

## THREE VIEWS CONCERNING THE ANTICHRIST

Steve Magill – [ageofantichrist.com](http://ageofantichrist.com)

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When I was growing up in the 50s and 60s, the prevailing belief was that Jesus' return was imminent, and we needed to be spiritually prepared for the rapture. The unprepared faced a grim future under the Antichrist's rule and an eternity without salvation. It was Hal Lindsey's, "The Late Great Planet Earth," published in the 70s, that opened millions to this view, also suggesting the Antichrist would emerge from a revived Roman Empire.

This interpretation dominated prophetic interpretation until Joel Richardson's "The Islamic Antichrist" in 2009, which viewed the Antichrist originating from a revived Ottoman Empire. Steve Magill's "Revelation and the Age of the Antichrist" in 2010 further expanded this narrative, introducing the concept of an Islamic Antichrist ascending from a new world order formed by Western nations instead of originating from a revived Roman Empire.

**Lindsey's perspective** of a European Antichrist places the Antichrist at the helm of a revived Roman Empire, equipped with the West's technological and military strength, to establish a 666-marked economic system. This view suggests a European, possibly Roman, ancestry for the Antichrist.

**Richardson's view** of an Islamic Antichrist portrays the Antichrist as al Mahdi, the Muslim Messiah expected in times of global upheaval. He is foreseen to control the vast wealth of Arab nations to establish a cashless global economy.

**Magill's Western/Islamic interpretation** places an Islamic Antichrist at the helm of a new world order where all nations are realigned under ten regions. This realignment is established by the West with world power shifted back to the Islamic East. The Antichrist will lead this order, enforcing a global cashless economy and persecuting, even killing, those who resist his authority.

The European perspective doesn't fully account for the Antichrist's origins as outlined in Daniel 8 and 11, nor does the Islamic view consider the European nations' role as described in Daniel 7. When we consider these scriptures, it becomes clear that both Western and Middle Eastern nations are instrumental in the rise of the Antichrist, as detailed in Magill's "Revelation and the Age of the Antichrist."