

The Antichrist is Coming



The Antichrist is Coming

- 1John 2:18-22 - “Little children, it is 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. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. 20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.”
- 2John 7 - “For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”

The Antichrist is Coming

- 1John 4:1-6 - “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and 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. 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

The Antichrist is Coming

- John wrote in the latter part of the first century. Gnosticism had arisen to become a problem to the church and claimed special knowledge.
- Two schools of thought developed, both of which denied an essential element in the nature of Jesus.
 - Docetists denied that Jesus was actually human, that He only appeared to be flesh and blood.
 - Cerinthians said Jesus was born as a man and that Deity descended on Jesus at His baptism and left Him at the cross.

Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- Many are looking for a single personality to appear on the scene and fight openly against Christ.
- That would be too obvious. Everyone would recognize him, and he would deceive very few

Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- The meaning of anti - “opposed to”
 - 1John 2:18 - “as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come”
 - Note the plural and singular usage
- There is not just one powerful person who is opposing Christ. Instead there are many who are secretly, deceptively working in opposition to the Son of God and His people.

Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- Identifying antichrists is possible today.
 - 1John 2:19 - “***They went out from us***, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”
- John, an inspired apostle, stood for the revealed word of God.
- Those who went out from the apostles taught something else
- They were anti (opposed to) Christ, hence “antichrists.”

Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- This is the key to identifying the antichrists: all who deviate from the word of revealed word of God oppose Christ.
- They may be loving personalities, dynamic in persuading people to be saved, live for good works, etc.
- Our assessment of these things is subjective; God gets to define good works and loving personalities
- Therein lies the danger: Anyone can become “antichrist”

Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- Matt. 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
- Luke 6:46 - "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?"
- John 8:31 - "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."

Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- We are either with Him or “anti” Him
 - Matt. 12:30 - “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”

Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- How can we tell?
- The real test: agreement with and acceptance of the same doctrine the apostles taught
 - 1John 2:22-23 - “Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.”

Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- This principle is true in any departure from the faith
 - 1John 4:6 - “We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- Whoever is a deceiver in opposition to Christ is antichrist
 - 2John 7 - “For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”

Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- 2Thes. 2:1-4 - “Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”

Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- Everyone in this world has taken a stand in relation to Christ
- We are either in Christ on His side, fighting for and living in His kingdom
- Or we are outside of Christ, against Him, His cause and His people.
- If you reject the Christ and are against Him and His cause, look in the mirror and you will see the antichrist.