

“ANTI-CHRIST” A MAN OR AN ATTITUDE OF THE SPIRIT?

In the books of I & II John, we read of an antichrist. Most feel this is directed at one man, but is it really? Strong's number identifies it # 500-- antichristos (an-tee'-khris-tos); from 473 and 5547; an opponent of the Messiah. Thayer Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament says: Strong's # 500 "(Greek durl—Against and Xporos-like avriveos—opposing God."

In 1 John we read: "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" (I Jn 2:18,). In today's society, there are many anti-christs. We see the persecution of Christians around the world. This is the spirit of antichrist. The whole world is against Jesus, the Christ. The United States used to be seen as Christian Nation, but no longer.

This country and the world has turned into a nation of liars, just as the Apostle John, wrote, when warning God's chosen people "I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that **no lie is of the truth**. Who is a liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Christ. He is antichrist, that denies the Father and the Son. Whosoever denies the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledges the Son hath the Father also"(I Joh 2:21-23). There are **many religions and people who deny the Son of God, Jesus, the Christ**. Both Judaism and Islam do not believe Jesus is the Son of God.



We are cautioned to test the spirits to see if they are of God. John warns: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesses 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 Jn 4:1-3).

As followers of Jesus, the Christ, we must always follow God's Word and not just the traditions of man. "And this is love, that we walk after His commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. 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. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward" (2 Jn 1:6-8).

Jesus, the Christ warned the disciples in Matthew 24: "And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My Name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matt 24:4-5 And in verse 11, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many." Over the 6000 years of mankind, Satan has been deceiving us.

ANTICHRIST taken from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary says: "*A false prophet and evil being who will set himself up against Christ and the people of God in the last days before the SECOND COMING. The term is used only in the writings of John in the New Testament. It refers to one who stands in opposition to all that Jesus Christ represents <1 John 2:18,22; 4:3; 2John 7>. John wrote that several antichrists existed already. in his day false teachers who denied the deity and the incarnation of Christ-- but that the supreme Antichrist of history would appear at some future time.*

The Antichrist's primary work is deception, which also characterizes SATAN in his attempts to undermine the work of God in the world. Satan's deception began in the Garden of Eden <Genesis 3> and will continue until the end of time. The DRAGON (or serpent) of <Revelation 12> is Satan, the Serpent mentioned in <Genesis 3>. Thus the thread of Satan's deceptive work may be traced from Genesis through Revelation. That work reaches its climax in the Antichrist, who receives his authority and power from the dragon, Satan <Rev. 13:4>"

THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN! 📖

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