

## **A Biblical Profile of the Antichrist: PROFILE #9 – Dictatorial Rule**

During the course of the last century, trends toward democracy have been prominent throughout our modern world; replacing the antiquated autocracies of the past. However, recent developments have moved some nations in the opposite direction. The reversal of the trend toward democracy has been motivated by financial greed, rather than political power; so that we are now witnessing not only the emergence of autocrats, but plutocrats. As our world has become increasingly de-stabilized by terrorism, the threat of nuclear war, and the current pandemic, the desire for autocratic rule has intensified. Many in our world, including some Evangelicals, are longing for a strong man who will usher in peace and safety.

Enter the Antichrist! He will be that strongman, after the pattern of Nimrod at the Tower of Babel, who will unify our divided world and establish peace and safety. Of course, the dilemma surrounding any autocrat is whether he will turn out to be benevolent or malevolent. More often than not, the following principle determines that outcome: “power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” The beast who comes out of the sea, empowered by the devil, will be the ultimate personification of that principle, confirmed in Revelation 13:7 –

**“It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.”**

In taking the reins of world-wide power, he will kill God’s two witnesses at the mid-point of the Tribulation. This will likely occur immediately after he has desecrated the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem (Revelation 11:7). Further Jewish resistance to the abomination of desolation will be met with ruthless persecution, causing many in Israel to flee for the safe haven of the wilderness (Revelation 12:6, 13:17; cf. Matthew 24:15-22). It will be no better for Gentile followers of our Savior during this time, as indicated by Revelation 20:4, where we read this –

**“Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them.**

**And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”**

So the dictatorial rule of the Antichrist will only benefit those who acquiesce to his monstrous reign of terror. For those who don’t, they will find themselves engaged in the fight of their lives; as they seek to remain faithful to Jesus Christ during this unprecedented time of suffering and persecution.