
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What does the Bible say about the "Antichrist"?**

The antichrist is a very popular fellow. Many people are talking about him.

The popular view is the antichrist is a single person – the ultimate archenemy of God and His people – who will appear near the end of world history. He will be viewed as the supreme ruler of the world. He will launch a "great tribulation" against God's people and at the end of a seven-year-reign of terror, the Lord will come again, destroy this antichrist, and set up an earthly kingdom which will last for a thousand years.

Our question, in this short study, is simply this: **Is any of this popular theory true?**

The Bible gives little if any support to this popular theory. Let me explain why I say this.

The word "antichrist" simply means "against Christ." This word appears only five times in the scriptures and those five appearances of the word occur in only four verses (one verse uses the word twice). Let's look at these four verses and see what the Bible actually has to say about the antichrist.

Passage #1

1 John 2:18

¹⁸ Little children, **it is the last hour**; and as you have heard that **the Antichrist** is coming, even now **many antichrists have come**, by which we know that it is the last hour.

Think about this amazing verse. John writes, "*it is the last hour*." The "*last hour*" had come when John was writing 2000 years ago. Isn't that amazing. People today often say, "*These are the end-times*," as if only recently the "last days" have begun. John, however said 2000 years ago, "*it is the last hour*."

The passage uses the word antichrist twice. It begins, "*you have heard that the Antichrist is coming.*" There is no definite article in the original Greek. Literally the passage says, "*you have heard that an antichrist is coming.*"

Furthermore, this passage says, "*many antichrists have come.*"

- There is not just one antichrist, but many.
- They had already arrived in the days of John.
- There will be more throughout history.

This passage is not describing a single individual person at the end of world history.

Passage #2

1 John 2:22

²² Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? **He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.**

There is a definite article in the original Greek. Literally the passage is saying, "*He is the antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.*"

Q: Who is the "antichrist"?

A: He is anyone who "*denies the Father and the Son.*"

Think of: Atheists, Muslims, Jews who reject Jesus as the Messiah, Oneness Pentecostals, and Jehovah's Witnesses. All of these groups deny either the deity of the Father, the Son, or both.

Passage #3

1 John 4:3

³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And **this is the spirit of the Antichrist**, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

There is a definite article in the original Greek. This passage is translated accurately in the NKJV, "*this is the spirit of the antichrist.*"

The antichrist denies Jesus is God and that He came into the flesh as a man.

Think: Atheist, Muslims, and Jews who reject Jesus as the Messiah. These people deny Jesus is deity and, that as God, Jesus came in the flesh.

Notice also this passage clearly states, "*the antichrist ... is now already in the world.*" This is not a single individual person appearing near the end of world history.

Passage #4

2 John 1:7

⁷ For **many deceivers** have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. **This is a deceiver and an antichrist.**

There is a definite article in the original Greek. Literally the passage says, "*This is a deceiver and the antichrist.*"

The antichrist is any and every person who deceives others into thinking that Jesus Christ did not come as God in the flesh.

Summary

These are the four passages which speak of the "*antichrist*." None of them teach the antichrist is a single individual who is the archenemy of God's people at the end of world history.

The Antichrist is anyone opposing Christ and His people – it's just that simple.

"The antichrist" or "an antichrist" is:

- All atheists
- All Muslims
- All Jews who reject Jesus as the Messiah.
- All Jehovah's Witnesses
- All Oneness Pentecostals
- All Mormons who deny the only and only trinity of the scriptures.
- All denominational organizations competing against the Lord's one church established in the scriptures.
- All unity movements which attempt to unite manmade denominations with the Lord's church.
- All religious leaders (like the Roman Catholic Pope) who deny the Lord Jesus is the only Savior and head of the church.
- All atheistic-communist and humanistic governments who oppose the Lord.
- In the days of the apostle John, the Roman government was antichrist.

Remember, 1 Jn 2:18 teaches there are "*many antichrists*" who have already come into the world. It is a serious and sinful thing to oppose Christ and His body – the church (Col 1:18).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for considering our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.