

DEREK PRINCE



THE
BEAST

or

THE
LAMB



DISCERNING THE
NATURE THAT
DETERMINES YOUR DESTINY

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INTRODUCTION

Does it seem strange at first sight to have two animals mentioned in the same title or sentence? Does that combination pique your interest and kindle a desire to find out more?

In essence, this book is about the contrasting characters of the wild Beast and the Lamb as revealed in Scripture—the false christ and the true Christ. The Beast and the Lamb represent two completely opposite natures. The wild Beast is cunning, deceitful, arrogant, boastful, vicious, cruel, treacherous, murderous, despotic and dominating. In contrast, the Lamb is truthful, peaceable, humble, meek, pure, strong, simple and self-sacrificial.

The Bible reveals that Satan is behind the Beast, while Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. A third creature we will discuss in some detail is the Dove—which represents the Holy Spirit. (Later in this book, we will learn more about this key note: The Holy Spirit will only rest and remain on the nature of the Lamb.)

You and I have a choice before us. We will either choose to cultivate the nature of the Lamb or the nature of the Beast. Unfortunately, most believers have never been taught how to

discern the difference between these two natures. Nor have most of us realized that, by our thoughts and actions, we are presently assuming one nature or the other. Of even greater significance, we have not been informed that this intrinsic choice will actually determine our ultimate destiny in life.

Unapologetically, this book represents a very significant and important part of God's total revelation concerning the end times. I believe that Christians who do not take the trouble to find out the basic teaching of the Word of God about the Antichrist and the spirit of Antichrist are in great danger of being swept away by deception.

For our protection and enlightenment, God has made knowledge available to us—and we are responsible to find it and decide what we should do with it.

This is not an easy study. To get the most out of it, you will need to use your mind to comprehend and follow the revelation of Scripture. Let's trust God together to give us understanding and insight.

We will examine a great deal of content in this book. Here is my advice and encouragement: Do not try to read through it too quickly. Take time to let these truths soak in. Otherwise, as with a hard rain on dry ground, there may be runoff, and you may not receive the refreshing rain you need. If you will allow yourself to be immersed in this content about the Beast, the Lamb (and the Dove), availing yourself of the Word and the Spirit, you will be able to absorb these truths to the fullest extent.

Much has been written about the end times—some of it by me. But I believe that if you allow this message to penetrate deep into your heart, it will not only prepare you to live an effective, empowered life here on earth in the challenging days ahead, it will also prepare you for a glorious eternity in the presence of the Lamb.



PART 1

UNDERSTANDING
the NATURE
of the WILD BEAST

Very often in life, it is necessary for us to look at the negative to fully appreciate the positive. How can we be thankful for warmth if we have never been cold? How can we appreciate springtime if we have not survived the winter? How can we savor the day unless we have endured the night?

In the spiritual dimension, you and I can take this principle even deeper by asking ourselves: Can I truly appreciate the life Jesus bought for me on the cross if I have not followed Him through death, burial and resurrection?

In seeking to understand and appreciate the glory, the power and the wonder of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ,

it is necessary to start by looking at His—and our—greatest opponent: Satan. In the first part of this book, we will examine some of what Scripture reveals about Satan, the Beast and the Antichrist.

1

MANY ANTICHRISTS

What do we mean by “antichrist”? It is important for us first to know the meaning of the word itself. The word “Christ” is taken from the Greek word *Christos*, which corresponds to the Hebrew word *Meshiach*, or in English, “Messiah.” It means “the Anointed One.”

When we speak about Jesus Christ, we are speaking about Jesus the Messiah. Thus the Antichrist is someone who is the anti-Messiah.

The Double Meaning of “Anti”

The preposition *anti* in front of *christ* or *messiah* has two meanings, both of which apply to the Antichrist’s activities. First of all, *anti* means “against” or “opposing.” Of course, we use that regularly in modern speech, for example in the terms *antibacterial* or *antisocial*. But the other meaning is less well understood. It means “in place of.”

We can understand the operation of the Antichrist as having two phases:

1. To come *against* the true Christ to get Him out of the way, and
2. To *replace* Him with a false christ.

Three Forms of Antichrist

In 1 John 2:18, John speaks about the connection between the Antichrist and the last days. He says:

Little children, it is the last hour [not just the last day, mind you, but the last hour]; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

Seeing evidences of the activity of the spirit of the Antichrist is a distinctive mark of the end times.

Then in 1 John 4:2 we read: “By this you know the Spirit of God [the Holy Spirit]: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God.”

That is, every spirit that confesses that Jesus came in human form and lived as man with flesh and blood is of God.

Verse 3 completes the thought:

Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

Within the verses we have cited above, we see three forms of “antichrist”:

1. *many* antichrists, plural
2. *the* Antichrist, singular
3. the *spirit* of the Antichrist—the spirit of antichrist which operates through *every* antichrist.

This last truth is a supremely important concept to grasp: *Any antichrist is controlled by the spirit of the Antichrist.* Throughout history, there have been many antichrists who have arisen. The Jewish Encyclopedia records at least forty false messiahs who have come to the Jewish people since the time of Jesus. They were all antichrists.

Probably the most famous example was Simon Bar Kochba. He led a revolt against Rome from around AD 132 to 135. Then in the fifth century came Moses of Crete. He persuaded people that they should wade out into the sea from Crete in order to meet the Messiah. Thousands of his followers went into the sea and were drowned. In the year 1666 (which was supposed to be a miraculous year), Sabbatai Zevi claimed to be the Messiah, and he was enthusiastically received by multitudes.

The history of Europe also records many antichrists. Down through the ages in the history of the Church there have been ungodly men who claimed to be ministers of Christ and who led immoral and dissonant lives.

If we look to the Middle East, one outstanding antichrist is Mohammed. (We will deal more with Mohammed and the religion of Islam in a later chapter when we look at examples of the spirit of the Antichrist.)

In Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) in central Africa, there was an African religious leader who declared straight-out that he was Jesus. But then he died. Very wisely, the political leadership in Zaire would not allow the

people to bury his body. They set a guard around it, and then after three days, they let the people take the body away and bury it. Not surprisingly, the Africans who had believed him got very angry, and they threw stones at the coffin because they realized they had been deceived by this false messiah.

In the history of many nations of the earth, you will find the record of many antichrists. What makes them antichrist is *the spirit of the Antichrist*—the spiritual force that works in them and for them.

To Modern Times

Interestingly, just to bring this subject closer to the present, in the summer of 1988 in Jerusalem, elegant posters were circulated on all the main streets of the city. They read in Hebrew: “Messiah has come and if you want to meet Him, go to the Mount of Olives on [a certain Sunday] and He will be there.”

I have no idea who printed the posters, but they were beautifully done. I know of one journalist who went to the Mount of Olives to see what might happen, but he did not find the Messiah. I relate this story to show how real this issue is. People are looking for the Messiah. If you talk to Jewish people in a sympathetic attitude and you use the name *Messiah*, something changes in their eyes. It is a word that has a special significance for Jewish people.

Down through the pages of history from the time of John’s writings until the modern day, there have been *many* antichrists. However, there is one who is called *the* Antichrist who has not yet appeared on the stage of human history. He is the ultimate manifestation of the spirit of the Antichrist. I am inclined to believe that his coming is so near that we might

say his shadow has already fallen across the stage of history. That, however, is just my personal opinion.

As we progress through this book, particularly in Part 1: Understanding the Nature of the Wild Beast, I would encourage you to keep asking yourself the following questions as you consider this material:

1. Does this refer to the spirit of the Antichrist?
2. Does it refer to one of the many antichrists?
3. Does it refer to *the* Antichrist?

This questioning exercise will be a part of the discernment process you and I need to develop as we learn to navigate this important subject.

In the next chapter, we will look at four specific marks that Scripture tells us are likely to be manifest where the spirit of the Antichrist is in operation.