

# Revelation 12-13

[Date]

## SEC: The Book of Revelation and the Concept of Sevens

So far in our series in the book of Revelation, we have been showing you that the book of Revelation is built around the concept of sevens. We know that seven is God's number of completion, and God does everything in the Bible by sevens. We have come through a number of those sevens before we ever got to the book of Revelation, and we will continue on because that's the overall study we are in.

When we finished our last section on sevens, I wanted to show you how the book of Revelation, which is reportedly the hardest book in the Bible, is really the easiest book in the Bible if you just follow the way that God designed for it to be laid out. You and I can follow that systematic theology, so to speak, and look at it. We started out by looking at the seven churches, and we talked about the seven breakdowns in the book of Revelation.

Then we entered into a study, which is where we are at right now, and I showed you how the real way to understand the book of Revelation is to understand that it is built around seven characters, seven personages, seven different people. We started with Christ first, and we showed you how He is the dominating character in the Bible. Then we went to the Apostle John, and we showed you how he fits in with the seven churches. Last week, we finished up a couple of sermons on what was really the key to the book of Revelation: Moses and Elijah.

Today, we are going to look at, or begin to lay the background for, the fifth, sixth, and seventh personages in the Bible. We won't even get into them today, but this is such an extensive thing that we are going to look at today that we have got to lay some good background. We are going to begin to look at the fifth, sixth, and seventh personage in the Bible. Today, we are going to lay the background for understanding the person of the Antichrist.

You just can't get up here and go right into where I want to go without laying some background so that you can better understand. The way I teach, I am not in a hurry to just lay a lot of things out that you can't systematically go home and study. I want to show you the process by which I study the Bible, and then I want you to learn from that and then put your own way to it and become someone who thoroughly knows how to go and search the Scriptures.

## SEC: The Central Conflict of History

Without a doubt, the devil and Christ are the two main characters of the Bible. They are not the theme of the Bible. I have told you before, and we have studied it many, many times, the theme of the Bible is a kingdom. But what makes the devil and Christ so important in that overall theme of the Bible is because both of them want that kingdom. The Lord Jesus Christ is going to get that kingdom because God has decreed that He will get it. That is rightfully His because He is God's Son, and the Son is going to get the throne. We have talked about that before. The devil wants to take that throne, and he thinks that he deserves it.

With that statement right there, I just basically laid out for you all of man's history from the beginning of recorded time, which goes back to about 4000 BC. The real issue of history, the real history of the nations, the real history behind everything in this planet is simply this. You find it in Genesis 1 before you go four verses. It is light versus darkness. It is God versus the devil. It is righteousness versus wickedness. It is good versus evil. That is the basic concept that all history revolves around.

We as Gentiles, and many people who do not believe the Bible, have no use for God, no use for the concept of God. They will try to infuse history into some other way, and then history becomes just an absolute jumbled mess. But the truth of the matter is this: the devil and Christ are without a doubt the two main characters of not only the Bible, but because they are in the Bible, they are the two main characters of history. All history is around those two men and the conflict that ensues because one is establishing the righteous kingdom, and the other one is trying to usurp that kingdom and take it from Him and set himself up as the king.

#### SEC: Misinformation and Misdirection About the Antichrist

I have got to say this before I go further. It would be hard to find in America today, it may be true in a foreign country, but in America it would really be hard to find someone who does not at least understand the basic concept of the Antichrist. With all of the books that are out, Tim LaHaye has put out a number of books that deal with the rapture, the time, and all the tribulation. They have been out for many, many, many years. I remember as a young Christian back in the early 70s, one of the books that really got me into the Bible was a book put out by Salem Kirban that talked about 666. It really was one of the first books that really began to deal with all of the issues.

Since that time, my goodness, we have had *The Exorcist*, *The Omen*, *Rosemary's Baby*, all the deals on TV, all the books that have come out. It is all over the place. So everybody has a concept. The problem is, in reality, with all that material out there, most of it is wrong material. The truth of the matter is that most people in America, especially Christians, know very little about the man of sin. They are dependent on what they read or what they hear or what they see in a movie, and then they form their opinion based on that. 99% of the time, if not 100% of the time, those things are very loose based on the Bible.

You have to realize that the devil operates in two modes: he operates in misinformation and misdirection. The devil is going to make sure that in the world that he wants to conquer, when unsaved men write books, or even some saved men write books, and unsaved men make movies, you are going to be absolutely guaranteed that the devil is going to misdirect and give out misinformation. At the end of the day, the concept that you have in your mind about the Antichrist is going to be far removed from the real concept of the Antichrist. That just goes without saying.

When I think of this subject, I think of the old movie, *The Wizard of Oz*. You have heard me say this before. I look at *The Wizard of Oz* and I see a lot of parallels to the Bible. Here are some people that are trying to get to the place where they meet a guy who is the great Wizard of Oz.

Oz is that mystical city, and there is a yellow brick road that gets you there. The symbolism of the parallels of life are just incredible.

My favorite part is when they all finally do get to Oz, and they walk in to see the great wizard because they want to get back with Dorothy. Anyhow, he wants to get back to Kansas. When you get down there, they are in that part, and they are standing there, and there is a big screen, and there is a big face up there with a loud booming voice and smoke and fire and lightning coming out behind the thing. They are standing there shaking and being afraid because of what they are standing before. They have tried the whole movie. Now they wanted to get here. Just like most people, they are scared when they get there, and he is booming things and yelling things, and they are all afraid. Suddenly, Toto runs over and pulls back this curtain, and there behind the curtain is a man, and he is throwing levers and pushing switches and yelling into the mic, and all of the controls there are running what they are seeing. The classic statement is that this guy behind the scene says, "Pay no attention to that man behind that curtain."

In other words, what the devil has done all down through history is exactly that. Through misinformation and misdirection, he has focused the world's attention on what we consider to be the Antichrist when the truth of the matter is most people today have no clue from the Bible who and what the Antichrist is. There is more information on the Antichrist in your Bible than any other person in the Bible outside the Lord Jesus Christ. What the devil has done is got you to listen to the guy behind the curtain, and you are paying no attention to the real voice, the real power behind what the illusion of misdirection and misinformation is. That is where certainly the world is, and unfortunately, 99% of God's people are.

You can see with this study, I do not want to give you, I want you to, when we are done with this, I want you to understand how this thing works, and I just can't open it up. I have got to lay some background, and you will learn a lot of stuff behind the background. We need to understand that. As I said, the Bible gives more information on the Antichrist than any other person outside the Lord Jesus Christ.

SEC: The King James Bible and the Antichrist

This is why the devil has fostered the concept of all the new Bibles. I do not have time to get into all of this today. If you have been around here for any time at all, you know why we take the King James Bible over the other Bibles. But to put it in a nutshell, the bottom line is this: you cannot trace what I am about to give you. You cannot trace the person of the Antichrist through any other Bible other than a King James 1611 Authorized Version. You just simply cannot do it. The verses are obscured. In some cases, they are taken out.

If you would take a King James Bible and put it right here and go get any other version of the Bible that you want to get and put it over here, I would hold them up, and I could legitimately tell you that there are 65,000 changes between the two of them. There lies the problem. In many of them, you find the deity of Christ is completely taken out. In many of them, you find that the verses in this Bible that are ascribed to the Lord Jesus Christ now have been ascribed to the Antichrist and the devil himself. That is my biggest gripe. What the devil has done, he has crowded the aspect, and that is why there is no real knowledge today of the Antichrist and the

person of the devil and how it all works together. Without a doubt, it is the thing that has set the stage for where we are at today. The devil has fostered the concept. He has set the stage, and we are going to look at the background of, without a doubt, one of the greatest studies in all of the Bible.

#### SEC: Old Testament Types of the Antichrist

I told you this before, but for you new folks, let me re-say it again. There are two places in your Bible that are key to understanding all this material. In the Old Testament, the two greatest passages on the devil and the person of the Antichrist will be Job 40 and Job 41. They will be the two greatest chapters. In fact, Job 41:13 says, talking about the devil and the Antichrist:

Job 41:13

> *Who can discover the face of his garment?*

That is a very telling verse, "the face of his garment." What does that mean? It means the devil changes faces down through history like you and I change clothes. He hides behind a choreography, if I may, of the scenes of history by changing his clothes to fit the scene. He is like one of those little chameleon lizards that wherever they are, if they are around brown stuff, they turn brown. If they are in a green leafy place, then they turn green. They have the ability to blend in, and you can't see them. That is exactly what the devil does. That is why the Bible is the only book in the world that lays him out in his total complete entirety, that there is nothing left untold. The Bible will give you his nationality. The Bible will give you his height. The Bible will give you his weight. The Bible will give you his political views. The Bible will show you his religion. The Bible will show you his church. The Bible will even lay out his sexual orientation for you if you so desire to know those facts. It is all recorded in the Bible for you. This is why the devil wants to use misinformation and misdirection so that you cannot find who he is.

I mentioned this, and I think it was last week or maybe the week before, that I told you that in your Bible you have 18 men in the Old Testament, 18 men who foreshadow the coming man of sin, the Antichrist. In these 18 men, if you study their lives, if you go through and you detail out what takes place, what transpires, you will find that God has recorded in these men's lives who were all representative of the man of sin. They are all unsaved men. They are all men who hate God. They are all men who hate the people of God. These men in their life, they built a perfect composite. It shows you how the man of sin is going to operate. I want to give them here, and I just want to give a brief explanation about each one of them.

1. The first man in your Bible that is a type of the man of sin goes all the way back to Genesis 4, and that is the person of Cain. When you get over to the New Testament, he is connected right back to the Antichrist. The Bible says in 1 John 3:12, "he was of that wicked one." In John 8:44, Jesus Himself said to the nation of Israel, the leaders, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." Then He says this: "The devil, he was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth." I do not know of anywhere the devil murdered anybody in the beginning. Genesis is the book of the beginning, but I know

who the first murderer is in the Bible. It is Cain. So he is tracing the devil all the way back, and Cain is your first type of the Antichrist in the Bible.

2. The next one you will find is over there in Genesis 10. It is a man by the name of Nimrod. He establishes the first Gentile kingdom in Genesis 10. It is a kingdom that is against everything that God is trying to do. The last type of the Antichrist, when he shows up in the book of Revelation, he establishes the last Gentile kingdom. In Genesis 10:10, under Nimrod, you have the first Gentile kingdom. In the book of Revelation, you have the last Gentile kingdom, and it is represented by the 10 toes of Daniel. When you want to find out about this one, you go back and study this one. When you put it all together, you have got a complete composite.
3. The next one will be Pharaoh, in Exodus 1-12. Pharaoh is the third type of the Antichrist. You know what happens. The nation of Israel goes down into bondage. They are down into bondage in Egypt for 430 years. During that time, the Bible says there arises a new king in Egypt who knew not Joseph. Now the Pharaoh comes in. This Pharaoh comes in, and he begins to persecute the nation of Israel. He puts them under bondage. You are going to find that when they cry out to God, God sends them a deliverer. It is Moses, one of our two witnesses in the Tribulation period, Revelation 11. Moses goes up against Pharaoh, and you find in that story, in the Old Testament, you find Pharaoh, a type of Antichrist. You find him persecuting the Jews. You find Moses, like Revelation 11. Moses does the plagues on Egypt and Pharaoh, just like he is going to do in the Tribulation period in Revelation 11. It is all there. Everything you need, if you just take the time.
4. Then you have the next one in Numbers 22 and 25. Of course, this will be Balak. Balak is your next type of Antichrist. What Balak does is he introduces the nation of Israel to the religion of the Antichrist in the Old Testament, which is commonly called Baal worship. It is at this point that the nation of Israel gets their first real indoctrination of the religion of the Antichrist in the Old Testament, which is Baal worship. You are going to find that basically Israel never recovers from this, though they make some great gains and they do some good things. This will always be the thing. In the final analysis, this is the thing that broke their back with God, was the Old Testament leaving God and going after Baal, the sun god, and worshipping him. They get that introduction through Balak in Numbers 20-25.
5. Then you come to the book of Judges, and you have the next one. It is Sisera. Sisera is the commander of the Canaanite armies. He hates God's people, and he tries to persecute them. In fact, he oppresses them for 20 years, if I remember correctly. He is finally defeated in a place called the Valley of Megiddo, which is Armageddon. The exact same spot that the Antichrist is going to be defeated in when he persecutes the people of God is the exact same spot where Sisera, the commander of the Canaanite armies, winds up being destroyed in a great battle that is a picture of the Battle of Armageddon.
6. Then you have Judges 9. In Judges 9, you have a man who is a wicked leader of the nation of Israel, and he is a great type of the Antichrist.
7. Then you have Saul in 1 Samuel 12 and 13. Saul is the first king that Israel gets. I want you to remember, it is not the king that God wanted them to have, it is the king that the people wanted them to have. Of course, Saul persecutes the people. He is a terrible leader. He hates God. He hates everything about God. He is all about himself. Saul winds up killing himself.

8. Then you have the next one that comes in the picture there is Goliath. Goliath is found in 1 Samuel 17:4-7. Goliath is a man who is a Philistine, and he is a giant, about 13, 14 feet tall. He challenges the nation of Israel, and he is in the same spot where the Battle of Armageddon is going to take place. You know the story. David is one of our 21 types of Christ. If you want to study the alternative of it, take the 21 types of Christ in the Old Testament, and you will get a composite of Christ. Many of those types go up against the types of the Antichrist. When you have that, you have a picture of the Battle of Armageddon, which we are going to study when we get into it here next week.

What happens is David goes down, and he goes out to fight this giant. When he goes out, he does not have a sword. He does not have any armor. What he has is God. He goes over to the brook and he gets five smooth stones. What he does is he takes a stone, he puts it in a sling, and he hits Goliath, a type of Antichrist, right between the eyes. There is a reason why it is a stone. There is a reason why he did not have a sword. There is a reason why he did not have a big club. There is a reason why he did not have a dog. There is a reason why he did not have an MP5. He had to kill him with a stone. You know why? Because in Daniel, Christ is called the smiting stone. It is all there. You are going to get an education today and next week. You are going to walk out of here, and then you are going to see everything else everybody says about it, and you are going to be able to discern it from the Bible to know the truth. That is my job, to help you figure out in this phony baloney world to quit looking at the smoking guns and the smoking mirrors. I do not want you to be a Tin Man. I do not want you to be a Dorothy. I do not want you to be a Lion guy. I do not want you to be a Straw Man. I want you to be a Toto. Run over and rip the cover back. Find out what is really going on behind the curtain. That whole movie, Toto is the only one with any brains. When you begin to see this stuff, you begin to understand how important it is to get into your Bible.

He hits Goliath right between the eyes. Besides that, when you get into Revelation next week, you are going to find that the Antichrist gets killed with a head wound. Abimelech gets a head wound. He is down there, and there is a woman up in a tower. That woman up in a tower, and Abimelech is down there, and a woman picks up a piece of millstone. Stone. Daniel? Stone? She did not have a Glock either. She had a piece of stone, and she drops that thing, and it hits him on the head, and it kills him. It is all through the Bible. That is how you put it together.

9. Then the next one you have is Absalom, 2 Samuel 14. This is David's son. What Absalom does is exactly what the Antichrist is going to do. He tries to usurp the kingdom from the Father. Absalom is an incredible study.
10. The next one you have is in 1 Samuel 25, and that is the story of Nabal. Nabal hates David, who is a type of Christ, and there is a woman involved. Her name is Abigail. There is a lot of great inspirational stuff about David and Abigail. When ladies usually have lady meetings and lady studies and do whatever ladies do in their studies, Abigail and David is a great study. It is an absolutely incredible study on the practical side of it. But from a doctrinal standpoint, David is a type of Christ, Nabal is a type of the Antichrist, and Abigail is a type of the nation of Israel. Nabal gets killed, and then what does David do? He takes Abigail as his

wife, a picture of God restoring his wife, the nation of Israel, we talked about a couple of weeks ago, and he will live happily ever after. It all works. It is just that simple.

You are going to find that Saul, Goliath, Absalom, and Nabal are four types of Antichrist under David's reign. That is very instructive because here is how it works. You get the first king is Saul. He is a type of the Antichrist. You get the second king after Saul is David. He is a type of Christ. David lasts for 40 years, Saul runs for 40 years, and the third guy, Solomon, runs for 40 years. Here is how it works. Saul is a type of the Antichrist. When David shows up, Saul gets killed, and David finishes wiping out all of the other enemies that are connected with the nations that want to keep Israel from being what God wants him to be. So he spends his 40 years whacking out the rest of them. Picture the Second Coming of Christ. The next king that comes on the throne is Solomon. You know what you got in Solomon's 40 years? No wars. You know what you got a picture of? You got a picture of Saul the Antichrist, David the Second Coming of Christ, and Solomon the type of Christ in the Millennium. I do not know what to tell you. It is just that simple.

11. The key is here that our next guy, Solomon, is the only man in the list that is both a type of Christ and a type of the Antichrist. He is the only guy. When you get into 2 Chronicles 9:13, from that point it brings you up, and Solomon is a type of Christ, and in 2 Chronicles 9:13, the gold that comes to Solomon is 666 talents of gold. 666. From that point on, he is a type of the Antichrist. There is a reason for that, and we will get into that next week when we get to that point of it. So you want to mark that.
12. The next one will be Jeroboam, 1 Kings 12 and 19. Jeroboam is Solomon's captain of his host, and when his kingdom gets split, Jeroboam takes the 10 northern tribes, and he is a type of the Antichrist.
13. Then you have in 1 Kings 16, you have a guy by the name of Ahab. Ahab, he takes a wife, her name is Jezebel. Ahab, without a doubt, is the wickedest king that Israel ever has, and he brings them right smack dab into the depths of Baal worship. In fact, his wife Jezebel is a Baalite woman preacher. She is the prophetess of Baal, and she is right smack dab in the middle. Elijah, our other witness, remember him? He goes up against these two.
14. Then you have our next one is Nebuchadnezzar. This will be the book of Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar now, he takes the two southern tribes into captivity, and Nebuchadnezzar, when it finally happens, Nebuchadnezzar, he is a type of the Antichrist who takes the nation of Israel into captivity.
15. Then you have the next one, a guy by the name of Sennacherib. He is the king of Assyria, Isaiah 10. Nebuchadnezzar takes the southern tribes, Sennacherib takes the northern tribes. He is a type of the Antichrist.
16. Then you have in the book of Esther, a guy by the name of Haman. Haman tries to kill Mordecai, who is a type of Christ, and Haman winds up getting hung just like Judas did.
17. Then the next one is in the New Testament, would be Herod, and he is a picture of the Antichrist on the throne, and he persecutes the nation of Israel.
18. The last one, number 18, is your key. When you get it all together, and you lay all this stuff out, the one that puts the pieces together for you is the last one, and that is where we want to focus today to see how this thing sets the stage. You are going to go out of here today with a

lot of information you did not have that hopefully will put it all into perspective for you. The last one is Judas, John 17.

In your Bible, as I said earlier, you have Job 40 and 41 as the two greatest chapters in the Old Testament, and we have been through those before. The greatest two chapters, and this is where our text is going to be next week, is Revelation 12 and 13. You get those two in the Old Testament, and these two in the New Testament, and put them together, add the 18 types to it, and you have got what you need to figure this thing out. But before we get to that, there are some other things that we have got to look at, two places in particular. I want to lay these out for you. I want to explain them to you, because they are really the background, and you can't get into this study without understanding what has already been going on.

SEC: The Day of the Lord and the Church's Deliverance

The first place we are going to go is 1 Thessalonians 5. We are going to pick it up in verse 1. While you are turning, let us ask the Lord's blessing on our time.

Father, we thank You and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You. We ask You to open up the Scriptures today that we might understand all that You have for us, and we come to You today not claiming to know anything but, Lord, trusting in this book. We know that the world is full of misdirection and misinformation. We know by now, just in a short time we have been into this sermon this morning, that that is from the devil. The devil's main job is to deceive people, God's people, and people in general, to damn their souls to hell or to confuse God's people to the place that they never find out what God is doing and waste their lives. Lord, help us today. Help us next week as we prepare the groundwork today to move into the great study next week that we might be able to see how this thing in its entirety plays itself out. Lord, I know there are a lot of things that I will miss, a lot of things that I will not do right in this, and, Lord, I need Your Spirit to cover me on those and to help bring back to my remembrance those things that I need. Lord, I am totally dependent on You this morning as I need to be every day of my life to give me what I need, to give Your people what they need. Meet with us today, Lord. Holy Spirit of God, give us the discernment and the insight and the wisdom to teach Your people the truth of God in a world that has rejected Your truth. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Our first passage is going to be 1 Thessalonians 5. I am going to read it down here starting in verse 1. Here is what it says. Then we are going to explain these concepts and begin to lay the foundation.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

- > *1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.*
- > *2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*
- > *3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*
- > *4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.*

> 5 *Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*

> 6 *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

> 7 *For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.*

> 8 *But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

> 9 *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*

> 10 *Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*

> 11 *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

This is a great passage. Obviously, Paul is writing this to the church. Paul is giving the church instructions about what is going to begin to transpire at some point. The first thing that always struck me was verse 1 where it says, "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you." You know why he said that? You know why he said that to a church? Because if you are reading your Bible and you are into the Bible and you are effectively studying your Bible, you should know these things. He is saying about the times and the seasons, that is a key phrase in your Bible, it will always be representative of the Tribulation period and God and the Antichrist dealing with the nation of Israel in that time period. What he is saying basically is this: about the Antichrist and the Tribulation, I do not have to tell you because you should already know.

Then he goes on and he says this, "For ye yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord," that is the Second Coming of Christ, we know that, "shall come as a thief in the night." But then he says this, verse 3, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety." You are going to find references to this in Zechariah 11, Daniel 8, Daniel 11, and really in Matthew 24. I am going to come down through and explain each one of these, and we are going to go back and put it together. He says in verses 4-6 that, "We are not in darkness but in light." What does he mean by that? It means that we have the Bible. We are not in darkness. We have truth so we can find these things out.

Then he says down there in verse 3, he says, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." Next week when we get into Revelation 12 and 13, you are going to find that Israel is always likened to a woman in travail. Travail as being pained to be delivered, a baby. You are going to find that Israel, when it talks about it being in the Tribulation, it is always going to talk about in that concept of a woman with child paining to be delivered. When she delivers that child, it is a picture of Christ coming back. Tribulation is not like having a baby. I never had a baby. But I hear women tell me all the time that it is a very tough time. Some women obviously have babies easier than others. Some women have babies just like that. Other women have labor for a month. Everybody is different. But everything about it is the same in this point. No matter how hard it was for you to give birth to your child, no matter how hard or how painful it was,

once you got the little baby in your arm, you forgot all about the pain because that is the way it works. That is why it is used as a nation of Israel. They are going to go through a time of great tribulation like a woman goes through childbearing. When the fruit finally comes, in Israel's case, Christ coming back and then getting the Millennium, just like a woman with a baby that goes through the travail, she is going to, Israel is going to forget about the pain and focus on now what they have with the Lord. That is why it is used.

Now verse 9, I just want you to look at this because this is a great passage here, and you need to know where this is at because he is talking about the Tribulation to the church. But then he says this in verse 9: "For God hath not appointed us," the church, "to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." There is one of the greatest verses in the Bible that show you that the church is not going through the Tribulation. You have a lot of bad teaching today that teaches that the church is going to go through the Tribulation. When you get into the book of Revelation, as many other places, you will find that the Tribulation is God's wrath being poured out on planet Earth. That verse says that you and I as the church are not appointed unto that wrath. We go out in the rapture before the Tribulation takes place.

Somebody said one time, you know, I get this all the time, they asked me if I am a pre-Tribulation rapture, and I said, I ain't anything. I just believe what the Bible says. The Bible says we go out. We are not appointed unto wrath. I have had guys argue with me about it. I could never understand why a guy was so fervent and arguing and was so excited about going through the Tribulation period. If I really believed that we had to go through, I would not tell anybody about it. I would just sit in my garage and worry. I have never figured those things out.

#### SEC: The Antichrist's Rise and the Abomination of Desolation

When the Antichrist shows up, the first three and a half years, and remember the Tribulation period is seven years. In the first three and a half years, he brings a false security. This is why the Bible says that there is peace and safety. He makes a covenant with the nation of Israel. He solves all the problems in the Middle East seemingly overnight. Of course, he is the one that is causing all the problems in the Middle East anyhow. So all he has to do is flip the problem-causing switch to off. For three and a half years, the whole world falls under this delusion of we are now finally reaching world peace.

Do you not know, if you have got any lick of sense at all, do you not know that is where the world is headed right now? Do you not know we are in a situation on planet Earth where nobody can stop this hungry giant coming home to lunch that is bent on destruction? We are the most powerful nation in the world in the United States, and we got the A-bomb. So what? We can't use it. The guys that will get it will use it. We are caught. We bomb anybody over there with an A-bomb, it would be the end for us. We would be just killed. But if they do it to us, it is an oops. But we can't do it. We are the greatest, most powerful nation in the world. We have the destructive power to wipe out tomorrow all the opposition. But we can't use it because of the political pressure that stopped. I am not saying that we should. I am just saying, I am not a warmonger. Well, I am kind of. I am just saying. I am not a warmonger. I do not think when you get into war, you have got to win it. I mean, I do not think you have got to get out there and they

are shooting AK-47s to you and RPGs and all that stuff, and you just want to bring a bag of marbles and the guy who wins the most marbles gets to win. That is not the way you fight a war. You fight a war, if they got a battalion, you take a division. They got a division, you take a corps. You take ten times what you need to do the job, you get it done, and you get home. That is how you do it. But you can't do that anymore. That is why we have not won a war since World War II. Korea was a draw, Vietnam was a joke, and now we have got another one over there, and we are not going to win this one. I could win it tomorrow. But I will not be running for president, so do not get your hopes up. I would be assassinated in a week. But I know how to end it. You just get back some of that old gravel that we used to have in America, where America would not lose. But when politics get in, that is when you got a problem.

The devil, the Antichrist, is going to be a master at politics. He is not only going to be a political identity, he is going to be a religious guy. He is going to blend it all together. That is why you see all the religions in the world out there dumping the word of God and getting into politics. It is all going to be tailor-made for him when he shows up. He is not going to have a lot of work to do. The work is already being, we will see that in a moment. But the first three and a half years, everything is peace and safety. The world comes under a false sense of peace. The religious world, now remember, we are gone. Well, I am gone, I do not know about you, but I am gone. Are you going to be gone too? All right, I feel better now. We are gone. So we are not going to be an issue anymore. The whole world is going to see him come, and I am going to show you how this works next week. You are going to be flabbergasted when I show you the truth of how this thing breaks down. You will not get it in any movie, you will not get it in any book. Well, you will get it in this book. This one will have it in. You will not get any other one. But I am going to show you how he is going to pull that complete deception off that everybody on planet Earth is going to think that he is the Christ. Just like Israel thought that Saul was the right one. But they got the wrong one, and then the real one showed up. It is never the first king that comes. It is always the second king that comes. It was not Saul, it was David. It was not Cain, it was Seth. It is not your first birth that gets you to heaven. It is the second one, you must be born again. That is how it works. It just follows that line of reasoning.

In the middle of that Tribulation period, at the three and a half year mark, the devil changes. Now he begins to do something that we have got to look at in the next passage. We want to turn to 2 Thessalonians 2. Let us see what happens then.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

> 1 *Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,*

> 2 *That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.*

> 3 *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

> 4 *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

> 5 *Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?*

> 6 *And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

> 7 *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

> 8 *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

I want you to notice some things here. This is what happens. Verse 3 talks about the revealing of a man of sin, and now we got a new title. He is called the son of perdition. You want to mark that. Verse 4 says that he sets himself up as God, in the temple of God. It shows you that this mystery of iniquity is already at work in 60, 65 AD. Paul is writing this at about 60 AD. Paul is telling the people that he is writing to about the coming Antichrist that is going to take place centuries down the line. He also tells them that the mystery, the setting of the stage, the mystery of iniquity, the background work, the choreography of what this event is going to be is already being done while he is writing this book in 60 AD. I am telling you, I am going to show you how that works here in just a moment.

The first three and a half years, it is a false peace and safety. We already looked at it. Now what transpires is this. The devil at the middle of that Tribulation period, at the three and a half year mark, this is why it is called Daniel's 70th week. What the devil does is he goes into the temple in Jerusalem. He claims to be God. He sits down on the throne in Jerusalem, shows himself to be God, exalts himself above God, and demands the whole world worships him as God. At that point, he then turns against the nation of Israel for one sole purpose, and we are going to find out how this all works in just a second. He turns against the nation of Israel to wipe them out and destroy them. This begins the three and a half years where he actively pursues the wipe out every Jew on this planet. This is called the abomination of desolation. It is found in Matthew 24, Daniel 11, and Daniel 8. These passages set the stage for what we are going to look at next week when we get into the whole concept, but you have got to see how it works.

SEC: The Devil's Threefold Hatred

The last type of the Antichrist of our 18 is Judas. There lies the key of how this whole thing works. There are three things the devil hates.

19. First of all, he hates the Lord Jesus Christ. The reason why he hates the Lord Jesus Christ is because He is God. The devil wants to be God. So all through the Bible, the devil has tried to get rid of the seed that was going to produce Christ, or at the crucifixion, as we will see in a few moments, Christ Himself. So he hates Christ because Christ is the true King, and the devil wants to be that King. Hence, Absalom and David, Saul and David, Abimelech, Sisera, they are all types of it.

20. The second thing the devil hates is the nation of Israel. The reason why he hates the nation of Israel is because Christ is going to get the throne, but Israel is going to get the land. The devil wants that land. You know all through the Bible, the devil has tried to get back that land. I am going to show you here in just a moment.
21. Then the third thing the devil hates, you and me. I am sorry we are so far down on the list, but that is the way it is. He hates you and I, you know why? Because you and I have Christ living inside us. The devil knows that you and I, if you have not figured this out yet, the devil knows that you and I are part of the intricate plan of God on this planet to accomplish God's program. So he wants to kill Christ, stop the program. He wants to wipe out Israel, stop the program. He wants to get you and I somewhere else on Sunday morning, somewhere else on Thursday night, someplace else than reading your Bible, so he can stop you and me. It is that simple. The devil has one plan for you and for me, that is to throw us under the bus and back up six or seven times and run over us good and then leave us lying there. That is all he wants. He wants to stop you and me from plugging in to the book to help God fulfill His plan. That is how it works.

You know if you know anything about the Bible at all, you know that the devil was not always the devil. Back in the time around Genesis 1:1, and you find this out from Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, you know that Satan was once a cherub called Lucifer. He had all control of God's kingdom. But he was not satisfied with that. The Bible says in those two passages and other numerous places that he wanted to exalt his throne above the stars of God. He says, "I will be like the most High, I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." That has always been his issue. From that point down through the Bible, the issue is the devil wants to be God. He wants to rule this world. Hence, he hates Christ. He hates the Jew, and he hates you and I, and he certainly hates the word of God. He hates the word of God. I guess that could be the fourth thing he hates. He hates the word of God because the word of God reveals him to us so he can't hide. You can't give you and I misdirection when you have big neon signs pointing to the truth. So now maybe Toto is a type of the word of God. I am just confused this morning.

We know what happened. In Genesis 1:4, we start the conflict of light versus darkness. Watch, I am just going to walk you through this very quickly. The whole history of man and all history of Bible is simply about God and the devil. I have said this many, many times. History is broken down in its lowest common denominator. God moved to accomplish a purpose. The devil moved to cut it off. That is all it is. Once you see that the devil rebelled against God and became the devil, he did not give up and say, well, good try. No, no, he was bent on taking God's throne, becoming God, and ruling the world.

When you find it the first time, when God begins to put it all back together, get in Genesis. You begin to have Adam who has two boys, Cain, and then you have Abel. The devil looks at that and says, Abel is going to bring the seed of Christ through. So what does he do? He has Cain kill Abel, canceling out the line of Christ. That is what his plan was. In Genesis 6, the Bible says that the devil has basically taken over the world. There is a race of giants. His angels come down and cohabit with human women, and they produced a race of giants. Genesis 6, "there were giants in the land in those days." They are everywhere. The devil has taken control of planet Earth, but

what God did, He wiped them out in a flood. You do not go forth chapters, and you find Nimrod setting up the first Gentile world power. The Gentile world power is set up in a way that it just runs rampant. The devil runs the world. You find that God brings His line through, and you find at the end of the book of Genesis, they are down in Egypt. They are down here for 430 years. What does the devil do? Tries to wipe him out with Pharaoh. They made bricks. He puts them under the toil of a taskmaster to wipe them out. All through the Bible. When you are trying to get into 1 Kings and 2 Kings and 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, the devil again, he infuses all of his things into them to try to destroy them. Finally, in 606 BC, when the times of the Gentiles come in, you know what he does? He scatters them across the face of the planet. They lose their own language. They lose their homeland. Now for 400 years, they are oppressed by the Satanic nations who want to, if you can't kill them, amalgamate them in, and let them forget who they are.

Then what happens? First Coming of Christ. God said, no, I have got to say this. Do not get confused with this and think that up in heaven, the scene is kind of like God is on the throne. Every time the devil one-ups Him, God said, now what am I going to do? Oh, of course, this got me. Do not get the idea that God is up in heaven. It is a nice bright shiny day. He is having a cup of coffee, like we do. Just kind of enjoying the morning, and an angel runs in and says, Lord, You are not going to believe what the devil did. And He says, now what? It does not work that way. This whole thing is in God's plan the way God wants to run. God knows what the devil is going to do before he even does it. But God has got a plan. God, in fact, the Bible tells you in the book of Proverbs that the devil was created for a purpose. The Bible says in the book of Romans, it talks in 9 and 10 and 11. He says that in 9. He says that the wickedness of this world God uses to get honor and glory out of it. So it is all by God's plan. He never one-ups God. The devil makes his move, and God makes His move, and it is God uses it for His own purpose.

#### SEC: The Battle at the Cross and the Keys of Death

Finally, we got the crucifixion. There is much more going on to the crucifixion in John 3:16, much more. The Battle of the Ages is taking place at the crucifixion of Christ. In essence, it really has nothing to do with your salvation and my salvation. Now, obviously, we got saved because of the crucifixion in Christ dying on the cross. My point is there is another whole dimension to it than most of God's people never see. Because it was not just your souls and my soul hanging in the balance on Calvary's cross. It was the whole concept of who is going to be number one. Who is going to be God? The devil thought for sure that he could defeat Christ.

I will tell you why that is. You find this in Hebrews 2:14. The Bible says that the devil had the keys. Jingle, jingle, jingle. To death and hell. That is why in the Old Testament when somebody died, they went to Abraham's bosom. That is why in Matthew 16 it talks about hell having gates. Those gates were locked, and the devil had the key. That is why nobody could resurrect from the dead. Nobody could come back from the dead because the devil had the power of death and hell, and he had not been defeated yet. So when he goes up against Christ on the cross, that is the real battle that is taking place. Now, I know that you and I look at it as the day we got saved, and we run it back to Calvary. That is okay. That is exactly true. But there is a bigger picture here than

most of God's people see. It just was not about your soul and my soul. It was about on tomorrow morning, is God still going to be God? Because He faced the challenge.

There is a great passage in Isaiah 50:8 which talks about this exact moment of time. It shows you what is going on behind the scenes. Verse 8 says, Jesus speaking, He says:

Isaiah 50:8

*> He is near that justifyeth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.*

On the cross of Calvary, the devil saw all down through the history of the Bible. He had tried to stop the plan of God by every way conceivable. Now he has the opportunity to take the person out, the Christ, if he can just keep Him from coming out of that tomb. If he can just keep Him from coming out of that tomb, the devil will have won, God will be defeated, and the devil can now take over that throne. If the devil can just keep Him in that tomb. But we know how that went down, don't we? He did not stay dead. He rose from the dead. When He rose from the dead, the Bible says in Revelation 1:18 that now Christ has got those keys. You know the first thing He did? He walked down there to death and Abraham's bosom, and He opened up those gates, said to the Old Testament saints, "We are going home." He couldn't do that before. He did not have the keys. Now He has got the keys. He defeated the devil. He opened up the gates, and off they go. This is why you find in the Old Testament and of Isaiah and those places where it talks about He shepherded the captives free. He opened up the prisons. Death was a prison. They were held captive by death, and the devil had the keys. But when He came out of that tomb and the devil says, "What are you doing?" The Lord just smiled and went jingle, jingle, jingle, jingle, jingle. "I got the keys." From that point on, He had the victory over death.

Long before that crucifixion event, Satan had infiltrated the 12 apostles. He infiltrated the 12 apostles with our last type of the Antichrist, Judas. You are told in John 6:70 that Jesus Himself said, "Have I not chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" Now, you go home and get your new NIV. There will be a footnote there and says he really was not the devil. He was just acting like a, he had the spirit of a devil. You know what that is? It is changing the sign. St. Louis is no longer this way, it is this way. Misdirection. It is changing, I suspect if you have a Bible that has the words of Christ in red, that would be in red. I would say that if Jesus did not know what he was, we are all in trouble. Jesus Himself said, "Have I not chosen you twelve? And one of you is a devil." Then it tells you He spoke of Judas who was going to betray Him. You are going to find that that is exactly how it works in the Tribulation period. You are going to find that the satanic implant, Judas, who when he died, if you could ever pick it up, he did not go to hell. The Bible says over there in Acts 1:24 that Judas went to his own place. There is something special about Judas. You know, there are only two men in the Bible, and this is the real key. There are only two men in the Bible that are called by their title, the son of perdition. One of them is the Antichrist himself, the other one is Judas. There are lots of guys out there who know the Bible much better than I do, that teach that they are one and the same. We do not have time to get into that this morning. But I do know this. Judas is a Greek name, Iscariot is a Hebrew name, showing you that he is half and half.

I also know this. When Judas betrays the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible says that the devil entered into him. I want to find this in Luke 22:3-4, and the devil entered into Judas. Judas was a devil, some kind of whatever, a satanic implant, much like the Antichrist will be. When the job was to be done of finishing off Christ Himself, the devil entered into a devil to finish that work. When you understand that, that is why the cross of Calvary was such a horrible thing. The devil actually from the sixth and ninth hour, when the Bible says the sun refused to shine, you know what God did? Now, this is a great thing for you and for me, but there are two sides to this. You know what God did? God loved His Son. God loved His Son more than you love your sons. I know you love your children. God loved His Son a hundred thousand times more than you love yours. You know what He did? He turned His back on His Son and said, "Devil, you can have Him." God turned His back. When God, who is light, turned His back on His Son, you know what the Bible says? The Bible says that the planet Earth went in darkness. On the cross, the Son of God cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" You know what God did? He said, "Devil, you can have Him. Take Him." Boy, the devil did. The devil wanted to get Him to quit. So from the sixth and ninth hour, the devil literally brought hell to Him on the cross, trying to get Him to quit.

In Matthew 4, the devil had come to Him and tempted Him. He said, "I will give you all the kingdoms." "If you are really God, turn these breads to stone." The last thing was, "If you bow down and worship me, I will give you all the kingdoms." Well, now there is a little bit of theology for you. God gives His Son those kingdoms in Revelation 19. You know what the devil wanted Christ to do? He wanted Him to admit that the devil was God because the devil then said, "I will give you what God is going to give you if you just tell me I am God." He would not do it. Now, this is where the little phrase comes on the cross of Calvary. The devil came up when He was hanging up there and he said, "You do remember I asked you nicely once." He did Matthew 4. This time was no more Mr. Nice Guy. This time he poured out everything that was in hell because he had the keys. He unlocked and unleashed hell on my Savior. Yes, for you and for me, that you and I might be partakers of His salvation. No question about that. But there is more hanging in the balance. God's deity, God's throne was hanging in the balance because this is the battle of the universe. This is makeBattlestar Galactica and all the other science fiction stuff Monday. This is God and the devil, light and darkness, and everything is hanging in the balance because the devil has got the keys and he can just keep Him in that tomb. But he couldn't.

This is exactly how it works in the Tribulation. I believe that the Antichrist is alive today. I believe that we are living in a day and age that is so close to the Second Coming of Christ. I believe that somewhere out there in the political scene, in a religious scene, that is why you are seeing all the religious people gravitate in the last 20 years into politics. That is why you got the moral, the immoral majority or whatever you got. You got all the people that claim to be the advisors of the president that wind up being homosexuals, wind up being in every scandal in the world. But it is all tying itself into one nice, neat little package. I believe that he is alive today. I believe that any day now the rapture will take place. Then the Antichrist will reveal himself as the savior of the world. You know what? Once you and I are gone, everybody in what we call Christianity today does not believe anything about God anymore. They have been taught now for 60 years that Christ is not really coming back, that they are going to bring the world to a nice

place, and then He is going to come back. They have been told that there is no rapture. They have been told that there is no hand in the God and the kingdom of heaven are the same. They have been told that God is all finished with Israel. The whole religious world once and for all of God has been set up to buy the man of sin as Christ. They are already teaching his doctrine in the churches today. When the Antichrist shows up, he brings in the false peace and safety. Right in the middle, right in that middle at the abomination of desolations, just like the devil entered into Judas for the purpose of destroying Christ, the Bible says that we are going to get into it next week, but you have to add the background first. You are going to find that the devil enters into the son of perdition for the destruction of the nation of Israel. When it came to Christ, Judas brought it so far, he did the dirty work, and then the devil stepped into him and finished him off. In the Tribulation period, the Antichrist, the son of perdition, some say it is Judas again, is going to set the stage, and then at the exact same time, the devil is going to enter into the Antichrist to wipe out the nation of Israel. Same system, because the whole problem with the devil is simply, "I will be like the Most High."

It does not take a rocket scientist to see that the world events are rapidly approaching this time period. America has been a hundred-plus years without a Bible. No truth. You see the deterioration of everything from our public school system to our government. You see everything in our society, families, marriages, churches, preachers, Christians, absolutely self-destructing because there is no truth, and the devil is having a heyday. He has established his church over the Church of Jesus Christ. We studied it in the seven churches. The Laodicean Church period. The world, especially the United States of America, has no concept of who the devil and the Antichrist is. They think he is somebody running around in a red suit with a big tail and a pitchfork and horns. They have no idea. They have no idea. While America was hanging into American Idol, while America was watching Sex and the City, while America was watching Desperate Housewives, while America was occupying with everything else, in 1948 the biggest last piece of the puzzle fell into the picture, and God said, when Israel becomes a nation, that generation is not going to go away until I come back. We are right at the end of that time period.

Today in the Middle East, it is on the brink of an absolute catastrophe, the eruption into a global conflict, and nobody can stop it. The mightiest nations on this planet have been brought to their knees. They have all the technology, all the firepower, everything that you could ever want, but given any battle and any day, they could wipe the opposition out in 30 minutes. And yet we are powerless. We are powerless. It is out of control. There is no way to stop it. In our own government, we are not even together on how to win it. We do not have any answers. We bicker back and forth. We tell the enemy, just hang on. We are moving out by this date. We do something. The battle plan for the enemy is the six o'clock news. They look at a house divided. They look at a country that is divided. They just say, "Hey, that is America. They have no stomach for this. They have no stick to this when it comes to winning. When a casualty rate gets too high, they will cut and run, just wait and see." Oh, yeah, they got all these powerful things, but they will not use it because of collateral damage. Why? If they went in and we can hide in these mosques, if they bomb the mosque, our friends, the news media, the drive-by media will crucify them. It makes you wonder who the real enemy is, doesn't it? Boy, we have come a long

day from the old days. You know, in World War II, there were no reporters. Before they sent a dispatch back, they had to screen it. If it did not have the right thing to say, you know that great battles in World War II, you did not even know the outcome for six or seven months later. They did not tell you. You did not get it. They were not going to let the defeatist attitude spread because fear will spread through an army like a cancer. You always got the people out there that are the defeatists. When you let them be in charge, you are in trouble. That is the problem today. We have the greatest military in the world, but the greatest cowards in Washington trying to manipulate them. That is a terrible thing, but that is the way it is. It is all set. It is all ready to go.

Today, the whole world awaits a man who can bring peace to this ravaged world, solve all of our social issues, solve all of our problems, solve all of the world conflict, and finally bring in the utopia that we all want. Finally bring in world peace that we are all looking for. Finally, we will all get along. Finally, we can work out our differences. I got some news for you. He is on his way. But he is not who you are looking for.

Next week, we will take apart the Antichrist in his work, how he lays himself out, what exactly is the way he is going to do it. We will enter into Revelation 12 and 13, the two greatest chapters, right smack dab in the middle of Revelation. Now that we have the foundation, now we have a background, now we have a frame of reference to understand this man of sin, now that God has opened up the Scriptures and given us what we needed to see, now we can enter in next week and understand this thing on a greater way and a greater understanding level, because the two greatest studies in the Bible are one of the Lord Jesus Christ and the person of the devil in the face of the Antichrist. It is the two greatest studies in the Bible because they are the two main predominant characters in the Bible. They are not the theme of the Bible, but they are the two main characters of which all history and all the Bible revolve around. Light versus darkness, God and the devil.