

Perspective

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March 26, 2026

Who Are the Beast and False Prophet?

These indeed are trying times, and some might even characterize these days as being apocalyptic. We have come off a worldwide pandemic and we are still dealing with the lingering effects of it. Now we face a surge of new challenges presented by the war with Iran. It has been a war with the greatest fire power ever witnessed before in history and unparalleled technology. Thus far the United States and Israel are prevailing in the fight against Iranian forces, but the precise outcome is at best unknown. At any time, events could transpire which could ratchet up the war and expand it further to become World War III. Revelation 13 reveals the end-time rise of two key figures who will push the world toward a nuclear war which will lead the world to the brink of human annihilation (Matthew 24:22). Just who are the Beast and False Prophet and when will they come on the scene?

What is antichrist?

As the name “antichrist” aptly suggests, it refers to those who are against the teachings of the Word of God, Jesus Christ. II John 7-8 states: *“For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.”*

I John 2:22 admonishes us: *“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.”*

I John 4:3 further says, *“and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.”*

In Matthew 24:24 Jesus warned His disciples: *“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”*

Being an antichrist is more than not confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord; it also involves doctrine, not teaching the full truth of the Bible and the true gospel (II John 9-11). Jesus Christ came preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God (Mark 1:14-15). During the first century of the church the true gospel was rejected, and another gospel was preached (Galatians 1:6-9). The apostle Paul pronounced a double curse on anyone who would preach any other gospel except the gospel Jesus Christ preached. Christianity has been deeply deceived by a gospel about the personage of Christ, a “gospel” which rejects the message of His coming kingdom and teaches the reward of the saved is heaven. They reject the words of Jesus in John 3:13: *“No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.”*

Being antichrist is to believe and teach what Jesus did *not* say. Most follow the antichrist because they have been blinded by Satan and taught by false ministers (II Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 2:1-3). The antichrist mentality has been at work for almost 2,000 years. Both the Beast and the False Prophet will be antichrists, but the Beast is most often referred to as the Antichrist. The Beast will be a charismatic political leader, and the False Prophet will be a powerful religious leader.

The Beast will be an overwhelming personality force in the world. He will control the 7th resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. He will command the most powerful military on earth; they will say, *“Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”* (Revelation 13:4)

In all likelihood the Beast is also the “Man of Sin.” The apostle Paul admonished the church of the Thessalonians: *“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 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. 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, 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.”* (II Thessalonians 2:1-4)

When and who will sit in the Temple of God?

Paul told the church of Thessalonica not to be troubled in thinking the return of Christ was imminent. He said the man of sin must come on the scene first and there must be a Temple which he sits in proclaiming himself

to be God. The False Prophet will do lying wonders in the presence of the Beast and deceive the world to worship the Beast (Revelation 13:14).

Daniel was told: *“Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.”* (Daniel 12:9-10).

He was told none of the wicked would understand when the time comes, but the wise would comprehend it. Daniel further recorded for our time, *“And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.”* (Daniel 12:11-12)

At the end of days, the *“Man of Sin”* is to sit in the Temple claiming to be God. For this to happen there must be some type of temple with an altar for sacrifices. The sacrifices stop when the *“abomination of desolation”* is set up. Very possibly the man of sin is the abomination of desolation. The Beast of Revelation 13 is spoken of in Daniel 11:40 as invading the Mideast and subduing nations: *“And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.”* (Daniel 11:45) The *holy mountain* reference here is generally considered to be Mt. Zion, the spiritual center of Jerusalem.

The Emperor of the Seleucid Empire, Antiochus Epiphanes, most notoriously erected an altar to Zeus in the Temple and sacrificed swine on it, an act of profound sacrilege to the Jews. His campaign was an attempt to Hellenize the Jewish people by force. In AD 70, after an uprising of the Jews, the Roman military, led by General Titus, besieged Jerusalem, and ultimately destroyed the second Temple built by Herod.

Since that time, though it hasn't been constructed, there has been a desire by some Jews to build a third Temple. Fast forward to the 21st Century---there are plans afoot to rebuild a third Temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Some do not think a Temple must be built, but there is a strong indication in the Scriptures.

Daniel, the prophet, wrote a dual prophecy regarding the desecration of the Temple. In the Olivet prophecy Jesus spoke of a latter-day fulfillment, Matthew 24:15-16: *“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”*

So, we look for a Temple to make headlines, and when you see the *“abomination of desolation”* happen, Jesus said flee to the mountains. Jesus also said in Luke 21:20-22, *“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.”*

Who will be the False Prophet?

The great prostitute of Revelation 17 is the author of the blending of Babylonian confusion with Christianity and birthing harlot daughters who also have exported false teachings around the world, as well as other salacious activities, avarice, and many abominations on the Earth. This great harlot “rides” or exercises control over the beast political system, and *“the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”* (Revelation 17:2)

We speculate the end-of-the-age False Prophet to be a future papal leader. The beast power will come out of Europe and be the seventh resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. It does not seem the current Pope would be the person of Revelation 13, though he is a strong Vatican advocate for a more united Europe, as is the current Prime Minister of Italy, Giorgia Meloni.

What will Jesus do with the Beast and False Prophet at His return?

At the return of Christ, the Beast will marshal his forces to fight against Him, but they will be soundly defeated (Revelation 17:14). Jesus will send an angel to arrest the Beast and False prophet: *“Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”* (Revelation 19:20)

Then Satan will be bound. Jesus, along with the saints, will rule on Earth for 1000 years. The entire world will turn to God, and finally, there will be a utopian world built on peace. (Revelation 20: 1-6). The world tomorrow will be wonderful! Plan now to be there!