

## **A Biblical Profile of the Antichrist: PROFILE #6 – Middle East Peace**

As the mystery of lawlessness spreads throughout the world, there will arise a corresponding desire for peace and safety. This is precisely when the lawless one, the Antichrist, will be revealed, confirmed by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 –

**“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming. . .”**

It is important to understand the nature of Antichrist’s “revealing.” Prior to that moment, the man of sin will be a well-known player on the world scene. He will hold some position of leadership which will give him name recognition. But his “revealing” is reserved for a unique and specific moment of time on the stage of world history. It will consist of an opportunity to establish peace in the Middle East. Since its inception as a nation in 1948, no one has longed for peace and safety more than the nation of Israel. Throughout its current tumultuous existence, Israel has been surrounded by mortal enemies who desire to wipe it from the face of the earth. Yet every attempt at peace in the Middle East has unraveled in failure. That failure will be replaced with resounding success by the Antichrist, as prophesied by Daniel in his oracle, in Daniel 9:27a –

**“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week . . .”**

This covenant with “the many” will cause the people of Israel to hail the Antichrist as a hero, and possibly even their Messiah (John 5:43). It will not be limited to that nation alone, but embraced as a worldwide achievement. On God’s prophetic calendar, this Middle East peace treaty will initiate Daniel’s Seventieth Week, as well as “the day of the Lord,” followed by a seven year period of God’s judgment on earth, commonly known as the Tribulation. Ironically, when the world is saying, “peace and safety,” then a sudden and increasingly severe time of trouble and hardship will come, described by the apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3.

The signing of this peace treaty will be the moment of Antichrist’s revealing; with his identity already apparent to those with any sense of prophetic awareness (Daniel 12:8-10). But we are also told in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 that there will be an evangelical apostasy preceding it, creating spiritual delusion instead of insight, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect (Matthew 24:24).