

ANTICHRIST: PAST, PRESENT, OR FUTURE?

I. What Does the Word Mean?

It could mean (1) one who stands in the place of Christ; i.e., a false Christ, or (2) one who is opposed to Christ; i.e., an opponent of Christ. But since the Bible uses a different word for false Christs (Matt. 24:24), the word antichrist must mean an opponent of Christ.

II. Antichrists in the Past

There were many antichrists in the apostle John's time (1 John 2:28 and 2 John 7).

III. Antichrists in the Present

Antichrists deny the deity of Christ and the reality of the incarnation (1 John 2:21-23 and 1 John 4:2-3); so anyone who does this today is an opponent of Christ. Such people are energized by demonic spirits (1 John 4:3).

IV. The Antichrist of the Future

A. His various names and titles

1. Horn (Daniel 7:20-26).
2. The Prince who is to come (Daniel 9:26-27)
3. The King who does as he pleases (Daniel 11:36)
4. The abomination of desolation (Daniel 12:11 and Matthew 24:15)
5. Man of lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
6. Son of perdition (2 Thessalonians 2:3; compare John 17:12)
7. A god (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
8. The lawless one (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
9. The beast out of the abyss (Revelation 11:7; 17:8, 12, 16)
10. The beast out of the sea (Revelation 13:1; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10)
11. The first beast (Revelation 13:12)

B. His Manifesto

1. Protect Israel! (Daniel 9:27—beginning of tribulation)
2. Worship Me! (Matthew 24:15—middle of tribulation)
3. Conquer the World! (Revelation 17:14—last half of tribulation)

C. His Lieutenant, the False Prophet (Revelation 13:1-18)

1. The miracles he performs (vv. 13-14)
2. The Image he makes (v. 15)
3. The Mark he imposes (vv. 16-18)