Riverwood Bible Church

The Day of the Lord, Antichrist & the Seven-Sealed Scroll

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | Session 5 | Biblical Prophecy Series

I. The Day of the LORD — A Repeated Prophetic Theme

Old Testament: Isa. 2:12; 13:6, 9; 34:8; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18–20; Obad. 15; Zeph. 1:7, 14–18; Zech. 14:1.

New Testament: 1 Thess. 5:2–3; 2 Thess. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:10–13. “The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:2, BSB).

Meaning: The LORD intervenes decisively in history to expose sin, judge rebellion, vindicate His holiness, and establish righteous rule (Isa. 13:9–11; Zeph. 1:14–15).

II. Broad, Narrow, Darkness & Light

Broad Day: God’s future intervention encompassing the judgments of Daniel’s seventieth week and the blessings of Christ’s millennial reign (Joel 2; Rev. 11:15; 20:1–6).

Narrow Day: The climactic day of Christ’s visible return to defeat His enemies (Zech. 14:1–5; Joel 3:14–16; Rev. 19:11–21).

Darkness: Wrath, destruction, national upheaval, and judgment upon wickedness (Amos 5:18–20; Zeph. 1:14–18).

Light: Restoration, justice, theocratic government, and blessing under the reigning Messiah (Zech. 14:9; Isa. 2:2–4; Rev. 20:1–6).

III. Israel and the Time of Jacob’s Trouble

Unparalleled distress: “Alas! For that day is great—there is none like it” (Jer. 30:7, BSB excerpt). Compare Dan. 12:1 and Matt. 24:21.

Nations judged: Joel 3:9–16; Zech. 14:1–3; Revelation 16:12–16 and 19:11–21 describe the nations assembled and the Lord’s intervention.

Future horizon: Daniel 9:27 associates the final seven-year period with a covenant; its midpoint brings cessation of sacrifice and the abomination of desolation.

IV. The King’s Victory and Kingdom

His return: The LORD stands on the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:3–4). Christ defeats the hostile nations and the Beast (Rev. 19:11–21).

His reign: “On that day the LORD will become King over all the earth” (Zech. 14:9, BSB excerpt).

V. The Coming Antichrist — Titles & Identity

Principal designations: Antichrist (1 John 2:18); little horn (Dan. 7:8, 24); prince to come (Dan. 9:26–27); willful king (Dan. 11:36); man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:3–4); Beast (Rev. 13:1–8).

His nature: Against Christ and a counterfeit replacement; arrogant, deceptive, persuasive, oppressive, and blasphemous (Dan. 7:8, 25; 2 Thess. 2:4, 9–10).

Jew or Gentile?: Ethnicity is not explicitly stated. The Gentile view points to the sea, Rome, and Dan. 9:26; the Jewish view appeals to Dan. 11:37 and his relationship with Israel.

Historical precursor: Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrated the Jerusalem Temple (167 BC); his persecution foreshadows elements of the final ruler (Dan. 8; 11).

VI. The Covenant and Consolidation of Power

Ten kings: Daniel’s ten horns signify rulers (Dan. 7:24). The little horn arises and subdues three. The ten kings give their authority to the Beast (Rev. 17:12–13).

Beginning: The prince confirms a covenant “with many for one week” (Dan. 9:27)—the starting point of Daniel’s seventieth week.

Midpoint: After 3½ years he stops sacrifice and offering, desecrates the sanctuary, and exalts himself as God (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4).

VII. Forty-Two Months of Dominion

Duration: 42 months = 3½ years, associated with “time, times, and half a time” (Rev. 13:5; Dan. 7:25).

Authority: The Beast blasphemes God, wages war against the saints, and exercises rule over peoples, languages, and nations (Rev. 13:5–8).

Worship: Those whose names are not in the Lamb’s Book of Life worship the Beast (Rev. 13:8).

VIII. The Number and Mark of the Beast

Economic coercion: The second Beast enforces a mark connected to the Beast’s name or the number of his name, restricting buying and selling (Rev. 13:16–17).

666: John instructs the wise to “calculate the number of the beast” (Rev. 13:18). Gematria—a numerical value attached to letters—is one proposed explanation; the specific identity is not disclosed.

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IX. The False Prophet — The Second Beast

The second beast: Comes from the earth, has horns like a lamb, yet speaks like a dragon (Rev. 13:11).

Deception and worship: Exercises the Beast's authority, performs great signs, and directs worship to the first Beast (Rev. 13:12–14).

Image and mark: Promotes the Beast's image, enforces worship, and controls buying and selling through the mark (Rev. 13:14–17).

X. The Deadly Wound

A wound healed: One of the Beast's heads appears mortally wounded, yet the wound is healed; the world marvels (Rev. 13:3, 12, 14).

Possible interpretations: Actual death and restoration, or an apparent death followed by extraordinary recovery. The text does not identify an assassin.

The worthless shepherd: Zechariah 11:17 describes a withered arm and blinded right eye.

Worldwide impact: The False Prophet uses the healed wound to advance worship of the Beast (Rev. 13:3–4, 12–15).

XI. The Seven-Sealed Scroll & Earth's Redemption

One scroll; seven seals: The scroll is written on both sides. Only the Lion of Judah—the slain Lamb—is worthy to open it (Rev. 5:1–9).

The rightful Owner: "The land must not be sold permanently, because it is Mine" (Lev. 25:23, BSB excerpt).

Kinsman-redeemer: Land redemption by a close relative (Lev. 25:23–28; Ruth 4) and Jeremiah's sealed purchase deed (Jer. 32:6–15) illuminate the title-deed pattern.

The purchase price: Christ redeems by His blood; His people will reign upon the earth (Rev. 5:9–10; 1 Pet. 1:18–19).

Judgment and possession: The Lamb opens the seals and initiates judgment (Rev. 6–8); He defeats the Beast and establishes His kingdom (Rev. 19–20).

Creation restored: Creation awaits release from corruption (Rom. 8:19–22), culminating in new heavens and a new earth (Rev. 21:1).

