The Most Interesting Man in the World

Revelation 13:1-10

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Path (outline: read and discover) Points (major ideas within the teaching: reflect and discuss) Practice (questions based on the teaching and text: respond and do)

PATH

Unlike the fictional beer commercials, the most interesting man in the world is coming. Dynamic, persuasive, and a breath of fresh air, this leader’s diplomatic skills will be off the charts. On one hand, he will be everything the world has been waiting for; on the other hand, he will be its biggest nightmare. Since the number six is often the designated number of man in Scripture, Pastor Skip examined six characteristics of this most interesting coming ruler, most often called the Antichrist:

I. Wickedness (v. 1)
II. World Dominance (vv. 1-2)
III. Wonder (v. 3)
IV. Worship (vv. 4, 8)
V. Words (vv. 5-6)
VI. War (vv. 7-10)

POINTS

Wickedness (v. 1):

- In his vision, John saw the Antichrist as an insidious man—a beast, from the Greek thérion, meaning a wild, venomous monster.
- Though starting as a man of peace (see Revelation 6:2), the Antichrist will reveal his true colors halfway through the tribulation, showing himself not as a hero but a beast.
- In 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul called the Antichrist “the man of sin” (v. 3), “the lawless one” (vv. 8-9), and “the son of perdition” (v. 3).  

World Dominance (vv. 1-2):

- Daniel prophesied that the Antichrist will pull the world’s political leaders together into one world-governing empire (see Daniel 7).
- He will rise from the sea, or the nations (see Isaiah 17; Revelation 17)—possibly from the Mediterranean region.
- He will promote globalism: a global network of political alliances with a single law and economy.

Wonder (v. 3):

- The number associated with the Antichrist is 666 (see Revelation 13:18). There is much speculation as to what the number means.
- The Antichrist will be fully possessed and led by Satan, which will be a marvel in many people’s eyes. They will admire and wonder at his ability and be mesmerized by his talent.
- Wonder is the first step toward worship; many will see him as a political savior, the bringer of peace in the Middle East and ultimately the world.

Worship (vv. 4, 8):

- People’s fascination with the Antichrist will turn to adoration.
- In 2 Thessalonians 2:4, Paul said the Antichrist will “oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God” (NIV).
- The prefix anti means against, but it also means instead of.
- The Antichrist will be a counterfeit Christ, part of an illegitimate and unholy trinity: Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet.

Words (vv. 5-6):

- The Antichrist will have the ability to sway people with his words. He will be a master speaker and politician, exuding self-confidence.
- Daniel 7:8 describes him as “a mouth speaking pompous words.”
- Throughout the centuries, almost all dictators rose to power through the persuasive use of words.

War (vv. 7-10):

- Once the Antichrist succeeds in dominating the world, he will begin another holocaust as he seeks to eradicate the Jewish people and new believers (tribulation saints: those saved after the rapture).
- Daniel 7:25 states that he “shall persecute the saints of the Most High.”
- The Hebrew word for persecute means to wear out a garment. The Antichrist will continually harass God’s people physically, legally, and spiritually.

PRACTICE

Reflect on the following questions:

Connect Up: Pastor Skip noted that the first three and a half years of the Antichrist’s reign will be peaceful, but the last three and a half years will bring about an abomination during which two-thirds of the Jewish people will die (see Zechariah 13:8-9). Why will God allow such desecration on the earth? How does this narrative show the delicate balance between God’s control and God’s judgment?

Connect In: As Pastor Skip noted, the most interesting man in the world is also the most deceptive. Read Matthew 24. How can the church protect itself from deception?

Connect Out: There are stark differences between the Antichrist and Jesus Christ:

- Antichrist is pictured as a beast; Jesus is the Lamb.
- Antichrist’s false death will be meant to deceive; Jesus’ death was meant to save.

How can we use the coming world reality to partner with the Holy Spirit in proclaiming the good news, seeing many saved? Pray for friends and family who are not yet Christians.

- Antichrist is the idol shepherd; Jesus is the Good Shepherd.