

A Biblical View OF THE END TIMES

THE RISE OF THE ANTICHRIST, PART 8

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Review:

- We are presently studying the rise of the antichrist, and for the past few weeks we've given some attention to **Rev. Ch. 17**
- **Rev. Ch. 17** is not specifically ABOUT the antichrist, but rather it's about a global false one-world religious system that comes to power early in that timeframe between the Rapture of the church and the onset of the seven-year Tribulation.
- We've learned it will be a false religious system that is cruel, intolerant, and genocidal. It will persecute and kill anyone who does not conform to its structures and beliefs – particularly those who come to saving faith after the Rapture.
- This false one-world religious system will be a big reason Israel will seek to confirm this covenant with the antichrist that **Dan. 9:27** speaks of.
- It will also be a false religion that depends in some manner upon the antichrist for its own rise to prominence.
- In turn, the antichrist will need this false religion to assist his own ascent. For a period, they will be co-dependent, and **Rev. Ch. 17** makes this evident.
- So, we gave this entire issue some attention to try to understand the world conditions that will exist in those future times AFTER the Rapture.
- We took a deep dive into the case - which certainly history and current events make, and which I believe the Bible also supports - that it will be the Roman roots and present leadership of the Catholic Church that will form the foundation of this future, false, one-world religious system.
- And so, last week we gave attention to the letters to the seven churches in **Rev. Chapters 2 and 3**. In particular, we focused on the letter to the church at Thyatira.
 - I leaned in that lesson on the scholarly work of Bill Salus who makes a very compelling case that the letter to the church of Thyatira holds a series of specific disclosures about the behaviors and the fate of the Catholic Church.
 - We looked at each of those points and how they line up well with various passages in the rest of God's Word which appear to reinforce the same thing.
 - A couple of you confided to me that you were uncomfortable in some way with the statement in **Rev. 3:20** which references "*that woman Jezebel who calls herself a prophetess.*"
 - I went through Bill Salus's excellent points about this phrase and how the Catholic church has warped and elevated Mary, the mother of Jesus, to become something she shouldn't be.

- In effect - they've made Mary an idolatrous image, and they've given her a position the Bible never intended for her to have.
- That is why the term Jezebel is used in **Rev. 3:20**. The OT Jezebel was responsible for dragging the masses into idolatry. In similar fashion, the Catholic Church has done the same thing with Mary.
- They have used an innocent and virtuous Biblical figure and have manipulated and corrupted her in such a way to lead masses of people into idolatry and into false doctrines.
- But you and I know the truth. Mary, the mother of Jesus, HERSELF, is not a Jezebel. Quite the opposite!
- It's what a false and depraved denomination has **done** with Mary that is the problem here. That's a very important distinction to make.
- (And again) I want to emphasize that I know of some Catholics that I believe are truly saved. Be that so, the Bible makes a compelling case that many of them are not.

NOTE: Today, we start to focus on the antichrist himself. We've given some attention to the world conditions that will spawn his rise, and to the onset and behaviors of the false global religion that will assist his rise. Now - we need to give some attention to HIM.

There are many ways I could approach these next few lessons, but loosely – I am going to go with the standard **“Who, what, how, why, when, etc.”** to provide some structure to the things we will learn.

There are also some general background things about the antichrist which are important for us to know, and we'll start with that today. I think **Dan. 11:36 (and beyond)** gives us some great foundation (turn there now).

Now, before we dive into this passage, I want to make a few comments in response to the natural question, “How do we know this section of Daniel is about the antichrist and not about Antiochus Epiphanes?” (Huge debate among scholars). Here are some of the reasons this passage is about the antichrist:

1. First, there is the issue of pronouns. This future king in this new section of **Daniel Ch. 11** is clearly designated with the standard male pronouns like “him, he” and so on.
 - If you chase those pronouns through this entire section – and who they are talking about - then you realize that both the ‘*king of the north*’ and the ‘*king of the south*’ come against this new leader in **vs. 40 of Ch. 11**.
 - Antiochus cannot be both the “king of the north” which he was in the prior section of **Dan. Ch. 11**, AS WELL AS the central “him and he” in this verse.
 - So, there is clearly a new and different leader being discussed. And that leader is the future and final antichrist.
2. Then there is the issue of time references, and things that take place in those times.

- For example, there is the “*time of wrath*” (**vs. 36**)
 - There is “*the time of the end*” (**vs. 40**)
 - That clearly places this new leader into a future and final timeframe on planet earth, a timeframe which is identified in other passages as being the concluding portions of The Tribulation.
3. There is also the dilemma where information about other associated countries do not fit the events of Antiochus Epiphanes’ life and timeframe:
- In **vs. 41**, this new leader “*invades the Beautiful land.*” In Antiochus Epiphanes time, he already inherited the territory of Israel as a leader; there was no invasion of it.
 - **Vs. 42** tells us “*Egypt will not escape*” this leader. Well, in Antiochus Epiphanes’ time, Egypt DID escape him. So, clearly, this is someone different.
 - There are references to military conquests in Libya, the Sudan area, and to failures in conquering the territories of Edom and Moab (Jordan).
 - None of these things took place in Antiochus Epiphanes reign – so this section of **Dan. Ch. 11** is, once again, talking about a different leader.
4. Then, there is the association with details which are clearly within the final days of human history.
- If we were to look ahead, in **Dan. 12:1**, there is the opening phrase, “*At that time.*” In other words, whatever happens in **Ch. 12**, it takes place at the same time as the details of **vss. 36-45 in Daniel Ch. 11**.
 - (And so), it is clear the events of **Ch. 12** concern the events of The Great Tribulation, and this is tied directly to the antichrist which we are now about to study.

NOTE: I could continue giving various insights here which reinforce that the leader we are about to explore in **vss. 36-45** is the antichrist, and NOT Antiochus Epiphanes, but I think you get the basic point.

There are too many solid arguments against the case that these two sections of **Ch. 11** - the portion before **vs. 36**, and the portion from that verse and after - are talking about the same individual. I feel those scholars which dismiss these issues do so to their own discredit.

So, let’s get into the text now (**READ vs. 36**)

NOTE: The first few verses of this new section provide a bulleted list of assessments about the antichrist. A series of short statements are made which describe the kind of person he is, so in a general sense we are looking at the question of “What?” (or... “What kind of individual is he?”)

We run into several of those basic insights right away:

1. “....he will do as he pleases.” (I want to look at two things from this one statement).

a. First, the antichrist is called a king.

- Now, we need to discipline our minds to steer clear of thinking he is a conventional king: with a throne, a crown, a geographical territory that he rules over, and so on.
- That’s not what the language of “king” means here. The Hebrew language here means he is a powerful individual with influence, resources, sway, and so on.
- This is not the first time the antichrist has been called a “king.” That also happened back in **Dan. Ch. 7:24 (go back and READ).**
- Here, the antichrist which was earlier in Daniel is called “the little horn” is now described as “**another king.**”
- There were ten kings already before him, and he is the 11th who will arise after them.
- IMPORTANT POINT: He arises after the other 10 kings have already come into existence, and the fact that he arises **from** them indicates that they are contemporaneous and not sequential.
- That is to say, these future ten kings all exist at the same time. It’s not a situation where the rule of one of them gives way to the rule of the next of them. They all rule and have influence together – at the very same time.
- And we also learn from **Ch. 7**, that the antichrist will arise from among them and will subdue three of them.
- Whatever the complexion and situation of these ten kings are – the antichrist emerges from within their collection, and as he rises in influence, three of them go away.

b. This raises a very critical related question at this juncture, and that question is this: “Who are these ten kings?”

- I find no place in Scripture where they are stated to rule over a geographical territory or a specific nation as conventional kings would.
- For years now, folks have watched the EU and have thought that ten nations from within that entity were the ten kings here in discussion.
- Again – this is faulty thinking. We’ve already studied how this idea is flawed.
 - ✓ There are two problems with this line of thinking: first, the assumption is made that the antichrist will arise from the western leg of the Roman Empire (or Europe).
 - ✓ As we’ve seen from God’s Word, that is not likely. The antichrist is most likely to arise from the eastern leg of the Roman Empire instead. More on this later....
 - ✓ The second problem is this idea of the EU limits – or ‘confines’ - the definition of kings to a ruler having power over a specific nation or a geographical region.

- In fact, **Rev. 17:12** tells us they “....will receive authority AS kings.” So, they are clearly not kings in the conventional / territorial sense.
- But they have such incredible influence and power, that the Bible sees them AS kings. As I interpret that, there is not a land region that is specifically “theirs.”
- The next verse in **Rev. 17:13** tells us these ten kings have power, authority, and one purpose. They are of one mind and goal.
- They may be ten different individuals, but they each act in all ways like the others that are part of that group.
- These ten ‘kings’ are also deeply opposed to Jesus Christ and His followers. That point is evident too in **vs. 14 of Rev. Ch. 17**.
- My own present conclusion is that we are probably seeing the rise of these ten kings in our own time. They are probably alive right now.
- The Bible makes the clear case in **2 Thess. 2:7-8** that the antichrist cannot be revealed till the influence of the Holy Spirit through the present church is taken out of the way. That does not happen until the Rapture.
- But the same point is **NOT** made about these ten kings. That is why I think – all things considered – we are probably seeing some of those ten kings already rising in our own time.
- (I reserve the right to change my present views) - - but until such point that I may, I think the best argument for the identity of these ten kings is they are powerful oligarchs, extremely wealthy individuals who control large swaths of culture and technology, and they essentially dictate how these issues play out (NOTE: Gary Stearman wrote an article supporting this very same view).
- Think of the various industries which have come under the control of key people in our times: technology, social media, healthcare, shipping and logistics, banking, AI, satellite systems, and so on.
- We could guess at the names of some of these people right now. We all have heard of them – but I don’t want to do that because I don’t want to suggest to you that it’s these specific people we know of that are some of these ten kings.
- They COULD be - - but they may be replaced with others yet.
- However, if we look at the role some of these prominent players today, they have all demonstrated “one purpose” already. They have been of one mind and one goal:
 - ✓ They have sought to advance the idea of globalism which conforms to the antichrist’s agenda for sure – but which goes against God’s design for nations and borders.
 - ✓ They have sought to enforce mass cultural conformity and public compliance.
 - ✓ They all operate together to implement mass deceptions, whether that is voting fraud or vaccine myths (just to name two examples of intentional fraud).

- ✓ They have all sought in various ways to limit personal freedoms, and most of them have clearly shown they despise Christians and God's values.
- ✓ They have all spoken out in favor of socialism, the dissolution of borders, and wealth redistribution.
- ✓ Several of them are on record saying the world needs a single leader, one currency, and a total reset of our international economy.
- ✓ Several of them are blatant activists in the issues of depopulation and climate control, and several of them believe humans need to evolve or blend with machines and technology.
- ✓ Needless to say, all these people rank among the world's wealthiest individuals. Quite a few of them have a net worth that is much more than some nations have today.
- ✓ The bottom line is, I think it's very likely that these ten kings we read about in ***Daniel*** and ***Revelation*** are the technocrats and oligarchs that we see wielding huge influence in our time.
- ✓and the antichrist rises up from among THEM. He is, in some way, a 'king' like they are, and he emerges from within their agenda, their methods, their fraternal order, and their power structure.
- ✓ So, he's a 'king' in that sense – at his start anyways. That's the first thing we see about him here in **vs. 36**.

c. Another thing we learn about the antichrist in this initial statement in vs. 36 is he will “do as he pleases.”

NOTE: This is a comprehensive assessment about how the antichrist will act, and we know several things about his behavior from other passages in the Bible:

- The antichrist will be “strong-willed” – this is a narcissistic, selfish, tyrannical focus that is common to other godless rulers. It's a “my way or the highway” inclination.
 - ✓ That was very much the case with the most detailed type of the antichrist, Antiochus Epiphanes.
 - ✓ Several Roman emperors were like that – Nero, for example.
 - ✓ Nimrod was that way back in ***Genesis Chapters 10 and 11***.
 - ✓ Any ruler or leader which despises the law of the land and the law of the people, who takes totalitarian approaches to the responsibility of ruling, and who ignores basic governing principles is one who “does as he pleases.” (We see an increasing number of examples of this today).
 - ✓ It's a big part of the reason the antichrist is called in ***2 Thess. 2:3*** “....the man of lawlessness.”
 - ✓ Laws will mean little to him, just as they do to many so-called leftists or progressives today.

- ✓ He will have an agenda, and since laws will get in the way of that - - he will “do as he pleases” instead.
- ✓ Believe me when I tell you that we are seeing the active spirit of the antichrist in many of our liberal leaders today.
- ✓ It’s present here and there in other political factions too, but it is completely DOMINANT in the left.
- ✓ This is why it is acutely alarming when we see so many people in the church today CHOOSING to support the false claims and agenda of the socialist globalists now.
- ✓ Such people are showing they are not Biblically intelligent; they are massively illiterate and deceived instead.

2. The second assessment point about the antichrist from **vs. 36** is “....*he will exalt and magnify himself above every god....*” (small ‘g’)

- There is a major point being made in this statement, and that point is this: the antichrist will consider himself to actually be a ‘god.’
- That is why he compares himself to that kind of template or figure. He considers himself to be something very special and unique.
- This specific point speaks of his self-deification (if he is **above every god**, the implication is he will consider himself to be a god! This is, in fact, the root of all human sin in **Gen. 3:5** where Satan says to Eve:

“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

- There is a clear element of arrogance that emerges from this statement. It’s not said that **other** people exalt the antichrist this way (not yet anyways – that comes later) - - it’s said that HE exalts himself this way from the outset.
- We know later in the antichrist’s tenure that the False Prophet will cause everyone to worship the beast. The earth-dwellers then will ask, “*Who is like him?*” – but it all starts with the antichrist magnifying himself this way.

3. Moving on here - - we learn something else about the antichrist, and it is directly related to the fact that he exalts and magnifies himself above every ‘god’ - - and that is this: “*he will say unheard-of things against the God of gods.*”

- There is a specific behavior that will be unique to the antichrist: he will become a record setter in terms of blasphemy.
- This is an aspect of the antichrist’s character that is emphasized in the Bible in other places:
 - ✓ Daniel offers a similar description of the antichrist in **Ch. 7:25** “....*he will speak against the Most High.*”

- ✓ John, in the book of **Revelation Ch. 13:6**, says even more: *“And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His dwelling place and those who live in heaven.”*
 - The larger point is this: the antichrist will not only declare himself to be above every ‘god,’ but he will specifically attack and blaspheme Jesus Christ too. He will single out Jesus Christ and attack Him.
 - And the followers of Jesus Christ are also openly disparaged. In **Rev. 13:6**, the antichrist directs his attacks against those *“who live in heaven.”*
 - ✓ The Bible tells us in **John 14:3** that following the Rapture, Jesus will take us to *“....be with Him where He is.”* We will be living with Him in heaven during the time of the Tribulation.
 - ✓ My conclusion is this is likely to be an attack against those who were Raptured - - why? (unpack)
 - In the end, wherever there is an agenda of deception and corruption, whenever there is the agenda of globalism, Jesus Christ, His followers, and the principles of faith and truth get attacked.
 - This will never be truer than it will be during the Tribulation. This future timeframe will be a complete fruition of the satanic dynamics we see emerging in our own times.
 - The antichrist embodies the ultimate satanic agenda, and here we see that the One True God Himself is attacked and blasphemed by the antichrist to a level that has never before been seen.
4. The last thing we learn about the antichrist’s behavior from **vs. 36** is, *“He will be successful...”* Other translations say, *“He will prosper....”*
- Question: “Do you ever feel as though evil is prospering while that which is good languishes?” (talk about this)
 - The bottom line is the antichrist will be allowed to have power, and he will be allowed to prosper. God will permit it. But God has everything under control.
 - This will be a time when evil is given free reign. Keep in mind, the *“restrainer”* will have been removed according to **2 Thess. 2:7**. It’s an important term.
 - Complete “lawlessness” will be the norm. NOT the partial lawlessness we see now, but a TOTAL, UNBRIDLED, and COMPREHENSIVE tsunami of lawlessness that has never before been seen.
 - ✓ Ultimately the sovereign God is the one allowing the antichrist to prosper, but in **Revelation 13:2**, John also teaches that, *“....the dragon (Satan) gave him his power and his throne and great authority.”*
 - ✓ So, in the macro sense, God allows the antichrist great success, but in the micro sense – that comes by way of Satan giving the antichrist all the tools to get the job done...

NOTE: That brings us to **vs. 37 of Ch. 11- let’s read that together too (READ)**

NOTE: This is one of the most debated verses concerning the antichrist that there is.

- Scholars seem to be quite divided over what this verse is trying to say.
- I will approach it methodically and cautiously here as we try to discern its meaning.

A. First, let's just state the obvious, shall we?

1. The "He" here in **vs. 37** is a reference to the antichrist and to nobody else.
 - Perhaps, by now, that is already clear to you. It certainly is to me.
 - But the truth is, some people have tried to force an alternate meaning to this pronoun.
 - In an effort to develop some wild idea that they have, they suggest there is a new individual under discussion at this point – one that is different from **vs. 36**
 - That's just bad hermeneutics on display. You cannot manipulate God's Word to suit your personal prejudices.
 - We are STILL talking about the antichrist. Let's just be clear about that.

B. Second, let's address the matter of the antichrist's "homosexuality" (this issue emerges as a flashing bright light right in the middle of this verse)

1. It's important to understand that various scholars and commentators DO attempt to make the point that the antichrist is a homosexual.
 - They point to this verse to make their case - but are they right in doing so?
 - It's easy for them to conclude this because in **Romans 1:26**, the Bible makes the case that rabid homosexuality and gender perversion plagues those who have rejected God.
 - That makes sense. God's design was for men to be with women and vice versa.
 - A proper relationship, one that conforms to God's values and design, is a **heterosexual** relationship.
 - BUT - - if one has rejected God and refused God His rightful place in their life, then it's no surprise that that person will pursue those various elements which go against God's intentions.
 - And certainly, the Bible makes the case that homosexuality and lesbianism fly in the face of God's constructs and design.
 - With such principles being so obvious from the Scriptures, many scholars have not dug into **Dan. 11:37** very deeply.
 - They simply conclude that nobody will reject God and God's principles more than the antichrist - - so therefore the antichrist **MUST** be a homosexual, and they feel this verse states that.
 - But, is that what this verse is really saying?
2. Several translations offer language here in **vs. 37** that – admittedly - invite a certain degree of confusion.
 - For example, there is the NKJV, the NASB, and others which have this phrase: "*....nor the desire of women...*"

- This phrase – and close variations of it – are dropped right in amongst the other points this verse is making about the antichrist having no regard for any gods (again, small ‘g’)
 - So, let’s ask ourselves the question as to whether this verse is suggesting the antichrist is a homosexual(?) - - someone who does not have “the desire of women.”
3. We need to look at the preposition “of” - - this is the word that is used in nearly all English translation (i.e. “the desire OF women”)
- (English class time): “A **preposition** is a word or group of words used before a noun (like “OF women), or before a pronoun, or noun phrase to show direction, time, place, location, and spatial relationships.”
 - ✓ We see that type of association here. Here it is stated the antichrist does not have “the desire OF women.”
 - ✓ This phrase is basically saying there is something that women are known to desire that the antichrist does **not** desire.
 - ✓ There is a contrast being established here between the antichrist’s affections, and those affections which are known to be common to women.
 - ✓ (I therefore conclude the antichrist does not like coupons, shopping, or chocolate.....KIDDING)
 - NOTE: If this phrase was trying to make the point that the antichrist would be homosexual, a much better word to use here would be “FOR” - - that would then state that the antichrist would “....have no desire FOR women”
 - But that is **not** what is being stated here. In **vs. 37**, we read that the antichrist does not have “....*the desire OF women.*”
 - ✓ Something that they desire, he does not.
 - ✓ A few translations say the antichrist “....has no regard for the one desired by women, the one beloved by women, and even ‘the god loved by women.’”
 - ✓ I think these translations are getting much closer to the bullseye.
 - ✓ Whatever – or “whomever” – is desired by women, that’s where they and the antichrist go down very separate paths.
 - ✓ He does not desire “what” or “who” they do...
4. To help us decide if we are talking about a “what” or a “who” here, let’s take a look at the next layer out. What’s the context here? (Remember Rule #3 of proper Biblical interpretation: the context).
- The phrases just before and after the language “...*nor the desire of women*” are **both** talking about the antichrist’s regard for other gods.
 - Like the issue we looked at in **vs. 36**, the Bible has something to say here about the antichrist’s relationship to other gods (small ‘g’).

- In **vs. 36**, the antichrist considered himself to be above all other gods
- He speaks out against the God of gods in **vs. 36** too
- Now here, in **vs. 37**, he simply has no regard for other gods
- They capture none of his attention and devotion
- If we let our eyes drift down to **vs. 38** for a moment, we see the antichrist will “honor a god of fortresses instead,”
- And in **vs. 39**, further down, the antichrist will serve a god unknown to his fathers
- So, the larger context here is from **vss. 36 through 39**, and the **consistently dominant** theme in these four verses is the antichrist’s relationship to other gods and to Almighty God.
- In various ways, and from different vantage points, the context here is underscoring the fact that the antichrist has ZERO connection to conventional worship structures or deities – be they pagan or righteous.
- And right in the middle of all that discussion about other gods, about worship, about religious heritage, and about the God of gods is this phrase that the antichrist will have no regard “*for the desire OF women*”
- May I suggest that to drop into this consistent context a single standalone statement about the antichrist’s sexual orientation – makes NO sense at all!

5. Back to whether or not we are talking about a WHAT or a WHO(?). I think the larger context makes the better case that we are talking about a WHO.

- Let’s remember that the angel that is explaining all this to Daniel states back in **Ch. 10:14**, “*Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future....*”
- From that point to this one, this is the angel speaking to Daniel, telling Daniel of things to come, and – (THIS IS IMPORTANT) – **the angel is providing all that information within the culture and dynamics of the Jewish people.**
- Now, it was well-known that Jewish women often expressed the desire to be the mother of the Messiah.
 - This helps us to understand Mary’s response in **Luke 1:46-55** when she acknowledged the extraordinary blessing to be carrying the Son of God.
 - This passage of Scripture in **Luke** is often referred to as ‘The Magnificat,’ and it showcases multiple OT quotations which seem to underscore Mary’s gratitude and humility for being chosen to birth the Messiah.
 - I think a good case can be made that Mary felt honored in **Luke’s** passage to be chosen to be the mother of the Messiah.

- Furthermore, in **Haggai 2:7**, the word “desire” is used to refer to Messiah (that verse reads as follows in the NKJV):

“...and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,’ says the LORD of hosts.”

- This supports the idea that this tradition of Jewish women wanting to be the mother of the Messiah is a key consideration of this phrase, “....the desire OF women”

NOTE: So, with all that in our rearview mirror, let’s step back and march systematically through the basic points of **Dan. 11:37**. Each point in this verse has a relationship with the others, and each point tells us something about the “What” concerning the antichrist:

1. First, the antichrist will show no regard for the gods of his fathers.
 - This means the antichrist will have a religious heritage. That’s very interesting!
 - His ancestors had some sort of religious background, but the antichrist will turn his back on all of that.
 - He will have no regard for whatever religious heritage his own family lineage was known to have.
 - Now, this does not mean that the antichrist’s forefathers worshipped the One and Only Almighty God that you and I do.
 - It simply means that whatever patterns and belief systems had previously been established in the antichrist’s lineage, he will not conform to any of that, nor will he have any care about any of that. He dismisses it all.
2. Second, the antichrist will have no affections for the One True Messiah.
 - This is the point we’ve been spending the last bit of our time on.
 - The antichrist cares nothing about Jesus Christ and the significance of the Messiah to the Jewish people or to the world-at-large
3. Thirdly – and to emphasize a point that is made back in **vs. 36** – frankly, the antichrist has nothing to do with any gods at all (small ‘g’).
 - He cares nothing about them, and he wastes no time giving them any thought.
 - In fact, he elevates himself above all of them.
 - This conforms to the statement in **vs. 36**, “....he will exalt and magnify himself above every god...”
 - The only energy the antichrist gives to these issues of religion, worship, and other gods is to give himself honor and attention above all of them (he is **exceedingly arrogant** - - can you see this?)

In conclusion (another longer lesson today) – here are some general takeaways that **vs. 37** seems to reinforce - - or at least gives us reasons to ponder:

A. The antichrist has no natural affections – he is an individual driven to magnify himself above all others. He has no room in his ambitions for conventional fondness.

B. The antichrist COULD be a homosexual.

- The Bible does not seem to indicate that one way or another.
- But the fact that he is the ultimate rejector of God Almighty, and the fact that he is the most depraved individual in history, one certainly is warranted in wondering about the antichrist's sexual tendencies.
- That would certainly conform to the patterns that are part of a descent into depravity that we read about in **Romans Ch. 1**.
- I just want to emphasize once more, that **vs. 37** is not making that specific case.

C. And lastly, the antichrist follows no patterns of established religion.

- The Bible says he rejects the religion practiced by his ancestors without specifying that particular religion.
- There is no god (small 'g'), no religious ritual, and no connection to any worship system within the antichrist's makeup.
- He elevates himself above all of that, and as we know – he will eventually require himself to be worshipped as "God." **Rev. Ch. 13** makes that abundantly clear.

NEXT WEEK: We begin to explore the antichrist's deep connection with the occult. This may take us down some interesting rabbit trails - - we'll see.



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And – number three, if the Bible states it plainly, we should too.

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