

Spirit of Antichrist

By Melanie Stone

The Antichrist is someone you may have heard of, but what about the spirit of antichrist? What is it? Why do we need to know?

Defining Antichrist

The word for antichrist means “an adversary or opponent of the Messiah.” It comes from two words. Anti means “against, instead of, to replace.” Christo means “anointed,” and it refers to the Messiah.

There are three uses of the word for antichrist:

1. The Son of Perdition

End-time Bible prophecy describes a coming world leader who will rise up and dominate the nation of Israel. He is described as the Antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition”

(I encourage you to read this text in context, verses 1-12. For a list of scriptures on the Antichrist, the world leader, we have a list on our website on growchurches.com)

2. Former leaders who have tried to oppose or replace the Messiah

John refers to many antichrists that already had come in his day, these are leaders that have opposed Christ during the early church years. These are leaders who are adversaries of Christ, not the coming Son of Perdition.

1 John 2:18-23

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. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

I find it interesting that a well-known verse about the Holy Spirit being referred to as the Anointing is in this context. The Messiah, the Anointed One, has poured the Holy Spirit,

the Anointing, into our hearts. This Holy Spirit, the same spirit that anoints Christ, lives in us, so we can know Christ. We are sealed, marked, known as Christ's because we have the Holy Spirit (see Ephesians 1:13).

So we see there are world leaders past, present, and future who are anti-christ, leaders who oppose Jesus as the Savior of the world. Many religious and world leaders have been and are against Christ and Christians.

3. The inclination or tendency to oppose Christ, Jews, and Christians

In 1 John 4:1-6, we read about testing spirits, whether they are of God or not. In verse 3, the word "spirit" in the phrase "spirit of antichrist" is not literally in the original text. It was added in context of testing spirits.

The Greek word for spirit in the surrounding verses is pneuma, and it is used in the Bible to refer to the Holy Spirit or the spirit of God, the human spirit or heart, demons, and angels. It can also refer to what comes from either God or Satan, an inclination or tendency that comes from the nature of God or Satan, a reborn nature or unborn nature of mankind. It is a disposition or condition of the nature of our spirit. It is was governs our nature, saved or unsaved. It is the spiritual source behind and motivating our affections, emotions, desires, thoughts, character, and behaviors.

For example, in 1 Corinthians 4:21, Paul mentions a spirit of gentleness, that is, the quality of gentleness that comes from the nature of God or the nature of the recreated spirit of the Spirit-filled and Spirit-led, yielded Christian.

1 John 4:1-6

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 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.

4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

We are in a spiritual battle

Not to be spooky or strange, but to take the Bible at its word, we know we are in a spiritual war. God is a spirit being. We are spirit beings. We have a spiritual enemy, Satan. We have angels and demons around us. The Holy Spirit lives in us and works through us. And there is a conflict between God and Satan. It isn't a fairytale. It isn't an illustration. It is a spiritual reality.

To understand the mysteries of the spirit realm, we must rely heavily on the Holy Spirit to reveal them to us. The naturally minded person will usually not perceive it. They only understand what they can perceive through natural intellect and their five senses. The carnal minded person will

usually not perceive it because they are stuck in the mire of sinful desire. To have insight and understanding of spiritual matters, we must go to God for revelation knowledge, spiritual understanding that the Holy Spirit uncovers to those seeking God from surrendered humility.

What we need to know about this spirit of antichrist:

- Like it or not, we are in a spiritual battle.
- The spirit of antichrist is at work now through world leaders who are opposing Jesus, Jews, and Christians.
- There is spiritual tendency for people to come against Christianity, Judaism, and Christ.
- There is a man, the Antichrist, who will rise over world powers.
- God has a timing to allow world governments to culminate in conflict.

What we need to know about Christ:

- He gave His life to bring redemption to a dying world, not only to redeem us from sin and death, but establish His kingdom in the hearts of the redeemed. No other religious or civil leader qualified as sinless, paying the debt of sin, and rising again. He is the only way, the only truth, and the only life to have a covenant with God.
- Even though God is allowing the sin of the world to culminate, Jesus is Lord. He has no equal. He has no rival. When it comes time to defeat the nations, the battle will won quickly and with the authority of Christ's words.
- Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess, that Jesus is the one and only Lord.
- He will rule His kingdom on earth, from God's city, Jerusalem for 1,000 years, a fulfillment of the seventh set of seven units of 1,000 years since creation.
- After the millennium, those who are His, will live with Him forever and ever.

If you have not surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, you can do that now by going to God in prayer. God loves you. God made you. God sent His Son Jesus so you could be reconciled with Him. Here's what you need to do: give up your life and confess your self-sufficiency and sin. Position yourself as surrendered to Jesus and your lord and savior. Receive the free gift of eternal life. Welcome to the family!