I. Key Word—Antichrist

1 John 2:18–22—“Last time” had already begun then. A “day” with God may be 1,000 years (2 Peter 3:8). One distinctive feature of “last time” is “many antichrists.”

A. Definition of Antichrist
1. Anti—
   a. Against
   b. In place of

2. *Christos* = Anointed—corresponds to Hebrew *Mashiach* = Messiah

B. Twofold operation of Antichrist
1. Get rid of Christ Jesus
2. Replace true Christ with false christ.

C. Three forms of Antichrist
1. Antichrist (singular)—title of a specific person
2. Many antichrists (plural)—a series of historical personages.
3. Spirit of Antichrist—operates in the world (1 John 4:2, 3)—motivates all antichrists

D. Four distinctive marks of Antichrist
1. Begins in association with the church (1 John 2:19)
2. Denies that Jesus is the Messiah (1 John 2:22)
3. Denies the Father and the Son (1 John 2:22)
4. Denies that Messiah has come (1 John 4:3)
5. This means that the work of antichrist must follow the presentation of the gospel.
6. 2 Thessalonians 2:3–8—The way can be opened for antichrist only by apostasy in the church, i.e., deliberate turning away from revealed truth.

E. Three other titles of the Antichrist
1. Man of Lawlessness or Rebellion (2 Thess. 2:3)
2. Son of Perdition (2 Thess. 2:3) compare John 17:12
3. Beast (Wild Beast)—fierce and cruel (Rev. 13:1–4)

F. History reveals many Antichrists
1. Over forty from among the Jews
2. Mohammed
3. Hitler
4. Mau Mau

G. Motivation
1. Supreme motivation of antichrist is rebellion—derived from Satan himself.
2. Isaiah 14:12ff Five statements beginning with “I will”
   a. Contrast Jesus’ attitude (Phil. 2:5ff)
   b. Lucifer—not equal with God—reached, slipped, fell
   c. Jesus—equal with God—renounced His position and humbled Himself—therefore exalted
   d. This is the true “spirit of Christ” which must motivate us.
H. Ambition
1. Satan has one supreme ambition—to receive worship.
2. *Matthew 4:8–10*—The final temptation: to gain political power at the cost of worshiping Satan. The true Christ refused—the false Christ will agree (Rev. 13:4).

I. Tool
1. Satan’s main tool is *deception*—through a philosophy which makes man supreme (“secular humanism”)
2. *Zechariah 9:13*—The philosophy derived from Greece. Greece is the source of all western philosophy—its theme: “man is the measure of all things.”
3. On the other hand, the Bible sets a standard apart from man. Hebrew thought starts from “In the beginning God . . .”

J. Characteristic
1. The work of Antichrist has one main characteristic: Counterfeit.
2. Two forms of counterfeit:
   a. Counterfeit Trinity (Rev. 16:13)
      (1) Dragon (Satan)—corresponds to the Father.
      (2) Wild Beast (Antichrist)—corresponds to the Son.
      (3) False Prophet (Religious Teacher)—corresponds to the Holy Spirit—promotes worship of the Beast’s image (Rev. 13:11–15)
   b. Counterfeit church—expression of female rebellion
      (1) *Zechariah 5:5ff*—Unseen force at work in world: rebellion
      (2) Here specifically female. Will have its own temple—is associated with Babylon, source of all religious corruption.
      (3) Also presented as “Bride” of Antichrist (Rev. 17:1–6)—a religious harlot—cruel enemy of all true followers of Jesus. Typically, antichrist first uses her, then destroys her (Rev. 17:16).

K. The Only Safeguard
1. Our only safeguard against deception is to receive the love of the truth (2 Thess. 2:7).
2. Otherwise, God will send delusion on those who have refused the truth.

L. Final Warning
We must heed God’s warnings and exhortations to us through obedience of there may come a day when God will no longer allow us to hear the truth.

© 1979 — Derek Prince Ministries–International