

St. Matthew A.M.E. Church
336 Oakwood Avenue
Orange, NJ

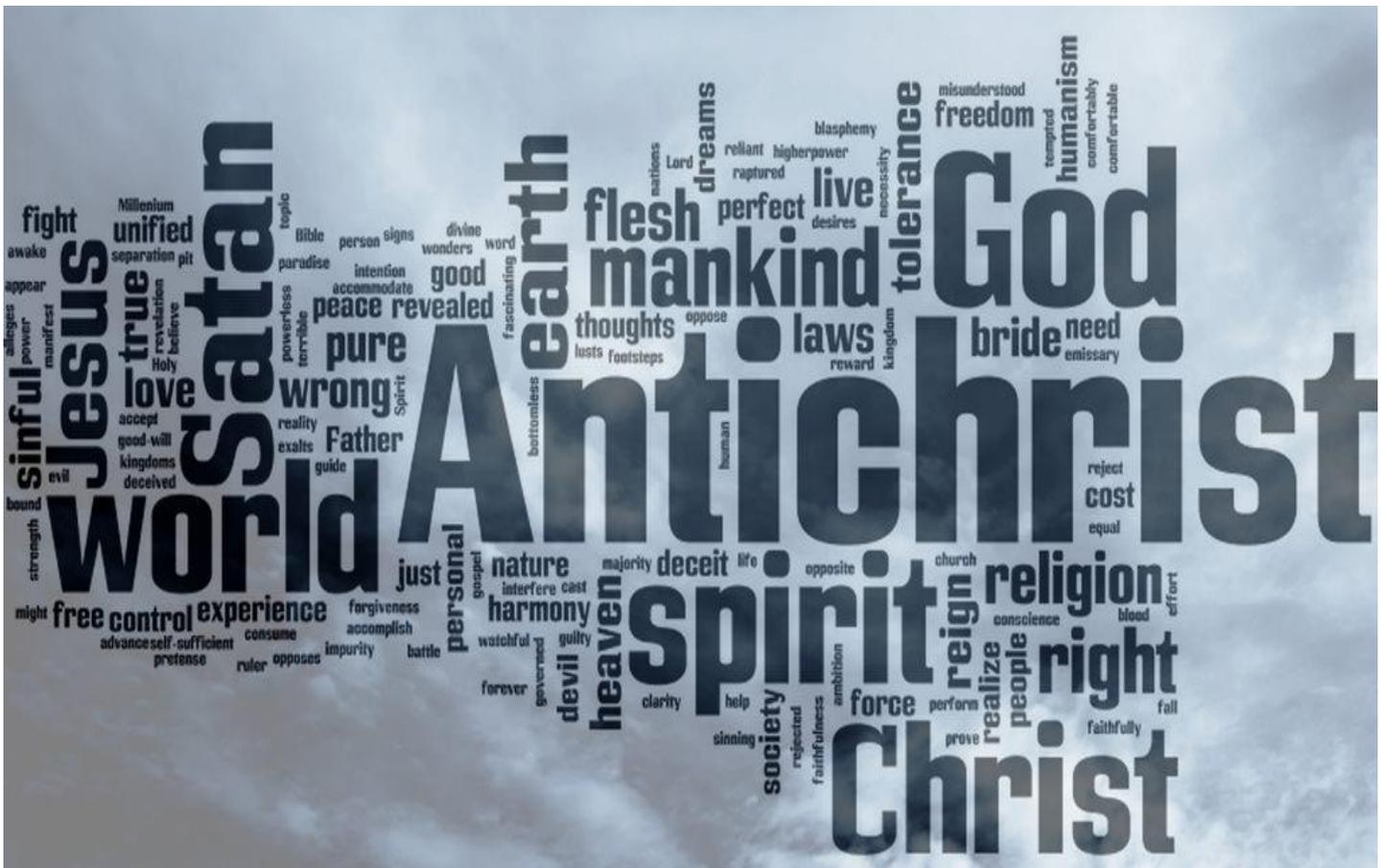
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“Pastor’s Bible Study”

Who (What) Is the Antichrist?



Tuesday, January 22, 2019
6:30 pm

I. Stepping Back A Minute to a Prior Question – What (Who) is the Antichrist?

A. Facts:

1. The word appears only 5 times in 4 verses in the New Testament, all in John's writings.
 - **1 John 2:18** - Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the **antichrist** is coming, even now many **antichrists** have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.
 - **1 John 2:22** - Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the **antichrist**—denying the Father and the Son.
 - **1 John 4:3** - but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the **antichrist**, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.
 - **2 John 2:7** - I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the **antichrist**.
2. The word means “against Christ.”
3. The word is not used in the other Epistles. However, Paul clearly Describes this individual in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (The Man of Lawlessness).

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness^[a] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. ⁵ Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, ¹⁰ and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that

they will believe the lie ¹² and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

4. What we think:
 - The antichrist is not the same as the devil or his demons.
 - The antichrist could be any person who stands in direct opposition to God and Jesus Christ.
 - The antichrist is a **spirit** that stands in opposition to God and Jesus Christ.
 - Someone recognized as fulfilling the Biblical prophecies about one who will oppose Christ and substitute himself in Christ's place.
5. Other possible references to antichrist:
 - Daniel 7:15-25
 - Mark 13:1-31 (Daniel 9:27)
 - Revelation 6:1-2
 - Revelation 13:1-10
 - Revelation 19:19-21
 - Revelation 20:7-10

B. Who are the modern-day antichrists? Depends on who you ask...

II. What Most Bible Prophecy Believers/Eschatology Experts Believe:

- The Antichrist will be the ultimate embodiment of what it means to be against Christ.
- In the end times/last days, a man will arise to oppose Christ and his followers more than any other man in history.
- The Antichrist will seek world domination.
- The Antichrist will attempt to destroy all the followers of Jesus Christ.
- The Antichrist will attempt to destroy the nation of Israel.

III. A Related Issue: Why Is America So Supportive of Israel?

- A. Could be a number of reasons: (Israel established as a State in 1948)
1. Deep support for Israel among the American public (Brooklyn has the largest population of Jews in America outside of Israel).
 2. Influence of the pro-Israel lobby
 3. Ideological affinity with the Middle East's most stable democracy
 4. Viewed as a key buffer against Soviet influence during the Cold War (after WWII 1947-1991)
 5. A common interest in fighting jihadism (Islamist militant movements perceived as military movements "rooted in Islam" and "existentially threatening" to the West.)
 6. Support of Israel over Palestine. (The issue is the land, and God is not making any more land!"

7. Evangelical Christians in America are a large voting block, and because the Book of Revelation claims that all Jews in exile will return to the Holy Land before the second coming of Christ, politicians must be pro-Israel (Zionism).
8. Israel is the U.S.'s 6th largest purchaser of military hardware.
9. The largest recipient of American foreign aid (\$3 billion year. We require that $\frac{3}{4}$ of that aid be used to purchase American goods.)
10. They share intelligence with us, mostly in the fight against terrorism.

IV. Pivoting Back for A Moment - An Important Insertion: A Classic Work on Death & Dying

- A. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross – “On Death & Dying”
- B. Five Stages of Grief
 1. Denial & Isolation
 2. Anger
 3. Bargaining
 4. Depression
 5. Acceptance

Unity Season Committee Meeting after this Bible Study upstairs in the Boardroom

Join us on the St. Matthew Prayer Line tomorrow morning at 6:30 am

(515) 604-9855, Access Code 886823#