

Doctrine of Anti-Christ

Part 1

The Scriptures

1. The biblical doctrine of Anti-Christ is found in the epistles of John, for the word only appears in the writings of this apostle.
2. Four verses set forth the biblical teaching. Anti-Christ is:
 - Antichrist is someone who denies that Jesus is the Christ. *1 John 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*
 - Antichrist is someone who denies the Father and the Son. *1 John 2:23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*
 - Antichrist is every spirit that does not confess Jesus. *1 John 4:3 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.*
 - Antichrist is a reference to all those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the Anti-Christ. *2 John 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*
3. Antichrist was a clear and present danger to John and to the early church.
4. What John describes as Anti-Christ is far different from the modern day concept illustrated by the fortune telling of Jean Dixon. On February 5, 1962, Mrs. Dixon claimed to have received a vision about a coming world religious and political leader.

"A child, born somewhere in the Middle East shortly before 7 A.M. (EST) on February 5, 1962, will revolutionize the world. Before the close of the century, he will bring together all mankind in one all embracing faith. This will be the foundation of a new Christianity, with every sect and creed united through this man who will walk among the people to spread the wisdom of the Almighty Power."
5. To add to the confusion, some students of prophecy have combined the characteristics of several personages in Scripture.
 - Antichrist is Daniel's "*prince who is to come*" predicted in Daniel 9:26; 7:7-8, 19-26; 8:23-25.

- Antichrist is the abomination of desolation spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24:15; Daniel 9:27.
- Antichrist is Paul's Man of Lawlessness in 2 Thessalonians 2:3.
- Antichrist is John's doctrine personified in 1 John 2:18-22; 4:3; 2 John 7.
- Antichrist is the "Beast" of Revelation 13:11-18.

The System A Popular Theory Concerning Antichrist

6. According to one popular theory, Anti-Christ will have the personality of a John F. Kennedy, the eloquence of a Winston Churchill, the raw crowd appeal of an Adolf Hitler, and the cunning wisdom of a Franklin Roosevelt.
 - Eloquence. *Revelation 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.*
 - Charisma. *Daniel 7:20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.*
 - A Forceful Personality. *Daniel 8:23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.*
 - Cunningness. *Daniel 8:25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.*
7. According to the popular theory Anti-Christ will come to prominence as part of a ten-nation confederation within the boundaries of the old Roman Empire.
8. The European Common Market has become a favorite subject of discussion for those longing to see a revived Roman Empire.
9. It is taught, without any foundation except speculation, that the coming Anti-Christ will gain control through force the nations of Europe, defeating at least three nations on the field of battle.
10. The Antichrist will talk of peace, which will attract an apostate Christianity. Anti-Christ will then make a seven-year covenant with the Jews to protect their land and their security.
 - *Daniel 8:25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.*

- *1 Thessalonians 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.*
11. However, in the midst of the covenant period, Anti-Christ will break his word and turn hostile to the Jews. He will make war with Israel, and defeat the nation.
- *Revelation 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*
 - *Daniel 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them.*
12. Fortunately, the rule of Anti-Christ is scheduled to last only three and one half years. Still, two thirds of the Jews living in Palestine during this period will be killed.
- *Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.*
 - *Zechariah 13:8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. 9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God.*
13. Since he hates God, the Anti-Christ will blaspheme God and His tabernacle.
- *Revelation 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.*
14. As a counterfeit Christ, the resurrection of Jesus will be attempted to be duplicated by the Anti-Christ who is to receive a mortal head wound. In November, 1963, John F. Kennedy became a prime suspect for Anti-Christ. At least for a few days.
15. Anti-Christ is to set himself up as God in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem.
- *2 Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*
16. The False Prophet who is also to appear, will erect an image of the Anti-Christ which will live and speak.

- *Revelation 13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. 15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.*

17. The world will be made to wear on their foreheads or on their hands, a dreaded sign of the Anti-Christ, six hundred and sixty six.

Self-Fulfillment of A Fantastic Theory

18. In order for such a fantastic theory as this to have become popular several things had to happen, and they did.

- First, a wonderful messianic prophecy in Daniel 9 concerning the Lord had to be reinterpreted so that the Prince who should come is not Christ, as the Church has taught for 2000 years, but the Anti-Christ!
- Second, the entire historical context of Daniel, Matthew, and Revelation had to be ignored.
- Finally, the time frame established by John for his vision had to be set aside.

Special Note.

In reality, John informed his readers no less than ten times when the events he wrote about in Revelation were to be fulfilled.

◆ The events " <i>must shortly take place</i> "	Revelation 1:1
◆ " <i>For the time is near</i> "	Revelation 1:3
◆ " <i>I am coming to you quickly</i> "	Revelation 2:16
◆ " <i>I am coming quickly</i> "	Rev 3:11
◆ " <i>The third woe is coming quickly</i> "	Revelation 11:4
◆ " <i>The things which must shortly take place</i> "	Revelation 22:6
◆ " <i>Behold, I am coming quickly</i> "	Revelation 22:7
◆ " <i>Yes, I am coming quickly</i> "	Revelation 22:20
◆ " <i>For the time is near</i> "	Revelation 22:10
◆ " <i>Behold, I am coming quickly</i> "	Revelation 22:12

19. Based upon this scriptural language, it is not reasonable to believe that the biblical passages anticipated 2000 years in the future, before the fulfillment of the events of John's prophecy of the *Revelation*.