

There is value in studying the Antichrist

Knowing every spiritual theory and attribute about the Antichrist while barely knowing Christ would miss the entire point

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27 NKJV

The Antichrist will imitate Christ in order to **receive what belongs to Christ**

This morning we don't want to spend too much time trying to identify the Antichrist that we fail to recognize the beauty, authority, and sufficiency of Jesus Christ today

The Antichrist is not merely a political ruler

Biblically, he is a final world leader energized by satan, **opposed** to Christ, **exalted** by the world, **hostile** toward God's people, and ultimately destroyed by Jesus Christ at His return

The Bible does not give us his personal name; it does give us his profile

Our goal today is not to speculate about who he is, but to understand what **Scripture says he will be like in the future**

The Bible uses several titles for the antichrist. The word antichrist appears primarily in **John's** letters

John writes: **Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come 1 John 2:18 NKJV**

This verse gives us two ideas: **First**, there is a coming individual called the Antichrist. **Second**, an antichrist spirit is already at work in the world

What is the spirit of the Antichrist? **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. 1 John 4:3 NKJV**

Any teaching or influence **that denies the true identity, incarnation, and divinity of Jesus Christ**

So, biblically, the Antichrist is both a **future individual** and a **spirit that opposes Christ**

Other passages use **different titles** for this end-times deceiver

The little horn **Daniel 7:8**, the prince who is to come **Daniel 9:26**, the king who exalts himself **Daniel 11:36**, the man of sin **2 Thessalonians 2:3**, the son of perdition **2 Thessalonians 2:3**, the lawless one **2 Thessalonians 2:8**, the beast **Revelation 13:1**

These titles emphasize different aspects of his character and mission

What does the word antichrist mean? The word “antichrist” does not mean “the opposite of Christ”. The word “anti” in Greek means “in the place of”

The antichrist does not merely oppose Jesus. **He attempts to replace Him**

That is the essence of his deception. He offers humanity: a counterfeit savior, kingdom, peace, resurrection, and counterfeit worship

He will initially appear to be a Man of Peace

Daniel 9 gives one of the most important prophetic passages concerning this ruler

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week... Daniel 9:27 NKJV

Many scholars understand this to describe that **seven-year covenant connected with Israel**

The antichrist initially appears to be a **covenant-maker, a negotiator, a peace broker, a stabilizer**

He is a leader who **emerges from Crisis**. Imagine a nation or group of nations **facing**: war, financial collapse, fear, division, terrorism, and social instability, faith-based instability

Then someone appears who seems unusually capable of resolving it all, if not many, of the issues we continually read and hear about daily

He speaks confidently; he promises order; he promises peace; he promises solutions

People will give him enormous authority because they believe he can rescue them

But halfway through the agreement, everything changes

But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering... Daniel 9:27 NKJV

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 2 Thessalonians 2:3 NKJV

who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God 2 Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV

Grace: people often trade freedom for security when they become frightened enough

That principle **operates not only politically but personally**; why? **Fear makes people vulnerable**

When we are frightened, we may follow voices we normally would never follow; when we are lonely, we may enter relationships we normally would never enter

When we are financially desperate, we may compromise convictions we normally would never compromise

When we are **spiritually afraid**, we will believe any teaching we normally would have recognized as false, perhaps something much more comfortable (culture)

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers 2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV

and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV

In the context of this study, fear makes leadership attractive

The **world described** in the book of **Revelation** will be **experiencing enormous upheaval**

Into that chaos comes a powerful leader promising answers

Questions: What decisions am I currently making because of fear rather than faith?

The man who appeared to bring peace reveals his true nature

The antichrist's rise begins with diplomacy but ends in domination

Connection for today: we should never assume that every peaceful-looking solution is a righteous one. Peace without truth can simply postpone conflict. That is why **spiritual discernment matters**

For when they say, Peace and safety! then sudden destruction comes upon them 1 Thessalonians 5:3 NKJV

He will be exceptionally **charismatic** and **persuasive**

Daniel repeatedly emphasizes the antichrist's speech. He had eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words Daniel 7:8 NKJV

And he shall speak pompous words against the Most High. Daniel 7:25 NKJV

Daniel 11 describes him as one who uses intrigue. He shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by **intrigue** Daniel 11:21 NKJV

This antichrist will not merely conquer through military force; he will persuade, flatter, negotiate, and manipulate to inspire confidence in the people who are afraid

Charisma is not character, confidence is not truth, popularity is not righteousness. A person can be impressive and still be spiritually dangerous

Jesus warned: For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive Matthew 24:24 NKJV

He will receive his power from satan

Revelation 13 removes any doubt about the spiritual source behind the antichrist

Revelation 12 identifies the dragon, The great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan. Revelation 12:9 NKJV

The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority Revelation 13:2 NKJV

So the antichrist is not simply a brilliant politician; he is satanically empowered

Paul says the same thing. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 NKJV

True Christians must learn to see the spiritual dimension behind visible events

This is **extremely important**. satan frequently works through human structures, personalities, philosophies, and institutions. Paul reminds believers: We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places Ephesians 6:12 NKJV

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand Ephesians 6:13 NKJV

Understanding who he is and how he works changes the way Christians view people today. Our enemy is ultimately not democrats, republicans, liberals, conservatives, government officials, neighbors, coworkers, or family members

The deeper battle is spiritual. This means Christians can **confront deception** without becoming hateful; we can **stand for truth** without becoming cruel; and we **can resist evil** without forgetting that the person in front of us is someone Christ died to save

The best defense against counterfeit Christianity is not studying every counterfeit person; it is **knowing Jesus** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27 NKJV

Know His Word, know His character, know His voice

Guard your allegiance: The antichrist eventually demands worship. **The battle for worship began long before Revelation 13** — Isaiah 14:13 says For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God Isaiah 14:13a NKJV

Do not fear; Revelation does not end with the **beast**; it ends with Jesus

The **beast** has authority for a season; Christ reigns forever

The **beast** speaks great words; Christ speaks and destroys him

The **beast** receives temporary worship; Jesus receives eternal worship

Closing Challenge for Grace

The greatest danger is not that someday the world will recognize the antichrist too late

The greater danger is that people can become so unfamiliar with **the real Christ that the counterfeit looks convincing**

For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24 NKJV

See, I have told you beforehand. Matthew 24:25 NKJV

So perhaps the most important question is not: Who is the antichrist?

The better question is: Do I know Jesus well enough to **recognize anyone who tries to take His place?**

The antichrist will offer the world a counterfeit savior, but Jesus Christ remains the true King, the true Savior, and the only One worthy of worship.

Christ will speak and destroy the antichrist

The antichrist appears extraordinarily powerful. **But notice how his story ends**

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:8 NKJV

There is no epic struggle between equals, Jesus does not barely defeat him.

Christ appears. The Antichrist falls. **God is Fighting For Us!**

A Side-by-Side Comparison

Christ: Comes from heaven — John 3:13; John 6:38; 1 Corinthians 15:47

Antichrist: Rises from the world system — Daniel 7:7–8, 24; Revelation 13:1; Revelation 17:15

Christ: Receives authority from the Father — Matthew 28:18; John 5:26–27; John 17:2

Antichrist: Receives authority from Satan — Revelation 13:2, 4; 2 Thessalonians 2:9

Christ: Is truth — John 14:6; John 1:14, 17

Antichrist: Deceives — 2 Thessalonians 2:9–10; Revelation 13:13–14; 1 John 2:18, 22

Christ: Humbles Himself — Philippians 2:5–8; Matthew 11:29

Antichrist: Exalts himself — Daniel 7:8, 25; Daniel 11:36; 2 Thessalonians 2:4

Christ: Serves — Mark 10:45; John 13:3–5; Philippians 2:7

Antichrist: Dominates — Daniel 7:24–25; Revelation 13:5–7

Christ: Gives life — John 10:10; John 11:25; John 14:6

Antichrist: Brings death — Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:7, 15; Revelation 20:4

Christ: Truly rose from the dead — Matthew 28:5–6; Luke 24:5–7; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4

Antichrist: Presents a counterfeit recovery — Revelation 13:3, 12, 14

Christ: Performs signs revealing God — John 5:36; John 10:37–38; John 20:30–31

Antichrist: Uses signs to deceive — 2 Thessalonians 2:9–10; Revelation 13:13–14

Christ: Deserves worship — Matthew 14:33; Luke 24:52; Revelation 5:11–14

Antichrist: Demands worship — Revelation 13:4, 8, 12, 15

Christ: Glorifies God's name — John 12:27–28; John 17:4–6, 26

Antichrist: Blasphemes God's name — Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5–6

Christ: Has a Bride — 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25–27, 31–32; Revelation 19:7–9

Antichrist: Is connected with counterfeit religion — Revelation 13:11–15; Revelation 17:1–6;
Revelation 19:20

Christ: Seals His servants — Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30; Revelation 7:3–4; Revelation 14:1

Antichrist: Marks his followers — Revelation 13:16–18; Revelation 14:9–11

Christ: Rules forever — Luke 1:32–33; Daniel 7:13–14; Revelation 11:15

Antichrist: Rules temporarily — Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:5

Christ: Is King of kings — 1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; Revelation 19:16

Antichrist: Is destroyed by the King of kings — 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 17:14; Revelation
19:19–20