

Who is the AntiChrist of
the End Time ?



Last month we talked about the many antichrists that are in the world today. Apostle John in 1 John 2:18 declares and warns: “Little children, it is the last time: and as you have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.”

He said that there are many antichrists living among us. John also affirms that there is an antichrist to come in the last days.

Today's discussion is focused on this
personality –
the antichrist of the end-time.

We learned in last month's Bible study that an anti-Christ is one who denies Jesus to be the Christ. 1John 2:22

1Jn 2:22 (NIV)

22 Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son.

The word anti-Christ comes from the Greek word “anti-Christos.” The word “Anti Christos” is made up of two Greek root words; ‘anti and Christos.’ ‘Anti’ means “Anti,” “against,” “opposition to,” “opposite of” or “in place of.”

‘Christos’ is Greek for the Hebrew word ‘Messiah’ which means ‘the anointed one.’ The Greek word ‘Christos’ is translated in English as ‘the Christ.’ John 1:41

Jn 1:41 (NIV)

41 'He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).'

Therefore, Christ is 'Christos' in Greek the equivalent of 'Messiah' in Hebrew.

In Hebrews 1:2 we learn that Christ is the Son of God through whom God (The Father) made the world.

Heb 1:2 (NIV)

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

Therefore, an anti-Christ is one who stands oppose to and/or against the truth that Jesus is the Christ; the Son of God who divested of His divinity and came in the flesh.

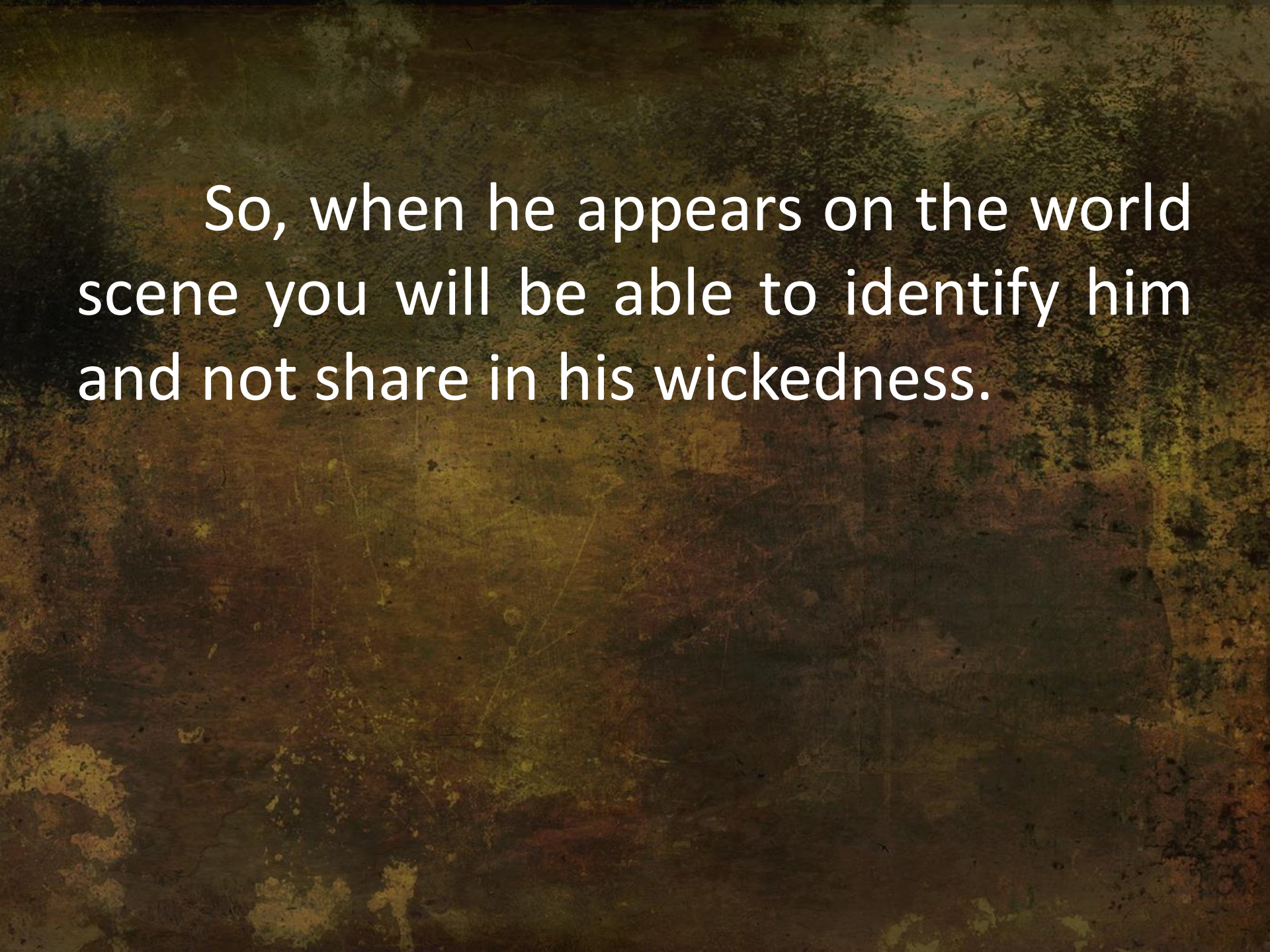
Further, John prophesy in 1 John 2:18 that there is an anti-Christ who is yet to come in the last days.

1 Jn 2:18 (NIV)

18 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

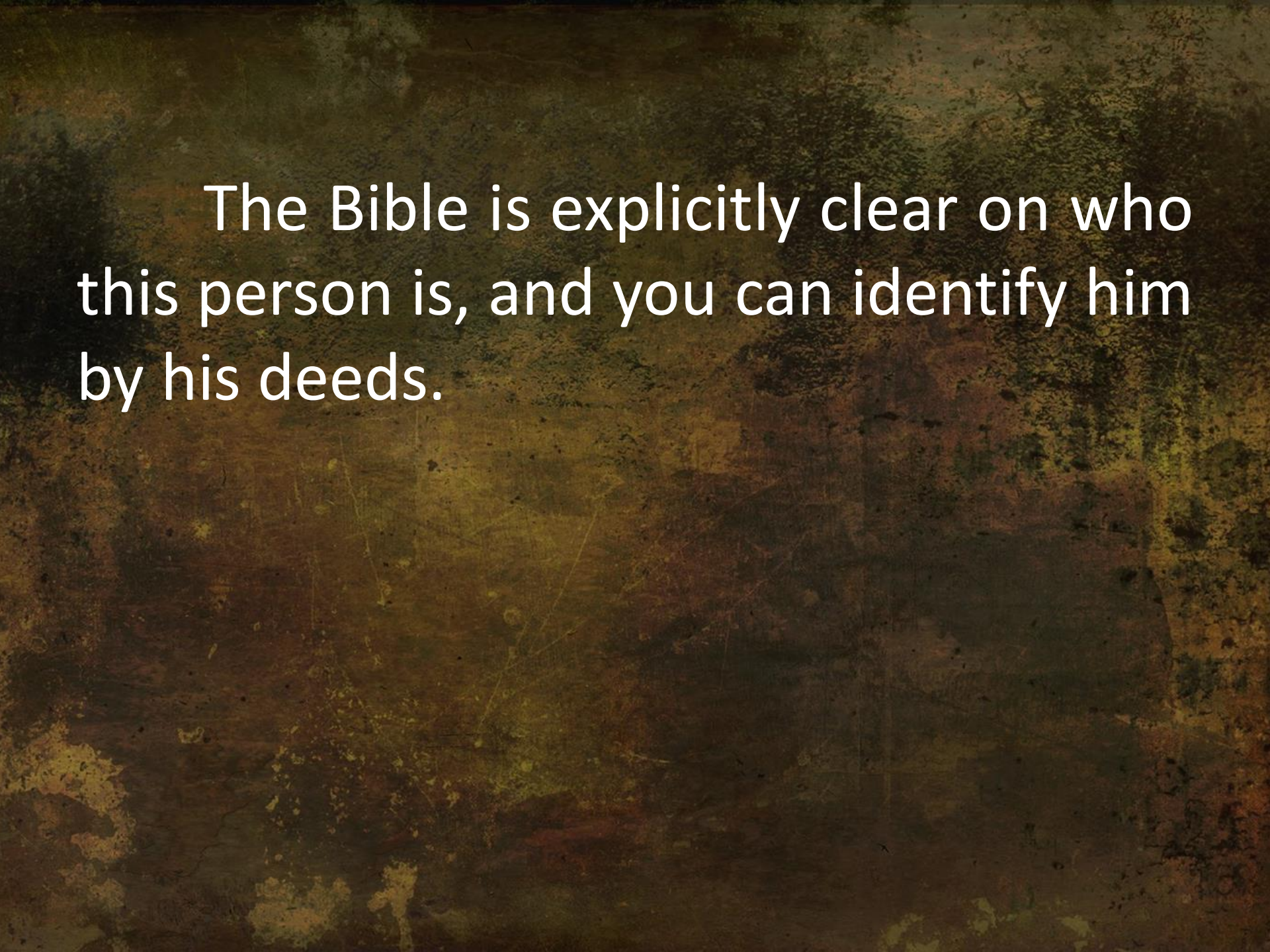
Speculations on the identity of the end-time antichrist abound. Some speculate and wonder if he could be the Pope or an Islamic leader.

Today, we will reveal the identity of this person as detailed and described in the scriptures. And we will know him by his attitude towards the followers of Christ and the things that he will perform.



So, when he appears on the world scene you will be able to identify him and not share in his wickedness.

There is no need for guesswork;
the end-time anti-Christ is clearly
detailed in the scriptures.



The Bible is explicitly clear on who
this person is, and you can identify him
by his deeds.

To identify him, you need to synchronize the understanding of 3 books of the Bible; they are: Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians, the Book of Revelation and the Book of Daniel.

These three (3) books must be interpreted together in order to see the whole picture. As usual, the key to unlock the prophecy is provided by Jesus Christ .

2 Thessalonians

In passing, John talks about the coming of an end-time Anti-Christ. It was Paul who provides greater detail about the persona of the Anti-Christ.

Paul identified him as the Man of Sin – meaning a very sinful man. In some translations he is identified as ‘the son of perdition’ and ‘Man of Lawlessness.’

In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Paul describes who is to become the Antichrist. Paul wrote that this Man of Sin will possess a number of characteristics.

These include:

1. "Sitting in the temple"
2. Opposing himself against anything that is worshiped
3. Claiming divine authority
4. Working all kinds of counterfeit miracles and signs
5. And, doing all kinds of evil.

The man of sin, the son of perdition is the chief of the antichrist. But, who is he and what are the things he will do at the end-time that made him an antichrist?

Key To Understanding



Both Paul and John spoke about the Man of Sin in prophetic term. Paul placed the revealing of the Man of Sin as the sign before the coming of the Lord. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers,

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

In Matthew 24:3 the disciples came to Jesus privately asking, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

Jesus replied in Matthew 24:15-17 saying “So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house.”

Jesus provides the key to unlock the end-time prophecy by identifying the entry of the antichrist into the world scene.

Jesus identified the event as 'the abomination that causes desolation'. Jesus said: when you see this happening the end is near.

Here, Jesus sets a precursor to His second coming and the end of the age. That precursor is 'the abomination that causes desolation'. Then, Jesus refers the event to a prophecy spoken of by the prophet Daniel.

What is the 'abomination that causes desolation' and what has it got to do with the antichrist?

A key to understanding prophecy is to realize that prophecy is dual, that involves a smaller scale prior fulfillment before the actual fulfillment of the event principally prophesied.

The archetype small scale fulfillment provides a clearer picture and perspective of how the bigger future fulfillment will play out.

Duality provides clear understanding
and takes guesswork out of prophecy.

The man of sin described by Apostle Paul is to appear towards the end of the age. John puts it 3½ years prior to the second advent of Jesus Christ. The appearance of the man of sin will be opposed and matched by the two witnesses.

For us to convert this information into knowledge, we need to relate it to historical experience, context and inspired analysis.

To do this we need to go back in time to the proto-type fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy as Jesus suggested. For this will provide the basis for a later day and final fulfillment.

Daniel Chapter 11



Daniel prophesied about the event known as the 'abomination that causes desolation' that is to be performed by a contemptuous man. He is the archetype of the antichrist.

The prophecy is written in Daniel 11:1-2 and 29-39. Bible scholars and historians have identified the contemptuous man as Antiochus IV.

He took on for himself the title
“Epiphanes,” which meant “select of
god.” He did the abominable by
desecrating the temple.

He mounted an effort to destroy the Jews and the worship of the true God. Antiochus Epiphanes made a royal law that Jews were forbidden to observe the Sabbath or study the Torah (Antiochus had changed times and law).

The Jews were required to bow down and to offer sacrifices to the Greek pagan god 'Zeus.'

These are some of the most notorious things he did. They are:

1. He decreed that any Jew who would not worship the Greek idols will be put to death.
2. Praying to the God of Israel was punishable by death.
3. Observing the Sabbath according to The Fourth commandment was a capital offense.

4. Mothers found with circumcised infants, according to Jewish law, were killed along with the child.

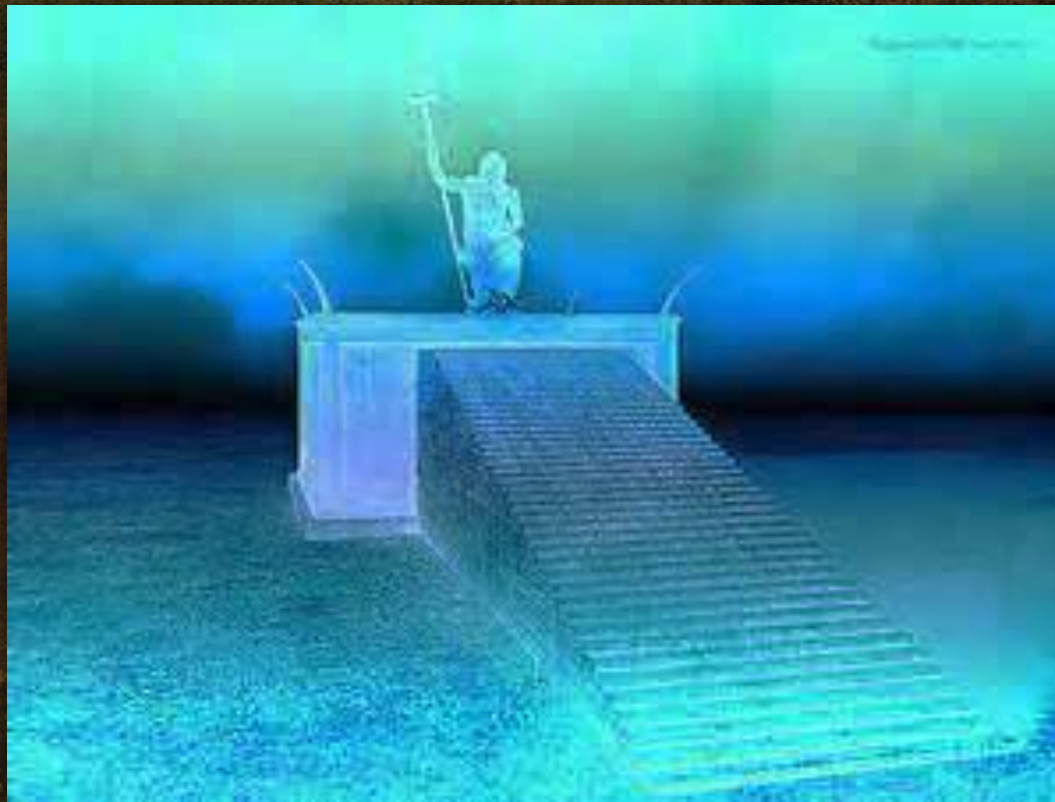
5. He had many scrolls of the Holy Scriptures burned, although many were very likely saved by being hidden out in the wilderness in a manner similar to the Dead Sea Scroll.

The greatest outrage committed by Antiochus IV occurred in 167 B.C. He entered the Temple in Jerusalem, erected an altar to the pagan god Zeus that looked like him, and sacrificed a pig on it.

This was the 'abomination of desolation' spoken of by Daniel that Jesus referred to in His Olivet Prophecy. This triggered the Maccabean Revolt.

Their eventual victory and cleansing of the Temple is still commemorated by Jews today by the annual Festival of Hanukkah, the 25 of Kislav.

The Prophesied Abomination of Desolation



Understanding the precise historical background behind the 'abomination that causes desolation' spoken of by Daniel, Jesus implied that this event will happen again before His return.

The antichrist of the end-time will be the person who will perform the 'abomination of desolation' again.

Armed with this understanding,
we are projected forward to the
prophetic vision given to the Apostle
John.

In Revelation 13 we are introduced to two entities; the beast and the false prophet.

The antichrist, the man of sin –
son of perdition is the beast. He is a
political and military leader like
Antiochus Epiphanes.

How do we know for sure that he
is a geo-political leader?

The answer is that the Bible interprets itself. The scripture says that prophecy never comes from personal interpretation of things.
2 Peter 1:19-21.

2 Peter 1:19-21(NIV)

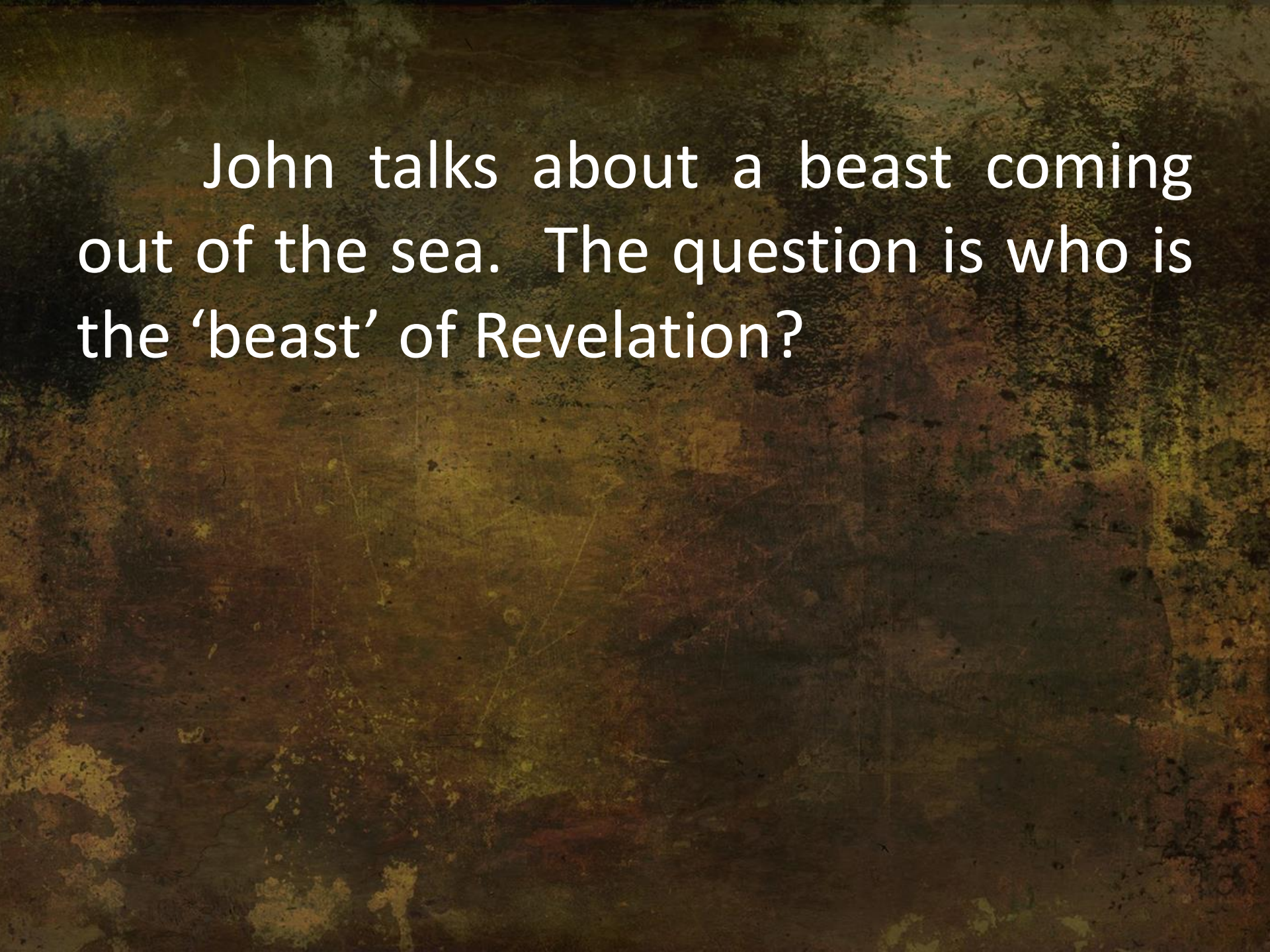
19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

2 Peter 1:19-21 (NIV)

20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

We must allow the Bible to provide the understanding.



John talks about a beast coming out of the sea. The question is who is the 'beast' of Revelation?

The Bible provides the answer in
Daniel 7.(Read)

So, there is absolutely no need for speculation.

Daniel 7:17 says that the four (4) beasts are the four (4) kingdoms that will rise from the earth. Therefore, the beast, the son of perdition, the anti-Christ is a king – a political military leader.

Dan 7:17 (NIV)

17 "The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.

The anti-Christ will proclaim himself to be god, demand worship and forbid true worship. The one assisting him is the false prophet – the religious leader. Both of them will get their authority and power from the dragon, Satan.

The mark of the beast will be the identification of the beast, and anyone who does not bear the “mark” will be persecuted. We expect the same persecutions and restrictions during the time of Antiochus IV to resurface at the end-time.



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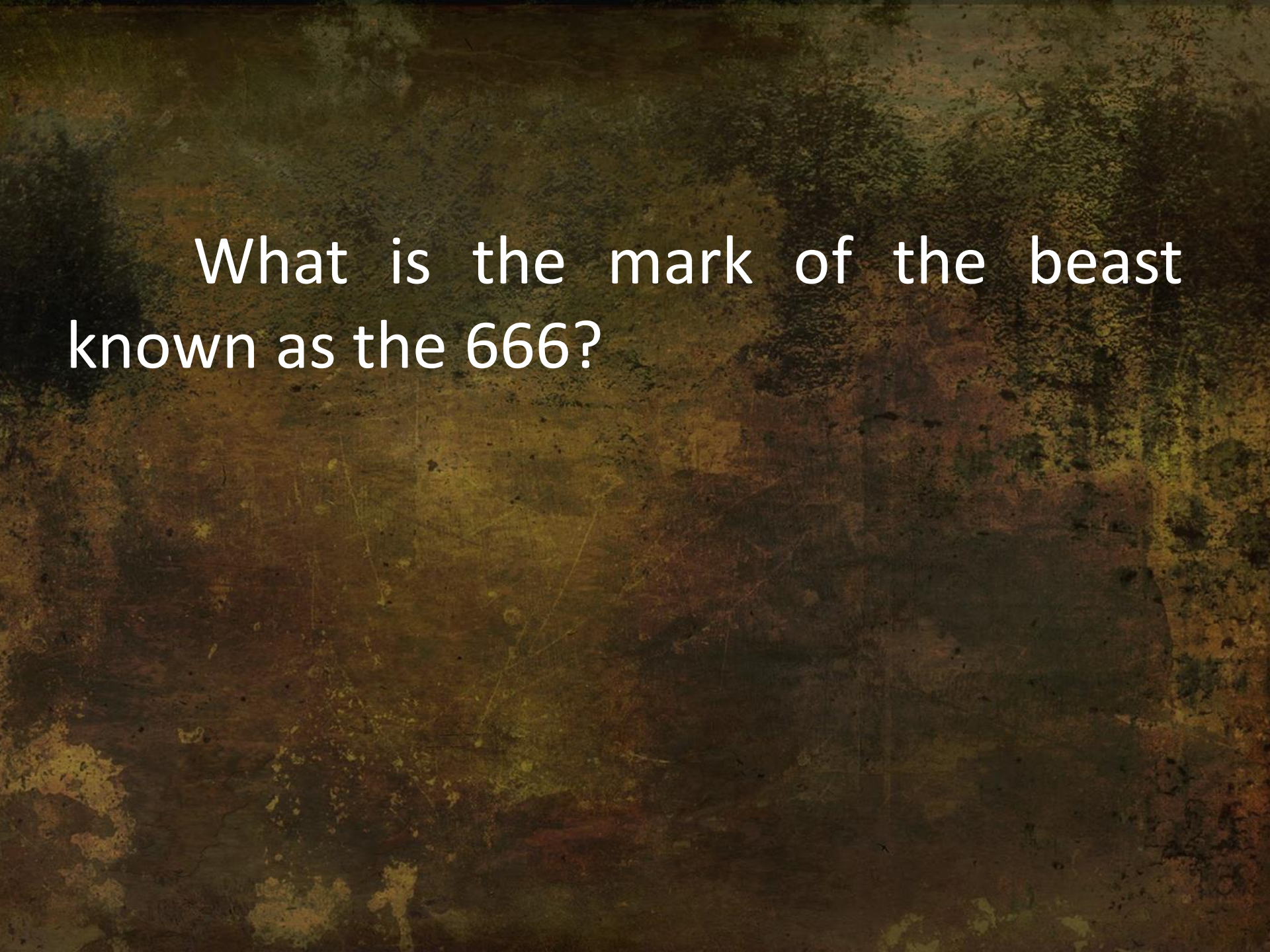
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What is the mark of the beast
known as the 666?

Revelation 13:18

18 'This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666.'

There are many interpretations of this passage as there are many Christian denominations.

Some believe these verses refer to a tattoo, a credit card, an identity number or a microchip implant. Theories abound about the number 666.

Bible scholars agree that the mark of the beast will be a recognizable sign of those who have chosen to follow the antichrist.

When the Apostle John wrote Revelation, it was a common practice to assign numerical values to , and this is called “Gematria”.

Most Bible scholars agree that the number 666 is the numerical total for the name of the Roman emperor Nero Caesar who intensely persecuted Christians.

Nero Claudius Caesar was born in A.D. 37. Nero through intrigue murdered his way to the imperial throne. He reigned from A.D. 54-68.

In A.D. 64, a terrible fire broke out in Rome. Many believed that Nero burned the city of Rome in order to build a more splendid one.

Under intense criticism, Nero directed the hostility against the Christians and blamed the followers of Christ for the crime. Starting in A.D. 64, a fierce persecution was launched against the saints in Rome.

Tacitus (c. A.D. 60-120), a Roman historian, has preserved a record of this situation. We quote the following from his *Annals*(XV.44).

“And so, to get rid of this rumor, Nero set up [i.e., falsely accused] as the culprits and punished with the utmost refinement of cruelty a class hated for their abominations, who are commonly called Christians. Christus, from whom their name is derived, was executed at the hands of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius. Checked for a moment, this pernicious superstition again broke out, not only in Judea, the source of the evil, but even in Rome....

Accordingly, arrest was first made of those who confessed [to being Christians]; then, on their evidence, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much on the charge of arson as because of [their] hatred for the human race. Besides being put to death they were made to serve as objects of amusement; they were clothed in the hides of beasts and torn to death by dogs; others were crucified, others set on fire to serve to illuminate the night when daylight failed.”

Touching the manner in which the Christians were tortured and killed at the time of Nero, A. Mellinus gives the following account from Tacitus and other Roman writers: namely, that four extremely cruel and unnatural kinds of torture were employed against the Christians:

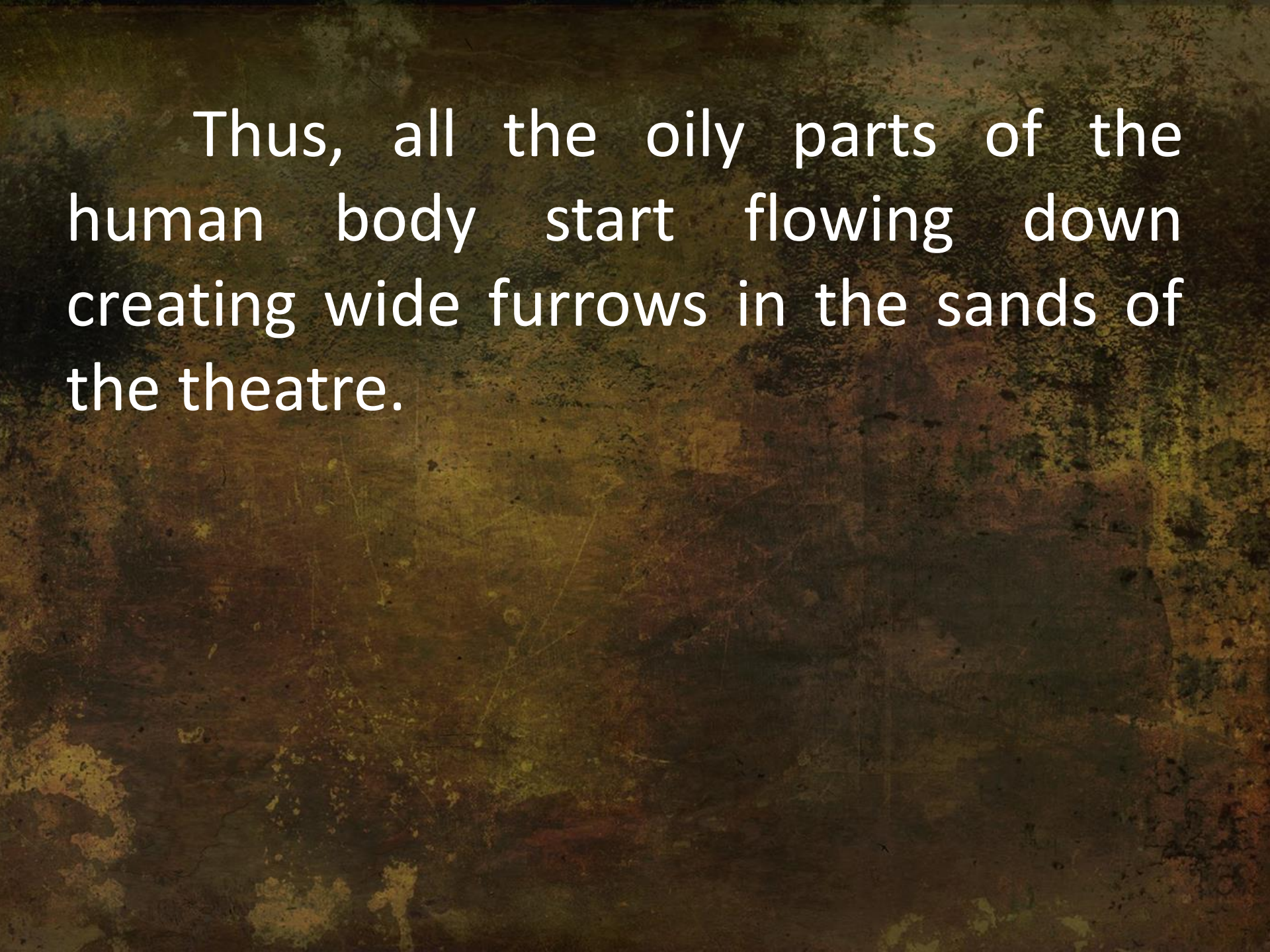
1. Firstly, that they dressed them in the skins of tame and wild beasts, that they might be torn to pieces by dogs or other wild animals.

2. Secondly, that they, according to the example of their Savior, were fastened alive on crosses, and/or in many different ways.

3. Thirdly, that the innocent Christians were burned to death by the Romans with torches.

4. Fourthly, that these miserable, accused Christian martyrs were used as candles, torches, or lanterns, to be seen by them at night.

Of those who were burned, some were tied or nailed to stakes, and held still by a hook driven through the throat, so that they could not move the head when the pitch, wax, tallow, and all other inflammable substances were still boiling when poured over their heads, then set on fire.



Thus, all the oily parts of the human body start flowing down creating wide furrows in the sands of the theatre.

So gruesome is the sight of people being lighted as torches to provide lights for the wicked Romans during night time.

Juvenal and Martial, both Roman poets, and Tertullian, state this in a different manner; the Romans wounded their hands and feet, wrapped them in burning mantles, in order to melt the very marrow inside their bones.

Those mantles were made of paper or linen, and, having been thickly coated with oil, pitch, wax, rosin, tallow, and sulphur, were wrapped around their whole body, and then set on fire.

All the Apostles were martyred during this period with the exception of John. Apostle Peter was crucified under Nero at age 70 and Paul was beheaded at the command of Nero at Via Ostiensis, the place of execution outside Rome.

Ancient record states that shortly after the death of the Apostle Paul, his brethren and fellow prisoners, whom he mentioned in the epistles he wrote from his prison, namely, Aristarchus, Epaphras, Aquila, Prisca, Andronicus, Junias, Silas or Silvanus, Onesiphorus, etc., followed in his footsteps in suffering for the name of Christ.

According to historians, Jews and Christians were heavily persecuted under the Roman Empire starting from 64 AD during the reign of Emperor Nero up until about 250 AD.

After Emperor Nero, there was another surge in persecution toward the end of Domitian's reign in 89-96 when The Book of Revelation was written.

The cruelty and executions during his reign of terror were so odious that Domitian earned the nickname “the Beast” amongst Romans, Greeks, Christians and Jews.

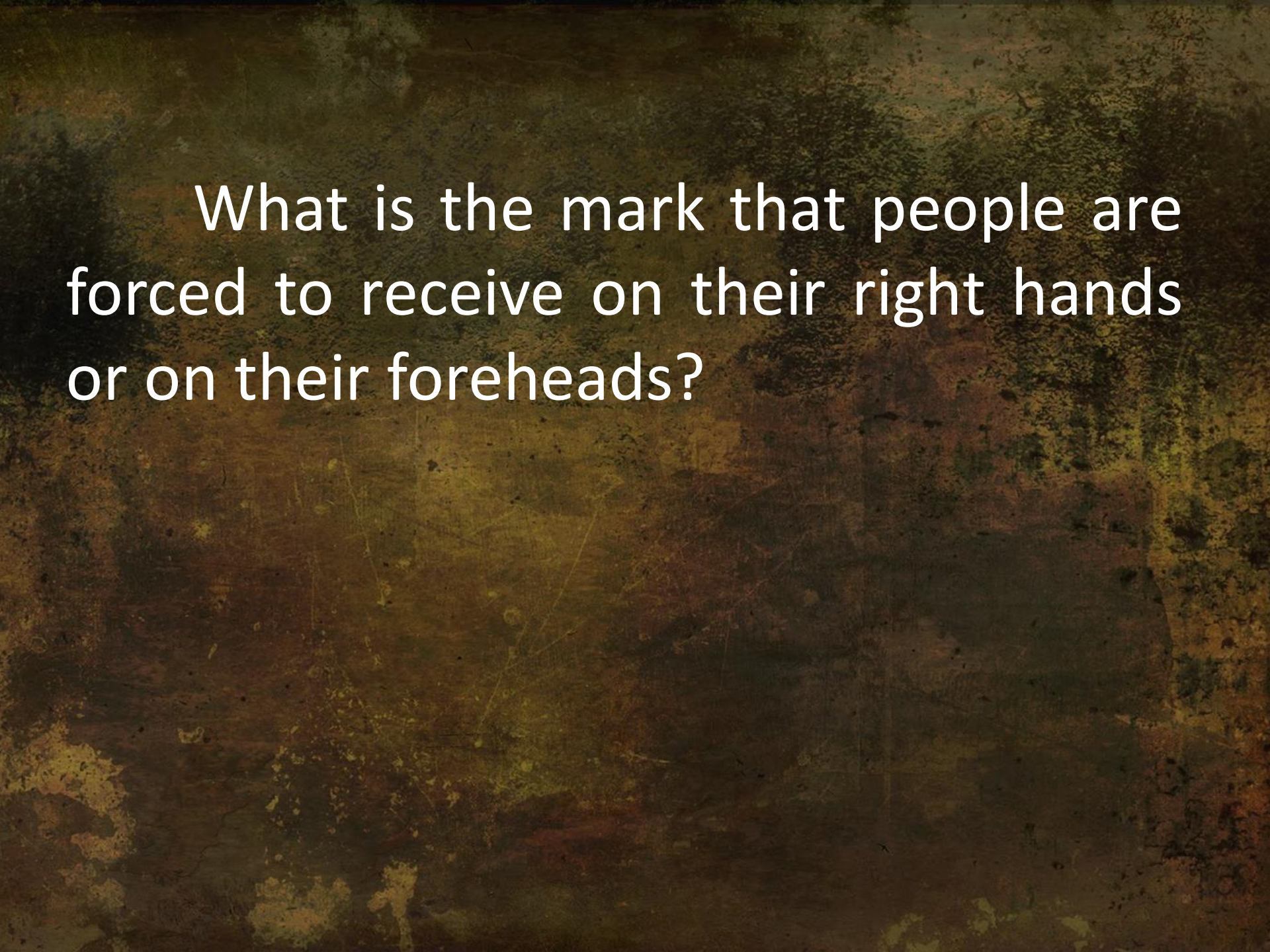
Using the *gematria*, the numerology of the Hebrew language and alphabet, his name and title Autokrator Kaisar Dometianos Sebastos came out to be 666.

It has now become clear that when John wrote about the beast and the number of his name 666, he was referring specifically to the leadership of the Roman Empire – the autocratic Roman Emperor.

Therefore, the antichrist of the end-time will be a political-military leader of the revived Roman Empire.

The image features a central horizontal band showing a sunset. The sun is a bright, glowing orb positioned slightly to the left of the center, partially obscured by the dark silhouette of a mountain range. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a pale blue at the top. The entire central image is framed by a black horizontal bar. Above and below this bar are textured, mottled bands in shades of brown, green, and grey, resembling aged parchment or stone.

The Mark



What is the mark that people are
forced to receive on their right hands
or on their foreheads?

Again, we allow the Bible to interpret itself.

There is a command in the Old Testament that reads in Deuteronomy 6:1-8 and Deuteronomy 11:16-21.

Deuteronomy 6:1-8 (NIV)

1 These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,
2 so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.

3 Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

Deuteronomy 11:16-21 (NIV)

16 Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.

17 Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you.

Deuteronomy 11:16-21 (NIV)

18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 11:16-21 (NIV)

20 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates,

21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

From these verses came the 'Tefilin" (Hebrew) and 'phylacteries' (Greek). They are a set of small black leather boxes containing scrolls of parchment inscribed with verses from the law that are worn by observant Jews during weekday morning prayers.

The hand-tefillin, or shel yad, is placed on the upper arm, and the strap wrapped around the arm, hand and fingers; while the head-tefillin, or shel rosh, is placed above the forehead.

They are worn as a "sign" and "remembrance" that God is their provider and savior who rescued them from Egypt. As the tefilin or phylacteries signifies allegiance to God, the mark of the beast signifies people's allegiance to the beast.

Summation

Knowing all these, it is not difficult to recognize the end-time anti-Christ when he comes on the world scene.

Here are 7 easy clues to identify the
man of sin (most sinful man) the anti-
Christ of the end-time:

1. His name and title numbers 666 reveals that he is a king, an emperor, a head-of-state of the Roman Empire.
2. He will claim himself to be god and demand worship.
3. He will oppose the true worship of Christ and persecute true Christians.
4. He will work all kinds of counterfeit miracles and signs.

5. He will have a fatal wound, probably clinically death, and come back to live.

6. He will perform the abomination that causes desolation .

7. He will amass a great army to fight against the returning Christ. Revelation 19:11-21.

Revelation 19:11-21(NIV)

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

Revelation 19:11-21(NIV)

13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white clean.

Revelation 19:11-21(NIV)

15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:11-21(NIV)

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God,

18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

Revelation 19:11-21(NIV)

19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf.

Revelation 19:11-21(NIV)

With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

Now, you know him and there is no need for speculation. When he comes, you will be able to recognize him.

That is how you can escape the
great deception that is coming and
stand before the throne of God.

Revelation 20:4

Revelation 20:4(NIV)

4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.