

## ~ 1 John ~

## Lesson 19- The Antichrist who is Coming

We are continuing our study of First John and today we are entering into another section of the epistle. In this next section, John continues assuring the children of God of eternal life, and at the same time warns us of those who are trying to deceive us. - let me read this to you- **1 John 2:18-26**

In this section, John continues his “Johannine contrasts”. Throughout this entire epistle he is constantly contrasting between the Light and darkness, sin and righteousness, Truth and error. And in these verses, John is contrasting those who abide in Christ and those who are anti-christ. And just like his style, he doesn’t lay this out in a systematic flow like we see with Paul. No, he weaves back and forth giving us the assurance of our abode in Christ and exposing those who are antichrist, circling around our Fellowship with God. That’s the purpose of this section, to know the enemy and be assured of our Salvation and Fellowship in Christ.

Today we will be focusing on verse 18. Lets read this verse again, “1 John 2:18 **“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour”**”. The enemy is all around us. We live in this world, but we are not of this world. That’s what we have been talking about for the last several weeks. And remember what Jesus prayed to the Father concerning this, **John 17:15-17**. Keep them from the evil one... sanctify them by Your Truth, Your Word is Truth. Truth is what keeps us from the evil one.

The enemy’s biggest weapon is deception. This is what Satan has used from the beginning. He is a liar. He has been a liar from the beginning, and he is the father of lies, John 8:44. And everyone who is of the devil is a liar. We have already met these liars, these antichrists in the first two chapters of John. These were the “if we sayers”. They say they have perfect Fellowship with God, but yet they walk in darkness, they are antichrist, 1 John 1:6, 8, 10; 2:4, 6, 9.

This is the spirit of antichrist. They have the form of godliness, but they deny its power, 2 Tim 3:5. And what is the power of godliness? It is the gospel, Romans 1:16- **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...** The spirit of antichrist denies the power of the Gospel. They have the form of godliness. They think they are so holy. But they reject the Truth. They deny Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God.

John begins verse 18 by saying, Little children... paidia, παιδία, this word has the sense of a little child being trained by his father. We saw this word back in 2:13. We are the children of God, and our Father is training us and correcting and instructing us through His Word. And John is doing the same thing, training and instructing us concerning those who try to deceive us, 2 Timothy 3:16-17. His Word is what sanctifies and guards us from error and the deception of the enemy.

John continues in verse 18- Little children... **it is the last hour**, ἐσχάτη ὥρα ἐστί... This word “last” is eschate, ἐσχάτη - this is where we get the word **eschatology**- the study of end times. John says, **“it is the last hour”**. The word hour is, ὥρα. It is used in the same broad sense as day or times. It has a broad meaning relating to the entire dispensation of grace. It is the final hour before the Parousia of Jesus Christ. This is the last age of man. The next dispensation to come is the Day of the Lord. Our current age began at the first coming of Jesus and will end when He comes to catch His Bride away at the rapture.

At the end of verse 18, John says, **“many antichrists have come, by which we know it is the last hour”**. This is how we know it is the last hour, because many antichrists have come. The first coming of Christ marks the last hour. Peter tells us Christ was **manifested in these last times for us**, 1 Peter 1:20. And because Christ has come, there is also much opposition to the Christ and His Truth. Paul says in 1 Timothy 4:1, in the **latter times**, **some will depart from the faith giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**. 2 Timothy 3:1 Paul says, **“in the last days, perilous times will come...”**. Many will attack the Truth in these last days. More than any other age in history. Jesus said in Matthew 24:5- **For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many**. These are antichrists who are against Christ and trying to take the place of Christ. This is how we know it is the last hour.

Verse 18... “[and just as you heard that the Antichrist is coming, also now, many antichrists have come to be. By which we know that it is the last hour.](#)”

John says, “[just as you heard...](#)” - καὶ καθὼς ἤκούσατε. This makes it clear that John’s readers, his flock at Ephesus, knew of the coming Antichrist. How did John’s readers know of the Antichrist to come? Who did they hear this from? I believe they learned it from Paul. Besides the book of Revelation, Paul gives us the best insight into the doctrine of the coming Antichrist. Much of the two letters written to the Thessalonian church is about end times. And the return of Jesus Christ. Revelation hadn’t been written yet, so they would have heard this from the Apostle Paul.

Paul only spent three weeks with the Thessalonians, (52AD), Acts 17:2-3; 1 Thess 5:1-2; 2 Thess 2:5, but even in that short time, Paul taught them about these things to come. Because that is our hope, the return of Jesus Christ and our eternal life with Him. From there, Paul spent three years with the church of Ephesus (54-57AD), so its completely reasonable to think that he would have taught them as well. John is now writing this letter to his flock at Ephesus about 40 years later (95AD). This is why he says, “[just as you heard that the Antichrist is coming...](#)” This had been an established doctrine for the first century church.

“[the Antichrist](#)” - ὁ ἀντίχριστος, this word is a combo of anti, ἀντί, and χριστος, Christos. Anti, ἀντί, means “in opposition or against”, and it can also mean “in place of”. Both can be applied here because the Antichrist is in opposition to Christ and he will deceive the world into thinking he as the Christ, the savior of the world. Jesus tells us there are only two types of people in the world. Those who are with Christ and those who oppose Christ, Matthew 12:30- [He who is not with Me is against Me](#). If you are not with Christ, then you are antichrist.

In this last age, there are many antichrists, many who oppose Christ, and there will be one final Antichrist who is the culmination and the embodiment of evil, and he will be empowered by Satan. John makes a distinction between many antichrists and the Antichrist by using the Greek article, ὁ ἀντίχριστος, “[the Antichrist who is coming](#)”. This designates a singular person or a singular force that is coming, namely the beast and false prophet from the Revelation. Many of us know of the Antichrist who is coming. This is a figure of one who will reign during the tribulation with terrible power. He will be the one world leader and present himself as the messiah, exalting himself as god, 2 Thess 2:3-4; Dan 7:11-13; 8:25; 9:27; Matt 24:15.

John is the only writer to use this term Antichrist. He uses it five times and only in his epistles, 1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7 (he doesn’t use it in his gospel or in the Revelation). But the Bible is very clear about one man who will be the final culmination of the spirit of the Antichrist. There will be one man, the Antichrist, who will rise to power in the future of what is known as the 7 year tribulation period, which is divided into two, 3-1/2 year sections. Just before this tribulation period, the faithful Christians will be caught away in glory. This is what is called the rapture.

And then shortly after, the tribulation begins a new dispensation. This is the Day of the Lord in which Satan releases his power in the world with a mass assault on God’s people, and at the same time God releases His divine Wrath and Judgement on ungodliness.

This is the Antichrist who is coming, but John continues in verse 18 saying, “[...also now, many antichrists have come to be...](#)” - καὶ νῦν ἀντίχριστοι πολλοὶ γεγόνασιν

John writes, “[even now](#)”... καὶ νῦν, this could also be translated, “[also now](#)”, placing the future coming of the Antichrist, which is an absolute certainty, in a parallel reality with the present existence of many antichrists who have, “also now”, come to be. This is John’s whole point in mentioning the Antichrist to come, because the same spirit of Antichrist that is coming is here “even now” among us trying to deceive us.

The Antichrist that is coming gives a description of the spirit of antichrist that has come to be even now. The best place to show the spirit of antichrist is in [2 Thessalonians 2:1-8](#). Paul tells us the Antichrist to come is “the man of sin”, “the son of perdition (destruction, Jn 10:10)”, he opposes God, he exalts himself above all that is called God, and he will sit in the temple of God showing the world that he is God (abomination of desolations, 2 Thess 2:3-4; Dan 7:11-13; 8:25; 9:27; Matt 24:15).

Let's continue [2 Thess 2:9-12](#). It is those who do not receive the love of the Truth who are perishing. They are deceived and are swept away into the darkness, 2 Cor 4:3; John 1:5. This is true for those in the tribulation. But it is also true for anyone right now. This is the method of the enemy, and it has been from the beginning. The spirit of antichrist is at work even now swaying people away from the Truth. Continue reading [2 Thess 2:13-17](#). But those who believe in the Truth have Salvation, they will be caught away and obtain eternal glory.

The Antichrist and the many antichrists who are among us even now have one objective... to destroy the Truth and blaspheme the name of Christ. The book of Daniel and Revelation go into great detail about the Antichrist.

Below are some descriptions of this man of sin to come:

- A mouth speaking pompous words against God, Dan 7:8, 11, 20, 25
- Speak blasphemies against God, Rev 13:6
- Exalts himself above God, Dan 8:11, 25; 11:36-37
- Makes war against the saints, Dan 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:30; Rev 13:7
- A vile person, Dan 11:21
- Understands sinister schemes, Dan 8:23
- Destroys fearfully, Dan 8:24
- Causes deceit to prosper, Dan 8:25
- He shall act deceitfully, Dan 11:23; Rev 13:14
- Corrupt with flattery, Dan 11:32
- Casts Truth down to the ground, Dan 8:12

How do we know who is antichrist? By their confession of who Jesus is...

1 John 2:22- [“Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.”](#)

2 John 7 [For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.](#)

John says in 1 John 4:3- [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, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.](#)

There are two tests to know if someone is antichrist.

1. Do they confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God?
2. Do they confess Jesus as coming in the flesh?

These are unwavering Truths that cannot be compromised. Anything different is the spirit of antichrist.

In John's day, he was battling the deception of the Gnostics, namely Cerinthus and his followers denied Jesus as the Christ. These Gnostic heresies are antichrist. And even today there are many people and religions who speak falsely about Christ. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Progressive Christianity, Christian Science, Scientology, Ecumenism, Unitarianism, Catholicism, and there are many seminaries are teaching a false Christ.

Anti-Christ is Anti-Truth. The spirit of antichrist is all around us, and it blasphemes the Truth blatantly and openly, trying to get us to conform. 1 John 4:3 [the \*spirit\* of the Antichrist is now already in the world](#); 2 Thess 2:7- [The mystery of lawlessness is already at work](#). But it will not prevail against us. Why? Because you have the anointing, the Spirit of Truth living inside you. I love what John says in 1 John 4:4- [You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world](#). We overcome because we know the Truth, we abide in the Truth, and we are witnesses of the Truth even unto death. This is how we overcome the evil one.

Next week we will continue from verse 19 and talk about exposing these antichrists and overcoming them with the Truth.

Daniel gives us a timeline of seventy weeks of years that are determined to “*bring in everlasting righteousness*”, which is finalized at Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, Daniel 9:24-27.

We are presently living in the Age of Grace, the “last hour” as John calls it

- The last age of man

This age will end with the rapture, the catching away of the spotless Bride..., 1 Thess 1:10; 4:15-18; 2 Thess 2:5-7.

The Bride of Christ is raptured and caught away. This is he who was restraining evil through the power of the Holy Spirit. And this isn’t all Christians. This is only those who are expectant and ready. Those who love Jesus Christ. We went through this a couple of weeks ago when we studied verse 17. Jesus is coming back for a faithful, spotless Bride and it is these faithful Christians who He will catch away. This is eternal life with eternal glory, Heb 9:28; Colossians 1:21-23; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 2 Peter 1:2-4; 10-11; 3:14; Romans 5:2-5; 8:16-18; Ephesians 5:26-27; Revelation 3:10-11; 5:1-10; 19:7-8; 2 Timothy 2:12; Matt 25:1-13; Mark 13:31-37; Luke 12:35-48; 17:28-34; 21:34-36; James 1:12; Phil 3:11-14; 1Cor 15:50-58; John 14:21-23.

Shortly after the rapture, there is the Great Apostacy, 2 Thess 2:3

- The makings of this apostacy have already started, but at the very end, there will be a great falling away from God.
- They will fall away because they were not rooted in the Truth, 2 Thess 2:9-12.

The Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel to rebuild the temple and begin the daily sacrifices again, Daniel 9:27

Then the Antichrist, this man of sin is revealed to the world as the one world ruler, the savior of the world, 2 Thess 2:3-8

This begins the Day of the Lord, which also triggers the start of the Tribulation, Rev 5:1-6:2

- The Tribulation will last 7 years. The 70<sup>th</sup> week of years, Daniel 9:24-27

For the first 3-1/2 years, the Antichrist will rule with peace

- This is peace among the world with a one world religion, a one world government, Daniel 11:20-24.
- But Christians living in the world during this time will be persecuted because they will not go along with the world, Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9-17

During this entire time, God is unleashing His Righteous wrath on the world- 7 seals and the 7 trumpets

- The two witnesses and the 144,000 Jews are preaching the gospel, Revelation 7 and 11:1-6

At the midway point of the Tribulation, 3-1/2 years, the Antichrist is fully empowered by Satan, Rev 13

The Antichrist breaks the covenant with Israel, stops the daily sacrifices, and begins persecuting the Jews, Daniel

- The Antichrist sets up his throne in the Holy of Holies in the temple and exalts himself as god, 2 Thess 2:3-4; Dan 7:11-13; 8:25; 9:27; Matt 24:15

At this point, a false prophet, rises along with the Antichrist, the Beast of Revelation 13, and together they rule the world with force.

- The two witnesses and the 144,000 Jews are killed, Revelation 11:7-12; 14:1-5.

The Antichrist duo forces everyone to take the mark of the beast and worship the image of the beast

- Anyone who does not take the mark cannot buy or sell and they will be killed for not pledging allegiance with the Antichrist, Rev 13:11-18.

Myriads of believers will continue to be martyred for the name of Jesus, Rev 14:12-13; 15:2-4; 20:4.

At the end of the Tribulation, Israel as a nation receives Jesus as the Messiah, Zech 12:9-10; 13:8-9; 14:1-5; Isaiah 53; Jer 50:4-5; 30:7; Rom 11:25-27; Ezek 20:34-38; Dan 12:1; 9:24.

Jesus comes back riding on a white horse with His saints following, Rev 19:11-16

- Jesus conquers all who oppose Him including the Antichrist duo, the beast and the false prophet, 2 Thess 2:8
- These two are thrown into the lake of fire, Rev 19:19-21
- Satan is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years, Rev 20:1-3
- Jesus sets up His millennial reign on this earth, Rev 20:4-5