

**Reality Carpinteria - Pastor Britt Merrick**  
**Mark 13:14-18**  
**The Abomination of Desolation**  
**(01MAY2005)**

**Review:**

- This is the fourth in a series of Bible Prophecy/Endtimes studies based on Mark 13.
  - First – A General Introduction to Bible Prophecy
  - Second – The Temple in Jerusalem (Mark 13: 1-4)
  - Third – World Conditions prior to Lord's Second Coming (Mark 13: 5-13)
- These three studies are available on CD format and on the internet at [www.jesusisreality.com](http://www.jesusisreality.com)

**Mark 13:14-18** "But when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION standing where it should not be (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. The one who is on the housetop must not go down, or go in to get anything out of his house; and the one who is in the field must not turn back to get his coat. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! But pray that it may not happen in the winter.

**The Antichrist**

1. In verse 14, Jesus mentions the abomination of desolation
    - "... **When you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** ..."
    - More details are found in Matthew 24 and in 2 Thessalonians 2.
    - "... **standing where it should not be** ..."
    - In the temple of God (soon to be constructed in Jerusalem)
    - "... **flee** ..."
    - This is a volatile point in the history of the world.
- The Abomination of Desolation**
- That moment in the future when a man called the Antichrist will walk onto the Temple Mount, into the temple of God and set himself up in the holy place as God and demand to be worshipped.
  - This signals the half-way mark of the Tribulation period
2. We may hold some preconceived notions about the Antichrist
    - Unanswered questions about him.
    - Scary images of him in our mind.
      - The mark of the beast
      - The number "666"
      - Some form of unbridled evil.
  3. More detail has been provided on two previous messages given last summer. Both are now available on the Internet.
    - "The Antichrist"
    - "Antichrist, Islam and the New Age"

**The Bible clearly describes him**

- The Antichrist is a flesh and blood **man**.
  - He is not a spiritual entity.
  - He is not a concept.
  - He is not an allegory.
- The Antichrist is directly empowered by Satan. Rev 13:2 – "and the dragon gave him . . ."
  - **"His power . . ."**
    - When this man comes on the world scene, he will be invested with power from "below."
    - He will have influence in the world.
    - In the book of Ephesians, Satan is called the prince of the power of the air; the New Testament calls him the god of this world.
    - Satan holds sway over the hearts and minds of men and women.
  - **"His throne . . ."**
  - **"Great authority"**
    - He will have authority in the demonic realm.
- The Antichrist's coming is in accord with the power of Satan. 2 Thessalonians 2:9.
- The Antichrist will be a brilliant politician, a great orator, a tremendous peace broker, a financier, and a military conqueror.
  - He is not a possessed madman running around with horns on his head.
  - He will be quite distinguished.
  - Daniel 9:27, 8:25, 11:21, 39-43 – He authors and enforces a peace covenant in the Middle East that allows Israel to rebuild their temple.
    - Given the current world situation, this would be an amazing feat.
    - Islam and Judaism co-existing peacefully in Jerusalem, much less on the Temple Mount, would be miraculous.
    - The Arabs and the Jews will get along!
    - We are told that there will be a peace covenant during the Tribulation period that will be enforced by the Antichrist.
  - Rev 13:16-17 - There will be a one-world financial system in the last days.

- Daniel 11:21 – He is a great military conqueror.
  - Daniel 8:5 – He is a tremendous orator.
  - Rev 13:7 - He will become the leader of the **entire** world.
    - The Bible states, in the last days there will be a one-world government. Currently, people are pushing for a one-world “government”.
  - The Antichrist will **display** and **experience** signs and wonders, according to the power of Satan.
    - 2 Thessalonians 2:9 – these will be **lying** signs and wonders.
    - Revelation 13:3 – he will receive a mortal wound to his head and he is miraculously healed of this wound.
      - At this point, the world looks amazed and begins to follow after him.
      - He will either experience an actual resurrection or a pseudo/counterfeit resurrection.
        - As Christians we appeal to the resurrection of Jesus Christ for the validity of who He is.
        - Satan appeals to the resurrection of the Antichrist as to the validity of who **he** is.
          - Satan is the Great Counterfeiter.
    - The Antichrist will be adored and worshipped worldwide.
      - Rev 13:3-4, 8, 12 – make it very clear that he receives worship.
      - The Antichrist is a secularist/humanist. But the “false prophet”, his right-hand man, persuades the world to worship the Antichrist.
      - In Revelation 13, the Antichrist is called the beast.
        - An image is made to the beast.
          - Abomination of Desolation - It may be that this image is placed into the temple (in the Holy of Holies) when the Antichrist sets himself up in the temple of God and demands to be worshipped as God.
            - Abomination in the Old Testament always has to do with idolatry.
            - It is the abomination, the idolatrous act that makes desolate (that destroys).
            - Jesus said mentions in Mark 13:14, which alludes to Daniel 9:27.
          - This image is caused to be able to speak and the whole world worships him.
            - People living during the Tribulation period who do not worship the image of the beast, will have their lives threatened.
- Suggested Reading #1: Read Revelation 13**
- The Antichrist will persecute and seek to destroy both Israel and anyone who will become a Christian during the Tribulation period.
  - Daniel 7:21, 25; Mark 13:14-20; Rev 12:4; 13:7 – The Antichrist wages war against the saints and he has a special war against the nation of Israel.
    - The Battle of Armageddon is all about the forces of the Antichrist gathered against Jerusalem.
      - Mentioned in Zechariah 12, 14 and Rev 19.
      - At the end of the Tribulation period, the Antichrist has gathered under his command all the world forces. He comes against Jerusalem to destroy it.
      - His forces are gathered in the Valley of Megiddo. Har (Hebrew for Mount) Megiddo or Armageddon, Mount of Megiddo).
        - Zechariah 14 and Revelation 19 state it is at that time that Christ returns. With the Word of His mouth He destroys the Antichrist and his forces, rescues Jerusalem and establishes His Millennial Kingdom.
  - Anyone who becomes a Christian on that day and refuses to receive the mark of the beast is beheaded.
    - Christians will be marked for their faith.
    - The Jews will be persecuted.
    - The nations’ military forces will be gathered against Jerusalem.
  - **This is not far from the world situation today!**
  - Interesting that it seems every nation in the world is gathered against Jerusalem.
    - There is no oil or natural resources in Jerusalem. All of these can be found in the nations that surround Israel. Yet Israel, Jerusalem, East Jerusalem, and the Temple Mount are the hotbed of the Middle East.
- Suggested Reading #2: Read Revelation 12**
- Satan has declared war against Israel in the hopes of destroying the Messiah.
- The Antichrist is a humanist who exalts himself above every so-called god.
  - Daniel 11:36-37; 2 Thessalonians 2:4 state that “he exalts himself above every god and above **the** God.” And that he “utters blasphemies against the God of the Bible”.
    - The Old Testament and the New Testament state that a sound (of the big-mouth Antichrist) is made in heaven of a boasting and a bragging about blasphemous things against the God of the Bible.
- Jesus Christ at His Second Coming will destroy him! (Revelation 19:19-21).

**The above is just a broad overview of some of the characteristics, traits and realities of the Antichrist.**

- More can be known about him throughout the Bible.
  - He has many other names.
    - 13 different names ascribed to him in the New Testament.
    - 33 different names ascribed to him in the Old Testament.
  - He will lead the world in a one-world government.
  - He will lead the world in a one-world financial system.
  - He will lead the world in a one-world religious system.
    - The false prophet mentioned in Revelation 13 seems to be its leader. He directs all who worship the Antichrist away from Jesus Christ.
- 4. We see all these things lining up today.
  - The religious front is getting more and more *ecumenical* everyday.
    - People want the walls between religions to be removed.
    - "Can't we just all get along?"
    - "Isn't it one God anyway?"
    - Prominent religious leaders including the new pope want to build bridges to Islam!
      - Islam is diametrically opposed to the God of the Christians and the God of the Jews.
      - Read the Koran and compare the god of the Koran to the God of the Bible.
      - It is impossible that the two are the same God.
        - We do not worship the same God.
        - This is the lie that the Antichrist and the False Prophet will capitalize upon so that the Antichrist might receive worship.

### Why does the Antichrist Come?

Jesus Christ spoke of world conditions that would exist prior to His return.

- Wars, rumors of wars, pestilence, earthquakes, etc.
  - Jesus **did not say** that He would **cause** these conditions to be so.
- The world is a fallen world, rejecting its Savior and spinning out of control and away from God.
- The Bible is clear: "You shall reap what you sow".
  - Throughout history the world has sown an ideology that says:
    - I don't want God.
    - I want to be a god.
    - I don't want to do things **God's** way, I want to do them **my** way.
    - We want peace, but on our terms.

**Man's misguided ideologies set the stage to welcome in the Antichrist.  
Satan is all too happy to oblige.**

- Jesus tells us that the Antichrist will come in answer to the wicked hearts of men.

**The Antichrist is the ultimate expression of fallen humanity,  
that wants to throw off the yoke of God and exalt himself.**

- Lucifer was an angel created by God.
  - More beautiful and more wise than the other angels.
  - His main drive was to exalt himself above God.
    - Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14
  - He rebelled against God and God cast him out of heaven.
  - We call him Satan.
- Mankind wants to be exalted.
  - Satan continues to tempt mankind with self-exaltation, since the beginning of time.
  - Genesis 3: Satan tempted Adam and Eve.
    - He confused them with what God had actually said.
    - He also proposed that there was more than just God's way - - there was **their** way.
      - He convinced them that their way was better than God's way.
      - He convinced them that they would become as wise as God and like God.
    - He told them that God is a cosmic killjoy who wants to keep them from good things.
      - Eve fell to the temptation to do things her way.

**The fall of Satan: he wanted to exalt himself to the place of God.  
The fall of Man: they wanted to be exalted to the place of God.**

- Humanity wants to be self-determinant, self-governing, and self-saving.
  - On the front of the UN building is inscription is written:
 

*"And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.  
Nation will not lift up sword against nation and never again will they learn war."*
  - This is a great sentiment. This is a quote of Isaiah 2:4
  - This quotes only **the second half** of verse 4!
  - They refused/neglected to put the first half which reads:

*“And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples...”*

- The word “He” refers to God. Specifically in this passage it refers to Jesus Christ during the millennial kingdom.
- This is a Messianic prophecy about the millennial kingdom when Jesus Christ establishes His kingdom here on earth.
  - **He, Jesus**, will judge between the peoples.
  - **Then and only then** will there be peace among the nations.
- The nations at the UN building gathered together, like in the days of the Tower of Babel.
  - They chose to literally write off God.
  - They think **they alone** can bring peace to the world.
  - The message was then and continues to be: yes, we want peace, but we want it apart from Jesus Christ. We want it on our own terms.

**The world wants peace and security on their own terms.  
This has been a sentiment of world leaders for a long time.**

“We don’t want another committee. We have too many already. We want a man of significant stature to hold the allegiance of the people, and lift us out of our economic morass in which we are sinking. Send us such a man, and if he be of God or of the Devil, we will receive him.”

*Paul Henri Spaak - Prime Minister of Belgium (1938-1939)  
First President of the United Nations General Assembly  
Chairman of the Western European Economic Union*

***Even today, the world echoes Paul Henri Spaak’s sentiment:  
Send us a man who will do for us what we want in leadership or economics.  
We don’t care where’s he is from.***

***If he’s from the pit of hell, we will receive him!***

- The man Paul Henri Spaak spoke of *did* come. **His name was Jesus Christ!**
  - He was the one from God.
  - He was the Savior of the world sent from God.
  - The world rejected Jesus Christ.

***God sent Jesus Christ and the world rejected Him.***

***Satan will send Antichrist and the world will receive him.***

- John 5:43, speaking to the Jews, Jesus said, “I come in My father’s name, and you receive Me not; if another shall come in his own name, him you will receive.”

#### **How Will the Antichrist Come?**

- The Antichrist will come with deception.
  - For those who have rejected Jesus Christ, God will send upon them a strong deluding influence. Having rejected the truth, they might believe the lie.
    - People think they have liberty with the truth.
    - When they hear the truth of God, they think they can do with it as they please.
      - This is dangerous!
    - 2 Thessalonians 2:4, if you reject the truth, God will see to it that you believe the lie. He will hand you over to your own depravity.
    - See Romans chapter 1.
      - Men of depraved minds, continually rejecting God, were given over to their passions, their immorality and their depravity.
      - God will only strive with men for only so long.
      - If you drive God away, even His mercy will be exhausted and He will allow you to go after that which you crave.
- The Antichrist will come as a man
  - All Jews expect the Messiah to be a man.
    - In Deuteronomy, Moses said that another prophet would come like unto himself.
      - Jews assume this means that Messiah will be merely a man like Moses.
    - He will be a political leader. He will bring world peace.
  - Christians know the Messiah to be the Son of God, God in the flesh.
    - Refuted by the Jews in John 8, John 10 and elsewhere.
      - When Jesus claimed His deity, the Jews picked up stones to kill Him.
    - Isaiah 7 states that the Messiah would be the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. God in the flesh.
- The Antichrist will come with a False Peace
  - Influential Jews such as Rabbi Chaim Richman expect the Messiah to be a peacemaker.
    - Rabbi Richman is a member of the revived Sanhedrin.
      - The Sanhedrin has not existed for past 1600 years but has been recently been revived. <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/news.php3?id=70349>  
<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/news.php3?id=73311>

"Jews do not believe that the Messiah is part of G-d, or Divine in any way, more than any other person. But we do not concern ourselves with the messiah's identity – for he is a person... we believe that the messiah, sent by G-d Almighty, is not G-d, but a human being – but the greatest leader and wisest teacher who ever lived. He will put his extraordinary talents to use to precipitate a worldwide revolution which will bring perfect justice and harmony to humanity... when the messiah arrives, it should not be necessary for his identity to be subject to debate – for the world should be so drastically changed for the better that it should be absolutely incontestable!"  
*Rabbi Chaim Richman*

- Jewish writings say that when Messiah comes, he will revive the Sanhedrin.
  - Richman is very influential in the movement to rebuild the temple.
- According to Daniel 9:27, this will be the world situation at the beginning of the Tribulation. It will be ripe for a false peace.
- The Antichrist will come on the scene and he will enforce a covenant of peace in the Middle East.
  - The world will experience a degree of peace, which it has not known previously.
- Some Jews may receive the Antichrist as the Messiah.
  - Many people speculate that the Antichrist might be of Jewish descent because he will allow the Jews to rebuild the temple.
    - This is dangerous speculation.
    - Current Jewish writings are getting away from this notion since it is a command for Israel to rebuild the temple, regardless of whether or not Messiah comes.
      - Israel is to obey all of God's commands at God's appointed times whether the Messiah is present or not.
      - Jews who want to see the temple rebuilt realize they do not need the Messiah to do so, but by rebuilding the temple as soon as possible, it will usher in the time of Messiah.
    - Daniel 11:37 states that the Antichrist will not regard the God of his fathers.
      - The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
      - The God of the Jews?
  - The Antichrist may be a counterfeit Christ; he may be a substitute for, opposed to or against Christ.
    - The Greek preposition "anti" means in place of, or in substitution to. He is the anti-Christ (Christ being the Greek word for Messiah), the anti-Messiah, or the one who is in substitution to the world messiah.
    - The Antichrist does not seek to substitute Jesus Christ. Rather, he seeks to war against Jesus Christ.
    - In the Book of Daniel we're told that he will war against the Prince of princes (Jesus Christ).
    - In Revelation 19 we read that when Jesus appears for His Second Coming, the Antichrist has his troops gathered at the battle of Armageddon and will mobilize his forces to fight against Jesus Christ.
      - The Antichrist is defeated with the "Word" that comes from the mouth of the Lord.
- The Antichrist's origin will somehow be Roman.
  - He will come from a revived Roman Empire.
    - The Book of Daniel makes it clear that in the last days the ruling world power will be the Roman Empire.
      - Daniel outlines four world empires that would be in power before they ever took place.

The book of Daniel outlines the rise and fall of:

1. The Babylonian Empire
2. The Medo-Persian Empire
3. The Grecian Empire
4. The Roman Empire

- The fall of Rome would take place when Jesus established His Kingdom once and for all on the earth.
  - At the *Second Coming* of Jesus Christ the Roman Empire would be destroyed.
    - The Roman Empire was never really destroyed like the others. This empire crumbled from within!
- When the European Union first started it called itself the Club of Rome. It started with ten member nations. It now has some 25 members and many others have pending memberships.
- Take a map of the Ancient Roman Empire and a map of the current European Union. Note it is almost the same nation to nation, except that the European Union has extended further.
  - The European Union now has split in two and we have the Western European Union
- The Antichrist will come from a 10-nation Confederacy.
  - It will be the revived Roman Empire.
  - It will be destroyed at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

**RECAP:**

### 1. Why will the Antichrist come?

The main reasons why the Antichrist ever comes on the scene:

**Beware: the spirit of Antichrist is already at work in the world.**

- The spirit of the Antichrist is that spirit which seeks to deny Jesus Christ, to exalt self, and received peace apart from the Lord.
  - Satan will always come to you with **offers of exaltation**.
  - Satan will always **appeal to your ego**.
  - Satan will give you a way of **getting a “one-up” on the rest of the world**.
  - Satan will always **promise you glory**.
  - **Satan’s promises are apart from the cross of Jesus Christ.**
    - Remember: Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness. He offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, if Jesus would only bow down to him and deny the way of the cross - - - our only means of salvation!  
**“Skip the cross, Jesus. Don’t deny Your Self.  
I, Satan, will give You glory, power and honor!”**

And Satan says to **you**:

**“You don’t have to go to the cross for these things! I will give you the peace that you seek.**

**Peace in your relationships, in material things, in love, in prestige, in position and in power!”**

- But, **none** of these things will ever give you peace.
- Jesus Christ is the **only one** who can give you peace. He is the Prince of Peace.
- Apart from the cross there is never peace and never glory.
- The cross of Jesus Christ provides the peace that satisfies.

**2. How will the Antichrist come?**

The Antichrist will come:

1. In his own name.
2. With false peace.
3. With deception.
4. With living signs and wonders.

- The Antichrist comes in his own name.
  - Daniel 11:36-37 “Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. And he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.”
  - 2 Thessalonians 2:4 “He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”
    - Exactly what Jesus Christ was talking about when He mentioned the abomination of desolation in Mark 13:14.
      - The Antichrist, setting himself up in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God.
- The Antichrist comes with false peace

**Suggested Reading #3 – Daniel 9:24-27**

  - He enforces the covenant of peace in the Middle East. Halfway through the Tribulation period, he breaks the covenant. He stops the sacrifices from going on at the temple.
    - This is the time that Jesus warns: those in Judea flee to the mountains. Don’t grab your coat. Don’t go back in your house to get anything. Flee to the mountains. The Antichrist has been revealed!
    - This is when the great part of the Tribulation occurs.
  - Daniel 9:27 “And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:3 “While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.”
    - The first half of the Tribulation period, people will be saying, “peace and safety,” especially Israel.
    - The Jews may even be thinking this world leader could be their Messiah, the deliverer they’ve been looking for.
      - Just like they expected, he is not a god, he is a man!
    - Three and a half years into the Tribulation period, he walks into the temple and declares himself to be God and to be worshipped as God.
      - The Jews will then know **they have been deceived**.
      - Zechariah 12:10, when Jesus Christ comes they will look upon Him whom they have pierced.
- The Antichrist comes with deception

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| <b>Satan:</b><br>Comes in his own name.<br>Comes with false peace.<br>Comes with deception.<br>Comes with lying signs and wonders. | <b>Jesus Christ:</b><br>Comes in the name of the Father.<br>Promises real peace.<br>Came with truth.<br>Came in true power. |
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What is not submissive to the truth of Jesus Christ is playing to the Antichrist.

*It is very important that we live as Christians in these last days. The spirit of Antichrist is at work in this world in an ever-increasing way. One of his biggest forms of deception is the New Age Movement.*

**EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH!**

1. The spirit of Antichrist is at work in this world in an ever-increasing way and we see it in man's growing rejection of God, specifically Jesus Christ. What is the greatest act of love that you as a Christian can present to unbelievers?
2. In these last days, what does it mean to you to know that God wants you to be "the light of the world"? What does it mean to you to know that on the Day of Judgment God will know His children "by their fruit"?
3. We know how tricky the devil can be. Do you ever find yourself relying on your own wit to fight off the simple sins, but seeking God's help on harder situations and temptations? What is the best way that you can fight and ensure that you are not deceived by the lies of the enemy?
4. Think of some areas in your life in which pride and self-exaltation reared their ugly heads and provided you with an "attitude." How did it affect your witness? How did you feel afterwards?
5. Recall when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after 40 days of fasting and praying. Why is it so important for us to be consistently armed with the Sword of His Spirit and the Word of Truth (Ephesians 6)? Why is it so important to readily commit to memorize scripture?

6. The world's willingness to have peace at any cost is a dangerous notion. Have you ever had a moment when you would have given anything to fulfill a very personal desire? What kept you from doing it your way? What kept you from doing it God's way?