

November 30, 2023

Finding Antichrist

Every American President in my lifetime has been declared to be the Antichrist by one group or another. Usually this is based on manipulation of numbers, letters, dates, or other similar theories. The same goes for every leader of the USSR or Russia, the United Nations, and of course the European Union. Finding “the Antichrist” is almost like finding the legendary American creature called “Bigfoot.” Someone is always seeing him, but does he truly exist?

Most people are surprised when we point out what the scripture actually says about “*antichrist*.” The Greek word translated as “*antichrist*” simply means “*an opponent of the Messiah*,” and it is used only five times in the Bible, and only by the Apostle John. John first introduces this word, saying, “*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.*” | John 2:18. Nineteen hundred years ago, the Apostle John declared “*even now are there many antichrists.*” He was not speaking of a single man, but was speaking of many “*opponents of Christ.*”

The next thing John tells us about “antichrist” is this: “*Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus*

is the Christ? **He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.**" I John 2:22. John understood that everyone who denied that Jesus is the Christ was an opponent of Christ, therefore they were "antichrists."

The apostle then tells us, "And every spirit that confesseth 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.**" I

John 4:3. While it is certainly true that anyone who denies that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Christ who came in human flesh does not know God, the confession of a "spirit" is different than the confession of a man. A man can speak one thing while his spirit confesses something opposite. If the "spirit" in a minister does not manifest that Christ has come into their flesh, that minister is not of God. They may speak great words, but if they walk in uncleanness and excess, the Apostle Paul said, "...they are the enemies of the cross of Christ." Philipians 3:18.

Finally, John reaffirms who "antichrist" is, saying, "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.**" II John 1:7. These "antichrists" were religious deceivers who were already in the world nineteen hundred years ago. They have been here ever since.

The following passage written by the Apostle Paul is often referenced as speaking of Antichrist.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling

away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.” II Thessalonians 2:3-8. Let's take a closer look at what this passage actually says.

“...except there come a falling away first” The Greek word translated “*falling away*” means “*a defection from truth.*” This was already happening while Paul was yet alive. He told the Galatians “*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.*” Galatians 1:6. The Book of Hebrews seems to have been written because so many Hebrew believers were “*falling away*” Hebrew 6:6 from the truth of Christ back to the Law of Moses. Paul told us, “*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.*” I Timothy 4:1-2.

“...and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...” The Greek word translated as “*man*”

speaks of *“a human being.”* It can be *“man”* or *“men.”* Remember, John told us *“...even now are there many antichrists.”*

“...he as God sitteth in the temple of God...”
Prophecy teachers tell us this will be fulfilled after the *“Temple of God”* is rebuilt in Jerusalem, but they simply ignore the fact that *“the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands...”* Acts 7:48, 17:24. The same apostle who told us this *“man of sin”* would sit in the *“temple of God”* told us multiple times, ***“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God...”*** I Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19, II Corinthians 6:16, Ephesians 2:21. There will never again be a building of wood or stone that God will accept as His temple. Even the New Jerusalem has *“no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.”* Revelation 21:22. This *“man of sin”* will be discovered sitting in *“the church”* basking in applause, praise, and worship, as though he was God.

“...the mystery of iniquity doth already work.”
Just as the Apostle John said, *“...even now are there many antichrists,”* Paul told us this *“mystery of iniquity”* about *“the man of sin”* was already working nineteen hundred years ago. False teachers had already come to Corinth, Galatia, Pergamos, and Thyatira. II Corinthians 11:3, Galatians 3:1, Revelation 2:14-15, Revelation 2:20. Jude said these false teachers who *“crept in”* were *“...ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness...”*
Jude 1:4.

“...only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.” The Greek word

translated “*letteth*” means “*to hold down.*” This is what the Apostles were doing. They were holding back the false teachers who were creeping into the church. Paul told the Ephesians, “***...after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock***” Acts 20:29. The Apostle Peter wrote that “***after my decease ...there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies...***” II Peter 1:15, 2:1. After the apostles passed off the scene the “*antichrists*” came in like a flood and led the church into the great “dark ages.” As men exalted themselves into the place of God, Popes, Cardinals, Bishops, and Priests became rulers over the people of God. The church, which is supposed to be God’s Temple, became a place for sinful, deceitful, and arrogant men to be exalted.

Many people who are expecting a world leader called “the Antichrist” to appear, go to church on Sunday and applaud men who have set themselves up in the “*temple of God,*” speaking “*fables*” and “*doctrines of devils.*” I Timothy 4:1. Few understand that they are seeing the “*man of sin*” in action. He promises everything your heart desires, he assures sinful people of entrance into Heaven’s glory, and he continually receives the tributes of “gold and silver” from the flock. As there were many antichrists nineteen centuries ago, certainly there are many more today.