Appendix F
The Antichrist

The following summarizes chapter six of Herman A. Hoyt's <u>*The End Times*</u>*, pp. 115-132. Other helpful sources include: "Antichrist" by J. Randall Price in* <u>*Dictionary of Premillennial Theology*</u>*, (Mal Couch, editor) pp. 43-47 and J. Dwight Pentecost,* <u>*Things to Come*</u>*, pp. 332-334.*

The name "antichrist" refers to one who is against Christ, in opposition to him in every conceivable way (2 Thess 2:4). He desire is to usurp or be a substitute for Jesus Christ, imitating and duplicating him (cf. 2 Cor 11:13-15; 2 Thess 2:9-11). Various names used in the Bible for him are "the little horn" (Dan 7:8), the "coming prince" (Dan 9:27), the "worthless shepherd" (Zech 11:17), the "man of lawlessness" and "son of destruction" (2 Thess 2:3), the "lawless one" (2 Thess 2:8), and the "beast" (Rev 13:1).

The Bible speaks of the Antichrist of the end times as a *person,* not an institution. It was popular during the Reformation to understand the Papacy or whatever pope was in office at the time as the antichrist. This was in keeping with the historicist approach to prophecy in vogue at that time. In contrast with this, the Bible describes him as:

- Different from other men, Dan 7:24
- Possessing high intelligence, Dan 7:8; Rev 13:18
- A great speaker, Dan 7:8; Rev 13:2
- A crafty politician, Rev 13:7b; 17
- A military genius, Dan 7:8, 24; Rev 6:1-2; 13:4
- A world wonder, Rev 13:3-4

The Antichrist's moral character is consistent with one against Christ, in opposition to him in every possible way:

- A total materialist, Dan 11:38
- A blasphemer, Dan 11:36; Rev 13:1, 5, 6
- Completely lawless, 2 Thess 2:3, 8
- Completely self-centered, Dan 11:36-37; 2 Thess 2:4

In regard to his origin, racially he probably is a Jew, for he shows no regard for the God of his fathers (Dan 11:37). Nationally he represents the revived Roman empire (Dan 7:7-8; 9:26; Rev 13:1; 17:3, 9-12). Spiritually he is thoroughly sinful, being the product of the "mystery of lawlessness" (2 Thess 2:7) who will eventually come up out of the abyss (Rev 11:7).

The career of the Antichrist can be divided into three stages: his rise, his rule, and his end. **<u>His rise</u>** begins shortly after the rapture of the church (2 Thess 2:7-8; Rev 6:1-2) when he makes a seven year treaty with the Jews (Dan 9:27a) with the backing of a ten nation confederacy (Dan 7:8, 20, 24; Rev 13:1; 17:12-13). Near the middle of the Tribulation he will defeat the great northern power (Dan 11:40-45; Ezek 38-39). This battle appears to be the thing that brings him to

international power. This battle is the last, final showdown between the world's superpowers, and his victory leaves him the undisputed leader of world politics. His rise takes approximately three and one half years.

His rule begins once his grip of worldwide politics is sure. At that time he will initiate a series of treacherous acts that further solidifies his hold on world politics. He will maintain this control until the Battle of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation, where he is defeated by Christ and His armies. Specifically, the series of treacherous acts includes:

- Breaking the treaty with the Jews, Dan 9:27
- Killing God's two witnesses, Rev 11:3-7
- Destroying the harlot church, Rev 17:15-18
- Putting a stop to temple worship and setting himself up for worship, Dan 9:2; 12:11; Matt 24:15; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 13:14-15
- Launching intense persecution against Israel, Dan 7:21-22, 25; 12:1; Matt 24:15, 21; Rev 12:13-17

The pinnacle of his earthly power will involve absolute control over the world's military might (Rev 13:4), religion (Rev 13:8, 15), and economics (Rev 13:17-18).

The end of the Antichrist will begin with the destruction of his capital (Rev 16:17-21; 18:1-24), his subsequent attack against God and Christ (Rev 19:19), followed by his final defeat at Armageddon (2 Thess 2:8) and then being cast into the lake of fire (Rev 19:20).