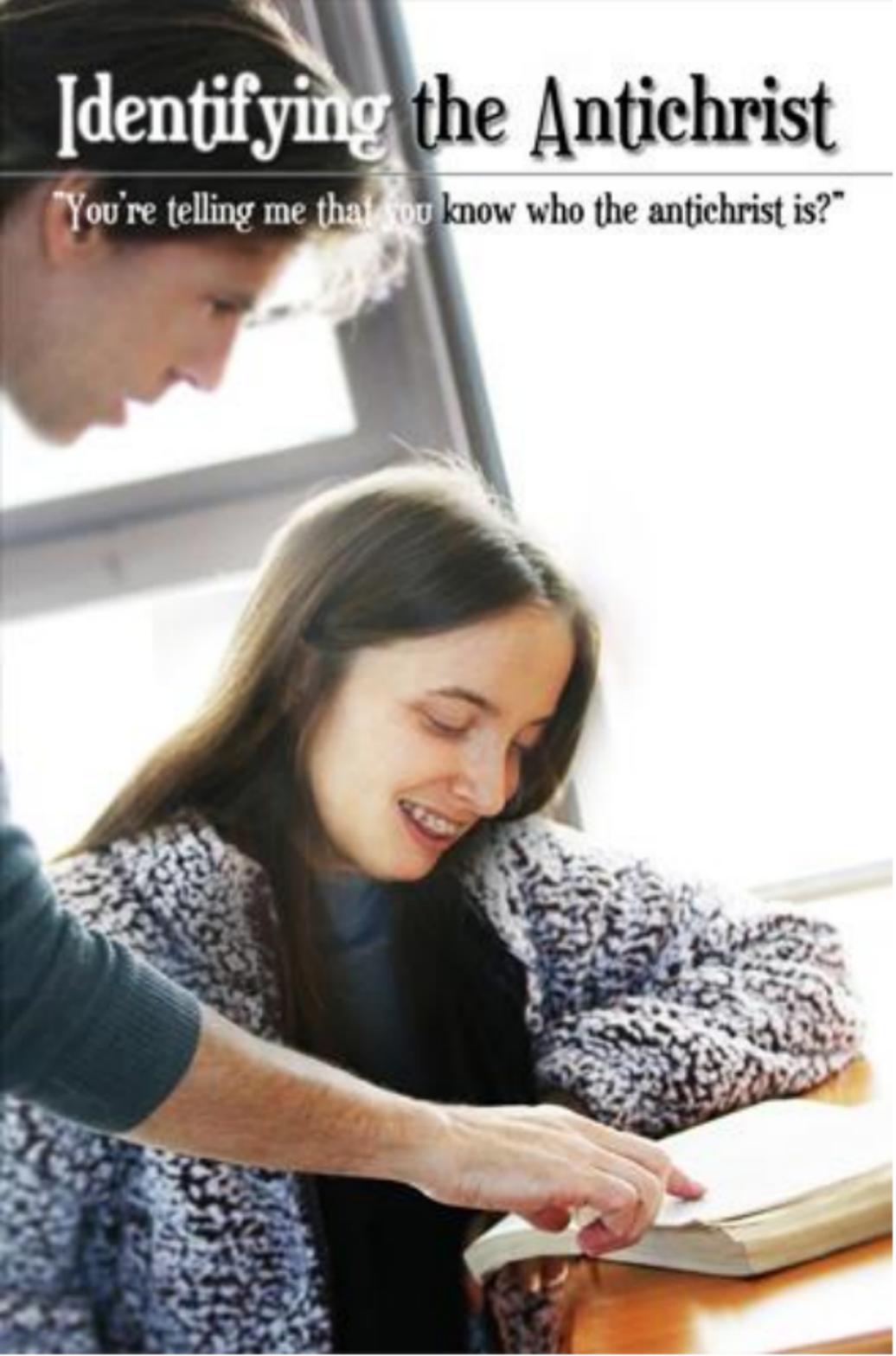


Identifying the Antichrist

"You're telling me that you know who the antichrist is?"



“You’re telling me that you know who the antichrist is?” Amanda just smiled, unconvinced.

Jason pulled two Bible’s out of his book bag and slid one on the table towards her. “Turn to Revelation 13:1 and I’ll show you.”

She took the bait, turning in the Bible then reading, “Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns...”

Jason stopped her there, explaining, “This is a picture of the antichrist, described as a beast, so the first step in identifying the antichrist is finding out what a beast represents in the Bible. We find this in Daniel 7:3.”

Taking her cue, Amanda turned and read, “And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.”

“This picture is very similar to that of the antichrist. As the antichrist beast rises out of the sea, here we also see four beasts rising out of the sea; a lion, bear, leopard, and dreadful beast, but read what the angel says in Daniel 7:23.”

Amanda read, “The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth...”

“So beasts represent kingdoms or nations. Since the vision started in Babylon, these four beasts represent Babylon as the lion, Persia as

the bear, Greece as the leopard, and Rome as the dreadful looking beast with ten horns”

“So the antichrist beast must be the head of a kingdom or nation,” Amanda concluded.

“Right. Now look at Revelation 13:2.”

Again Amanda turned and read, “Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.”

“Notice that this antichrist has aspects of the lion, bear, and leopard that we saw in Daniel. That means the antichrist beast must arise in the same territory as these nations to take on their characteristics. In addition, the dreadful fourth beast is called a dragon here. The reason the beast and the dragon both have ‘ten horns’ is because the dragon gave the beast his authority.”

A light went off in Amanda’s mind as she replied, “If the Roman dragon gives the beast his power, throne, and authority then then antichrist must be the kingdom that follows and takes over the Roman Empire, right?”

“Right. And Rome ruled the same territory as Babylon, Persia, and Greece which is why the antichrist beast has characteristics of these other kingdoms. Now check out Revelation 13:4.”

Amanda again read, “So they worshipped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’”

“Notice something strange here. It says they worshipped the beast, but if a beast is a kingdom, how could they worship a kingdom? It also says no one can make war with him, which means it must be a very powerful kingdom.”

Suddenly it dawned on Amanda who the beast was. “If the prophecy says the antichrist is the head of a kingdom, it rises out of the Roman Empire, it is a religious kingdom, and it grows to be very powerful, it could only be one thing.”

“Right, who did Rome give her power, throne, and authority to,” Jason asked.

“In history class we were told that when the Roman Emperor Constantine was converted he donated Rome to the Catholic Church, which is why the Catholic Church still owns Vatican City today. As Rome was falling the church rose up using the armies of Rome to gain control.”

“Right. As Rome gave her power to the Catholic Church, the pope’s led the world through the Middle Ages under the Holy Roman Empire,” said Jason.

“So is the pope the antichrist?”

“Martin Luther said ‘I know that the pope is antichrist’ (*History of the Reformation of the Sixteenth Century*, D’Aubigne, b. 6, ch. 9). In the October 31, 1999, *Newsweek* magazine Kenneth Woodward wrote, ‘Martin Luther was the first to identify the papacy as such with the Antichrist... a view that was to become dogma for all Protestant churches.’ Look at what Eugen Weber writes on page 77 of *Apocalypses*.”

Pulling a book from his bag and handing it to her, Amanda read, “By 1641, a clergyman could be denounced to Parliament for declaring that the pope was not antichrist.”

“All Protestants once taught this because the prophecy is so clear, but it gets more amazing. Read Revelation 13:5.”

Turning in the Bible Amanda read, “And it was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.”

“The prophecy says the beast would be the leading power in the Middle Ages. That’s why it is often referred to as the Christian era, but the prophecy says this Christian power would make war with the saints. How strange that the prophecy says a religious kingdom would war against Christians!”

Amanda nodded. "But that's true. I read of the crusades and the inquisition that lasted hundreds of years. It was estimated that over fifty million people were killed by the church."

"Yes, during this time the church violently killed and tortured people for refusing to believe what the church taught and this lasted for over a thousand years, as stated in Revelation 13:5."

Amanda again read, "And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months."

"When this was written the months were on thirty day cycles, which means the 42 months is the same as the 'one thousand two hundred and sixty days' referred to in Revelation 12:6. Also, in prophecy a day represents a year, 'a day for each year' (Eze. 4:6). Which means..."

"...the antichrist would rule for 1,260 years," Amanda said, completing his sentence.

"Exactly. When Rome fell in 476, the Catholic Church tried to come to power, but three Aryan tribes fought them. The last of these tribes, the Ostrogoths, were defeated in 538 A.D. which officially started the Papal rule."

Amanda inquired, “If it started in 538 and the beast was to rule for 1,260 years, then it had to end in 1798. Did anything happen then?”

“In 1798, Napoleon sent French General Berthier into Rome to take the pope captive, removing the power of the Papacy, fulfilling the prophecy, ‘He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity’” (Rev. 13:10).

Since a beast is a country, the Papacy lost its beast power. After 1798 they were no longer a beast. It received a deadly wound, but look what the prophecy says in Revelation 13:3.”

Ananda read, “I saw one of his heads as if it had mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed...”

Jason interrupted. “In the Concordat of 1929, Mussolini restored the land to the Catholic Church, once again making her a kingdom, or beast. While her wound is healing it has not fully healed, but the prophecy says this will happen when she unites with another kingdom just like she united with Rome in the past, then persecution will return once again as the pope initiates the mark of the beast.”

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