

Sunday School Lesson.....Lesson # 61
NAMES AND TITLE OF THE ANTICHRIST (LESSON # 2)

On our journey last week we began to look at the Names and Titles of the Anti-Christ. Today we will continue that facet of our journey.

THE BEAST.

- *“And when they shall have finished their testimony the Beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them” (Revelation 11:7).*

This is another name which reveals the terrible nature and character of the Antichrist and which places him in sharp antithesis from the true Christ. “The Beast” is the title by which he is most frequently designated in the *Revelation*: there are at least thirty references to him under this name in the last book of the Bible. The Greek word signifies a wild beast. This name “the Beast” contrasts the Antichrist from the true Christ as “the Lamb”; and it is a significant fact that by far the great majority of passages where the Lord Jesus is so designated are also found here in the *Apocalypse*. The “Lamb” is the Savior of sinners; the “Beast” is the persecutor and slayer of the saints. The “Lamb” calls attention to the gentleness of Christ; the “Beast” tells of the ferocity of the Antichrist. The “Lamb” reveals Christ as the “harmless” One (*Hebrews 7:26*); the “Beast” manifests the Antichrist as the cruel and heartless one. Under the Law lambs were ceremonially clean and used in sacrifice, but beasts were unclean and unfit for sacrifices.

It is a point of interest to note that there is one other very striking contrast between the persons in the Holy Trinity, and the persons in the trinity of evil. At our Lord’s baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove, and the first mention of the Holy Spirit in Scripture represents Him as “brooding” like a dove over the waters which covered the pre-Adamic earth (*Genesis 1:2*). How remarkable are those symbols — a “Lamb” and a “Dove”! A Dove, not a hawk or an eagle. The gentle, harmless, cooing “dove”. Over against this the Devil is termed “the Dragon”. What a contrast — the Dove and the Lamb, the Dragon and the Beast!

THE BLOODY AND DECEITFUL MAN.

- *“Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the Lord will abhor the Bloody and Deceitful Man” (Psalm 5:6).*

The Psalm from which this verse is quoted contains a prayer of the godly Jewish remnant, offered during the Tribulation period. In proof of this assertion observe that in *Revelation 5:2* God is owned and addressed as “King”. In *Revelation 5:7* intimation is given that the Temple has been rebuilt in Jerusalem, for turning away from it when it has been defiled by “the Abomination of Desolation”, the remnant say, “*But as for me I will come into Thy house in the multitude of Thy mercy: and in Thy fear will I worship toward Thy Holy Temple*”.* (Most theologians believe it is he “rebuilt temple of the Jews” in focus in this scripture. I do not agree. There is already a temple on the Dome of the Rock; it a temple of Islam; but a temple nonetheless.) While in *Revelation 5:10* we find them praying for the

destruction of their enemies, which is parallel with *Revelation 6:10*. It is during that time the faithful remnant will exclaim, *“Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the Lord will abhor the Bloody and Deceitful Man”*.

The Bloody and Deceitful Man views the Antichrist in relation to the Jews.

In the earlier stages of his public career he poses as their friend and benefactor. He recognizes their rights as a separate State and appears anxious to protect their autonomy. He makes a formal covenant with them (*Daniel 9:27*) and their peace and security seem assured. But a few years later he comes out in his true character. His fair speeches and professions of friendship are seen to be false. He breaks his covenant (*Psalms 55:20*) and turns upon the Jews in fury. Their benefactor is now their worst enemy. The protector of their interests now aims to cut them off from being a nation in the earth (*Psalms 83:4*). Thus is he rightfully denominated by them *“the Bloody and Deceitful Man”*.

THE WICKED ONE.

- *“The Wicked (One) in his pride doth persecute the poor: the Wicked (One), through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God” (Psalms 10:2,4).*

This entire Psalm is about the Wicked One. The opening verse gives the key to its dispensational scope. It contains the cry of the Jewish remnant during the Tribulation period, here denominated *“Times of Trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7)*. So desperate is the situation of the true Israel, it seems as though Jehovah must have deserted them — *“Why standeth Thou afar off, O Lord? Why hidest Thou Thyself in times of trouble? (v. 1)*. Then follows a remarkably full description of their arch-enemy, the Wicked One.

His pride (v. 2), his depravity: *“He abhorreth the Lord” (v. 3 margin)*; his blasphemy: *“All his thoughts are, There is no God” (v. 4 margin)*; his grievous ways, (v. 5); his consuming egotism, (v. 6); his deceitfulness, (v. 7); his treachery, (v. 8); his cruelty, (vv. 9,10); his complacent pride, (v. 11), is each described. Then the Remnant cry, *“Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up Thine hand: forget not the humble. Break Thou the arm of the Wicked and Evil One” (vv. 12 and 15)*. The whole Psalm should be carefully studied.

THE MAN OF THE EARTH.

- *“To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the Man of the Earth may no more oppress” (Psalms 10:18).*

The *“Wicked One”* describes his character; the *“Man of the Earth”* defines his position. The one speaks of his awful depths of depravity; the other of his vast dominions. The sphere of his operations will be no mere local one, He will become World-emperor. He will be a king of kings and lord of lords, (*Revelation 13:7*). When the true Christ appeared on earth Satan offered Him *“all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them”* if He would fall down and worship him. When the false Christ appears, this offer will be repeated, the conditions will be met, and the tempting gift will be bestowed (*Revelation 13:2*). In consequence of this he shall be *“the Man of the Earth”*; just as later, Christ shall be *“King over all the earth” (Zechariah 14:7)*.

THE MIGHTY MAN.

- *“Why boasteth thou thyself in mischief, O Mighty Man” (Psalm 52:1).*

This is another Psalm which is devoted to a description of this fearful character. Here again we have mention of his boastfulness (v. 1), his deceitfulness (v. 2), his depravity (v. 3), his egotism (v. 4), his riches (v. 7).

His doom is also announced (v. 5). This title, the Mighty Man, refers to his immense wealth and possessions, and the power which they confer upon their possessor. It also points a striking contrast: Christ was the Lowly Man, not having where to lay His head; the Antichrist will be the Mighty Man, of whom it is said, *“Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his substance” (Isaiah 52:7).*

THE ENEMY.

- *“Because of the voice of the Enemy, because of the oppression of the Wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me” (Psalm 55:3).*

This is another title used of the Antichrist in connection with Israel, a title which recurs several times both in the Psalms and the Prophets. It points a designed contrast from that Friend that *“sticketh closer than a brother”*.

This Enemy of Israel oppresses them sorely. His duplicity and treachery are here referred to. Concerning him Israel shall exclaim, *“The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords” (Psalm 52:21).*

Let the student be on the lookout for passages in the Old Testament which make mention of the Enemy.

THE ADVERSARY.

- *“They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land. We see not our signs: there is no more any profit: neither is there any among us that knoweth how long. O God, how long shall the Adversary reproach? Shall the Enemy blaspheme Thy name forever?” (Psalm 74:8-10).*

This title occurs in several important passages. In *Isaiah 59:19* we read, *“So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun. When the Adversary shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him”*. *Lamentations 4:11,12* is another scripture which obviously speaks of the End-time. *“The Lord hath accomplished His fury; He hath poured out His fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured the foundations thereof. The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the Adversary and the Enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem”*. In *Amos 3:11* we read, *“Therefore*

thus saith the Lord God; an Adversary there shall be even round about the land; and he shall bring down thy strength from thee, and thy palaces shall be spoiled”.

This is a title which intimates his satanic origin, for the Greek word for Devil means adversary.

THE HEAD OVER MANY COUNTRIES.

- *“He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the Head over many countries” (Psalm 110:6).*

The context here shows that it must be the Antichrist which is in view. The Psalm opens by the Father inviting the Son to sit at His right hand until His enemies shall be made His footstool. Then follows the affirmation that Jehovah will display His strength out of Jerusalem and make His people Israel willing in the day of His power. Then, following Jehovah’s oath that Christ is a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek (which contemplates the exercise of His millennial and royal priesthood), we read, *“The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the heathen; He shall fill the places with the dead bodies; He shall wound the Head over many countries”*. The “Day of His wrath” is the closing portion of the Tribulation period, and in the Day of His wrath. He wounds this Head over many countries. The Head over many countries refers to the Man of Sin as the Caesar of the last world empire, prior to the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom.

We will pick up with our twelfth of thirty names for the Anti-Christ that we have been able to locate next week in lesson 62.