

## Evil Forces at the End Time 7006

### 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.