**DCF 100722 *The Antichrist Dan 11:36-45***

Dan 11:36 ***36“Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.***

The Antichrist is a tyrant / ruler, also called the Beast, the man of sin or the son of perdition. Gog may also refer to the Antichrist. Daniel is told that the vision is for the later days (10:14). AE was a type of antichrist, but the one to come, probably in our time, is to be much worse.

Matt 24:15 reminds us that Daniel was speaking of a time to come. ***Matt 24:15 15“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),*** and this person will expect to be worshipped. While AE did put a statue of Zeus in the temple, the coming Antichrist will demand people worship him. In our world today we have the rulers of Russia, China, North Korea and Turkey who are like this, who expect to be worshipped.

Paul writes ***2 Thess 2:3 3Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*** So, believers in the last days will see the falling away of the church and the man of sin revealed, before the rapture. His violence will bind many people and do much damage – but he will be restricted in time. He is called the son of perdition, because he will cause many people to be lost in hell for eternity. We already have a terrible disregard for God in our community. The name Jesus Christ is used as a swear word. It is not hard to see this man ***exalting himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped.***

So, how do we teach and encourage others to stand against this? We first look at our own hearts. What has captured our souls? What are the priorities for our own time? money? and pride? Deception comes with blindness. ***John 3:3 Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*** Wisdom is relational. It is far more than knowledge. ***Job 28;28 The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.*** This fear is relational not academic.

***Dan 11:37 37He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.***

This is ultimate pride. He is the son of satan himself. The God of his fathers may imply that he is a Jew. The desire of women, may imply that he is homosexual. Alternatively, the desire of women may be Jesus. Haggai 2:7 refers to Jesus as the ’Desire of All Nations’. Jesus was the perfect man, and many women saw this and appreciated His love. Luke 23:27 especially mentions ‘***… women who also mourned and lamented Him.’***

Pride is the ultimate blocker, for a person to come to God in repentance. A person MUST confess his sin to begin the process of salvation. The whole abortion and LGBTQ movements, idolatry in sport, blasphemy, and entertainment especially humour, are built on pride. The protestors at the rally for life, were screaming ‘my body, my rights’. When we make Jesus the Lord of our life, we give Him authority over our whole life- body, soul and spirit.

***Dan 11:38 38But in their place, he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. 39Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.***

This tyrant will display his power in military might. People look for financial gain and are willing to follow a ruler who rewards them with prosperity. Sadly, we have come to that in Australia. None of our election promises were aimed at returning the people to worshipping the only true God. Repeatedly, in 2 Kings we read of good kings who still did not remove the high places, until **2 Kings 18:4.** Then finally, Hezekiah comes***. 4He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it… 5He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him. 6For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses. 7The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went.*** When Jesus comes to reign, things will be very different.

***Dan 11:40*** *The Northern King’s Conquests* ***40“At the time of the end the king of the South (possibly Egypt) shall attack him; and the king of the North (probably Russia) shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. 41He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. (Jordan – N, S, and centre) 42He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also, the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. 44But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore, he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. 45And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.***

We read in Rev 9, at the 6th trumpet, 4 angels are released at the great river Euphrates. An army of 200 million comes, and 1/3 of mankind is killed, and those who survived did not repent. The bombs are described as “fire and smoke and brimstone” in ***Rev 9:18. 18By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.***  We read in Zech 14:12 ***Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouth.*** Then in Rev 16:12 at the 6th bowl of wrath, we are told the army that comes across the Euphrates is from the kings of the East***. 12Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.*** China was unheard of in those days.

The passage again suggests the Antichrist is in the Middle East. Nations North and South and East will attack. This is the battle of Armageddon. His end will come and no one will help him. So, there will be a huge battle in or near Israel. There will not be any believers present at this time. At the 4th bowl in Rev 16:9, when people are scorched with great heat, there is no repentance. ***Rev 16:9  9And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.***

The battle of Armageddon is only mentioned once by name in Rev 16:16. It comes at the end of the bowls of wrath, so at the end of time – at the time of the 6th and 7th bowls of wrath. In this final battle, Jesus will come with the armies of heaven and bring complete destruction for those who have rejected the gospel. Rev 16:14 tells us the whole world will be in this battle.

***Rev 16:12 12Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. 13And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.***

***15“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”***

***16And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.***

In Ezekiel 38 we read of the attack on Israel by nations. At the end of the chapter, we read of judgement which Revelation repeats. ***Ez 38:19 19For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken: ‘Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, 20so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at My presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.’ 21I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all My mountains,” says the Lord God. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother. 22And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. 23Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.”***

***Rev 18:2 2So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.***

***Rev 18:14 14For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.***

***Rev 16:18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.***

We are given this account of the wrath of God, even though believers will not be present, to get us to appreciate the terror and urgency coming to our world. There are prodigals and neighbours and strangers God has put us next to, who desperately need to hear the gospel. Do not give up with discouragement. Even when the Son of God came, people, including one of His own disciples, did not believe.

The western church has sadly avoided any mention of the judgement and the terror of God. It prefers the happy, clappy gospel. But Paul tells us in ***2 Cor 5:11 10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.*** Do not avoid knowing the fear and terror of God.

But, just as our hope is solid, to spend eternity with our Father, so too, eternity in hell is a horrific certainty. If living in peaceful Perth instils in us a spirit of complacency, what is worse? That we lose that comfort and prosperity, or that people we know spend eternity in hell? I sent you the Barnabas Fund email, which detailed Christians being killed and even skinned, for their faith. Christians are being killed for just possessing the Bible. If you have not subscribed to emails from Barnabas Fund, Open Doors, ACL, AC, Culture Watch and Family Voice, I strongly encourage you to do so. We need to pray and support these fellow believers.

When we read about this last battle in Ezekiel 38, 39, we see that it precedes the millennial reign of Christ.

God tells Gog - the Antichrist, that the prophets were talking about him. ***Ez38:14 14“Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? 15Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. 16You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.” 17Thus says the Lord God: “Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days by My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied for years in those days that I would bring you against them?***

He comes from the north – Russia. He attacks Israel.

We know this is the final battle because this is the day of the Lord. ***Ez 39:6 6“And I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in security in the coastlands. Then they shall know that I am the Lord. 7So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not let them profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. 8Surely it is coming, and it shall be done,” says the Lord God. “This is the day of which I have spoken.***

The enemy is annihilated and the name of God will no longer be profaned. It is a terrible thing that we allow the name of Jesus to be used as a profanity. In the end, this will stop forever. The nations and the church will no longer be able to ignore the judgement of God. All of Israel will know God. ***Ez 39:21 21“I will set My glory among the nations; all the nations shall see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them. 22So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward.***

On this day, when the enemies of God and Israel are destroyed, there will be huge repentance amongst the Jews. ***Zech 12:9 It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.***

***10“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.***

What an amazing day, when the Spirit of God is poured onto Israel.

So, what is the message for us. We are warned of what is to come – so we have knowledge, but what is in our heart is what counts. We are told in Mark 12:30 to love God FIRSTLY, with all our heart. We have many distractions in our life. Sickness, finance, family, worries, temptations, hobbies, and wars, are some of the things that sometimes take priority in our thoughts and heart.

We need to train our heart now, to seek the company of God. As things get worse, we need the discernment and courage to stand for God. What is your target in life? Your reason to live? Your goal?

Last Song: I don’t have to give up my dreams.

**My Dream**

I don’t have to give up my dreams

To walk with Jesus today

‘Cos my dream is to stand in the presence of God

And to hear my Father say:

Well done, My faithful son

Well done, my brave young man

You’ve made yourself ready as a bride for my Son

Come rise as an eagle and soar.

No you don’t have to give up your dreams

To walk with Jesus today

To show the mind and the heart of God

In all you do and say.

To know the length and the breadth and the height and the depth

Of this love of God for me

And to sing His praise both day and night

For His truth has set me free.

No I’ll never give up my dreams

To be a prophet and speak out for the Lord

To walk with His Spirit both day and night

A warrior with His Word as my sword.

You don’t have to give up your dreams

To walk with Jesus today

‘Cos my dream is to stand in the presence of God

And to hear my Father say:

Well done My faithful son…

HW:

* Read Rev 16:12-21 to see when the Battle of Armageddon takes place.
* Read Ezekiel 38,39 of the final battle.

God informs Gog and Magog in [Ezekiel 38:15](https://www.biblestudytools.com/ezekiel/38-15.html), "You will come from your place in the far North” (the Hebrew word means "the uttermost part of the North." What's north of Jerusalem? Moscow. What is north Russia? Nothing. Meshech is the old name for the capital of Western Russia, which is known today as Moscow. Tubal is identified as a city in Siberia.

Gog (Russia) is the King of the North. The King of the South is an Arab-African coalition.

* Read Haggai 2:7; Luke 23:27. Jesus the man was the perfect man.
* Read Rev 9 and 16 to be familiar with the trumpets and bowls of wrath.
* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaGoIhSlWUQ