

Identifying the Antichrist in Revelation 11

Introduction:

We need to look at the seven places in Daniel and Revelation that records the 1,260 years of the first reign of the antichrist and identify his attacks against the saints and its suppression of the Scriptures if we are to understand the identifying characteristics of the antichrist in Revelation 11.

We will not at this time, identify all the events in this chapter, but only those that relate to the antichrist.

The 1260 Year Reign of The Antichrist

There are three different prophetic time symbols identifying this reign. This period is mentioned seven times in prophecy, twice in Daniel and five times in Revelation.

- 1) Time and times, and dividing of time, or time, times and a half (Time = 1 year, times = 2 years, half a time = 1/2 year Add them up and you get 3 1/2 years = 1,260 prophetic years)
- 2) One thousand two hundred and threescore days, (thirty days in Jewish month times 12 = 1,260 days = 1,260 prophetic years)
- 3) Forty and two months, (42 months times 30 days in a month = 1,260 days = 1,260 prophetic years)

All seven times we find that the saints are persecuted, however, we also find that it suppresses the Scriptures.

Persecution of the saints:

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Daniel 12:7 And I heard the Man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when He held up His right hand and His left hand unto heaven, and sware by Him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

Revelation 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 2) But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

Revelation 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5) And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. ... 7) And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Suppression of the Scriptures:

Revelation 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4) These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

Revelation 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 7) And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

The persecuted saints are fed the Scriptures in obscurity:

Revelation 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Revelation 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

The antichrist receives a deadly wound:

Revelation 13:3a And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death;

This marks the end of its first reign.

The following is the Wikipedia account of the historical event of the deadly wound.

“On February 10, 1798, French troops led by General Louis-Alexandre Berthier under Napoleon, invaded Rome, marking a significant event in the French Revolutionary Wars and leading to the establishment of the Roman Republic. The invasion resulted in the capture of Pope Pius VI. Berthier demanded the pope renounce his temporal power. Upon his refusal he was taken captive. He was subsequently exiled and eventually died in prison.”

“In 1798, French troops captured Pope Pius VI after entering Rome, abolishing the Papal States, and establishing the Roman Republic. The Pope was taken prisoner and moved through Italy before being moved to France, where he died in 1799 while under house arrest. This event marked the end of the Pope's temporal power, which he had held since the 8th century.”

“The capture: General Louis-Alexandre Berthier, acting under orders from the French government, led troops into Rome in February 1798. The French used a riot in Rome that led to the death of a French general as a pretext to invade.”

“Abolition of temporal power: The French troops deposed the Pope and declared the establishment of a Roman Republic, effectively ending the temporal power that the popes had exercised for centuries.”

“Pope Pius VI's fate: The 80-year-old Pope Pius VI was imprisoned, first in Italy and then moved to Valence, France, in 1799. He died six weeks after arriving in Valence on August 29, 1799.”

The deadly wound is healed:

Revelation 13:3b and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Another kingdom will arise and heal the wound of the papacy by restoring its temporal power through the union of church and state. It will enforce worship of the Roman Catholic Church whose head is the pope.

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12) And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

When the deadly wound is healed, it will again persecute the saints and suppress the Scriptures.

Revelation 11

Identifying the two witnesses:

The two witnesses represent the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament.

Revelation 11:3

Revelation 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

2Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1Peter 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

Psalms 119:105 Thy word, is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Sackcloth is black and perfectly symbolizes the “dark ages” of the suppression of the Scriptures.

Revelation 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

Revelation 11:4

Revelation 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

The two witnesses are the two olive trees and the two candlesticks.

Zechariah 4:1 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, 2) And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: 3) And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. 4) So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? 5) Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 6) Then he answered and spake unto me,

saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Olive trees produce olives from which we get olive oil. The oil is what fuels the fire in the lamp stands. Oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

In each of the messages to the seven churches, it ends with the admonition to “hear what the Spirit sayeth

Revelation 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before His throne;

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; ...

Revelation 11:5

Revelation 11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

It is important to remember that prophecy uses symbols, so it is with the word “fire.”

Jeremiah 5:14 Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.

Jeremiah 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of Him, nor speak any more in His name. But His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

John records the consequence to those who take away or add to the “words” of the prophecy of Revelation.

Revelation 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Matthew 12:37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Revelation 11:6

The Old Testament is often referred to as, "the law and the prophets." Elijah was a prophet who prayed that it would not rain for 3 1/2 years. Moses wrote the books of the law, and through the power of God, turned water into blood during the plagues of Egypt. The two witnesses then are the same as the law and the prophets, the word of God.

Revelation 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. 18) And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Revelation 11:7

Revelation 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

A beast in prophecy represents a kingdom. The kingdom represented here is referring to France. As we quoted above, it was France that inflicted the deadly wound in 1798 when civil power was removed from the papal church. The 1,260 years of papal reign ended in 1798. During the French Revolution the Scriptures were not just suppressed but were symbolically "killed."

Below are quotes from a commentator on the French Revolution.

"According to the words of the prophet, then, a little before the year 1798 some power of satanic origin and character would rise to make war upon the Bible. And in the land where the testimony of God's two witnesses should thus be silenced, there would be manifest the atheism of the Pharaoh and the licentiousness of Sodom." GC 269.3

"'The beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.' The atheistical power that ruled in France during the Revolution and the Reign of Terror, did wage such a war against God and His holy word as the world had never witnessed. The worship of the Deity was abolished by the National Assembly. Bibles were collected and publicly burned with every possible manifestation of scorn." GC 273.2

Revelation 11:8

The following verse validates the symbolism used in prophecy as it symbolically describes where Christ was crucified, which was in Sodom and Egypt. We know Christ was crucified outside the city of Jerusalem on the hill called Golgotha.

Revelation 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually [symbolically] is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Egypt was known for its atheism in which France was also known. France was also known for its licentiousness as was Sodom. These symbols were used to depict the spiritual condition of France.

Exodus 5:2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

Quoting from Wikipedia:

“While not a primary cause, a loosening of social and moral codes, including libertinism, was a noted phenomenon during the French Revolution. The upheaval of the old order, attacks on the church, and the rise of new ideas around liberty and pleasure influenced a shift away from traditional morality. Licentiousness also manifested as sexual violence used as a tool of terror during the wars that followed.”

Revelation 11:9

A day in prophetic symbolism represents a year, so 3 1/2 days equals 3 1/2 years. On November 23, 1793, the national assembly gave a decree that all churches and religious services were to cease. On June 17, 1797, France gave a decree allowing religious service once again.

Revelation 11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

Revelation 11:10

Revelation 11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

Quoting a commentator on the French Revolution:

“Infidel France had silenced the reproving voice of God's two witnesses. The Word of truth lay dead in her streets, and those who hated the restrictions and requirements of God's law were jubilant.” GC 274.2

Revelation 11:11

Revelation 11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Quoting a commentator on the French Revolution:

“God's faithful witnesses, slain by the blasphemous power that ‘ascendeth out of the bottomless pit,’ were not long to remain silent. ‘After three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.’ Revelation 11:11. It was in 1793 that the decrees which abolished the Christian religion and set aside the Bible passed the French Assembly. Three years and a half later a resolution rescinding these decrees, thus granting toleration to the Scriptures, was adopted by the same body.” GC 287.1

Revelation 11:12

Revelation 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

“The war against the Bible, carried forward for so many centuries in France, culminated in the scenes of the Revolution. That terrible outbreaking was but the legitimate result of Rome's suppression of the Scriptures. It presented the most striking illustration which the world has ever witnessed of the working out of the papal policy—an illustration of the results to which for more than a thousand years the teaching of the Roman Church had been tending.” GC 265.2

“This prophecy has received a most exact and striking fulfillment in the history of France. During the Revolution, in 1793, ‘the world for the first time heard an assembly of men, born and educated in civilization, and assuming the right to govern one of the finest of the European nations, uplift their united voice to deny the most solemn truth which man's soul receives, and renounce unanimously the belief and worship of a Deity.’—Sir Walter Scott, *Life of Napoleon*, vol. 1, ch. 17. ‘France is the only nation in the world concerning which the authentic record survives, that as a nation she lifted her hand in open rebellion against the Author of the universe. Plenty of blasphemers, plenty of infidels, there have been, and still continue to be, in England, Germany, Spain, and elsewhere; but France stands apart in the world's history as the single state which, by the decree of her Legislative Assembly, pronounced that there was no God, and of which the entire population of the capital, and a vast majority elsewhere, women as well as men, danced and sang with joy in accepting the announcement.’” —Blackwood's Magazine, November, 1870. GC 269.4

Summary:

The antichrist characteristics in Revelation 11:

1. It shall persecute the saints for forty two months,
2. It suppresses the Scriptures for forty two months
3. It receives its deadly wound from the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit (France)

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