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. <u>This is</u> a deceiver and <u>an antichrist</u>" (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 <u>now already</u>** 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"!

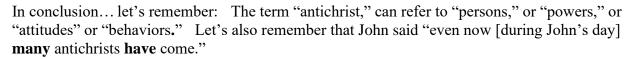
Now... if you *had* to refer to one of those two individuals as "**THE end-time antichrist**," then that *title* would have to go to "**the false prophet.**" **However**... note that even "the **beast**" *himself* is going to be **worshipped** by the whole world! "<u>All</u> who dwell on the earth will 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



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.