

Signs for the Second Coming of Christ, Pt. 3: The Revelation of the Antichrist Thessalonians 2:1-12

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (NKJV)

2 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ 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. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the

lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

“Rudolf Hess, the son of a German wholesale merchant and student at the University of Munich, wrote a prize-winning essay answering the question: “What Kind of a Man Will Lead Germany Back to Her Previous Heights?” When he met Hitler in 1920, he was struck by the parallels between what he had written and the man who was now in his presence. Hitler was stirred by the essay and impressed with the man who had such uncanny insight. Little wonder they became close friends.

First and foremost, said Hess, this individual had to be a man of the people, a man whose roots were deeply embedded in the masses so that he would know how to treat them psychologically. Only such a

man could gain the trust of the people; that, however, was only to be his public image.

Second, in reality such a man should have nothing in common with the masses; for when the need arose, he should not shrink from bloodshed.... The public image must be kept separate from the actual performance.

Third, he had to be a man who was willing to trample on his closest friends to achieve his goals. He must be a man of terrible hardness; as the needs arise, he must crush people with the boots of a grenadier. Hitler vowed he would be that man. He would give the appearance of being one of the masses, but in reality he would be quite another. When brutality was called for, he could act with force and decisiveness. He would do what the individuals among the masses could not. He would not shrink from cruelty.

Privately Hitler prepared for war; publicly he gave speeches about his desire for peace. Privately he enjoyed pornography; publicly he insisted on right conduct, no swearing, no off-color jokes in his presence. At times he could be charming and forgiving; most other times he was monstrously cruel, as when he insisted that those who conspired against him be “hung on a meat hook and slowly

strangled to death with piano wire, the pressure being periodically released to intensify the death agonies.”

Privately (and sometimes publicly) he prided himself in his honesty, yet often he reveled in his ability to deceive. He was a cauldron of contradictions. During his days in Vienna he saved dried bread to feed squirrels and birds and just months after coming to power signed three pieces of legislation to protect animals; yet he worked himself into a frenzy of delight over the pictures of great capitals in Europe in flames. He was especially ecstatic at the bombing of Warsaw and London and angry with the commandant of Paris for not setting that city on fire.

He could weep with tenderness when talking to children and (then) rejoice over the completion of another concentration camp. Compassionate and even generous with family and friends, he would become filled with vindictive rage at anyone—including close friends—who stood in the way of his agenda. He could be charming or brutal, generous or savage. “He who spoke the words of Jesus, hated all mankind.” said Robert Waite. Hitler holds a fascination for us because his dictatorship enjoyed such wide support of the people. Perhaps never in

history was a dictator so well liked. He had the rare gift of motivating a nation to want to follow him.

Communist leaders such as Lenin or Mao Tse-tung arose to power through revolutions that cost millions of lives; consequently, they were hated by the masses. Hitler attracted not only the support of the middle class but also of university students and professors. ‘

... Hitler arose in Germany at a time when the nation was a democracy. He attained his power legitimately, if unfairly. The nation was waiting for him, eager to accept a demagogue who appeared to have the talent needed to lead her out of the abyss. The people yearned for a leader who would do for them what democracy could not.

Lutzer, Erwin W.. Hitler's Cross SAMPLER: How the Cross was Used to Promote the Nazi Agenda . Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

Hitler said on one occasion, “I felt the pressure of destiny....I was summoned by providence to do the will of providence to go into politics.” He believed his life was a series miracles and indeed it was, only the supernatural power was not God but *from Hell (mine)*

Hitler is a snapshot in history of a man abandoned by God and his own conscience. A man of Sin, a man of lawlessness, evil personified. He was influenced by and no doubt at times occupied by demons if not the devil himself.

The cruelty and sinfulness that this man possessed was only a small example of what the Antichrist will bring.

The Antichrist will not be a man of sin but THE man of Sin. Not a man of lawlessness, but THE man of lawlessness.

The Adversary of God and Man. He the boastful and blasphemous beast that the Bible talks about.

Upon his arrival, will come death and destruction unlike anytime in the history of the world.

The Bible Teaches that we are headed to one of the most unprecedented times of trouble and pain the world has ever known. According to Scripture, it is compared to childbirth, starting with pain and pressure that is tolerable but significant, then escalating to extreme pain and pressure, to the point of being excruciating , and in some cases, so extreme, even causing death. No war or conquering tyrant of past ages will come close to the evil, death and destruction that will be brought on this planet. No disease, or famine or virus can hold a candle to

the wide spread wholesale slaughter of the saints that will occur in the end of the age. Lawlessness will abound and the man of lawlessness will be free to according to his own will.

Matthew 24:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, θλίψις μεγάλη such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

οὐ^ν μὴ γένηται.

²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

κολοβόω

koloboō, v., mutilate. \

Hebrew Alignment

ΥΣϞ — *cut, chop off; trim; shatter* (1): 2 Kgdms 4:12

(2012). In [The Lexham Analytical Lexicon of the Septuagint](#). Lexham Press.

Mark 13:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For *in* those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be.

²⁰ And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

Luke 21:22–23 (NKJV)

²² For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people.

Some believe that these passages refer **only** to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. in the suffering of the Jews at that time. And when you study that event it is easy to see how one could come to that conclusion.

Some scholars have commented on the seizure of Jerusalem and its destruction in 70 A.D. and the accompanying horrors that occurred.

Other sieges may have witnessed scenes of physical wretchedness equally appalling, but nothing that history records offers anything parallel to the alternations of fanatic hope and frenzied despair that attended the breaking up of the faith and polity of Israel (Plumptre 1959, 148).

No nation had ever piled up a guilt such as that of the Jews who were chosen of God, infinitely

blessed, and yet crucified God's Son and trampled upon all his further grace. No judgment had ever and can ever be so severe. In the history of the world no judgment can be compared with this that wiped out the Jews as a nation (Lenski 1943, 940).

[The] tribulation to Israel [was] unparalleled in the terrible past of its history, and unequalled even in its bloody future. Nay, so dreadful would be the persecution, that, if Divine mercy had not interposed for the sake of the followers of Christ, the whole Jewish race that inhabited the land would have been swept away" (Edersheim 1947, 449).

It was the worst event in their history. It represented the death of Israel nationally! Though the holocaust involved larger numbers, the type of suffering inflicted at Jerusalem was unparalleled in history. The acute famine, the in-fighting, the cannibalism, the savagery, the crucifixions, etc., were horrible **beyond words**.<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/342-was-the-siege-at-jerusalem-in-a-d-70-the-worst-in-world-history>

“Wives would snatch the food from their husbands, children from fathers, and—most pitiable of all—mothers from the very mouths of their infants.”

Deserters who were allowed out of the city told of corpses everywhere stacked up and left unburied. So crazed with hunger were the defenders that they resorted to eating leather belts and harnesses.<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/2019/02/27/the-fall-of-jerusalem-in-70-ce-a-story-of-roman-revenge/>

Most of the slain were peaceful citizens, weak and unarmed, and they were butchered where they were caught. The heap of corpses mounted higher and higher about the altar; a stream of blood flowed down the Temple's steps, and the bodies of those slain at the top slipped to the bottom.

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/jewishtemple.htm>

While the Temple was ablaze, the attackers plundered it, and countless people who were caught by them were slaughtered. There was no pity for age and no regard was accorded rank; children and old men, laymen and priests, alike were butchered; every class was pursued and crushed in the grip of war,

whether they cried out for mercy or offered resistance.

Through the roar of the flames streaming far and wide, the groans of the falling victims were heard; such was the height of the hill and the magnitude of the blazing pile that the entire city seemed to be ablaze; and the noise - nothing more deafening and frightening could be imagined.

There were the war cries of the Roman legions as they swept onwards en masse, the yells of the rebels encircled by fire and sword, the panic of the people who, cut off above, fled into the arms of the enemy, and their shrieks as they met their fate. The cries on the hill blended with those of the multitudes in the city below;The Temple Mount, everywhere enveloped in flames, seemed to be boiling over from its base; yet the blood seemed more abundant than the flames and the numbers of the slain greater than those of the slayers. The soldiers climbed over heaps of bodies as they chased the fugitives."

Josephus' account appears in: Cornfield, Gaalya ed., Josephus, The Jewish War (1982); Duruy, Victor, History of Rome vol. V (1883).

Titus was given four legions totaling 60,000 troops. His army consisted of the Legio V Macedonia, Legio X Fretensis, Legio XII Fulminata, and Legio XV Apollinaris. The army was supported by a force of 16,000 noncombatants responsible for supply and logistics. warfarehistorynetwork.com/2019/02/27/the-fall-of-jerusalem-in-70-ce-a-story-of-roman-revenge/

This, like Hitler in the 1940s and the life of Antiochus Epiphanies of Daniel 11 and Nero of days before the destruction of Jerusalem, are precursors and types of the Antichrist to come.

All three of these men were the embodiment of Evil, but their sphere of influence and their cruelty was limited geographically to a specific region. However, when the Antichrist comes, his influence and cruelty and evil will reach all the world.

As I told you before, in Matt 24, there are 3 questions being ask by the disciples,

Matthew 24:3 (NKJV)

“Tell us, when will these things be?

And what *will be* the sign of Your coming,
and of the end of the age?”

Their eschatology put it all in one event which is how they read the Old Testament. But Jesus answers all three questions, giving clear instruction

on what to do when the temple is destroyed, and also at the same time telescoping out 2000 plus years to the physical bodily return of Christ, called the parousia.

When Jesus refers to these events, he pulls heavily from the Old Testament Prophet Daniel.

Matthew 24:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “Therefore when you see the *‘abomination of desolation,’* spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

Specifically he makes mention of the Abomination of Desolation, spoken by Daniel

And, often missed by the reader of the New Testament, nearly quotes verbatim Daniel Words in Daniel 12 when Christ says,

Matthew 24:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

This is taken from the prophet Daniel

Daniel 12:1–2 (NKJV)

12 “At that time Michael shall stand up,

The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons
of your people;

And there shall be a time of trouble,

Such as never was since there was a nation,

Even to that time.

And at that time your people shall be delivered,

Every one who is found written in the book.

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the
earth shall awake,

Some to everlasting life,

Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

Jesus would also have been very familiar with

Jeremiah 30:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Alas! For that day *is* great,

So that none *is* like it;

And it *is* the time of Jacob's trouble,

But he shall be saved out of it.

What did Christ directly link this extreme Tribulation
too?

This is the amazing beauty of Apocalyptic
literature, like the OT prophets of Daniel, Ezekiel,
Isaiah, Jeremiah and the New Testament books of
the apostles like Matt 24, I and II Thessalonians and
Revelation.

Here in Matt 24 Jesus can give instruction on what to do and look for for the destruction of the temple and at the exact same time be teaching what the final revelation of Antichrist and Tribulation will look like before His return.

Matthew 24:21 (NKJV)

²¹ **For then there will be great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

γὰρ τότε θλίψις μεγάλη

Matthew 24:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “Therefore when you see the *‘abomination of desolation,’* spoken of by Daniel the prophet, **standing in the holy place**” (whoever reads, let him understand),

In the past it is linked to the abomination of desolation. But in the future it is directly linked to the coming of Jesus Christ visibly in the clouds.

Matthew 24:29–31 (NKJV)

²⁹ “**Immediately after the tribulation of those days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the

powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

So here's the conclusion of the Introduction.

The unparalleled Great tribulation that Jesus ultimately has in mind here, that will be unlike anything in the history of the world or every will be, will happen as a result of the abomination of desolation, spoken by Daniel the Prophet and will be immediately follow by the visible, physical return of Jesus Christ in the clouds with his Angels blowing trumpets and resurrecting the dead saints of all the ages and rapturing us up, (snatching us away), before the supernatural wrath of God is poured out on the ungodly Christ hating world.

I went thru all of that to help you see that the revelation of the Man of sin, the Antichrist who as we shall see is directly connected to the Abomination of desolation of Matt 24:15 and as a result will bring in

the Great Tribulation thru hatred of the saints of God and will eventually be consumed by the Lord Himself.

Review

2 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

Notice with me,

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless **the falling away** comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

Paul is saying that, the coming of the Lord and the gathering of the saints (rapture) will not happen until 2 events happen.

The apostasy

The Man of Lawlessness is revealed (Antichrist)

Paul, emphatically states that the Rapture is not a Signless event. That is not imminent yet, but expected soon.

As I told you last week, this has confused so many people today about the Rapture and the Return of Christ.

I heard one pastor say, “Im not looking for Antichrist, Im looking for Christ!”

Another said, “what is blessed about the Blessed Hope if Im looking for the Blasphemous Beast”

These all sound nice but actually what did Paul say. What was he looking for. What was he expecting. It is clear from the passage.

1. The Apostasy
2. The Antichrist.

Although this text has some difficult things to know for certain, what is clear is very clear, and this is Paul was looking for the revelation of Antichrist, that would precede the coming of Christ.

So the first sign in our text not necessarily chronologically First

is

The Apostasy

I showed you already, that strictly biblically speaking this is religious in nature. It is a denial and or abandoning of a once confessed faith. Specifically here, it is about Christ.

1 John 2:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

1 John 2:22–23 (NKJV)

²² Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. ²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

This apostasy would assume that at the time it occurs, there will be a very large number of people who associate with or claim to be Christians and affirm the cardinal doctrines of the faith, YET are not real,

They are not truly saved... and when pressure is put on them, they will abandon the faith.

Jesus referred to 2 potential reasons why someone may abandon what they formally accepted to be true.

The first is tribulation and persecution

Matthew 13:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

The second is cares of the world and money.

²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

Both of these as we shall see later are the very means the Antichrist uses to produce the apostasy.

Currently

I believe the stage is being set for this event. The context and the atmosphere in the church for this event has been in the works for sometime. Starting

all the way back at the time of the preaching of Charles Finney and his invitationism and axioms bench, where he would do what ever it took to get people to make a profession of faith. With this came the ever encroaching easy believism that has saturated the church world wide. This has produced 10s of thousands of false converts. Church rolls are filled with unconverted members.

But that's not all,

One of the leading concerns I have regarding this falling away, is the prominence of claims of direct conversations with God.

This has led to wholesale abandonment of Sola Scriptura and the belief in the sufficiency of the Bible. With this has come a massive amount of unbiblical and bizarre claims about God and his Word.

Pseudo self appointed prophetess Kat Kerr claims to go to heaven multiple times a day and has personal conversations with Jesus and then delivers her claimed revelation to the masses.

She has a huge following. 44,000 subscribers to her youtube channel

Self appointed preacher and false prophet Joyce Meyer has 764,000 subscribers

Kenneth Copeland, even with his false prophecy regarding his blowing Covid away has 350,000 subscribers

False Teacher TD Jakes has 1.69 million subscribers
Southern Baptist, False Teacher, Steven Furtick has 2.19 million subscribers

False Teacher Joel Olsteen 2.4 Million

To put all of that in perspective, one of the most well known and gifted expositors of the Word of God today is

John MacArthur, with Grace to You, which has 596,000 subscribers

And Covenant Baptist Church of West Columbia SC has so view subscribers that it doesn't even list the number.

The advent of the pentecostal and neo-Pentecostal charismatic and hyper faith, prosperity movement, has devastated the evangelical landscape. It is by far the leading doctrines accepted in America and the African continent.

This has led to doctrinal dumbness and deficiency that is staggering.

Each year that the surveys are done, more and more young people have no clue what they believe and why they believe it.

Young people leave churches that don't teach the whole counsel of God, and in some cases, very little

of any of the counsel of God and then immerse themselves in the secular Universities to get deconstructed in their faith.

My point is that if the Antichrist showed up tomorrow, it would be no problem at all to produce a mass Apostasy. Most of the snowflakes would melt at the first sign of him.

So since the Apostasy is tied to the revelation of Man of Sin. We need to know more about this Man and who he is and what he does.

I believe in doing so, it will shed light on how he is linked to the Apostasy.

- I. His Description
- II. His Desecration
- III. His Deception

I. His Description

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the **man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,**

2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And then **the lawless one** will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

the man of sin. KJV manuscripts

others Lawlessness

1 John 3:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

II. His Desecration

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

This is not the first time we have seen language like this.

Isaiah 14:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ For you have said in your heart:

‘I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation
On the farthest sides of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.’

Isaiah 14:12 (NKJV)

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!

Ezekiel 28:2 (NKJV)

² “Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, ‘Thus says the Lord God:

“Because your heart *is* lifted up,
And you say, ‘I *am* a god,
I sit *in* the seat of gods
In the midst of the seas,’
Yet you *are* a man, and not a god,
Though you set your heart as the heart of a god

Daniel 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High,
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,
And shall intend to change times and law.
Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand
For a time and times and half a time.

Daniel 7:19–25 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, *with* its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, *which* devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; ²⁰ and the ten horns that *were* on its head, and the other *horn* which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance *was* greater than his fellows.

²¹ “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made *in favor* of the saints of the Most High,

and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

²³ “Thus he said:

‘The fourth beast shall be
A fourth kingdom on earth,
Which shall be different from all *other* kingdoms,
And shall devour the whole earth,
Trample it and break it in pieces.

²⁴ The ten horns *are* ten kings
Who shall arise from this kingdom.
And another shall rise after them;
He shall be different from the first *ones*,
And shall subdue three kings.

²⁵ He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High,
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,
And shall intend to change times and law.
Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand
For a time and times and half a time.

Daniel 7:26–27 (NKJV)

²⁶ ‘But the court shall be seated,
And they shall take away his dominion,
To consume and destroy *it* forever.

²⁷ Then the kingdom and dominion,
And the greatness of the kingdoms under the
whole heaven,

Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.

His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom,
And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’

Daniel 11:36–38 (NKJV)

³⁶ “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. ³⁷ He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above *them* all. ³⁸ But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things.

Revelation 13:4–8 (NKJV)

⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who *is* like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

⁵ And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to

continue for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

As we return to the text in 2 Thess 2, it is important to note that what Paul says in verse 4 is a key identifier of who the Antichrist is.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (ESV)

⁴ **proclaiming** himself to be God.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NASB95)

⁴ **displaying** himself as being God.

Just like the Apostasy, to get the attention of the church throughout the whole world, this cannot be an isolated event restricted to a small area or

region. This has to be significant, and shocking enough to call the churches attention to it as one of the 2 indicators that we are in now the time of the Return of Christ.

It's public, it's publicized, it is obvious, and it is a time marker as we shall see later.

He's Adversarial

He's Egotistical

He's Counterfactual

He's Adversarial

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ **who opposes** and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped,

ὁ ἀντικείμενοςἐπὶ πάντα λεγόμενον θεὸν ἢ σέβασμα,

There is no definite article, as it could refer to any god (a god)

He is opposed to anything or anyone that is called a god.

He is opposed

39.1; ἀντίκειμαι;: to oppose someone, involving not only a psychological attitude but also a corresponding behavior—‘to oppose, to be hostile toward, to show hostility.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 491). United Bible Societies.

1 Timothy 5:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Therefore I desire that *the* younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the **adversary** to speak reproachfully.

Galatians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are **contrary** to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

He is the adversary of God, and is opposed to and opposite of anything and any other religion that is god. Whether the true God or false god.

This is very important to the Identity of this man and the empire He will rule.

He is not tolerant of any other god or any other view of God.

He is not ecumenical in any sense. He will not allow any other religion to exist.

He will not tolerate any other object or person worshiped.

So any of the religions of the world that are ecumenical isn't his religion. Any religion, denomination that is willing to tolerate another's view of God will not be the religion of Antichrist or associated with the empire of Antichrist. He will oppose it and be the adversary of it.

Any other view of god other than his won't be allow.

I have read and heard, many who say that the Antichrist religion will be ecumenical, a one world government and a one world Religion.

That is not possible based on this text.

Being that way will put him on a collision course with Christianity. TRUE Christianity.

John 14:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 17:3 (NKJV)

³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Judaism will not be tolerated either. They affirm the Shama of Israel.

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one!

⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who *are* all around you

Exodus 20:3 (NKJV)

³ “You shall have no other gods before Me.

Matthew 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “*Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’*”

That means that if you are not willing to submit to his view of god, what he will consider to be the only God you will be his enemy.

And since He can't get to God and kill him, He will come after the next best thing.
His followers!!!

Revelation 13:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Daniel 7:21 (NKJV)

²¹ “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,

Daniel 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High,
Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,
And shall intend to change times and law.
Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand
For a time and times and half a time.

“Why did the German people, and more particularly the church, not part ways with Hitler once his agenda became known? We might

understand their initial deception, but why did so many hundreds of thousands of Germans directly or indirectly participate in the atrocities that became so much part of the Nazi agenda? These multiplied thousands of otherwise decent Germans boycotted Jewish businesses, participated in mock trials, and brutally controlled the prison camps. In short, Hitler had helpers, millions of helpers, who did his bidding no matter how despicable their assignments became.

Is it true, as some have suggested, that the Germans of Hitler's era or somehow half man and half demon, the likes of which will never appear on the earth again? Was historian Friedrich Meinecke correct when he suggested that the Nazis were a "fluke" or "accident" of history that will, in all probability, never really occur? Or were the Germans not only human but fully human, simply human without veneer, human without the constraints of society and God?"

Hitler's Cross, Erwin Lutzer