

The Antichrist

GodsLawToday.com

There is *much* talk in the world—*especially* in the Protestant world—about “The Antichrist.” WHO... or WHAT... is “The Antichrist? Today, let’s briefly *examine* that issue.

There are only *four* scriptures in the entire Bible, where the word antichrist is used! And, **all** four are in the *epistles* of John. *Three of those four* scriptures are in the book of I John... and the *fourth* scripture is in the book of II John.

First of all... *what* does the term “antichrist” *refer* to? Basically, it means “*against* Christ... *against* Messiah.” And, “...in its true **biblical** sense, antichrist has a **wide** application. It can refer to **persons** and **powers**, **attitudes** and **behaviors**.”¹

In one of John’s four scriptures referring to “antichrist,” John speaks of “that **spirit of** antichrist” (I John 4:3). “The spirit of antichrist [the spirit of being ‘against Christ’] is found in individuals, in institutions, in religions, in societies and in governments. In fact, there has been **little** in this world over the past 19 centuries since the days of Jesus that has **not** fallen within the broad spirit of antichrist! Little wonder, for the Bible reveals that Satan is yet ‘the god of this world’ (II Corinthians 4:4). The world is [currently] under Satan’s rule, not God’s government.”¹

If you were to *read* those four scriptures referring to antichrist, you would discover some things **contrary** to popular belief. Let’s now consider one of those four scriptures: “Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming...” I John 2:18, *NKJV*).

Some years ago, a movie aired on television, where the above scripture appeared on the television screen, as an *introduction* to the movie. The movie went on to portray, what is apparently a very popularly accepted belief, concerning antichrist. You might call it, “the Rosemary’s Baby theme”... where (in *another* movie, entitled *Rosemary’s Baby*), a human woman is unwittingly impregnated by Satan, and then gives birth **to Satan’s child**.

However... is *that* what John is teaching here, in *this* scripture? Well, notice a few things about this scripture. Let’s re-read this scripture... but this time we’ll read the **entire** scripture:

“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” (I John 2:18, *NKJV*).

There, we see two *striking* facts : (1) John spoke of **many** antichrists (*not* just one); (2) John said, “even **now** [i.e., **during John’s day**] many antichrists **have come**.”

For *further* proof that antichrists had come even **during** John’s day, let’s quickly look at two

of the *other* three scriptures which refer to antichrist:

“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**” (II John 7, *NKJV*).

“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, *KJV*).

Yes, in *both* of the scriptures above (just *as* in the *first* scripture we looked at), John plainly says that antichrist was already *in* the world, **during John’s** day!

Before proceeding, notice one additional point regarding the *first* scripture we looked at — I John 2:18. That scripture says, “you have heard that **The** Antichrist is coming.” Consider, however, that the word “**The**” is *not* in the *KJV*. The *KJV* says, “ye have heard that antichrist shall come.”

In fact... in **none** of the four scriptures referring to “antichrist,” does the *KJV* **ever** use the term “**The** Antichrist”! (In contrast, the *NKJV* *does* twice use the term “**The** antichrist.” Yet, in one of those two usages, there’s a *footnote*, which states that the word “the” is *not* found in certain manuscripts.)

A Future, End-Time Antichrist?

What about this issue of an “*end-time*” antichrist? Well, scripture *does* indicate that there will be *increased* “spirit of antichrist *activity*,” during the end-time. However—as we have seen—it is **not** true that for 2,000 years there is **no** antichrist... and **then**, a single figure arises in the end-time, who is “**The** antichrist.” That is **not** the case! (Nor is it true that a woman will ever conceive a child by Satan!)

What about, “end time” humans who are prophesied to be *greatly influenced and empowered* by Satan the devil? The book of Revelation *does* speak of **two particular** such individuals: “the beast” and “the false prophet.” **Both** of those individuals will certainly be **filled** with the “spirit of antichrist”!

Now... if you *had* to refer to one of those two individuals as “**THE end-time antichrist**,” then that *title* would have to go to “**the false prophet**.” **However...** note that even “the **beast**” *himself* is going to be **worshipped** by the whole world! “**All who dwell on the earth will worship** him [speaking of the beast]” (Rev.13:8; *cf.* verse 4).

As for this coming, end-time “false prophet,” he will indeed be an exceptionally **powerful** antichrist (Rev.13:13-14; II Thess. 2: 9-10, 4).

Pastor Herbert W. Armstrong virtually **always** referred to these two end-time individuals as “the beast” and “**the false prophet**.” And... *after all...* that’s the **way** they are referred to *in*

the book of **Revelation!** The term “antichrist” is **not in** the book of **Revelation!** (The three scriptures in the book of Revelation containing the phrase “the false prophet” are as follows: Rev.16:13; 19:20; 20:10.)

Conclusion

In conclusion... let’s remember: The term “antichrist,” can refer to “persons,” or “powers,” or “attitudes” or “behaviors.” Let’s also remember that John said “even now [during John’s day] **many** antichrists **have** come.”

Note: The *fourth* scripture (not mentioned in this article) containing the word “antichrist” is I John 2:22.

For more information on this subject, read the following booklet by The Living Church of God:
[Who or What Is the Antichrist?](#)

References:

1. Keith Stump, “Just What Do You Mean... ‘Antichrist?’” *The Plain Truth* magazine, Sept. 1981.