

# APOSTASY BEFORE THE ANTICHRIST

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There's a lot of speculation about the end times, and one figure seems to dominate the conversation: the Antichrist. This character is not just a figment of Hollywood's imagination or a topic for prophecy buffs; he's a real threat described in the Bible as dark, deceptive, and dangerous. Some believe he's already walking among us, and we might be the generation that comes face-to-face with him. I believe my eyes will see him based on what the Bible actually says.

Who is this Antichrist? What is his agenda? Is his appearance on the world stage imminent?

The Bible first introduces us to this malevolent figure through the prophet Daniel, who calls him the "little horn" speaking great blasphemies (Daniel 7:8-11). He's destined to wage war on God's faithful and overcome them (Daniel 7:21-26). Under his rule, deceit will thrive, and truth will be trampled and destroyed; the economy will boom, and a false peace will deceive many. While the economy prospers, he maintains his control with his military using the language of peace and a growing economy as a cover for destruction and deception (Daniel 8:23-25). There will be those who will try to stop his military might with the consequence of death. The only way to not be subject to his mission of death is to side with him, and the majority do.

The New Testament gives us more names for this global leader: "the man of sin," "son of perdition" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4), "the beast" (Revelation 11:7, 13), "that Wicked" (2 Thessalonians 2:8), and the "beast from the sea" (Revelation 13). The apostle John warns us that many antichrists have come, signaling the end times (1 John 2:18). This ultimate Antichrist will embody the fullness of the Devil with the Devil empowering him to be

successful in what he does. With this power he even claims to be God (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

Now, what I'm about to say might shock you, but it's vital to hear. Believing otherwise could put you in serious danger and lead to bitter disappointment during the great tribulation. The Antichrist won't reveal himself until a worldwide apostasy has corrupted the church, just as Apostle Paul warned in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. This betrayal must happen first, then the "man of sin" will emerge. The world must be as dark as the Antichrist otherwise he would not be able to walk the earth.

This is also reflected in the apostate churches mentioned in Revelation chapters two and three, which precede the Antichrist's appearance in Revelation chapter six.

Here's the hard truth: the Antichrist can't come to power if the church stands firm. But once the church is weakened by apostasy, the world will unknowingly welcome the Antichrist with open arms. And make no mistake, an apostate church will without question endure the great tribulation he brings. The only escape is through death.

The Bible is clear: the Antichrist will rise at the world's end when the church is in great apostasy. He will bring death and chaos, targeting God's people. His reign will be brief, but when he appears, know that Christ's return is near. Less than three and one half years away.