I. Relevant Features of the Last Days
   A. Many antichrists (1 John 2:18 [Matt. 24])
      1. Anti = against – first *displace*
      2. Anti = in place of – then *replace*
   B. The wheat and the tares (Matt. 13:29–30)
      1. Wheat and tares grow together till harvest
      2. Only distinguished by fruit
      3. Same climatic condition ripens both: permissiveness
   C. The world (2 Tim. 3:1–5)
      1. A time of stress
      2. Root problem: degeneration of human character and conduct (18 aspects listed)
      3. Begins with love of self and love of money and ends with love of pleasure
      4. Having a form of godliness but denying its power (v. 5), i.e., professing to be Christians
      5. Summed up in the word: *selfishness*
      6. From such, *turn away*
      7. Corruption is *irreversible*
   D. Upsurge of the occult (v. 8–9, 13)
      1. “Impostors” are actually enchanters
      2. Magic, witchcraft, sorcery
   E. The parting of the ways: righteous/holy, still more righteous/holy—*but* unrighteous/wicked, still more unrighteous/wicked (Rev. 22:10–12)
   F. The Antichrist—culmination of transgressors (Dan. 8:23–24 [1 John 2:18–22; 4:14]) Manifested in three forms:
      1. *The* antichrist
      2. Many antichrists
      3. The spirit of antichrist
   G. Three distinctive marks of the spirit of antichrist
      1. Starts in association with the people of God, e.g. Islam = Perfection/completion (1 John 2:19)
      2. Denies that Jesus is the Messiah (1 John 2:22)
      3. Denies the Father and the Son (the Godhead) (1 John 2:22)
   H. Three titles of antichrist
      1. Man of (Sin) Lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:3)
      2. Son of Perdition (2 Thess. 2:3) compare to Judas Iscariot, an apostle
      3. Wild beast—contrast the Lamb (Rev. 13:1–4)
   a. Barabbas or Jesus? – Beast or Lamb?
b. The Dove (Holy Spirit) looks for the Lamb nature to rest upon
   (1) Purity
   (2) Meekness
   (3) A life laid down

– Part 2 –
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I. Relevant Features of the Last Days (cont’d.)
   A. The apostasy in the Church will open the way (2 Thess. 2:13)
      1. Three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Islam and Christianity
      2. World religion could incorporate all three

II. Who Is Antichrist?
   A. Regarding his name
      1. Jesus came in the name of the Father
      2. Name of antichrist imposed
         a. A mark, a name, or the number of his name (666) (Rev. 13:16–18)
         b. Jesus’ name adds up to 888 (in Greek)
   B. A political federation (Rev. 14:1)
      1. A leopard—cannot change its spots
      2. The bear is associated with Russia
      3. The lion is associated with Britain
      4. Background of Europe: Imperialistic nations—essentially Catholic nations
   C. Claims resurrection from the dead (Rev. 13:14)
      1. They worshiped the Dragon—Satan (compare Rev. 12:9)
      2. They worshiped the Beast—Antichrist
         a. The true Christ refused
         b. The false Christ will accept and worship Satan
   D. Implacable enemy of God and God’s people (Rev. 13:6–7 [Rev. 12:11])
   E. Satan: The great deceiver (Rev. 12:9)
      1. Many adversaries—but he who endures to the end will be saved (Matt. 24:8–14)
      2. Total commitment in the face of tremendous opposition
      3. Even the elect exposed to deception (Matt. 24:23–24)
      4. Zion = Divine revelation vs. Greece = philosophy — humanism — man becoming god (Zech. 9:13)
   F. Products of deception:
      1. Counterfeit Trinity (Rev. 16:13)
         a. Dragon vs. God the Father
         b. Beast vs. Lamb (Jesus)
         c. False prophet vs. Holy Spirit
      2. Counterfeit church (the harlot) (Rev. 17:1)
   G. Only safeguard: Love of the truth (2 Thess. 2:9–12)

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