



Intro to End Times

Note: I did not try to identify real public figures that fulfill these roles...so much speculation is out there about who the anti-Christ is, whether it's the Pope or someone who arises out of the American political system, United Nations, European Union, or an Islamic caliphate. I did not try to identify Mystery Babylon the Great Whore. Again, there's so much speculation, & these entities have not been revealed yet. But God has described these entities by the spirits at work in them & their actions. God wants us to use SPIRITUAL discernment (vs. knowing the name of the anti-Christ) in the end times so we won't be deceived. So, whatever we see displaying the characteristics of the anti-Christ and Mystery Babylon...we know we must guard against it. **Tip:** The book of Daniel chapters 2, and 7 to 12 are helpful for getting a general idea of timing. The statue of different metals refers to how many kingdoms rise & fall before the Kingdom of God is established.

End-Time- Related Scriptures: Book of Daniel, Book of Zechariah, Book of Isaiah, Matthew 24:1-51, Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-43, 1 Thessalonians, book of Revelation (the last book in the Bible).

Terms & Concepts:

The Beginning of Birth Pains: Turbulence & gradual destabilization observed in **nature** (increasing earthquakes, storms, drought), in **society** (elimination of truth & objective standards, increasing crime & violence), in the **moral fiber** (selfishness, self-worship, blasphemy, greed, loss of sexual boundaries) & in **global politics** (wars & rumors of wars, collapse of government systems, failures of currencies & national economies) intensifying up to the Great Tribulation, the final push in the birth of the Kingdom. (Matthew 24:4-14, 2 Timothy 3:1-5)

The Glorious Appearing (Titus 2:13): The moment when Yeshua, Jesus, appears **in the sky** visible to all, just before the whole earth is plunged into chaos, judgment, & the global kingdom of the anti-Christ. "They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power & glory" (Matthew 24:30). This is not the same as His Second Coming, when He comes down to earth with a two-edge sword on a white horse to judge & make war. This time, He remains among the clouds & gathers His faithful ones from the 4 corners of the earth to meet Him in the air ('catching away' of the 'bride').

Catching Away (AKA "The Rapture", "Early Barley Harvest"): The deceased faithful will arise in new immortal bodies, & the living faithful will be transformed into immortal bodies and join the Lord Yeshua (Jesus) in the air. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52) (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17) This is likened to the Israeli "Barley Harvest", which is before the wheat harvest, and is the first and smaller harvest of the grain harvesting season, followed by the wheat harvest, which closes the grain harvesting season.

The Bride (Barley Bride): A.K.A: “The Elect”. The Pure, Humble & Faithful Believers who are a group among those who are simply “Christian” in name. This group of believers is sometimes called the “barley bride” because they are the 1st fruits or the first to be harvested, & also because they, like barley, only need a simple winnowing process. Barley only needs to be tossed in the air for the loose outer husk to fall off the grain. Raptured believers are like barley in that they did not cling too tightly to the things of this world...the world falls off of them easily. They are the true believers who have washed off the corruption of worldliness and are transformed & ‘caught away’ with the Lord in Heaven before God’s wrath is unleashed on the earth. (Psm 45:11-16 (10-15), Revelation 7:9-17;19:7-9)

Mystery Babylon, The Great Whore: (Revelation 17: 3-8) An end-times entity that is both a civilization tied to a specific city & nation, and a spiritual system that lives off of & controls the Beast in a parasitic relationship. It is characterized by a prideful, defiant, unfaithful, greedy, sensual, seductive, and manipulative spirit. She’s a mystery because her filth, perversions, bloodthirst, witchcraft & hatred of God’s truth are hidden behind her glamour, charm, prosperity, & thin mask of human good-will (even religiosity). She entices world leaders to invest in & do business with her, bringing them & the masses around the world into a drunken stupor, and then controls them like puppets & sacrifices them for her own agenda. One of her trademarks is her seeking to intimidate/silence/kill those who preach God’s truth. She has previously manifested herself in Biblical history as: Potiphar’s wife (in the Genesis record of Joseph), queen Jezebel (the wicked Canaanite wife of Israel’s King Ahab, who killed God’s prophets in 1st Kings), and Herodias (king Herod’s wife in the Gospels, who had John the Baptist beheaded). This spirit is busy & active in our world today. In the Bible, a religious system or spiritual body of worship was often symbolized by a female. When God’s covenant people are faithful to Him, they are collectively referred to in the feminine as a bride, but when they are unfaithful to Him, chasing after other “lovers” (false gods & practices) while still trying to associate with God to receive His benefits, they are collectively referred to as a whore. Beasts in the Bible often represent kingdoms or political systems. Therefore, the Great Whore of Mystery Babylon riding the Beast, in the latter days may appear as an influential but corrupt system/ideology that promotes worldly gain and influences the beliefs of society, but doesn’t have authority to rule on its own. Because of this, it exercises control over the ruling government in authority, using bribery, lobbying, blackmail, and other manipulations, to direct the power of the government for its own gain.

The Great Tribulation/Time of Testing/The Hour of Trial: An intense period of strife, the worst in human history, which will be the final 3 ½ years of the 7-year Tribulation and of human history. It is marked by the absence of God’s goodness & the removal of His restraining hand that has kept wickedness & chaos from completely taking over throughout human history. This period will see God’s judgments unleashed on a rebellious world. These judgments include worldwide famine, plagues, flaming meteors hitting the earth causing worldwide water contamination & loss of greenery/crops, & a World War that originates from the Euphrates River (in Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait) & kills a 1/3 of the world population. The primary judgement of the Great Tribulation will be when God hands the world over to the dictator, the king it’s been begging for & rejected God for... the leader it deserves, a devil in disguise...the anti-Christ. He will emerge as a false solution & establish a one-world government with no accountability or checks & balances. Believers who are still in the earth then are severely persecuted by the anti-Christ & many will die for their faith. (Daniel 9:27/12:11-13; Revelation 8:7-11/ ch. 9 /11:1-6/12:10-17/13:5-6)

The Beast: A.K.A. “The anti-Christ” / “The Dragon” / “Man of Sin” / “Son of Perdition”.

(2 Thess. 2: 3-4, Revelation 13, Daniel 7:19-25, Daniel 8: 23-25, Daniel 9:27, Daniel 11)

A counterfeit of Christ, but just as Yeshua was the physical embodiment of God on earth, the anti-Christ will become the physical embodiment of satan on earth. He will be a genius in worldly wisdom & intrigue, with military might. He'll cause mass deception, duping nearly all the earth into believing he is the way out of hardship. He will confirm a covenant with many nations. The kings of the earth will give their authority to him, and he will set up a global dictatorship. He will be lawless, exalting himself above things of God & will claim to be God. He will have a hatred for God's covenant people and will command that all worship him. The Beast will rise to centerstage (will be revealed for who he is) half-way through the Tribulation period. Prior to this midpoint of the 7-year Tribulation, during the first 3 ½ years, the anti-Christ will be a player on the world stage, but not a central figure. His influence will be behind the scenes until his big reveal, once he is taken over by satan when supernaturally resurrected by the false power of satan from a mortal wound to the head. The “mark of the beast” on the forehead or hand will be required to buy or sell in his system.

Mark of the Beast: “666” is the mark of the beast. In the end times, those who have not been sealed by the angel of the Lord for salvation will take the mark of the beast on their forehead and hand, & will have basically forfeited their souls & signed up to receive God's wrath. The mark is given to those who worship the image of the “Beast”. Those who refuse to worship the image of the “Beast” and refuse to take his mark will be banned from buying & selling and will eventually be beheaded (Revelation 7:1-3). There's debate about what this mark will be ... some say a micro-chip implant in the skin, a tattoo, or even something done with genetic engineering. Only time will tell. But it's not something that can be received accidentally. It is received with knowledge after making a conscious decision to reject God and His Anointed One, & to worship the anti-Christ. Knowing the difference between the meanings of 6 & 7 is key in defending ourselves against the influence of the beast world system, which is marked by “666” according to Revelation 13:18. In 6 Days, God created the world. The 6th day is when land beasts and man were created, & on the 7th, God rested and blessed that day [Geneses 1-2:3]. Six (6) represents all that withers away: the Era of man, flesh & blood, a limited life based on physical senses, a life that makes us no different than the rest of the created ‘beasts’ of nature. Seven (7) is the perfection or everlasting “shalom” (fullness, wholeness) of God. Those who live according to ‘6’ live as beasts...to be born, to live life ruled by survival & pleasure-seeking, and finally, to die & return to dust. In a time of turmoil & intense hardship, these people will be easily deceived & led to destruction by the anti-Christ, because he presents to them a limited human solution that appeals to their flesh. He's “Mr. Right Now”. Those who live according to ‘7’ aim to live a life that pleases God...it's a life of confident trust and rest in God, which allows them to wait patiently to the end for His complete & FINAL salvation.

Tribulation Saints (Wheat Harvest): These are believers who are still in the earth during the Great Tribulation & reign of the anti-Christ. “Tribulation Saints” are made up of (1) those who were lukewarm/uncommitted Christians who were not taken in the “catching-away” but have been spiritually awakened & purified by end-time events to serve God, (2) The 144,000 sealed evangelists from the 12 Tribes of Israel who have been made invincible to preach the true Gospel to Israel, and (3) new believers who come to faith and are taught through the testimony and teaching of the awakened left-behind and the sealed 144,000 of Israel. The Tribulation Saints are compared to the wheat harvest because like the wheat harvest, their harvest is the larger harvest & the last of the spiritual harvest season. And like wheat, their harvest is a tougher process compared to barley. The wheat must be crushed under a spiked board called a tribulum (tribulation) to remove the tough outer husk (the ways of this world) from the grain. (Revelation 7:1-8; 11:1-13; 12:13-17; 13:9-10; 14:12-13)

The Great & Terrible Day of the LORD: The Wrath of God. Judgment Day. This is when man is judged, and the era of man & humanism comes to an end. God will topple everything that is of “the pride of man” (including lofty buildings & civilizations, economy, corporations, false religions, the lawless). When Yeshua returns, with His Holy Ones, His Bride, He will wipe evil off the face of the earth. The destruction of the anti-Christ and false prophet finally occurs. It will be clear that it’s God’s divine, supernatural judgment because it will come from heaven (lightning & fire raining down from heaven) and will NOT be disaster caused by human evil & corruption. (Zephaniah 1:14-18, Joel 2:28-32, Revelation 19:11-21).

End of the Age: Also refers to the complete end or judgment of the nations & the restoring of the Kingdom to Israel (the one new body of believers made of believing Jews, and non- Jews who have been grafted into Israel through faith in Jesus). Jesus (Yeshua) will rule from the throne of David in Jerusalem. (Matthew 21:43) (Acts 1:6-7)

Millennial Reign: The period of 1000 years after wickedness is wiped away, satan is locked in the pit unable to tempt man, and when Christ’s throne is established on the Earth. Yeshua will physically be among us again, reigning as King. Marked by perfection, like the Garden of Eden before the fall of man. It’s the 7th era, the period of rest. (Isaiah 65:19-25, Revelation 20:1-6)