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## Antichrist - Who is he?

by James McBride

It is often assumed that "the Antichrist" is a single entity, focused by many Protestants on the Church of Rome - specifically the Pope and his church. The apostle John, however, cites "many antichrists" in his day. It may be worth considering that the end-time may produce more than one such anti-Christian person.

Take a look at some of the "marks" of Antichrist, gleaned from the Scriptures:

- denies the Father and the Son
- denies the incarnation
- exalts himself above the one true God revealed in the Christian Bible
- claims personal divinity
- a man of sin, lawless - inherently worthy of destruction
- a false prophet producing lying wonders and false miracles
- author of a great apostasy from the "faith once for all delivered to the saints"
- defiles the Temple holy place
- desolates the land of Palestine
- sets up a kingdom, small to begin but spreading widely - ultimately worldwide
- uses force to propagate his belief system
- hates Christianity and Judaism by any name
- arises after demise of Roman Empire
- still powerful at Christ's return
- and only destroyed by the returning Christ

History shows us that some who occupied the Papal throne fulfilled some of these criteria. But certainly not all - witness the late John Paul II. Such, however, will in contrast be the marks of the end-time "man of sin," the Antichrist.

### Man of Sin

In other words, the "man of sin" (*the lawless one* - II Thessalonians 2:8) heads an assembly of nations which is opposed to the Father God and denies that Jesus is God's Son and His Messiah - the Anointed One. His dominion arises to prominence sometime after the restraining influence of the Roman Empire is taken away (in the mid-sixth century AD), when the Empire shattered into ten divisions - and continues until destroyed by the returning King of kings.

The seeds of his belief system were sown in the first century. The apostle John points to him as the Antichrist, "*against [and instead of] Christ.*" The Antichrist, a false Messiah, claims superiority over Jesus, as do his followers - he "*blasphemes the God of Heaven.*" He is, personally, a debauched "man of sin" and fit only for destruction. He acts through the energy, false miracles and deceptive methods of Satan - who now has a stranglehold on our world.

The Antichrist considers himself superior to all other faiths - even his own - and takes to himself divine authority.

The "man of sin" and his system is not peaceful but violent. He is a warrior and gains followers by the sword or the threat of the sword. The special objects of his wrath are Christianity by any name and Judaism - though his religion is based on a perversion of both, on spurious revelations and on false miracles. Down through the centuries, his successors have had the same violent tendency. In the end-time he acts "*... according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.*"

This evil end-time despot - who echoes Antiochus the

## Antichrist - Who is he?

Illustrious of ancient Syria - arises from the same eastern portion of the old Grecian Empire - which included greater Syria and Iran (Daniel 8:21-25), and later was also part of the Roman Empire

In the end-time he will be supported by an alliance of Middle Eastern nations: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon and the Palestinians (Psalm 83), aided by Iran. (There may be ten allied nations sharing his aims.)

### **Second “Beast”**

However, a power wielding universal religious authority - also arising from Roman territory - is predicted to influence the world to support this “Beast,” the “King of the North.” It will, briefly, gain support from believers of many religions, including Christianity.

The “Man of Sin” and the “False Prophet” are the two leaders of the great apostasy - from the eastern and from the western areas of the old Roman Empire. They will in the end join forces to conquer the world. Both claim roots in the Bible, but “blaspheme” - distorting the clear words of Scripture and adding contrary teachings snatched from human reasoning.

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