

The “Spirit of Antichrist” and the “Anti-Christ”

Oh boy!!! I can just imagine what everyone may be thinking. What in the world am I doing writing about the “antichrist?” Well, the fact of the matter is that this word, “antichrist,” is in our Bible. So, therefore, it is a topic that we must approach and at the least, discuss what the Bible means when it uses this term.

The first thing we must know is that the term “antichrist” is only found in the New Testament and for that matter it is only found in 1John and 2John. Yet, this term has been, and continues to be, used widely by many believers. However, I think that we must understand the usage of this term and how to apply it when we are speaking of the Body of Christ, as well as the end times.

The word “anti” means to be opposed to or to be the opposite of. You could say that anything that has the prefix “anti” on it is against whatever the word may be that it is attached to. Like the word “antibacterial” means that the substance attacks bacteria or is “against bacteria.” In the military the prefix is used in terms of “anti-aircraft” or “anti-ballistic” to represent a military procedure that will come against an enemy aircraft or missile from hitting its assumed target.

Therefore, the term “antichrist” is something that attacks the truth concerning anything about the true Christ – Jesus Christ. There are many “antichrists” out there today and there always have been since the time that Jesus came to this earth. We must realize that the Bible approaches the fact that there are “antichrists,” lower-case “a”, and there will be the “Anti-Christ,” upper-case “A.” They refer to different beings and one has little to do with the other – other than the fact that they are both of and from the devil, used for his purposes.

The Bible tells us that there are many spirits of “antichrist” but there will only be one “Anti-Christ.” That one “Anti-Christ” will be the one who will come and ultimately be selected by this world, to rule over the entire earth for seven years, which to the believer means the period referred to as the tribulation. We will discuss that a little later in this essay.

However, I first would like to discuss the “antichrist” spirit that is even now upon this earth. Actually, this “spirit,” the spirit of and from the devil himself, has been allowed to come upon this earth from the beginning of creation.

In Genesis 1:1 it reads, "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*" We must understand that this was simply a statement that God made, through the writer Moses. It simply was to state that it was God who created all things. We must know that when God creates, He never creates anything that is corrupt. Rather, all of His creation was perfect.

When we get to Genesis 1:2, we see that something changed or something happened to that perfect creation that was created by God. We read in the first part of Genesis 1:2, "*And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep...*" We must immediately take a step back and realize, that God would never, nor could He ever create anything that was "*without form, and void (empty)...*"

This is our first clue that this is a basic overview that God was giving to His people of what happened to this heaven and this earth after God created it in Genesis 1:1. As we stated, God only creates perfection. However, now we read that the earth became void and was without form. What happened to God's perfect creation? Let's see...

Lucifer, was one of the three archangels who were the overseers of the other angels in the presence of God. However, we must remember, as with all of God's creation, they were always given a choice - accept or reject the Living God as your God. Unfortunately, Lucifer and one third of the angels, made their decision and chose to rebel and turn away from God.

Satan's fall from heaven is symbolically described in Isaiah 14:12–14 and Ezekiel 28:12–18. While these two passages are referring specifically to the kings of Babylon and Tyre, they also reference the spiritual power behind those kings, namely, Lucifer/Satan. These passages refer to and describe Lucifer's fall and the reason for that fall - it was his lust for ultimate power.

Jesus also witnessed Satan's fall as He mentions it in Luke 10:18: "*I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*" We know that all of the angels, including Lucifer (Satan), were created before the earth (Job 38:4–7). Lucifer/Satan and the other angels that followed him, fell from God's grace because of their rebellion against God, long before the temptation of Adam and Eve.

Satan's fall, therefore, must have occurred somewhere after the time the angels were created (Genesis 1:1) and before Genesis 1:2a. When Lucifer was defeated and thrown out of heaven,

he then came to God's creation, this earth, and ruined it. That is where Genesis 1:2a picks up. He was then thrown off this earth by the power of the Holy Spirit as it states in Genesis 1:2b, *"And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."*

God then began the restoration or re-creation process. He divided the Darkness (Night) from the Light (Day,) This was the first thing God did. He made a division between God's ways (good) and Lucifer's ways (evil). Then, as we read in the scriptures, God renewed everything that the devil and his sinful ways had ruined. (Genesis 1:4-31.)

Unfortunately, we all know that in Genesis 3, we read of Lucifer's successful temptation of Adam and Eve. We must realize that this was and will be the exact attack that this world will see again when we read of the rise of the "Anti-Christ" in the Book of Revelation. The attack is the same. It is a deception to make man think that they will be greater than the One True Living God – Yahweh, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

However, until that time, we see that there will be times when the "spirit of antichrist" will rise its ugly head upon this earth. This is what the Apostle John is writing about in his letters. He is warning the believers in Jesus at that time and to all of us in this hour – beware of those who come in the "spirit of antichrist."

The "spirit of antichrist" is that of those who will come and pervert God's ways. It will come, not just in one way, but in many different and deceiving ways. We must be ready and know the truth of God's Word for ourselves. We must not just simply listen to others who tell us the Word of God but we must read it and know it for ourselves.

Not just the passage that we may be reading or hearing but also those passages before and after the main scripture we are reading from. This is to make sure that we are not taking those scriptures out of context and simply saying what we or the speaker would want us to hear.

Notice, what the Apostle John writes concerning these "antichrists." It is interesting to note that in these last few years, there has been an effort by many to remove the letters of John, as well as other letters from our Bible. They are telling us the Old Testament is useless to us and that the Gospels are no longer needful to the "true Christian." They say that they are not for today.

Even many authors who we thought may have written good material in the past are now all of a sudden turning from the truth of the scriptures we have and telling us that we are to no longer read or have these scriptures in our Bibles. They tell us that the ways of God have changed and that we need to change with them. Isn't that interesting? To that I say ...hogwash!!!

What!!! After more than 5000 years of the Old Testament and over 2000 years of the New Testament that have survived from being "lost," being burned, and being tried to be destroyed by lunatics, dictators and fanatics throughout history, but yet still are in our hands today, are we to simply just get rid of them. I don't think so!!! They have never, nor will they ever change!!! GOD NEVER CHANGES!!! (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; Isaiah 40:8; Numbers 23:19...and many more.)

It is interesting to note that the Apostle John was the only disciple of Jesus that lived as long as He did. He was the only disciple to live out his life. Jesus prophesied that this would happen as seen in John 20:21-24. He was very young when he heard Jesus and decided to follow Him. Many believe that John was only about fourteen when he first heard and then chose to follow Jesus. He wrote his Gospel many years after the others were written, around 65 A.D., because the truth of Jesus was starting to get turned into incredulous and false teachings.

John then wrote Revelation while he was sentenced to death on the Isle of Patmos. That was around 80-85 A.D. Miraculously, he survived that "death sentence" and was supernaturally released. He then went to Ephesus, in modern day Turkey. While there, he became the chief elder of the churches in Turkey. As their chief elder, he then wrote the letters we now have and know of as 1,2,3 John sometime around 90-95 A.D.

Below are the scriptures in 1 and 2 John, in which the Apostle John writes in his letters to those who are believers concerning the "spirit of antichrist" and that it is in the world – even now.

*1John 2:18 - Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that **antichrist** shall come, even now are there many **antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

*1John 2:22 - Who is a liar, he that denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is **antichrist**, that denies the Father and the Son.*

*1John 4:3 - And every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of **antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and **even now already is it in the world.***

2John 1:7 - *For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an **antichrist**.*

John was very emphatic concerning the truth of Jesus and who Jesus truly was – the Messiah and the Son of God. He was very concerned that the truth concerning everything about Jesus was being mishandled and misunderstood by both, the wicked men of the devil who were trying to pervert the truth, as well as well meaning but yet very wrong believers in Jesus. He simply wanted the truth to be told, preached and then received and believed. We need to do the same.

The apostle Paul, early in His writings, writes to us concerning the “spirit of antichrist” but he refers to that spirit as the “son of perdition.” These will be those who will put themselves in place of and above the Word of God. Paul writes of this in 2Thessalonians 2:1-17. We have an entire chapter written concerning what that type of person will say and do. These people put themselves higher than and in place of God’s Law – God’s Word. They are people who the Bible repeatedly points to who will arise against the truth – both back then and even today.

However, Paul encourages all the true believers as he writes in 2Thessalonians 2:15-17, *“Therefore, brethren, **stand fast**, and hold the traditions (teachings) which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work.”*

Yes, and in the last days there will come that “one” who will proclaim himself to be the one and only true god of all gods. That will be the epitome of the person that Lucifer will send. He will come in place of Lucifer, but yet he will be filled with the vile forces of wickedness. We refer to that person, even though it is not written of in the scriptures, as the “Anti-Christ.”

We read of his final actions in the Book of Revelation. Yes, he will be a person of peace in the beginning. For 3½ years, he will be called the leader of the world and everyone will love and be so grateful for all that he does. However, like a light switch, everything will change.

The next 3½ years will be total turmoil. He will replace the worship that he first allowed to Yahweh by the Jewish people on the Temple Mount. He will replace it with an idol to represent

himself. He will then make all the world come to bow down and worship that idol – to worship him. However, the good news is that this will be the sign that Jesus, the true Son of God, will be coming and He will destroy those forces of darkness and take His rightful place in the Temple.

In Romans 16:20, Paul reassures believers, saying, “*The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.*” This will take place as we read in Revelation 17:14, “*They (this Anti-Christ and his followers) will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb (Jesus) will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen, and faithful followers.*” These promises remind us that no matter how dark or overwhelming the times may seem, now or in the future, God is in control, and His triumph is certain.

Yes, the “spirit of antichrist” is in the world, today. It has been in the world from the beginning as we read and found in Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve first sinned. However, we see that the very last book of the Bible, Revelation, tells us that the same “antichrist” spirit, Lucifer (Satan) and all the forces of darkness, will ultimately be totally defeated and sent to the Lake of Fire.

This is the key to our understanding concerning who we are in Jesus. Through Jesus, who is the King of kings and Lord of lords, we have been made children of the Most, High God. We must know that “we win.” We are victorious in and through Jesus and the fullness of His Holy Spirit who now dwells in each of His people.

We must grasp the fact that the “spirit of antichrist” is in this world today and we must be alert so that we do not fall into the traps of the enemy. Remember, it is not the works that a person may do that proves they are of the Lord God. The devil can counterfeit all of the works. The only thing that can never be counterfeited is God’s unconditional love. That is the “mark” of the true Christ and the “mark” of His true followers, the children of God.

Always know that God, our Father, is in total control over all things that will come to pass. Jesus is Lord - the absolute, supreme and final authority over all things in this world. The Holy Spirit now lives within His people to empower them to overcome the forces of darkness and to bring forth God’s Kingdom wherever we may be and wherever we may go. May God’s unconditional love permeate every one of His true believers because... love never fails!!!