

WHO IS ANTICHRIST?

By

Curtis Dickinson

According to the popular dispensational form of Premillennialism, the antichrist is a person already alive who will become world dictator, bring peace to the Middle East, make a covenant with the Jews and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Then he will break the covenant which will trigger a great tribulation for some 3 ½ years with terror and suffering for all.

The Bible teaches none of the above! In fact the term *antikristos* (Greek) is found in only four verses in the entire Bible, and all of these are in two very short letters written by the Apostle John. It is common for many to link antichrist with the “beast” of Revelation 13 and with the “man of sin” of II Thessalonians 2:4, but this is an interpretation without Biblical authority. Consider what John actually says about antichrist.

1. “Little children, it is the last hour: and as you heard that antichrist comes, even now have there arisen many antichrist: whereby we know that it is the last hour” (I John 2:18). Antichrist is not one specific person identified as “the antichrist;” many antichrists had arisen in the first century, when John wrote this letter.

Note that according to John it was “the last hour.” Neither John nor any other apostle knew how long it would be until Christ returned, and it was not to be revealed (Matt. 24:36). But the time from the establishment of the New Covenant until His return was denoted as “the last hour.”

2. “Who is the liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Christ: This is the antichrist, even he that denies the Father and the Son” (I John 2:22)> When confronting the Jews who refused to believe Him, Jesus said, “You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father it is your will to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and stands not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own; for he is a liar, and the father thereof” (John 8:44). The apostle identifies antichrist as all who deny that Jesus is the Christ. Therefore, all atheists are antichrists, for they deny both the Father and the Son.

3. “And every spirit that confesses not Jesus is not of God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, whereof you have heard that it comes; and now it is in the world already” (I John 4:3).

There is a spirit of antichrist that has been in the world from the first century. Today it permeates the arts, the social sciences and the halls of education. A bumper sticker seen on a university campus reads: “I am a born-again pagan.” Television and movies demonstrate a spirit which is bitterly against Christ.

This is not new. The gospel was opposed from the beginning. Immediately after Stephen was stoned, a great persecution broke out against Christians, and from then into the second century the spirit of the Roman empire was antichrist. The bloody French revolution was led by antichrists, and the Bolsheviks distinguished themselves with their atrocities against everything Christian in Russia. There is nothing in scripture to indicate

that this spirit of antichrist will ever cease until Christ's return for judgment upon His enemies.

4. "For many deceivers are gone forth into the world, even they that confess not the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist" (II John 1:7). This is not a phenomenon to come but one already existing; antichrist does not refer to a single individual but to any and all who fit the description.

5. "They (antichrists of verse 18) 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 they all are not of us" (I John 2:19). Among these were the *Docetists*, who at first were in the church but later denied that Jesus actually became flesh; the *Gnostics*, who claimed to believe in Christ but denied His deity; numerous other sects who follow that their own self-styled messiahs, as well as the Roman hierarchy which denies the authority of Christ.

What then of the beast of Revelation, chapter 13? Hal Lindsey, in his book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, says that the beast of Revelation is "The Antichrist," but not once does he refer to John's description of antichrist. The beast of Revelation seems to refer to a political system, which is obviously antichrist, but not "The Antichrist."

Others have identified "the man of lawlessness" of II Thessalonians 2:3-4 as "The Antichrist." Without doubt he is antichrist, but John stated that many antichrist had arisen in his own time, therefore this "man of lawlessness" was not the one and only antichrist. Besides this, the description given by John does not exactly fit that given of the man of lawlessness.

From what John writes about antichrist, we may draw some conclusions:

1. We have been living in "the last hour" for the past 1900+ years.
2. Many antichrists have already come.
3. There are many antichrist, not just one individual.
4. Antichrists are those who deny Christ. This includes not only Jews, but a vast number of Gentiles who teach in the seminaries, edit newspapers and newscasts, occupy high place in government and education and, in fact, are found in all walks of life.
5. It is a clever strategy of Satan, the great deceiver, to have people looking for some super-evil world leader while they overlook the real antichrists who are permeating society all around us.

What a farce! Here are all the books and TV personalities captivating the minds of millions with sensational speculations about "The Antichrist" to come while blinding them to the many antichrists already at hand.

The fundamentalists who make much of a soon-coming antichrist are themselves campaigning for support for Israeli Zionism, the greatest antichrist movement in history.

Antichrist has nothing to do with the end of the world. If we could identify one person as "The Antichrist" and follow the scenario of the dispensationalists, then at that time we could pin-point the time of Christ's return by simple arithmetic. But Jesus clearly stated that we are not to know the time of His coming.

The scriptures are not written to instill fear of things to come. We certainly are not told to fear antichrist, but to fear God, to abide in Him, and trust Him for the future. Faith is not perfected by fear. "Perfect love casts out fear." Christians have always been opposed by antichrists. It was prophesied of Jesus that he would "rule in the midst of (His) enemies" (Psa. 110:2). He warned His disciples that they would be hated and

persecuted by the world (John 15:18–20). Millions of Christians have been persecuted and martyred in this century. Antichrists abound.

In spite of John’s warning about antichrist, he affirms that “He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world” (John 4:4).

“He that has the Son has **the life**; he that has not the Son of God has not **the life**” (I John 5:12).

“My little children, guard yourselves from idols” (John 5:21).

.....
Copyright © Curtis Dickinson. Formatted and Posted by Ken Fortier Ministries.
Permission is hereby granted by Mrs. Regina Dickinson to reproduce and distribute
Curtis’ articles to as many as possible. This statement is to remain attached to this article
for permission to be valid. Vol. XXVII, Number 3.
.....