

- I) V14 INTRO: But when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet
 - a) In our last study, we talked about the seven-year period called the Tribulation
 - 1) Believers will increasingly be persecuted, false believers will be exposed and will inform on genuine Christians, deception will increase, and lawlessness will abound
 - 2) In the midst of this, the gospel will continue being preached (V10)

- II) KEY: I have been asked if people still get saved during the Tribulation
 - a) YES: Rev 11 speaks of two witnesses with miraculous powers who will preach the gospel
 - 1) The whole world will hear their message, but they will be killed by antichrist
 - 2) Rev 11:3-9 I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.

- III) THERE WILL: Also be the 144 thousand witnesses: Rev 7 and 14
 - a) These are Jews who are sealed and protected by God, who will evangelize during the tribulation
 - 1) They will lead people to faith in Jesus during this time

- IV) V14 BUT: When you see the *abomination of desolation* spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing
 - a) As Jesus continues answering His disciples' question, He speaks of the abomination of desolation
 - 1) This spoke of Antiochus Epiphanes, (the visible god) Syrian king, reigning in Israel 175-163 BC
 - 2) This man is commonly regarded as a picture of the coming antichrist

- V) FACT: He hated the Jews, and was determined to exterminate them and their religion
 - a) He devastated Jerusalem in 168 BC, prohibited Temple worship, forbade circumcision on pain of death, sold thousands of Jewish families into slavery, destroyed all copies of Scripture that could be found, and slaughtered everyone discovered in possession of such copies, and resorted to every conceivable torture to force Jews to renounce their religion

- VI) HE ALSO: Performed what was called an abomination of desolation
 - a) He defiled the Temple by placing a statue of Zeus (himself) above the altar, and offered a pig on it
 - 1) This became a picture of what antichrist would do in the Tribulation

- VII) V14 IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THIS: We must introduce *The Antichrist*
 - a) Allow me to develop a foundation at this point

- VIII) V33 JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES: To be take heed, watch (be on guard), and pray
 - a) *WATCH*: To be sleepless, keep awake; to be circumspect, attentive, *ready*
 - 1) POINT: Christians are commanded to be constantly on the alert, waiting for Jesus *to return*

- I) KEY: Our lives are to reflect an anticipation of being with Him

- a) Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ
- II) THE FACT IS: It has been nearly 2,000 years since Jesus ascended into Heaven
- a) This has given rise to *impatience*, and *mocking*
- 1) 2 Pe 3:3-4 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."
- 2) Jude 18 (The prophets) told you there should be *mockers* in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.
- III) DURING THE CHURCH AGE: We have had a responsibility to evangelize the World
- a) This is because believers know that Jesus is coming soon, and people need to be prepared
- 1) In this interim period, as we wait for the Lord our relationship with Jesus is clearly revealed
- 2) KEY: Genuine Christians live in joyful anticipation of being with the Lord
- IV) SADLY: Many have become sidetracked, and are not anxiously awaiting Jesus
- a) PAUL: Writes that in the last days, there will be an apostasy
- 1) 1 Ti 4:1 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some *will abandon the faith* and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.
- 2) WHAT WILL ENCOURAGE THIS APOSTASY: A great deception, a rejection of Jesus Christ
- V) THIS REJECTION OF JESUS: Is called the spirit of the antichrist (Which is already here)
- a) 1 Jn 4:3 Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the *spirit of the antichrist*, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.
- 1) ANTICHRIST SPIRIT: *Primarily* rejects Jesus' Lordship and encourages accepting antichrist
- VI) REMEMBER: Jesus had just said many will come in My name saying I am He and will deceive many (V6)
- a) *These* will be prophets preparing the way for the Antichrist
- 1) This kind of thing actually began very early in the history of the church
- 2) 2 Jn 7 *Many deceivers*, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, *have gone out into the world*. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.
- VII) THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST: As well as false prophets prepare the world to accept antichrist
- a) These work together to create a climate of acceptance
- 1) 1 Jn 2:18 Beloved, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now *many antichrists have come*. This is how we know it is the last hour.
- 2) This is why the Church is warned constantly in Scripture concerning deception
- VIII) WHO IS THE ANTICHRIST: He is the final opponent of Jesus
- a) Man of sin, son of perdition, lawless one, the little horn, wicked one, the willful King, the beast
- 1) He will do all that he can do to diminish Jesus and replace Him and have great results
- 2) This is already happening: Europe has moved into a post-Christian era
- 3) V13 Even as Jesus said: You will be *hated* by all men
- I) AFTER THE RAPTURE: False prophets will abound, proclaiming Antichrist as the answer
- a) KEY: *At this time* the man of sin, the son of perdition will be revealed

1) LET'S TURN TO 2 TH CH 2:3-10: I will give you a few details concerning the antichrist

- II) V3 *FIRST*: He is the *man of sin*
 - a) Because Satan so indwells and operates in him, his chief delight is to break God's law
 - 1) KEY: The Antichrist *yields* to the temptation Jesus resisted (Mt 4:8-9)
- III) V3 *SECOND*: He is *the son of perdition*, literally the man doomed to destruction
 - a) This refers to his *destiny*: He will be destroyed; he will not prevail
 - 1) Rev. 19:20 The beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.
- IV) V4 *THIRD*: He opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped
 - a) His determined opposition to God will be a leading feature of the apostasy
 - 1) Dan 11:36 The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. (Echoed in Rev 13:6)
- V) V4 HE SITS: As God in the temple of God showing himself that he is God
 - a) The unsaved world will follow after him, willingly
 - 1) Rev. 13:4 They worshipped the dragon who gave power to the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?
- VI) V4 SO: That he sits as God in the temple of God showing himself that he is God
 - a) AS MENTIONED EARLIER: This is the Abomination of desolation
 - 1) The Antichrist, standing in the Holy Place demanding worship
- VII) V9 *FOURTH*: The coming of the Lawless One is according to the working of Satan
 - a) Rev 13:2 The dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority
- VIII) V9-10 KEY: He will perform *lying* signs and wonders which causes people to follow after him
 - a) He uses demonic miracles to deceive
 - 1) Mt 24:24 False christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect
- IX) V10 BECAUSE: They did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved
 - a) DURING THAT TIME: People are open to the false because they refuse to hear what is true
 - 1) 2 Ti 4:3-4 For *the time will come* when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.
- X) V11-12 FOR: This reason God will send them strong delusion that they should believe the lie
 - a) God allows them to reap the consequences of their decision to reject truth
 - 1) Ps 81:11-12 My people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would have none of me. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels
 - l) THEY ARE ALL CONDEMNED: Who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness
 - a) QUOTE: Those who will not observe the judgments of God's mouth shall not escape the judgments of his hand.

II) JESUS WILL DEAL WITH HIM AT HIS SECOND COMING:

a) Rev 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

III) MY FAMILY IS EITHER GOING TO RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST, OR ANTICHRIST