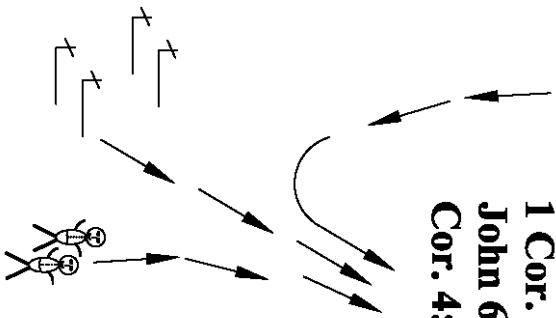


**The Catching Up
(The Rapture)**
1 Cor. 15:51-54; 2 Cor. 4:14;
John 6:40-44; Ps. 71:20; 1
Cor. 4:1-6

**The Anti-Christ Reveals Himself For
Who He Is - Rev. 13:5-8; Daniel 11:36-39**



The Rise Of The Anti-Christ
Daniel 8:21-25; Daniel 9:26-27; Rev. 13:
6:1-2; 2nd Thessalonians 2:3-12; Rev. 13:
1-18

First 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation

THE GREAT SEVEN YEAR TRIBULATION

The First 3 1/2 Years of the Tribulation

Dear reader, as we cover this part of the paper, you may think that we are wandering off the subject. Please stay with us because what we are about to share is interrelated and germane to the study of future things.

"21 The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king. 22 The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms that will emerge from his nation but will not have the same power. 23 "In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise. 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. 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 8:21-25

Satan has managed to keep many of the Jews looking in the wrong direction for thousands of years. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God promised mankind that He would send His Son, the Messiah, who would give Himself to pay the debt for the sins they had committed.

"4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:4-6

"10 Yet it was the LORD'S will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his

days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. 11 After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." Isaiah 53:10-12

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name (authority) of God's one and only Son. John 3:16-18

Satan has managed to keep many of the Jews looking in the wrong direction for thousands of years. Before Calvary, the whole world was required to look forward in faith and accept the Son of God as their Messiah. They did not need any more faith in order to believe the Messiah would die then it takes for us to believe He has died. Satan and his demons convinced many in the world; however, that the Messiah had lived and died shortly after Noah's flood. I recommend that you read "The Two Babylons" by Alexandria Hyslop if you would like to know more about this pseudo religion that is still in existence today.

We worship a Triune God. The people who were involved in that pseudo religion also worshiped a trinity. In their religion, they had faith in and worshiped God the Father, God the Son and the Queen of Heaven, the mother of the God.

"16 So do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you. 17 Do you not see what they are doing in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? 18 The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes of bread for the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods (the Hebrew word is pronounced el-o-heem and means the three mighty ones) to provoke me to anger. 19

But am I the one they are provoking declares the LORD? Are they not rather harming themselves, to their own shame?" Jeremiah 7:16-19

"15 Then all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to other gods (the Hebrew word is pronounced el-o-heem and means the three mighty ones), with all the women who stood by, a great multitude, and all the people who dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathos, answered Jeremiah, saying: "16 As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the Lord, we will not listen to you! 17 But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. 18 But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine." 19 The women also said, "And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' permission?"'" Jeremiah 44:15-19

You probably know this worship best as the worship of Baal and/or Ishtar (the Canaanite Astarte/Ashtaroth - Judges 10:6; 1 Samuel 7:3-4; 1 Kings 11:5). This false religion, however, majored on prayers and service directed to the Queen of Heaven more than to the other two gods in their trinity.

The cakes referred to were perfectly round wafers. The priests of Baal (the name of the god was different in each language although the doctrines, traditions and worship were the same) would bless the wafers and the drink offering. The participants believed that at the moment of the blessing, the element of the wafer and the drink offering would change into the broken body and the shed blood of their messiah. In effect, the priest of Baal had called their messiah down from his Elysian Fields or heaven to take his place in the elements so that by ingesting the body and blood of their messiah, their sins (up to that point in time) were forgiven. Paul was familiar with this practice when he wrote the following to the church in Rome.

“1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. 2 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. 3 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. 5 Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." 6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead) Romans 10:1-7

What Religion Will The Anti-Christ Seek To Make A Universal Religion?

"37 He will show no regard for the gods (the Hebrew word is pronounced el-o-heem and means the three mighty ones) of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. 38 Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his fathers he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts." Daniel 11:37-38

Who Are The Three Mighty Ones Of Fortresses That The Anti-Christ Will Honor?

The god and goddess of fortresses were part of the trinity of the pseudo religion we referred to above. I suggest that you view a picture of Artemis or Diana of the Ephesians that Paul spoke against in his sermon in Ephesus (Acts 19:24-28). If you can obtain a picture that shows the very top of her crown, you will see a turret which designated her as the goddess of fortresses. For a full explanation of this multi-breasted deity, I again recommend that you read "The Two Babylons" by Alexander Hyslop. You will receive an in-depth explanation of this damnable religion that birthed most of the false religions in the world today. The book will also help the serious Bible student understand who the harlot religions are that protested and have come out of the great whore of Revelation 17 and believe and teach that they belong to "a universal church".

"5And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Rev. 17:5

The male counterpart of this multi-breasted goddess was worshiped by the Hebrews under a variety of names with various attributes. You probably know him best as Baal. He and his consort were credited with the construction of the first permanent city/fortress after God had destroyed almost all of mankind with a worldwide flood. As the Queen of Heaven, she was also credited with coming down from heaven to give birth to all mankind in the Garden of Eden, hence the multi-breasts. The father in this trinity blends in with the son in a nebulous recognition that credits him sometimes as an adult and sometimes as a child in his mother's arms.

Many in the world (including many Jews) believed that he was the "seed of the woman" that had been promised in the Garden of Eden. They taught that he had died a tragic death because of his love for mankind and served as a payment for the sins of his ardent worshipers. In order for him to pay for your sins, however, you had to adhere to the doctrines and traditions of the religion. They believed that after death you went to an intermediate place where you were purged of your sins either by (1) your penitence and prayers before your death, (2) the prayers and penitence of your loved ones after your death or (3) by the prayers of the priests of this Babylonian religion.

At a time when the Jews should have been looking forward in faith to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, Satan had them looking backward in faith and accepting the god of fortresses as their personal savior. Now that the Jews should be looking backward in faith, repenting of their sins and requesting that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ pay their sin debt, they are looking forward for the coming of the Messiah. Satan has managed to keep many of the Jews looking in the wrong direction for thousands of years.

Satan will use that error to his advantage when he introduces his representative, the Anti-Christ, to the world (Revelation chapter 13; Revelation 17:8). Please note Revelation 13:5. *"The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months."*

Forty-two months is three and one half years. The Tribulation will last seven years. Therefore the Anti-Christ will spend the first three and a half years amalgamating his power and authority over the world.

The Jews who have been looking for the Messiah will help to catapult him to this power quickly because they believe that he is the only hope for a world that is in a quagmire of war among the nations (Revelation 6:3-4). There will be worldwide hyperinflation in which the poor get poorer and the rich get richer (Revelation 6:5). There will also be worldwide terrorism where people will be killed by swords, there will be world-wide famine, and the world will suffer various plagues (Revelation 6:8).

Suddenly, faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a moving locomotive, super-hero, the Anti-Christ, will emerge upon the scene with a solution that he says will bring peace and harmony to an extremely troubled world (Daniel 9:27). God will allow those who He knows will never repent of their sins and be saved to be deluded. One group will be deluded into thinking that the Anti-Christ is the solution to all the world's ills (2nd Thessalonians 2:11). They will be willing to give up their individual freedoms and the sovereignty of their nation in order to be protected from the terrorism and violence that is threatening to destroy them. Does that sound familiar?

The other group of those who will be deluded could never accept a Jew as the hope of the world. Because of their cultural and religious background they have been taught to hate the Jews and the infidels who do not embrace their extremist religion.

The Anti-Christ will use the power he has amalgamated to allow the Jews to tear down the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem as well as any other remnant of Herod's Temple. *"Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." Matthew 24:2.* They will rebuild the Temple with the intention of re-instituting the daily sacrifices but in the middle of the Tribulation the Anti-Christ will reveal himself for who he is and demand that the world worship him as the god who appears or reveals himself. *"15 So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation' spoken of through the prophet Daniel-let the reader understand-16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." Matthew 24:15-16*

The Anti-Christ will then move his capitol to Jerusalem and use it as a center of operations for the last three and a half years of the Tribulation.

"41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand. 42 He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape. 43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission. 44 But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. 45 He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him."

Daniel 11:41-45