

THE COMING WORLD DICTATOR

Daniel 11, II Thessalonians 2, Revelation 13

During recent years there have been certain obvious trends in world affairs. One of these trends is that numerous rulers have come to believe that the increasing complexity of the economic and political conditions demands international, centralized, unified treatment. It has been discovered that what affects one country affects all in greater or lesser degree.

Another trend is toward dictatorship in many nations. Of course, this means the breakdown of democracy. In many instances, there has been the handing over of absolute power to one man. In the exercise of his authority, he can force speedy action in many directions.

A general upheaval of everything in the earthly sphere is becoming more and more pronounced. We are living on the brink of a political volcano, ready at any moment to overwhelm us. People everywhere are asking, What does all this uncontrollable situation mean? They are puzzled and bewildered. They know not what to make of it, or what to do about it. There is not a government on this earth which is able to cope with the situation as it exists today. They all stand helpless before the rising storm. No human remedy is in sight.

But God's Word throws light on this terrible dark situation. It warns us of the advent of a mighty personage on the earth, in the last days, a man who will be energized and filled with Satanic powers -- a superman. This coming world dictator will, next to Satan, be the greatest deceiver and imposter who ever lived. He will exercise universal and despotic sway over the whole world, and will be the outcome of a widespread departure from God and all things divine. He will kill all opposition with an iron hand and will. He will blaspheme God, and exalt himself above any kind of a god, and will be antagonistic toward all forms of religious belief after he has ingratiated himself in the worshipful esteem of most people.

It is quite evident to the careful and intelligent student of the Word of God that the world is fast being made ready for the startling and spectacular appearance of this great character on the earth. Sufficient is said in the Word concerning him to give us a clear idea of his identity and an understanding of his activities. The whole world picture, as it is unfolding today, is making many to reach out and cry for a superman -- someone with wisdom, leadership, and power to unite the world, and to solve our problems and to deliver us from chaos.

Naturally we are interested in this coming world dictator, and the Bible does not disappoint us in this respect. Enough is revealed concerning him to permit us to form a very accurate estimate of his character. There are over sixty names applied to him in the Bible, and these names are very suggestive. He is referred to as ungodly, scornful, the bloody and deceitful man, avenger, destroyer, the man of the earth, the mighty man, wicked, unrighteous, cruel, oppressor, the adversary, the violent man, the spoiler, extortioner, treacherous dealer, adulterer, desolater, liar, deceiver, the man of sin, the son of perdition, the wicked one, the angel of the bottomless pit, the beast, and the Antichrist.

This coming world dictator will be Satan's masterpiece. In him shall dwell all of the fullness of the devil bodily. He will be the culmination and consummation of Satan's workings. The world is now talking about a superman, and the Devil will supply him sometime. He will not be an ordinary person, but one possessed of extraordinary talents and endowed with superhuman powers. With the exception of Christ, he will be the most remarkable person who has appeared on the stage of human history.

I. What He Will Be.

1. He will be an intellectual genius.

That which baffles others will be simple to him. He will be the master of the secrets of occult sciences. "Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee:" Ezekiel 28:3. This will be one of his most alluring attractions. His master mind will captivate the attention of the educated world. His marvelous store of knowledge, his acquaintance with the secrets of nature, and his superhuman powers of perception will stamp him as an intellectual genius of the first magnitude.

2. He will be an oratorical genius.

Daniel informs us that he has "a mouth that spake very great things." Daniel 7:20. He will be a wizard of words. He will surpass Demosthenes. He will have a perfect command and flow of language. His oratory will not only gain attention, but also command respect. In describing "his mouth as the mouth of a lion," Revelation 13:2, we have a symbolic expression of the majesty and awe-producing effects of his voice. The voice of a lion excels that of any other beast. So the Antichrist will outrival all orators, both ancient and modern.

3. He will be a political genius.

He will emerge from obscurity but by the dint of his diplomatic skill he will win the admiration and compel the cooperation of the political world. He will be a very astute politician, winning his authority by flattery. "And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom; but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries." Daniel 11:21.

4. He will be a commercial genius.

Under his regime none will be able to buy or sell without his permission. "And that no man might buy or sell, save he that hath the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Revelation 13:17. All commerce will be under his control, and it will be used for his own aggrandizement. The wealth of the world will be at his disposal. He will have the intelligence and the ability to balance the budget, and bring apparent prosperity to all.

5. He will be a military genius.

He will be endowed with the most extraordinary powers so that "He shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people." Daniel 8:24. Before his exploits the fame of Alexander and Napoleon will be forgotten. None will be able to stand before him. He will go "forth conquering and to conquer." Revelation 6:2. He will sweep everything before him so that the world will exclaim, "Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" Revelation 13:4. He is spoken of as "the man who made the earth to tremble, who did shake kingdoms." Isaiah 14:16.

6. He will be a religious genius.

He will proclaim himself God, demand that divine honor should be rendered to him, and sitting in the Temple shall show himself forth that he is god. "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." II Thessalonians 2:4.

II. What He Will Do.

1. He will rise out of obscurity.

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea." Revelation 13:1.

2. He will demand worship of himself.
"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." II Thessalonians 2:4.
Lest you may think this is fantastic, what about the Alabama Negro, "Father Divine"?
3. He will surpass all other liars.
"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders." II Thessalonians 2:9.
He will be preparing for war while saying he is for peace.
4. He will deceive others.
"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." II Thessalonians 2:10.
5. He will conquer others.
Being greater than Alexander, Caesar or Napoleon, others will say of him, "who is able to make war with him?" Revelation 13:4.
6. He will win recognition as a wonder.
"And they worshipped the beast saying, who is like unto the beast?" Revelation 13:4.
7. He will blaspheme God.
"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven." Revelation 13:5-6. "And shall speak marvelous things against God." Daniel 11:36.
8. He will exercise universal dominion.
"And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." Revelation 13:7.
9. He will act as an absolute tyrant.
In addition to holding supreme control in the political world, he will regulate the life of everybody, and fix the price of everything that is bought and sold. "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Revelation 13:16-17.
10. He will exalt himself.
"And he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god." Daniel 11:36.
11. He will prosper.
"And shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished." Daniel 11:36. However, his prosperity will be limited.
12. He will ignore God.
"Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers." Daniel 11:37.
13. He will disregard the desire of women.
"Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women." Daniel 11:37.
14. He will divide the spoils to his own personal advantage.
"And shall divide the land for gain." Daniel 11:39.

He will have the marvelous gift of attracting unregenerate men, and the irresistible fascination of his personality, his versatile attainments, superhuman wisdom, great administrative and executive ability, along with his powers as a consummate flatterer, a brilliant diplomatist, a superb strategist, will make him the most conspicuous and prominent of men. He will pose as a great humanitarian and the friend of men, and the special friend of the Jewish race.

III. Some Contrasts Between Christ And The Antichrist.

1. In their respective designations.

- (1) One is called Christ; the other will be called Antichrist.
- (2) One is called Man of Sorrows; the other will be called the Man of Sin.
- (3) One is called the Son of God; the other will be called the Son of Perdition.
- (4) One is called the Seed of Woman; the other will be called the Seed of Serpent.
- (5) One is called the Lamb; the other will be called the Beast.
- (6) One is called the Holy One; the other will be called the Wicked One.
- (7) One is called the Truth; the other will be called the Lie.
- (8) One is called the Prince of Peace; the other will be called the Profane Prince.
- (9) One is called the Glorious Branch; the other will be called the Abominable Branch.
- (10) One is called the Mighty Angel; the other will be called the Angel of the Bottomless Pit.
- (11) One is called the Good Shepherd; the other will be called the Idol Shepherd.

2. In their respective careers.

- (1) Christ came down from heaven; the Antichrist will come up out of the bottomless pit.
- (2) Christ came in Another's name; the Antichrist will come in his own name.
- (3) Christ came to do the Father's will; the Antichrist will do his own will.
- (4) Christ was energized by the Holy Spirit; the Antichrist will be energized by Satan.
- (5) Christ submitted himself to God; the Antichrist will defy God.
- (6) Christ humbled Himself; the Antichrist will exalt himself.
- (7) Christ honored the God of His Fathers; the Antichrist will refuse to do so.
- (8) Christ cleansed the temple; the Antichrist will defile the temple.
- (9) Christ ministered to the needy; the Antichrist will rob the poor.
- (10) Christ was rejected of men; the Antichrist will be accepted by men.
- (11) Christ died for the people; The Antichrist will slay the people.
- (12) Christ glorified God on earth; the Antichrist will blaspheme the name of God in heaven.
- (13) Christ was received up into heaven; the Antichrist will go down into the Lake of Fire.

Christians, in view of what is transpiring today, if we are to accomplish anything, for the Lord, there is no time to lose. Our task is to give the gospel to a lost world. Today many are being deceived by a false gospel. We should not expect to be popular if we stand for whole truth. The public does not like to be awakened. Many will turn deaf ears to truth and continue to be deluded. In spite of opposition, it is our duty to warn this world which is steeped in wickedness and bound by Satan's delusion. Some will heed the message and turn to the Lord. The majority will not do so. As Christians, we should avoid becoming entangled in any movement that is helping to set the stage for the coming Antichrist. Let us avoid following the false messiahs in the political, industrial, and religious realms.

You have the choice of two rulers -- Christ or the Antichrist. Which will you choose? One brings joy abundant; the other will bring sorrow unlimited. One offers eternal life and peace; the other will inflict death and eternal woe. The decision between these two should be made now. I hope and pray every lost person will get right with God. Put your faith in Christ who died for you on Calvary's Cross. Trust Him and He will blot out your sin. Then, through time and eternity you may enjoy fellowship with Him and with the saints.