

THE ANTICHRIST



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Who is the Antichrist? Is he living in the world today? When will he make himself known? Where will he come from? What is the spirit of Antichrist that St. John wrote about? Is his identification 666? Will he be a homosexual?

These are some of the questions people ask about "the Antichrist." From time to time a preacher or would-be prophet announces who the Antichrist is, but alas all have been proven to be false. I do not claim to know. I am *not* a prophet. However, I can share with you what I believe the Bible teaches. The Holy Spirit illumines and gives understanding to God's people to, "rightly divide the Word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15b).

It should be noted that the Protestant Reformers of the sixteenth century placed little emphasis on eschatology.¹ They were consumed with the need to reform the institutional Church that had become corrupted by false dogmas, dead formalism and elaborate ceremony that had incorporated pagan practices and a hierarchy that wielded undue power and position thus robbing churches of their original simplicity. **The Reformers believed** that the pope was the Antichrist. **Few Protestants today hold this position.** However, *before* condemning the Reformers keep in mind how corrupt the institutional Church had become. It is understandable why the Reformers and their followers took the position that they took. Whether or not the Antichrist will come from the papacy is secondary. I certainly *do not* know. It is not my intent to identify or to name any individual as the Antichrist. Rather, it is my intent to Scripturally prove that there **will be a powerful world leader** possessing incredible charisma who **will be** the Antichrist.

IS THE ANTICHRIST LIVING TODAY?

Whether or not he is living today we do not know. We do know that he will be a human being. We also know that he will present himself as the Messiah, i.e., *declaring himself God's Anointed One*. Initially he will be accepted by Jews and Gentiles alike. However, there is but one Christ, the Messiah who is Jesus [Y'shua/Yeshua] of Nazareth. **He alone is God's Anointed!** He is God's only begotten Son. Jesus **warned** His followers that false christs would come. "**For false christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible the elect**" (Mt. 24:24). However, one will come forth as the Antichrist. **See** - Daniel chapters 7,8 & 11; Mt. 24; 2 Thess. 2; 1 Jn. 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 Jn. 7 and Revelation chapters 13, 17 & 18. This person is referred to in Scripture in a number of ways such as "**the beast**," "**little horn**," "**false Christ**," "**wicked one**," "**the man of sin**" and "**the Antichrist**."

The Bible teaches that this individual will be *both a political as well as a religious figure*. He will advocate "**One World - One People - One Religion**." His one world religion will be an ecumenical faith drawing together the religions of the world into one fold under one head; himself. It should be noted that *an increasing number* of politicians and religious leaders are *advocating* "**a New World Order**." This is just *one* of the numerous ways of conditioning people for the coming Antichrist.

The Antichrist will come against God, the believing remnant and the Word of God. **Theologians** may scoff at this teaching but one day they will wake up to discover **their error** of not accepting what Scripture teaches regarding end time events. **See** John 17:6; 14:8-9; Revelation 13:6.

Like Satan, **the Antichrist will be a persuasive deceiver**. He will preach love, compassion and other godly virtues whereas in

reality he will be filled with hate, deception and will oppose all that is righteous and holy. The unbelieving religious system will believe and accept his lies. He will be backed up by **the greatest** preacher/prophet and miracle worker that this world has ever seen or known. **This coming false prophet** will have unbelievable charisma far exceeding the most charismatic personality that has ever lived. **Antichrist and the false prophet will work hand-in-hand.** **See** - 2 Thessalonians chapter 2.

A FALSE THREE-SOME

There will be a false tri-unity [trinity] on earth during the Last Days. **This false three-some will consist of: Satan, the Antichrist and the false prophet.** The Antichrist and the false prophet will work closely together with Satan as the chief honcho. **Their ID will be 666** according to **Revelation 13:18**. Whether or not this number is **literal or figurative** is secondary. The number **6** in the Bible is symbolic of "**man**," whereas the number **7** speaks of perfection and completion in God.

THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST

The apostle John commented on an ever present **spirit of antichrist** on earth *before* the actual person of **Antichrist** reveals himself in the Last Days. This **spirit of antichrist** has been present since the days of the apostles. This spirit is alive and well in our day. **See** - 1 John 2:18-27; 4:3; 2 John 7.

INCREDIBLE POLITICAL POWER

Revelation 12 portrays the dragon [Satan] being cast from heaven. He will seek to destroy **the woman** who is **symbolic** of the **Church**. The dragon [Satan] will become angry because **the Child** [Jesus the Christ] of the woman, is caught-up into heaven *before* the devil is able to destroy Him. The devil will then spit his poisonous bile on this woman [the Church]. This will take the form of persecuting believers. **Satan has sought to destroy the believing Church** since its beginning. He continues to seek to destroy the **Bride of Christ**, i.e., *the believing Church*, even

¹ Eschatology is the doctrine of last things.

as he *continues* in his endeavors to **destroy Israel and the Jews**. His attempt takes many forms: persecution, heresy, compromise, indifference, lukewarmness, counterfeit *signs, wonders and miracles*, false prophets with their false prophecies, unbelieving theologians who pervert Scripture, apostasy, self-seeking leaders and **unconverted** church members. One of Satan's **most effective** means in seeking to destroy the Church has been the **growing indifference** among Christians to the necessity of holding *the tenets* of orthodox teaching, i.e., **sound doctrine**. **See - Jude 3-4; 1 Timothy 4; 2 Peter 2:1-3**. With each generation Satan, the master of deceit - the father of lies, tries new tactics. Today he is cleverly seeking to **undermine** sound teaching especially **biblical Christology**, i.e., *the doctrine of the Person (deity) of Christ*. He is also seeking to undermine the credibility of Scripture as God's inspired written Word. He is using unbelieving 'biblical scholars(?)' who question the validity of Scripture, cast doubt on the foundational tenets of the faith and bring increasing unbelief into churches. Many churches have *forsaken* orthodox belief by substituting a *false gospel* in lieu of the true Gospel of Christ. **See - Gal. 1:6-9**.

FACT OR FICTION?

With the popularity of the "*Left Behind*" series of books on the market many people wonder what is fact and what is not. Readers of this series of books must sift-out that which is in accord with biblical teaching and that which is fanciful thinking, the opinions and bias of the authors. As to **the sexual orientation of Antichrist**, we do not know whether he will be homosexual, bisexual or heterosexual. Some teachers use an obscure biblical passage claiming that he will be a homosexual. This is a poor hermeneutical approach.

Satan will *eventually* set in place **the**

Beast who will "*come out of the sea*." In Scripture the sea is **symbolic** of the Gentile nations. **See -** Isaiah 57:20 and Revelation 7. The nations of the world will accept him as the Christ. Humankind is looking for a strong and powerful leader who can unite the world. This coming world leader [Antichrist] will blaspheme against God and will seek to destroy the remaining believers. **See -** Revelation 17:3 compare with Revelation 13 and Daniel 7. He will usher in **the New World Order**. The world's political and religious leaders will acclaim him to be "*the Messiah!*"

In days ahead we can expect *increasing* pleas for a new world order, a single monetary system, increased military 'peace-keepers,' religious ecumenism, universal language and universal world peace. I believe that **the New Age Movement and the United Nations** may well be a formidable part of this. Christians need not fear. Jesus Christ will be final Victor! Until that time when these events come into full fruition let those of us who are believers in **the Christ of God** be about glorifying God.

We are indeed living in exciting days. With the establishment of Israel as a nation in May 1948 a number of **Last Day events** appear to be falling in place.

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