is a reference to the church, not the Jerusalem temple. Antichrist's appearance is tied to a time of great apostasy (cf. Rev. 20:1-10).



I Midweek Bible Study

I. **A Description of the First Beast (12:18-13:2)**

- A. And he stood upon the sand of the sea
- B. And I saw a beast coming up from the sea
- C. The beast's horns and heads
- D. The beast composition (Dan. 7) Dan. 7:1-7
- E. The beast's power/authority
The dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority

II. **The Beast is Followed and Worshiped (3-4)**

- A. A pseudo-resurrection
- B. The world marvels and follows the beast
- C. The world worships the dragon
- D. The world worships the beast
This is Satanic worship.

III. **The Beast's Wicked Activities (13:5-7)**

- A. There was given to him a mouth
- B. There was given to him to make war with the saints Dan. 7:21-27

IV. **The World and the Saints (13:8-10)**

- A. All who dwell on the earth will worship him
Whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world
In the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain
Book of Life (3:5; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27)
- B. Ears to hear
- C. The perseverance of the saints

Application

- The State always seeks worship, ultimate loyalty, and allegiance.
- Implication #1: Our loyalty is always and forever to the Lamb, who is our Savior, our Champion, and our King.
- Implication #2: Even though government is indeed a corrupt institution, we should avoid any ethic which would divorce us from public life and society.

