

Antichrist's Bow

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For Discussion: The World's Longing For Peace And Safety Will Play Right Into The Hands Of The Antichrist

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What developments have shown us that the nations are hungering for peace?

People have recently expressed hope that the new pope will bring peace between the nations. Euro News referred to the new pope as a "pontificate of peace".

- World leaders congratulated the newly appointed pope with the usual empty platitudes echoing their hope for peace.

On every continent and in nearly every country, leaders are holding out hope that somebody will be able to advance the cause of peace throughout the world.

Why don't they see the Prince of Peace as their hope for peace between the nations?

The world rejects Jesus as Savior and believes that human deliverance is possible.

- Their hunger for peace coupled with their faith in humanity to work out our own problems makes the world ripe for a counterfeit when he emerges.

Unlike the Prince of Peace who bears many crowns and is followed by the armies of heaven (Revelation 19) the Antichrist rides alone, with a single crown and a bow.

What do we know about the coming of the Antichrist?

Revelation 6:2 – *I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer*

The Antichrist is unleashed on the earth with the opening of the first of the Seal Judgments, also known as the First Horse of the Apocalypse.

What do we learn about the Antichrist from Rev 6:2?

Although many have focused on the fact there is no reference to arrows, let us consider the obvious – the reason he holds a bow in the first place.

- The Greek rendering of the word "bow" is "toxon" and this is its only usage in the New Testament.

The Antichrist's rise to prominence is on the basis of three items which affirm the power he will receive...

- a white horse (used as a symbol of victory in Roman military parades)
- a crown or stephanos (a symbol of victory for exceptional conduct)
- a bow (military might)

What does the historical use of the Greek word translated "bow" reveal?

In ancient warfare, the "toxon" was often used to fire poison arrows, known in Greek as "toxikon". In fact, history informs us that the feared Scythian archers (who, interestingly, rode horseback) smeared a mixture of dung, snake venom and human blood on the tips of their arrows which the Greeks called "toxikon pharmakon".

How will the Antichrist employ toxikon pharmakon?

While it is unlikely the Antichrist would adopt the formula of Scythian toxins, considering we get our English word "intoxicate" from "toxikon"...

- When the Antichrist initially arrives on the scene his power, intelligence, charisma, signs and lying wonders will intoxicate the world through the mere wielding of his mighty bow.

The etymology of "toxin" per etymonline.com indicates it comes from the Greek word toxon... This bow refers to poison that is used to deceive the nations.

How will the world be intoxicated by the Antichrist?

As part of the description of Antichrists global government/economy/religion called Mystery Babylon, we see this:

Revelation 18:23 – *your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.*

The word translated sorcery here is the Greek word pharmakeia which we have discussed before; it is where we get the English word pharmaceuticals (drugs).

- And we see this connection with the toxon bow in the poison arrows of the Scythians: toxikon pharmakon!

Where else do we see Mystery Babylon & intoxication?

Revelation 17:6 – *I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.*

The persecution of Christians will be institutionalized during the Tribulation. Those refusing the Mark of the Beast will be hunted down and executed as enemies of the state.

- This blind ambition to eradicate Christians from society will cause them to have an impaired state of mind far removed from reality.

Where have we seen poison drugs being used to deceive the nations?

The Covid “pandemic” was unleashed on the earth so that the Covid mRNA “vaccines” could be introduced. And this has opened the door for all manner of mRNA “vaccines” to be inflicted on the public.

- If you find yourself lamenting over doing something stupid, you’ll not feel so bad when you remember that there are still people taking Covid vaccine boosters.

What is the prophetic significance of the emergence of the mRNA vaccines?

- It is conditioning people to expect the government to mandate an injection for the common good.
- It is conditioning people for the Mark of the Beast... to do something physically invasive in order participate in the economy
- It is likely a forerunner to eventually changing DNA (*as the days of Noah were*) to keep people from being redeemed by the blood of Christ

Where else do we learn about the emergence of the Antichrist?

He officially initiates the 70th Week of Daniel, the Tribulation...

Daniel 9:27 – *he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week, he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering*

The reference to a week here refers to a week of years, so, 7 years. The Antichrist will confirm a peace treaty for Israel that is related to their being able to make animal sacrifices... so it likely enables them to build a temple.

How do we know that “the many” of Daniel 9:27 refers to Israel?

All reputable Bible scholars recognize “the many” as a Hebrew idiom for Israel. And you don’t have to be a Hebrew scholar to see this in the context.

- I bring this up only to point out that some pre-wrath rapture teachers have tried to make “the many” to be just a group of nations that don’t necessarily have anything to do with Israel.

- They do this to make the case we are already in the Tribulation... but we don’t know which of the world leaders involved is the Antichrist (he will be revealed at the Abomination of Desolation)

Will the coming of the Antichrist be obvious or will he be a secret until the Abomination of Desolation?

It will be obvious who the Antichrist is... the nation of Israel will embrace him as their political savior confirming a 7-year peace treaty for them only to recognize who he really is 3.5 years later at the Abomination of Desolation.

John 5:43 – *I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.*

Also, there will be no mistaking the Tribulation... ~2B people die by the 4th Seal Judgment.

What does Daniel 9:27 mean that the Antichrist will confirm a covenant with Israel?

He will strengthen an agreement already proposed or in place.

- The word “confirm” is from the Hebrew word “gabar” which is a verb associated with warfare, particularly the strength and vitality of a successful warrior.
- some Old Testament uses of “gabar” convey the sense of arrogance and overbearing, displaying attitudes and actions which reflect pride through insolent behavior.
- This describes the Antichrist – the lawless one! Since the Antichrist gives causative effect to the Daniel 9:27 covenant, it will be backed by his considerable might.

What kind of peace will the Antichrist bring Israel?

It will be a false peace because by the mid-point of the Tribulation, he turns on Israel declaring himself God in the temple... the Abomination of Desolation (2 Thess 2:4).

What is the prophetic significance of a false peace?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 – *But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord [the Tribulation] so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

People worldwide will be expecting peace and safety when it is suddenly taken away.

- The fact that the nations are anxious for this peace today shows that they have been conditioned to embrace the false peace of the Antichrist.

Why should alarm bells go off when people are declaring *peace, peace, when there was no real peace*?

When the priests and false prophets of Jeremiah's day said, "*Peace, peace,*" they were denying that judgment was on the way. They were giving the people false assurances.

How is this false declaration of peace a problem today?

There are still false prophets and religious leaders today who issue false promises of peace when there is no peace.

- The message of peace and prosperity "sells."
- Some preachers and teachers today say that the Christian life is all about peace and prosperity, but God does not promise that.
- There are others who ignore or downplay the seriousness of sin and teach that God is not concerned with their behavior.
- Others deny that eternal judgment awaits the unrepentant sinner, even though God has promised just the opposite.

Of course, all these examples pertain to spiritual peace. A false proclamation of peace between the nations is another matter and is a problem as well...

What could cause the world to embrace the world-governing authority of the Antichrist?

Some world-shaking crisis... a nuclear war, a global economic meltdown, contact with extraterrestrials, etc.

- After the Rapture, the world's certainly going to be in confusion and turmoil.

The earth-dwellers are going to be looking for a man to bring order out of the chaos.

- The Antichrist will appear to be the answer to all the world's problems. He will be "the man with a plan."

How should we react to the prospect of seeing peace between nations break out everywhere?

Be skeptical... a false peace is coming to be followed by sudden destruction. There will not be true peace until the Prince of Peace is ruling in Jerusalem. Whether the peace we are seeing is the one foreshadowing the Antichrist remains to be seen.

- But as we see the stage being set for the coming of the Antichrist, we know the rapture is coming soon.

Could this false peace of the Antichrist be the "living securely" condition of Ezekiel 38:11?

Possibly, though it is just as likely that this is another false peace that foreshadows the one the Antichrist confirms with Israel.

- The Antichrist might even take credit for God's deliverance from the Ezekiel 38 war so as to represent himself as Israel's political savior.

But given the rapid pace of events at the end of the Church Age, it is likely they are the same false peace and thus the Ezekiel 38 war would take place during the Tribulation.

What applications do we see from this discussion?

- The Antichrist will come to power wielding poison drugs.
- Any hope of a world-wide peace between nations this close to the end of the Church Age is a false peace.
- The Antichrist will promise a peace that will be false.
- A false peace heralds sudden destruction... don't be duped.