

# The Apocalypse

## “The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet”

### Revelation 13-14 – May 15, 2016

#### Our Sermon Series

<b>THE APOCALYPSE</b>		
<i>A 14-Week Sermon Series on The Book of Revelation</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Mar 26-27	The Revelation of Jesus Christ	Revelation 1-3
April 3	The Throne in Heaven	Revelation 4-5
April 10	The 7 Seals in Heaven	Revelation 6
April 17	The People in Heaven	Revelation 7
April 24	The 7 Trumpets in Heaven	Revelation 8-9
May 1	The Two Witnesses from Heaven	Revelation 10-11
May 8	War in Heaven	Revelation 12
May 15	The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet	Revelation 13-14
May 22	The 7 Bowls in Heaven	Revelation 15-16
May 29	The Fall of Babylon	Revelation 17-18
June 5	The Second Coming of Jesus Christ	Revelation 19
June 12	The Millennium	Revelation 20
June 19	Heaven – Part 1	Revelation 21
June 26	Heaven – Part 2	Revelation 22

#### Quick Review

- Believers are taken up to heaven (4:1) before the Great Tribulation begins. This is known as the Rapture (1 Thess 4:13-18).
- Chuck Swindoll: “The tribulation is a period of seven literal years upon the earth following the rapture of the Church and ending with the second advent of Christ. The events of this era are contained in Revelation 6-19. It will be a time of unprecedented evil, anguish, affliction, and trouble upon the earth due to the unrestrained activity of Satan.”
- One possible outline of Revelation 6-19:
  - **First 3.5 years of tribulation** (Rev. 6-9)
  - **Mid-point of tribulation** (Rev. 10-14)
  - **Last 3.5 years of tribulation** (Rev. 15-19)
  - **Second Coming of Christ** (Rev. 19:11-16)
  - **Armageddon** (Rev. 19:17-21)
- The interpretive approach that I am taking during these sermons is called a pre-tribulation, pre-millennial view of Revelation. There are other ways to interpret this book.

**Eternity’s Big Application** – We must all decide our allegiance, and in the end, there are just two choices. Who will I be allegiant to?

- **Choice #1** – \_\_\_\_\_ – This is the popular choice that the majority follows. There is a strong money incentive to make this choice. This choice has an immediate Wow-factor. But, this choice ends in eternal death.
- **Choice #2** – \_\_\_\_\_ – This is the unpopular choice and is not politically correct. This choice invites financial difficulty and persecution. But, this choice ends with eternal life.

**1 John 2:15-18** (NLT) – *Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. 18 Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come.*

#### A Summary Timeline of Future Events

- Believers will be taken up into heaven (Revelation 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; this is the Rapture).
- A world leader will bring “peace” through a 7-year covenant in the Middle East with Israel (Revelation 6:2; Daniel 9:27).
- This will mark the beginning of the 7 year tribulation (Rev. 6-19).
- In the middle of that 7-year covenant (at the 3 ½ year mark), this world leader will break that covenant with Israel and set himself up as god in the Jewish Temple. Specifically, there will be an image of him set up in the temple – this is “the abomination that causes desolation” (Daniel 9:27; 11:36; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Revelation 13).
- He will rule in this way for 3 ½ years. You must worship him in order to buy or sell (Revelation 13).

## Notes As We Read Revelation 13

- **13:1** – “beast” = \_\_\_\_\_
- “ten horns” = ten nations/kings (Rev. 17:12) – perhaps an alliance of 10 European nations that the Antichrist leads
- “seven heads” = seven mountains (Rev. 17:9) probably Rome which is built on 7 hills; it is also seven kings (Rev. 17:10)
- **13:2** – The three animals here remind us of the four beasts in Daniel’s dream (Daniel 7): a lion (Babylon), a bear (Media-Persia), a leopard (Greece), and a terrible beast (Antichrist). The final world empire will be rooted in all of these previous empires and unite their evil and power.
- **13:3** – The Antichrist will try to mimic the real Christ with a supposed (“seemed to have”) resurrection that will cause the whole earth to marvel and follow the Antichrist.
- **13:5** – Forty two months = 3 ½ years. The Antichrist will have practically unrestrained power on earth during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the tribulation period.
- **13:8-10** – Decide now where you will place your faith and allegiance.
- **13:11** – “another beast” = the \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 16:13).
- Satan (dragon), the Antichrist (beast), and the false prophet (another beast) form an unholy, evil trinity (Rev. 16:13) trying to mimic the One True God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).
- **13:18** – Man was created on the sixth day (Genesis 1:26-31), thus the Number 6 could be called man’s number. The Number 7 is a biblical number of perfection and completeness.
- Warren Wiersbe: “This special mark is the name or number of the beast – the mystical 666. In the ancient world, the letters of the alphabet were used for numbers, but in Greek and Hebrew, and Bible students have been attempting for years to unravel the mystery of this name and number. If you work at it hard enough, almost any name will fit! Despite all man’s imaginative calculations, we must confess that no one knows the meaning of this number and name. No doubt believers on earth at that time will understand it clearly. The ‘satanic trinity’ cannot claim the number seven, it must settle for 666.”
- Application: Where will I place my faith and allegiance?

## The Punchline of Revelation 14

- Revelation 14 is a series of announcements by several angels, but the punchline is Verse 12: “Hang in there! Keep believing, knowing that Satan and his team are judged and punished.”
- **14:1** – These are the 144,000 from Revelation 7:4.

- **14:9-11** – These verses tell us the fate of those who give their allegiance to the world system.
- **14:14-20** – Although the word picture of the harvest is used sometimes to denote winning souls to Christ (John 4:34-38), it is also used as a picture of God’s judgment (Matthew 13:24-43; Luke 3:8-17; Revelation 14:14-20).
- **14:20** – This verse appears to be a reference to the future Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 16:16; 19:17-19) when the blood from the slaughter will flow 180 miles to a depth of about 4.5 feet.
- Interesting note: Some of the lyrics of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” are taken from Revelation 14:19-20.

My eyes have seen the coming of the glory of the Lord.  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored.

**Eternity’s Big Application** – We must all decide our allegiance, and in the end, there are just two choices. Who will I be allegiant to?

- **Choice #1 – The World System** – This is the popular choice that the majority follows. There is a strong money incentive to make this choice. This choice has an immediate Wow-factor. But, this choice ends in eternal death.
- **Choice #2 – God’s Son** – This is the unpopular choice and is not politically correct. This choice invites financial difficulty and persecution. But, this choice ends with eternal life.

**1 John 2:15-18** (NLT) – *Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. 18 Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come.*