

The Anti-Christ I John 2:18, 22

INTRO: What does the word anti-Christ mean? The prefix anti can be used either to mean “instead of” or “against.”

When we search the scripture for the word anti-Christ, we find it only in the epistles of John. We have already noted I John 2:18 and 22. The word anti-Christ is also found in I John 4:3 and in II John 7.

Doctrinal error is the emphasis of John’s epistles. The denial of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, God the Son is what John warns of.

The anti-Christ will set himself up as the world’s Messiah and will at the same time oppose all that is spiritual and godly. He is called “the man of sin” in II Thes. 2:3.

I. THE ANTI-CHRIST SYSTEM AT WORK TODAY

- A. II Thessalonians 2:7 tells us that the mystery of iniquity is already at work. It was at work in Paul’s day and is more so at work in our day. The word iniquity speaks of great wickedness, of despising, showing contempt for and violating God’s Holy Law.
- B. The spirit of anti-Christ permeates our society today. In I John 2:18, John distinguishes between the anti-Christ and the many “anti-Christ”s that he fought in his day, and we fight in ours. Note with me several events in recent years that point this out.
 - 1. Madelyn Murray O’Hara, the atheist, fought against prayer in school and won.
 - 2. Norma McCorvey was the unnamed plaintiff in Row vs Wade. There have been over 42 million babies aborted in the years that have followed.
 - 3. Dr. David Newdow is fighting to have the phrase “under God” stricken from our pledge of allegiance.
 - 4. Evolution is being taught as fact while creationism is scorned.
 - 5. The ACLU and the People for the American Way are fighting to legitimate homosexual marriage. This country is sick and needs healing.
 - 6. A book titled *Conversation with God* by Neale D. Walach is descriptive and anti-Christ. “For instance (and I paraphrase) when a girl ask the question, ‘Why am I a lesbian?’ His answer is that she was born that way because of genetics (just as you were bor right-handed,

with blue eyes, etc.). Then he tells her to go out and 'celebrate' her differences. . . . Another girl poses the question, 'I am living with my boyfriend. My parents say that I should marry him because I am living in sin. Should I marry him?' His reply is, 'Who are you sinning against? Not me, because you have done nothing wrong.'

II. WHEN WILL THE ANTI-CHRIST BE REVEALED?

- A. II Thessalonians 2:7-8 tells us that the anti-Christ will not be revealed until after the rapture of the saints of God. In verse seven, the scripture says: "...only he who now letteth will let, until he is taken out of the way..."
- B. The Greek word for "letteth" is *hatecho* meaning to detain, restrain, to hold back." The anti-Christ will not be revealed until the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way. This will happen when the believers are raptured.
- C. Daniel the prophet speaks of "the prince that shall come." This prince is the anti-Christ. The prince that shall come will be revealed "in the latter time of their kingdom (Daniel 8:23a). The anti-Christ will be revealed as all other leaders come under his rule. We find that this man will be empowered by Satan and will be his bidding (Dan 8:23-25).
- D. The anti-Christ could be alive today and possibly is, but he will not be revealed to the world until "the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore."

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANTI-CHRIST

- A. The Bible does not name the anti-Christ, but it does tell us a lot about him. One thing is certain, he will be as wicked as a man can be and will rule the world for a short time.
- B. Here are the characteristics of the anti-Christ as given in the Word of God.
 - 1. Daniel 7:25 tells us he shall "wear out the saints of God." The tribulation saints will come under great persecution.
 - 2. Daniel 8:25 says that he will oppose, "stand up against" Jesus Christ, "the Prince of peace."
 - 3. He will present a program of peace (Daniel 8:25). It will be a deceptive program.
 - 4. He will come out of Europe, out of a reconstituted Roman Empire (Dan 9:26). We have seen in our lifetime the

reunification of Germany and the European Union gain power and prominence.

5. The anti-Christ will make a covenant with Israel; he will break that covenant and persecute the Jews (Dan 9:27).
6. II Thessalonians 2:4 tells us that he will set himself up as God, pretending to be God, occupying the re-built Temple in Jerusalem.
7. II Thessalonians 2:9 says that he will do the will of Satan. Truly there are many anti-Christ today who are doing the will of Satan.
8. Because the ungodly will follow his lies (II Thes 2:9-10), God will send strong delusion so that they cannot be saved (II Thes 2:11).
9. Revelation 13:5-6 tells us that he will blaspheme God.
10. He will be the rock star of his day. All the world will worship him (Rev 13:8).
11. Revelation 13:13-14 says that he will be a miracle worker. He will set up his image that speaks (Rev 13:14-15).
12. He will be wounded to death and yet recover (Rev 13:14-15).
13. He will have no desire for women, possibly a homosexual (Dan 11:37).
14. He will cause all the unbelievers to receive a mark, the mark of the beast (Rev 13:16, 18).

CONCLUSION: We are without a doubt living in the last days. Are you saved? Have you trusted the crucified, buried, and risen Christ?

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