

THE PATHFINDER

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MYSTERY of THE ANTICHRIST

Ah – *the antichrist* – what a mystery! Who can know the identity of this world-renowned character? We cannot number all the works that have been written on the subject of *the antichrist*. Innumerable sermons have been delivered about this infamous despot, not to mention the deluge of books and tracts in print.

With such an abundance of age-old claims, one would think the identity of this infamous character would be widely known by now, but not so. It seems that those in this arena of thought have made up their minds, and it could be that they don't want to be disturbed by the obvious truth.

There are varying opinions of *who or what the antichrist* might be. Logic would then tell us that they all must be wrong, with the exception of maybe one; but it is very unlikely even one is true.

For decades, even centuries, men and women of the cloth have speculated on the identity of *the antichrist* as well as the supposed date of his appearance. Of course, all their previous speculations turned out to be erroneous, so back to drawing boards they go to change and revise their theories that will conform to the ever-changing world.

It must be humiliating as events continually follow a path totally contrary to what has been declared as being irrefutable biblical facts. However, their track record never changes. Before the ink dries on the paper, their best laid predictions are proven false. Even so, the new predictions keep pulling those who never come to the knowledge

of the truth into the sinking sands of unfounded tales.

Even though each story of the antichrist evaporates, people's fear is renewed by the latest kingdom reporter's *fake news*. No one, of course, wants to be one of those who is deceived by a figure of such pure evil, especially since it is believed that their eternal destiny hinges on whether they pass the test or not. For them a great deal rides on identifying *the antichrist*, although none of the myriad of false clues and references become a single fact. Failure upon failure has prevailed, and it is not likely to change, especially as long as people buy their books and reward their teachers for scaring the living daylights out of them.

You might think that the rehashed story of *Chicken Little's cry that the sky is falling* would eventually be seen for what it is, but not so. On every occasion many are still led to believe that there is an arch enemy of Jesus who will soon appear and embed microchips into everyone's hands, foreheads, or both.

It was only a few years ago that quite a number had great hopes in the new *president*. They really believed that he had the answers to the nation's problems. He was looked upon *as their savior*, while on the other hand, there were just as many who thought he was *the antichrist*; but as with all the prospective antichrists, history repeats itself. He came and went with both presumptions having failed to pan out, again.

Moreover, rather than seeing the handwriting on the wall and laying aside their futile proclamations, they circled the wagons and named two new candidates as being *this bad boy*. Namely, *President Donald J. Trump* and *Jorge Mario Bergoglio*, better known as *Pope Francis the most "Holy Father."*

The notion has been equally applied to several previous U.S. presidents as well as other heads of State around the world. John F. Kennedy, made the list, so did Ronald Reagan, and of course Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Joseph Stalin, and Japan's WWII emperor, Tojo, to mention a few; but again, none of them earned that infamous title. There is no question that they were *instead of Christ, other than Christ, opposed to Christ, enemies of Christ* — ***antichrists***. But they died like all men born of Adam, and the world continued on its merry course. And preachers all over the world had to dig through and rewrite their doomsday predictions.

Frankly, although from all walks of life there have been, and still are, innumerable

antichrists, there is nothing in the Bible about one man being called "***the antichrist***." Such has been commonly taught as being so, but declaring a speculation ten thousand times ten thousand does not make it so. Being fooled seems to be the norm today rather than the exception.

Danish philosopher, theologian, and cultural critic, Soren Kierkegaard, said: "There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true."

Either way, the results are the same. Believing due to being deceived or refusing to believe the truth, leaves the person with the same result. They are left with nothing but failed promises. One of the apostles said that those who refuse the truth are "...willingly ignorant" (**2 Peter 3:5**).

Notwithstanding, none of the men tagged as ***the antichrist*** honored those projected claims by the end-time, end-of-the-world prophets. Or should we say end-time *profiteers*? All those named as this supposed rising star were surely set in office by God to serve His purpose, and although having been *antichrists*, not one of them was ***the*** non-scriptural *antichrist*.

Even so, let us back off a bit and scan a little deeper into this idea of ***the antichrist***. By doing so, we will see what the scriptures actually have to say about it. For starters, the *word* is used four times in four verses:

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that **antichrist** shall come, even now there are **many antichrists**; whereby **we know** that **it is the last time**....**He is antichrist**, that denieth the Father and the Son. **1 John 2:18, 22**. "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* (Grk, *is come, present tense*); and **even now it IS already** in the world." **1 John 4:3**. "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**." **2 John 1:7**.

Does this sound as if "*antichrist*" is one specific man of the future who will be the devil incarnate to deceive and rule the entire world? Not by any means! For the context of these verses in no way suggests such an idea:

"Little children, **it is the last time** (Grk. *hōra*, *hour*): and as ye have heard that **the antichrist** shall come, even **now** are there **many antichrists**; whereby **we know that it IS the last time** (*hōra*, *hour*). **They** went out from us, but **they** were not of us; for if **they** had been of us, **they** would have continued with us: but **they** went out, that **they** might be made manifest that **they** were not all of us.

"But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. **Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son.**" **1 John 2:18-22.**

The antichrist(s) were the ones John was talking about at that point in time which he called the *last hour*. He was not remotely talking about 2,000 years or so down the road, and neither was he mistaken. Namely, that **this antichrist** was the same as the **many antichrists** and that they were already on the scene. He was saying that the **many antichrists** were **they** who went out from them, **they** were not of them, if **they** had been **they** would have continued with them; but **they** went out so **they** could be revealed for who **they** really were — **antichrists**.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try **the spirits** whether they are of God: because many **false prophets** are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every *spirit* that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than **he that is in the world**. **They are of the world**: therefore speak **they** of the world, and the world heareth **them**. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; **he** that is not of God *heareth not us*. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and **the spirit of error.**" **1 John 4:1-6.**

Again, we have the same scenario. The plurals, **many false prophets and they who are of the world**, are synonymous to the singular **he** who was at that time not of God and could not hear what the apostles were saying by the Spirit of Christ. Nowhere do these verses suggest **the antichrist** would be coming two or three thousand years later.

"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 ***(the) antichrist.***"
2 John 1:7.

John was equating the *singular* and *plural* as being the same, and the context was no different in this verse than it was with the others. It was for *that time period*, for *that day*, for *that hour*, and he was not saying that the ***many deceivers*** were a man called ***the antichrist*** two thousand years later.

The apostle was referring to people who denied Jesus had come in the flesh of His physical body. Neither did they believe the Spirit of Jesus Christ had come in the flesh of His many-membered body, nor did they confess or manifest His Spirit in their own lives, as a confession suggests.

Paul also wrote about a man that many think is the same *notorious antichrist*. He called him *the man of sin, the son of perdition* that Daniel the prophet spoke of who would *sit* (Grk, *kathiz* , *seat, settle, hover*) in the Temple of God (**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**). And Jesus referred to the man in Daniel's prophecy as well, who was called *the abomination of desolation.* (**Matthew 25:15**).

Neither Daniel, Paul, nor Jesus were referring to someone in our day; but this man was for that time, a Roman general whose name was Titus. He desolated the city of Jerusalem, then opposed and exalted himself above God by destroying the Temple that represented the very presence and power of Israel's God. This was an act of setting himself up as God. It was a declaration to the world, especially to the Jews, that there was no god greater than the self-exalted *Titus Flavius Vespasianus* who later became the emperor of Rome. This was the abominable man of that hour for the Jews. It was their last hour, and it ended in 70 A.D. He fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel, Jesus, and Paul.

Let us note that the Temple that was destroyed will **never** be rebuilt as it has been supposed will happen by many. You see, when God destroys anything, especially that which has to do with the Old Covenant, He does not set out to rebuild it. With the New Covenant having been established by Jesus, the new Temple of God became His many-membered body. He no longer dwells in buildings made by human hands, not even one in Jerusalem that men want to build in order to help pave the way for Him to *come again*.

The fact is, He has much better accommodations wherein He is already dwelling. It is in His body of many *members*, His body of many *mansions*, that is, His body of many *abodes*. So let the Muslims have the Dome of the Rock where the Temple once stood. God doesn't need it, Jesus doesn't need it, and neither do we! We are secure where we are in Him, and He in us.

Satan and all who are one with him are *deceivers*. They *appear* as light but are not of the light. It is impossible for them to *confess*, or *manifest* the **light**, the **anointing**, the true word of **Christ**. They are the *opposite*, or *instead of Christ*. They are the *angels/messengers* that left their first estate as *ministers* of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are *actors*, *impostors*. They are *antichrist(s)*.

There is a many-membered *body of Christ*, and there is a many-membered *body that makes up the antichrist*. This antichrist is comprised of all the religious systems and people who are void of the Spirit of Christ. They are also those who may be embraced as secular saviors, those who embody the political ideals that people look to for their safety, prosperity, and welfare.

In the same manner that those of the body of Christ are inspired by His Spirit that opens blind eyes to see, the body of the antichrist is inspired by the god of this world that closes eyes so they cannot see. By nature, they are of their father, the devil, making them the many-membered body of the antichrist.

Antichrist, from the compound Greek word, *anti-christos*. *Anti* means, *opposite of or instead of*, and *christos* means *anointed*. *The Antichrist* is principally the spirit of the religious, political, and economical systems of the world. It is that which takes the place of **Jesus Christ!** It is instead of Him! Anything that exalts itself as *a solution to the pollution* (as our late friend, Stacy Wood used to say) is *instead of Christ*.

It is a façade, a pretense! It is a deceiver. It is also, of course, anyone who rises in self-exaltation to be a leader of people when it is Christ who is to be the principle guide. *The antichrist* is not a political leader, although many of the rulers of the kingdoms of men are certainly *antichrists*.

And deceivers such as this are those who transform themselves into angels of light. They are, therefore, anti-light, or instead of light. They are *antichrist*. The world is full of them, and the world suffers greatly by their dark deceit. Even so, we

should not be shaken over it, for "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" **2 Timothy 1:7**. Jesus also said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." **John 14:27**.

And "**This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.**" **Daniel 4:17**.

Are you still unconvinced that it is God, and not the people or the electoral college that places the person of His choosing in office?

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. **For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.** Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance (Grk. *diatagē*, *arrangement, institution*) of God." **Romans 13:1-2**. And as the Psalmist wrote: "The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. **The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever.**" **Psalm 93:3, 29:10**.

So what is there to fear? Even if this man is a cunning serpent and brings the U.S. to her knees, as many believe will happen — **the most High, the Lord rules in all the kingdoms of man.**

There are many brilliant people in the world; but neither men nor women, nor political parties are *the solution to this mountain of pollution*. It is like our dear friend and co-laborer in Christ, Preston Eby, said: "*Adam is the man who made this mess, so Adam is not the man who is going to get us out of it.*"

You see, man has spent 6,000 years bringing us to this point of degradation, and he can do nothing but make it worse. There is only one man who is the answer, and that man is Jesus Christ in the body of holy myriads of Himself — *the solution to the pollution!*

In closing, let us know that the deception of believing that an antichrist is some singled-out world leader of the future causes our focus to be on world events rather than what is going on in the Kingdom of God. Therewith, it would be difficult to

discern the works of Satan right here and now.

For the past two thousand or so years, the Christian Church, has literally been filled with *antichrists*. And today's religious bearers of fake news, that is, *commentators*, are tirelessly accusing various world leaders as not being *an antichrist*, but as one called *the antichrist*, and the *mystery* continues on, and on.

That is a masterful ruse the adversary uses to keep men's eyes off of the real culprit. Satan is the sole author and subtle inspiration of the doctrines which keep men separated from the real issue, the issue of knowing the truth and being one with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Looking ahead to some never appearing character has worked exceptionally well, thus aiding his minions in carrying out his work without interference. Regardless of its color (red, blue, or purple) there is poison in the Kool-Aid, so it is a necessity to stop drinking this deadly mixture. It is **high time** to wake up and hear the call to arms. It is **high time** to stop playing games. It is also imperative for the teachers, preachers, writers, and self-proclaimed prophets to leave their false image of God and forsake what they suppose are His purposes for mankind.

It is not likely; but we pray that they soon realize their desperate lack, that they forsake the lifeless delusions of their prophetic interpretations, while turning to the Lord to drink deeply of His life, wisdom, and understanding.

We love the words, "**It is high time,**" so again we say, **it is high time** for His elect, those who are His at His appearing, to be delivered from all this carnal-minded tomfoolery. ***It is high time*** to replace it all with the glorious mind and life of Jesus Christ!

Praise God! What a time! What an hour!

Elwin R. Roach

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The Pathfinder • PO Box 4004 • Alamogordo NM 88311-4004