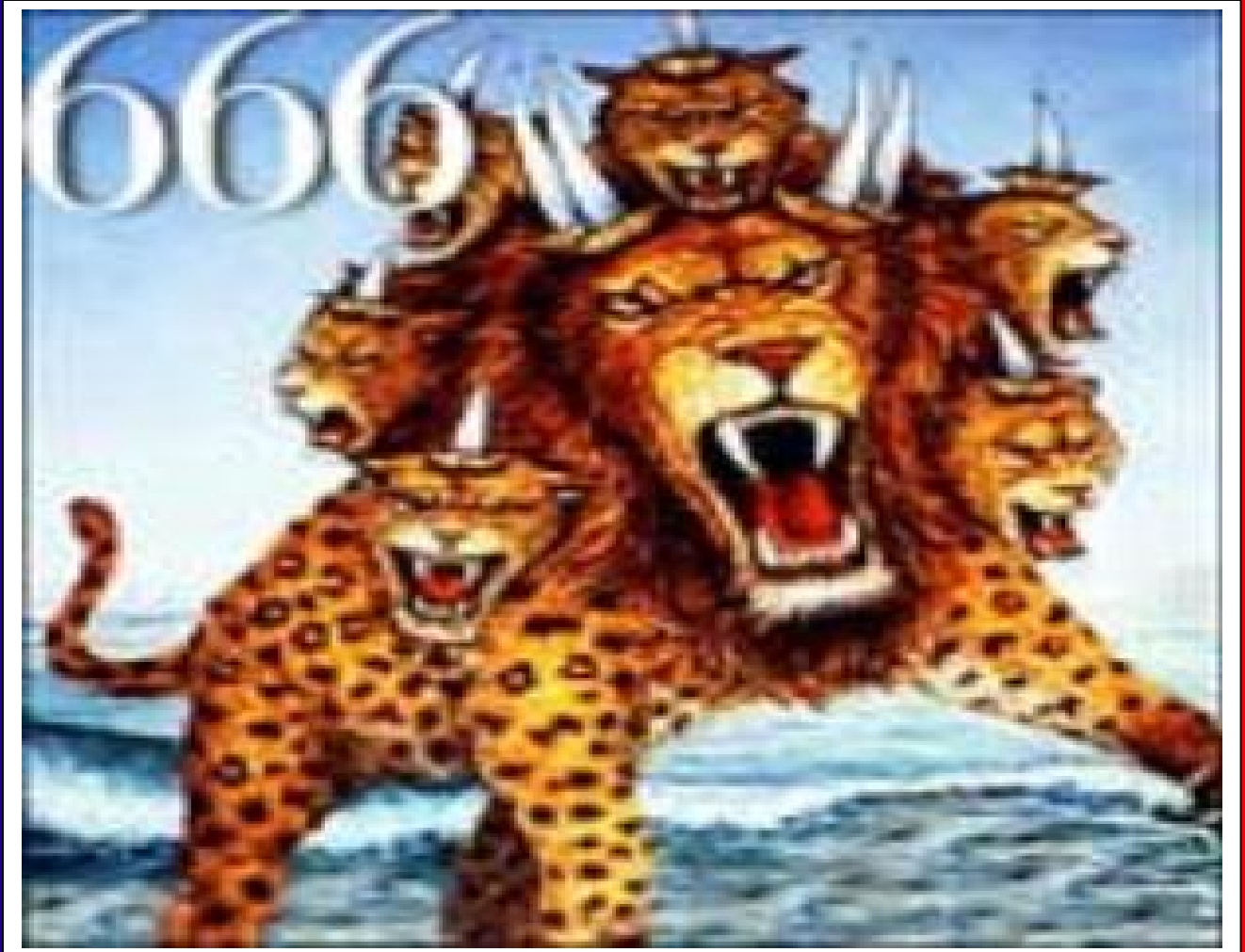


The Anti-Christ



“And then shall that Wicked One be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the breath of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming” (II Thessalonians 2:8 King James 2000 Bible

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Introduction

The Bible teaches that just after the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ, when He comes for His church, there will be a dynamic political leader that will arise on the world scene. This political leader will be a Satan possessed individual. He will quickly gain authority over all nations and peoples. It is assumed this authority will be given to him, without conflict, because he will have the answers to many of the world's problems. **Revelation 13:7** He is known as, **“The Antichrist”**

The term “Antichrist” means just what it says, Anti or against Christ. Maybe you didn't know that Jesus' last name is not Christ. Christ is actually a Greek translation meaning, “Anointed.” This is New Testament. The Old Testament translation for “Anointed” is Messiah.

There are many deceivers in the world today but one day, “The Antichrist” will appear...Satan himself *“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an Antichrist. 2 John 1:7*

Born Again believers are anointed by the Holy Sprit and can successfully stand against any antichrist in the world. However, “The Antichrist” will be

different. He will show miracles and lying wonders and deceive many. *“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders”* **II Thessalonians 2:9**

His arrival date is not known but we can discern the times. The Bible tells us that the Antichrist is being held back from appearing until God’s children are safely out of harms way. This would be after the rapture of the church.

This is pictured in The Noah & The Ark story. His family was safely in the ark with the doors shut before the rains came. There was also Lot. He and his wife were safely led out of the city by angels before fire and brimstone fell from heaven. However, Christians still debate when Christ will return and when the Antichrist will appear.

The Rapture Controversy

There has always been a controversy over when Jesus will return to earth. Some say before the Antichrist is revealed or Pre-Tribulation. Others say not until the very end, after the tribulation period, or Post Tribulation. Then there is another crowd of folks that support a mid-tribulation event.

I hold to the Pre-Trib viewpoint. Here’s why:

1. **God’s children will be spared from the wrath to come...** The Great Tribulation, that 7-year period when Satan indwells human flesh and becomes the Antichrist, is where God pours out His wrath on the wicked. *“And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”* **I Thessalonians 1:10**

The scripture is clear that the, “wrath to come”, is not directed towards God’s children. Jesus delivered us from that by dying for our sins and because we have put our trust in Him.

2. **The Antichrist cannot be revealed until the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way.** Hear the words of Paul: **II Thessalonians 2:3-10**

“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; 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. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let, until he be taken out of the way*. 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: *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

Note: The “He That Letteth” is the Holy Spirit. He is restraining or holding back the full manifestation of evil in human flesh. He will continue to do so until He is taken out of the way.” **II Thessalonians 2:7**

You’ll remember what Jesus said, “*I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*” **John 14:18** “*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*” **John 14:26**

The comforter is the Holy Spirit and He lives in us. **1st Corinthians 3:16** says... “*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*” When He goes, we will go with Him. Otherwise, Jesus would be breaking His word and backing out of a promise. He will not do that.

3. The Post-Tribulation theory goes against what Jesus said to His disciples. “But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. “*Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.*” **Mark 13:32-37,**

The most important characteristic of Christ's return is that it could happen without warning, suddenly, catching us off guard.

If the post tribulation theories were correct then we would know absolutely that Christ couldn't return until after the Rapture (which would make Matthew 24:42-44 impossible). How can we watch for the Lord's imminent and sudden return if He cannot return until after all the tragic events of the 7-year Tribulation period (as taught in the book of Revelation)?

The only logical and workable conclusion is Pre-Tribulation Rapture, that is, the Rapture will take place BEFORE the tribulation period. Excerpts from article by David Stewart www.jesusissavor.com

The Origin of The Antichrist

Many folks believe that the Antichrist will come out of the Jewish nation. However this theory has some major problems, one being, the Jews will reject him as their Messiah when he proclaims himself to be God. If he was Jewish and performs lying wonders and miracles, they would most likely accept Him as their messiah, but they do not.

Daniel 9:26 tells us that he will either rise out of the old Roman Empire or his lineage will be that from the area of the old Roman Empire. The "Prince that shall come" will come out of "The people" who "shall destroy the city". Since it was Rome and its legions that destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70, it logically follows that the "prince that shall come" must come out of the Roman Empire and people.

The Jews will accept the Antichrist as a political leader that will save the day as to war and other problems.

He will be a gentile, not a Jew. The Bible tells us that the Antichrist will arise out of "the sea" (**Daniel 7:2-3, Revelation 13:1**) indicating that he will arise out of the gentile nations, not Israel.

His origin doesn't really matter. All that matters is that we know he is a real person full of satanic powers and evil. One day, we will see him as he really is and say, "*Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms*" **Isaiah 14:16**

The # 666

The Mark of The Beast

The number 666 is most often associated with the beast of **revelation 13:17-18**. It is what is called, "The Mark of The Beast". The Beast is the antichrist and his mark is 666, the number of man. In modern popular culture, 666 has become one of the most widely recognized symbols for the [Antichrist](#) or, alternatively, the [devil](#). The number 666 is purportedly used to invoke Satan.

The number 666 is based on a Hebrew system of numerology called "Gematria" and refers to the sinfulness of man, as well as the rise of the "Beast," or Satan, as Jesus Christ prepares to return to Earth. It is mentioned in the last book of the New Testament, "Revelation."



"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six." **Revelation 13:18**

This is the King James Version and "threescore" is an archaic English version of 60. So, 666 is the sign of the devil because the number six represents sin and man's incompleteness.

This number is the mark of the beast. It will play a large part during the 7-years of the great tribulation. People will not be able to buy or sell anything unless they have this mark. It will be on their forehead or in the palm of their hand. Some have speculated that the mark of the beast will be a type of chip or similar to a credit card.

The Antichrist As A Person

Even though the Bible does not tell us exactly who the Antichrist is, the Scriptures are very clear on what traits and characteristics he will possess, when he will come onto the world stage, and what he will do once he takes power.

He will be appealing, not repulsive. The Bible refers to the Antichrist as a blasphemous horn (**Daniel 7:25-25**), as lawless (**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**), and a beast (**Revelation 13:1-2**) hardly an attractive list of descriptions, but we know that people will follow him (**Revelation 13:3**), so he will present himself as an alluring leader – at first. He will be super, not ordinary; everything about the Antichrist will be extraordinary. He will possess great eloquence, charm, wit, military genius, vision, and intelligence. He will be extremely influential, charismatic, a false champion of peace, and will possess strong leadership abilities. One could even say he's a rock star.

Daniel 8:23-24 tells us that the Antichrist is a king with fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences [which means He will be deeply involved with occult mysteries]. He will be filled with satanic power (and later become possessed by Satan). (Excerpts from David Jeremiah of www.arewelivinginthelastdays.com).

Early Christians tended to emphasize the coming of the one great Antichrist. The Revelation to John refers to this figure as “the Beast from the Abyss” (11:7) and “the Beast from the Sea” (13:1). In the most sustained account of his appearance, **II Thessalonians 2:1-12**, he is called “the man of sin” and “son of perdition.” He will come at a time of a general apostasy, deceive people with signs and wonders, sit in the temple of God, and claim to be God himself. Finally, he will be defeated by Jesus, who will destroy him by “the spirit of his mouth” and “the brightness of his coming” (2:8). [Robert E. Lerner](#)

Most Bible prophecy experts believe the Antichrist will be the ultimate embodiment of what it means to be against Christ. In the end times/last hour, a man will arise to oppose Christ and His followers more than anyone else in history. Likely claiming to be the true Messiah, the Antichrist will seek world domination and will attempt to destroy all followers of Jesus Christ and the nation of Israel.

Other Names For The Antichrist

Throughout the Bible, the Antichrist bears many titles: **Son of Perdition, Man of Sin, Man of Lawlessness, Prince of Destruction, Abomination, and the Beast.**

The prophet Daniel describes the man in great detail: He shall be an evil king who will "...exalt himself and magnify himself above every god and shall speak outrageous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper until the indignation is accomplished: for that which has been determined shall come to pass.

Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate he shall (secretly) honor a god of forces and a god whom his fathers never knew. To these he will worship with gold and silver and with precious stones and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in his fortress with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many and shall divide the land for gain" (**Daniel 11:36**).

Thoughts of Three Noted Scholars

Dr. Ed Hinson....While there is no clear prophecy about the United States of America in the Bible (nor Canada, Australia, South Africa, and so on), it is certainly probable that if a European alliance were to form in fulfillment of these prophecies anytime soon, it would most likely include all the major Western powers. That they could be headed by an American leader is certainly possible, even probable."

Charles Swindoll....While Daniel pondered the vision of the ten future kings (Nebuchadnezzar's dream) (Daniel 7:8), he saw something new, that a "little horn" (an eleventh king, a man) will rise up among the nations of the original ten kings. The "little horn" (the Antichrist) will subdue three of the ten kings and destroy their political power. The seven surviving kings of the original 10 nations will submit to the domination of the "little horn". This earthly leader will then begin his role as Antichrist and world dictator.

Hal Lindsey... Notice in Daniel's description in Daniel 7:8 "and three of the first horns were uprooted before it". This could either be referring to a bloody conflict that will destroy three nations or regions of this confederacy that opposes the Antichrist's taking over of power but more likely it is referring to the removal (assassination) of the leaders of three regions in this confederacy who opposes the Antichrist's taking over the confederacy (global government).

Pin The Antichrist Tale on The Donkey The Man of Your Choice

Over the years, the folks that study the Bible have tried to pin the name antichrist on a popular leader or figure. Hitler was one. Kennedy was another. The list goes on and on. Most recent is the catholic Pope. It would not be the 1st time. Martin Luther pinned the pope of his day when he initiated the protestant reformation.



Here are some excerpts from Jennifer LaClaire, Senior Editor of Charisma Magazine...If you type "is Pope Francis antichrist" into Google, you'll get about 425,000 results in .37 seconds. By way of comparison, if you ask Google the same question about Pope Benedict you only get 137,000 and it takes a little longer—.47 seconds.

So why do so many people think—or at least ponder—that the Latin American pontiff is the Antichrist (or at least the end-time False Prophet mentioned in **Revelation 19:20**)? It could be for some of the same reasons his popularity is declining. His approval rating in the United States has dropped from 76 percent a year ago to 56 percent today, according to *Gallup*.

Indeed, even Roman Catholics are cooling off to Francis, the first-ever Jesuit pope who emerged as a darling among the evangelical community when he took over for the retiring Benedict. Some Pentecostal onlookers suggested he was Spirit-filled. And Kenneth Copeland and James Robison met privately with the pope in Rome and exchanged high-fives.

So what gives? *Reuters'* Scott Malone points out: "The decline comes as Francis has changed the focus of his public remarks from that of his immediate predecessors, concentrating less on the Church's opposition to abortion and gay marriage and spending more of his time discussing social inequity and poverty."

Francis has been vocal about the evils of capitalism while backing off conservative views about homosexuals, asking, "Who am I to judge?" He's

even called for a New World Order more than once. Some predict he will usher in this New World Order. Meanwhile, Francis has warmed up to Islam like no other pope before him. In a historic first, Francis opened the door to Muslim prayers and Quran readings at the Vatican last year. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli President Shimon Peres joined the pontiff in the Vatican gardens for a prayer meeting.

At that time, Francis said: "It is my hope that this meeting will mark the beginning of a new journey where we seek the things that unite, so as to overcome the things that divide. Peacemaking calls for courage, much more so than warfare. It calls for the courage to say yes to encounter and no to conflict." Some saw this as a precursor to the one world religion.

WND.com Report In Part

Although President Obama is certainly not the Antichrist, his policies are paving the way for the Antichrist," said pastor Robert James Jeffress, Jr., of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, Christian Today reported. "While I am not suggesting that President Obama is the Antichrist, the fact that he was able to propose such a sweeping change in God's law and still win re-election by a comfortable margin illustrates how a future world leader will be able to oppose God's laws without any repercussions."

Some of the objectionable perceived anti-Christian policies Obama's pushed include same-sex marriage and homosexual rights, as well as funding for Planned Parenthood and abortion in his signature Obamacare, the newspaper said.

"There is an anti-Christian bias that is now in our government," said Christian evangelist and missionary Franklin Graham, citing Obama's views as infecting America's political and cultural systems, Christian Today reported. "It has permeated our government."

New World Order

For the United Nations Interfaith movement, and many new age, ecumenical groups, there is a rising expectation of a universal messiah. The Lucis Trust, once called the Lucifer Foundation, has heavily influenced the United Nations from its founding. At its roots are occult secret societies such as

Freemasons, Wicca, and the Order of the Golden Dawn. Robert Muller and Maurice Strong, influential in the founding of the United Nations, are adept new age advocates who tirelessly promote the blending of all religious faiths.

The “Son of Perdition”

Advocates of the New World Order will attempt to fulfill the world’s messianic expectations with one man. Christians call him the Antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 tells us that the Day of Christ, where He sets up His Kingdom, will not come until “the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,” commonly called the Antichrist.

He will sit in the Temple in Jerusalem and demand to be worshipped as God. He is also called “the beast,” in the Book of Revelation. This tyrannical world dictator empowered by Satan and the embodiment of all that is opposed to God. Christ at His Second Coming will defeat him. (**II Thessalonians 2:8**).

Nine Characteristics That Identify The Antichrist

God gives us nine characteristics of the Antichrist in Daniel 7 so we can be certain of his identity. And even though some may find these truths from God's Word painful, we must be honest enough to accept them as His revealed will. **Here are the nine points for your to review:**

A. The "little horn" or kingdom "came up among them" the 10 horns which were the kingdoms of Western Europe (**Daniel 7:8**). So it would be a little kingdom somewhere in Western Europe.

B. It would have a man at its head who could speak for it (**Daniel 7:8**).

C. It would pluck up or uproot three kingdoms (**Daniel 7:8**).

D. It would be "diverse" or different from the other 10 kingdoms (**Daniel 7:24**).

E. It would make war with and "wear out" or persecute the saints (**Daniel 7:21, 25**).

F. It would emerge from the pagan Roman empire, the fourth world kingdom (**Daniel 7:7, 8**).

G. God's people (the saints) would "be given into his hand" for "a time and times and the dividing of time" (**Daniel 7:25**).

H. It would "speak great words against" or blaspheme God (**Daniel 7:25**). In **Revelation 13:5**, the Bible says the same power speaks "great things and blasphemies."

I. It would "think to change times and laws." **Daniel 7:25**.

Don't forget, all these identification points come directly from the Bible. They do not tell us who the antichrist is or where he comes from or when he will appear on the world stage. They do, however, help us to identify him as we see these points unfold.

War With The Saints

Daniel 7:21,25 tells us that the antichrist will make war with the saints. Some use this as an objection to a pre-tribulation rapture. If the saints are gone in the rapture, how can they still be on earth fighting with the antichrist?

The answer is easy. You just need to know who are the 144,000. "Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel" (**Revelation 7:4**), nothing in the passage leads to interpreting the 144,000 as anything but a literal number of Jews—12,000 taken from every tribe of the "sons of Israel." The New Testament offers no clear-cut text replacing Israel with the church.

These Jews are "sealed," which means they have the special protection of God from all of the divine judgments and from the Antichrist to perform

their mission during the tribulation period (see **Revelation 6:17**, in which people will wonder who can stand from the wrath to come). The tribulation period is a future seven-year period of time in which God will enact divine judgment against those who reject Him and will complete His plan of salvation for the nation of Israel. All of this is according to God's revelation to the prophet Daniel (**Daniel 9:24–27**).

The 144,000 Jews are a sort of “first fruits” (**Revelation 14:4**) of a redeemed Israel, which has been previously prophesied (**Zechariah 12:10**; **Romans 11:25–27**), and their mission seems to be to evangelize the post-rapture world and proclaim the gospel during the tribulation period. As a result of their ministry, millions—“a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language” (**Revelation 7:9**)—will come to faith in Christ. These are those that the antichrist makes war with.

So, the saints that war with the antichrist are Jews and their converts that go through the great tribulation.

The Battle of Armageddon

This frightening apocalyptic word “Armageddon” refers to earth's final battle which is generally referred to as the Battle of Armageddon. But who are the contestants of this great battle of Armageddon? A fairly common reply would be “Russia, Syria, or Iran against Israel.” As the Middle East simmers toward a boiling point, and as U.S., British, and Israeli intelligence monitor closely Iran's quest for a nuclear bomb which might even be used against America. Millions of Christians, Jews, Muslims, and even secularists are pondering, “Is the Battle of Armageddon at hand?” I believe so. Yet I am also convinced that there are massive battle of Armageddon illusions rampant everywhere. Please allow me to explain.



The word “Armageddon” appears only once in the entire Bible and is found in **Revelation 16:16**. If you open God's Word and read this passage yourself along with the verses immediately before and after it, you will be amazed at what you will find and not find in regards to the battle of

Armageddon. Take a look for yourself: “And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.” **Rev. 16:16**

Interestingly, no place on earth actually bears the name Armageddon, and the above passage is the only mention of it in scripture and hence it is assumed that this is what scripture refers to but is it? The Greek is most commonly thought to be a transliteration of the Hebrew *har megiddo*, literally, “mountain of Megiddo.”

The Mount of Megiddo is located in the plain of Esdraelon or Jezreel, a valley fourteen by twenty miles in size located to the southwest of Nazareth. Here, it is thought by many, that the great final battle of Armageddon will be fought at the end of time.

The Antichrist’s Destiny

It should be obvious by now that the destiny of this “Evil One” is not good. Here’s what the scripture says...

Revelation 19:20: “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. “

Revelation 20:10: “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

Conclusion

In summary, the Antichrist is the end-times false messiah who seeks, and likely achieves, world domination so that he can destroy Israel and all followers of Jesus Christ.

His efforts, although powerfully evil, fail. Millions still come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, the Christ of God. Many are martyred for their faith and still millions will survive the ordeal to see Jesus set up His kingdom on

earth. These are they that are spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 25. *"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'"* **Matthew 25:34.**



The wrath of God will fall on the wicked and the battle of the ages will be over. Jesus will have gathered all to Him who wanted to be with God and dwell with Him for eternity.

The best news of all is, we who are “Born Again”, will not experience the wrath of God that is to come. We will be raptured (caught up together in the air) to be with

Jesus. Then we will return with Him, riding on heavenly horses back to earth to establish His kingdom.

If you are not, “Born Again” read John **3:16** and do what Jesus tells you. You don’t want to be left behind to face the onslaught of evil at its worst. God loves you and wants to keep you from experiencing His wrath.

God bless you as you walk with Him.

