The Coming Antichrist

Scripture tells of, not only the return of Jesus Christ to earth, it also predicts other momentous Personalities, who will make their appearance before the end of time. There will be a Satanic "Trinity," made up of, Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet. In both the Old and the New Testaments we are told of,

"MYSTERIOUS AND TERRIBLE PERSONAGES"
who will be revealed in the "last times."

The Antichrist is called by various names throughout Scripture:

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The Prophet Isaiah sees the "Antichrist" as the ASSYRIAN. (Isaiah 10:5-6; 30:27-33) In Isaiah 11:4, a Chapter which is unmistakably referring to the coming Messiah, we read that, (among other things which the Messiah will do), "He will smite the earth with the 'rod of His mouth,' and with the 'breath of His lips' shall He slay THE WICKED." The word which is translated as "Wicked" here, in the singular tense - it has reference to one person who is conspicuously wicked, it does not, it cannot, refer to wicked persons in general.

This same expression is used by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:8, which states, "Then shall that 'WICKED' be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the 'spirit of His mouth' and will destroy with the brightness of His coming."

It certainly seems evident that Isaiah and the Apostle Paul refer to the same individual, who can be no other man than the ANTICHRIST.

In Isaiah 14:4-17 there is a description of a "King of Babylon" who will smite the people in his wrath and rule the nations in anger. He is called "LUCIFER, Son of the morning," and his fall is described. "Lucifer," of course, ultimately, refers to none other than Satan, Himself, however, God often used the earth's rulers as "Types" of the coming Antichrist. The King of Babylon serves as just such a type. It is quit evident that this passage in Isaiah 14 is speaking of a past event (that is, Satan's fall from the Heavens), but it also has reference to a future event, a future "King of Babylon," when Babylon will be rebuilt, as we have seen it is to be. Verses 12 to 14, without doubt, are speaking of Satan, called "Lucifer," and are a description of him before he fall, However, they also, speak of him as he is to manifest himself in the "Antichrist,"
(Revelation 13:1-2), who will be a future King of Babylon, they explain the source of the pride and presumption of Antichrist which will lead to his downfall, as it did to Satan's.

The Prophet Ezekiel, in a similar view of the Antichrist, tells us that the "**King of Tyre**" was also a "type" of Satan and Antichrist (Ezekiel 28:11-19). You will remember that the Future Romans Empire will include Tyrus (Tyre) and Babylon. The Antichrist, therefore, will be both King of Babylon and King of Tyre.

The "**LITTLE HORN**" of Daniel 7, 8 and 11. We have already considered him in Daniel 7, however, in Daniel 8:3-12, and 20-25, in the Vision of the "**Ram and He-Goat,**" Daniel sees a "**Great Horn,**" between the eyes of the "He-Goat" broken off and "**Four Notable Horns**" appears in its place, and upon one of these there appeared a "**LITTLE HORN**!

Daniel 8:9-11, *Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south [Egypt] and to the east [Babylon] and toward the Beautiful Land. [Palestine] (Verse 10) It grew until it reached the hosts of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them. (Verse 11) It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low.*

The interpretation of the "**LITTLE HORN**" is given in Daniel 8:23-25:

"**In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise.** (Verse 24) He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people. (Verse 25) He will cause deceit to prosper, and he will consider himself superior. When they feel secure, he will destroy many and take his stand against the Prince of princes. Yet he will be destroyed, but not by human power.*"  

Daniel is told that this "**Little Horn,**" has to do with "**the Time of the End**" (Daniel 8:17). That is, to the end of the "**Times of the Gentiles,**" which is still future. Daniel is told by the Angel Gabriel that his mission to Daniel was to make known what was going to come to pass in the "**last end of the Indignation,**" or the end of God's wrath, [that is, the end of the Great Tribulation], (Daniel 8:19).

So, the "**Little Horn,**" of Daniel 8:9-12, 23-25), occurs at the same time as the, "**The Time of the End,**" with the "**Little Horn**" of the "**Fourth Wild, non-descriptive, Beast,**" (Daniel 7:7-8) and they are both speaking of the same person - the Antichrist!

Daniel, also, sees the "**Little Horn**" again, in his vision of the "**Wilful King,**" found in Chapter 11. [See study on Daniel, chapter 11]

And what does the Apostle Paul say about the Personality?

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12,
"Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the falling away occurs and the Son of Perdition is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. (Verse 4) He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. (Verse 5) Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? (Verse 6) And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. (Verse 7) For the mystery of iniquity is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. (Verse 8) And then the Wicked One will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. (Verse 9) The coming of the Wicked One will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, (Verse 10) and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love 'the Truth' [Jesus Christ] and so be saved. (Verse 11) For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe THE LIE (Verse 12) and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."

The Apostle Paul, speaking of the same personality whom Daniel refers to as "The Little Horn," calls him by three different names:

1) "The Man of sin," (2) The Son of Perdition" and (3) "That Wicked One"

Paul, calling this personality, "the Son of Perdition," is not without significance. This term is used only twice in the all of Scripture: Jesus calls "Judas" by this term in John 17:12, and, the only other time that this title is used is here in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, where it refers to the Antichrist.

I want to share a hypothesis, a theory, with you that is interesting

John 6:70-71 "Then Jesus replied, 'Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!' (Verse 71) (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray Him.)

There isn’t any other passage of Scripture is anyone ever called, "a Devil" except, of course, Satan, himself. And, the word, here in John 6:70, the definite article is used, meaning, that it should read, "one of you is THE DEVIL." The language Jesus used would seem to imply that Judas was the Devil incarnate. How else can one explain what Jesus said of Judas, when He called him, "Son of Perdition?"

The next question that arises is, "If Judas and the Antichrist are both called the, `Son of Perdition,' could they be one and the same?" I must admit, that I am not entirely convinced, there just isn’t enough Scripture to prove it beyond all doubt, however, it is interesting that Revelation 11:7, refers to "the Beast that ascends out of the Bottomless Pit," and that this "Beast" is the ANTICHRIST!

How did the Beast get into the Bottomless pit (Abyss)?
If Judas and the Antichrist are one and the same personality, then he went into the "Bottomless Pit" (the abyss), when Judas went "to his place" (Acts 1:25)! No where in all the Bible is it said that anyone "went to his own place," with the exception of Judas!

Also, Revelation 17:8, speaks of the "Beast (the Antichrist) that was, and is not: and shall ascend out of the Bottomless pit (Abyss) and go into PERDITION." Notice that there are four things said of this "Beast," (or Antichrist):

(1) He WAS. (That is, he once existed)

(2) He IS NOT. (He was not alive when John wrote the Book of Revelation)

(3) He will ASCEND OUT OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

(4) he will GO INTO PERDITION

John, writing the Revelation, said, that this Antichrist "was not," but that he had been on earth before, and was to return again, that he would ascend from the Bottomless Pit and would be returned to "Perdition." It certainly sounds as if the Antichrist has been on earth before, and that, when he comes in the future, he will come from the Bottomless Pit.

Of course, no one can say for certain that the above speculation is correct, however, since Antichrist WAS on earth before he will make his appearance during the Tribulation, who was he? If, indeed, it was Judas, then any dilemma is solved. When Judas was on earth, he WAS, when he "went to his own place," he WAS NOT, if he returns out of the Bottomless Pit, he WILL BE - and this is exactly what is stated concerning the Antichrist.

The Apostle Paul calls the Antichrist, "the MAN OF SIN," the embodiment of all "Lawlessness." The "Mystery of Iniquity" (this Man of Sin), already working in Paul's day, will not be the cause of Lawlessness, he will be the fruit of it. He will arise out of the seething cauldron of "Lawlessness" that is now becoming so pronounced and manifest in the world, and in him will be the consummation of all "Lawlessness."

Tracing the "LITTLE HORN," (or Antichrist) of the Book Daniel to John's "Beast" in the Book of Revelation, we find that the comparison are extremely similar.

In two descriptions given in Revelation 13:1-7 and Revelation 17:3, 7-17, it is very important to see that the "Beast" has a Duel meaning, represents both the Revived Roman Empire, and its "Imperial Head," the Antichrist. As the Revived Roman Empire it is seen "coming out of the sea of nations" (Revelation 13:1), as the Antichrist, it comes up out of the "ABYSS" (Revelation 13:7 and 17:8).
The Coming Antichrist

Revelation 13:1-7, And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, ‘Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?’ The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation."

This "Beast" seen by John represents both the Revised Roman Empire and its Imperial Head, the Antichrist. It certainly could not be said of the Roman Empire, "it was and is not," because it was at its height of power in John's day. Neither can it be said of it that "is shall ascend out of the Bottomless Pit and go into PERDITION," which could only be said of a PERSON!

The second: SCARLET COLORED BEAST

Revelation 17:3, "Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns."

The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. The beast who once was, now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction. ‘The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings - and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.’ Then the angel said to me, ‘The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God’s words are fulfilled.”

We must, also, distinguish between the body of this "Beast" John saw, and its "HEADS" and "HORNs." The "body" of the Revelation "Beast" is that of a LEOPARD, with the feet of a BEAR, and the mouth of a LION, that the Revived Roman Empire in its "Last Stage" will
include the characteristics of the first "Three Wild Beasts" of Daniel's vision.

That is, the LION, (Greece), and the BEAR, (Medo-Persia), and the LEOPARD, (Greece). And, as the Leopard is the largest part of the "Beast," the body being represented by the LEOPARD, then the prevailing characteristic of the Revived Roman Empire, must be GRECIAN.

This "Beast," coming up out of the Sea, (Revelation 13) has SEVEN HEADS and TEN HORNs, and the "Ten Horns" are CROWNEd. This is important! - This "Beast," representing the Last World-Wide Empire in the height of its power, ruled by the Antichrist, has "Ten Horns," and its TEN HORNs, representing 10 kingdoms, into which the Empire is divided, are all CROWNED. Therefore, in the 13th Chapter of Revelation, during the first half of the seven year period of Tribulation Period, these 10 kingdoms are ruling.

This same "Beast" is seen again in Revelation 17, however, here its TEN HORNs are NOT CROWNED. These Ten Kings, represented by the "Ten Horns," are not, (here in the middle of the "Week," the seven years Tribulation period), now ruling. Why?

**Why are these TEN HORNs not CROWNED in Revelation 17?**

The answer can be found in Daniel 7:8! It is because, "A LITTLE HORN," (the Antichrist), rises up in the midst of the TEN HORNs, (the ten kingdoms), and "three out of the ten horns were plucked up before the Little Horn." The Antichrist overthrows 3 of the 10 kingdoms and the others, evidently, simply submit to him without further war, (Revelation 17:14), for he rules supreme over all the Whole Wide-World in the second half of the "Week," (the seven year period of the Tribulation). - Daniel 7:23-24 and Revelation 17:11-17.

At this stage, as wars are being fought, the Antichrist rising to power, nations forming an "Alliance" for mutual protection, the "THE SCARLET CLOTHED WOMAN," (the Great Whore of Revelation 17) is seen "riding the Beast," riding into power with the "Beast," the Antichrist!

This end-time "Ecumenical Church" plays a prominent part in the proceedings of the Antichrist gaining World-Wide power.

[See study on, "The Scarlet Woman Riding the Beast"]

Revelation 13:11-18, “Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon. He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men. Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man’s number.
His number is 666.”