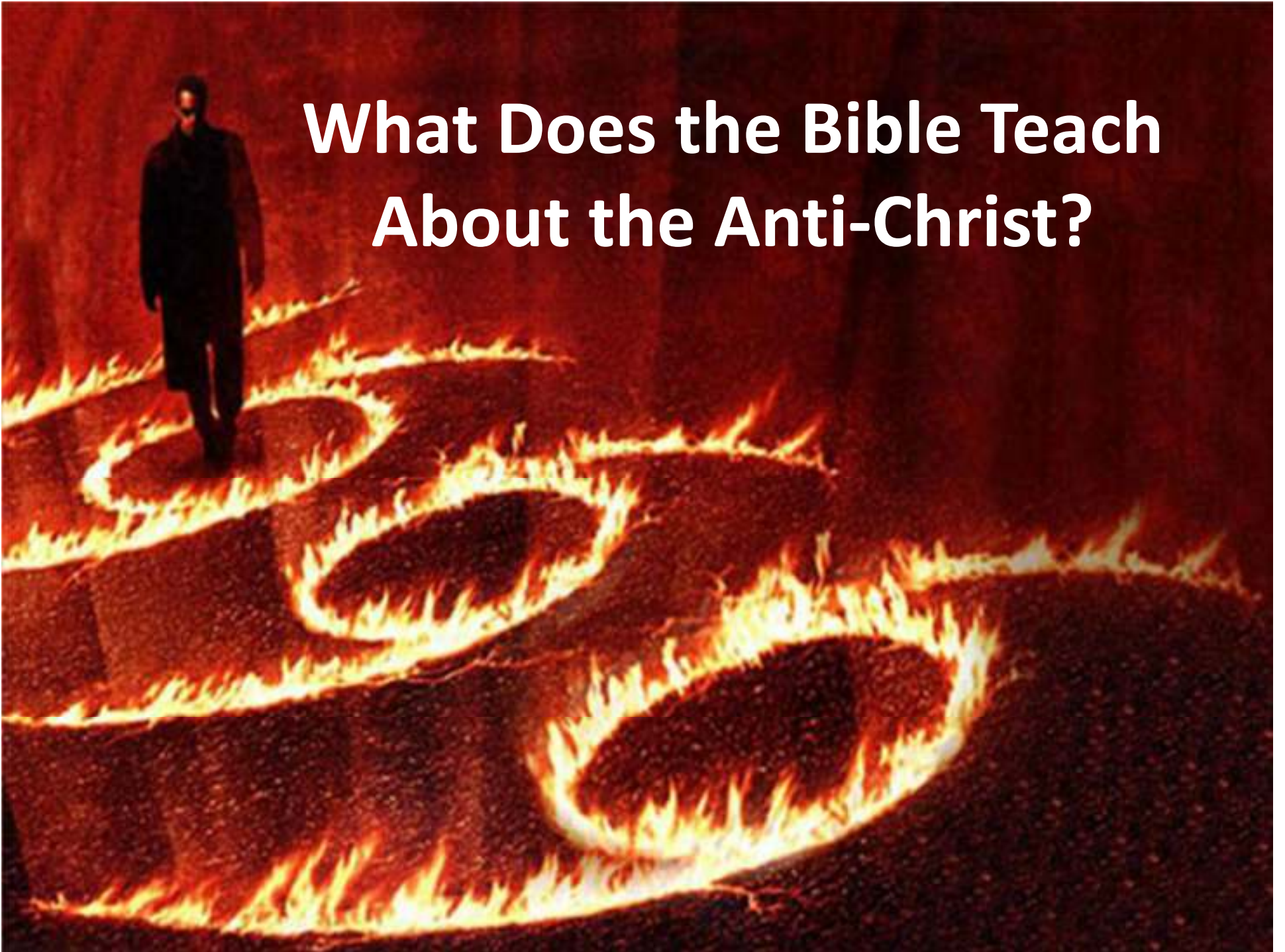


What Does the Bible Teach About the Anti-Christ?



1John 2:18-19

- “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. 19 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 none of them were of us.”

1John 2:22-23

- “Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.”

1John 4:1-3

- “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 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.”

2John 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.”

What Does the Bible Teach About the Anti-Christ?

- John wrote in the latter part of the first century. Gnosticism had arisen to become a problem to the church and claimed special knowledge.
- Two schools of thought developed, both of which denied an essential element in the nature of Jesus.
 - Docetists denied that Jesus was actually human, that He only appeared to be flesh and blood.
 - Cerinthians said Jesus was born as a man and that Deity descended on Jesus at His baptism and left Him at the cross.

What is the Spirit of Antichrist?

- “Antichrist” - connotes a movement or sentiment that is detrimental to the cause of the Lord, either overtly or covertly; an antichrist is anyone or anything that works *in opposition to the Lord*
- Pseudo-Christ or false Christ is one who is pretending to be a substitute savior or current representative of Christ; any false Messiah
- Our focus is on antichrist, any doctrine or man seeking to damage or discredit the truth regarding Jesus.

What is the Spirit of Antichrist?

- 1John 2:18-19 places his readers in the late first century in the last hour, an hour which continues to this day, descriptive of the world's final dispensation prior to its conclusion.
- 1John 2:22-23 defines antichrist as one who denies the deity of Christ and the Father.
- 1John 4:1-3 prescribes a test for prophets to weed out the antichrist elements.
- 2John 7 speaks of the plurality of antichrists and presence in the early world and church.

What is the Spirit of Antichrist?

- Pointing blindly and erroneously toward the antichrist
 - Hal Lindsey in the “Late, Great Planet Earth” announced that “the antichrist is in the world today.” (1970)
 - In 1999, Jerry Falwell stated his opinion that the end was near, and the antichrist is probably a preteen boy currently living in Jerusalem.
 - Many speculations over the years as to who might be the antichrist

Opposition To Christ

- The Adversary's work
 - In the Gospel accounts, the opposition to Christ provoked and performed by the Adversary is clearly an antichrist movement - Matt. 4:1-11
 - In the false doctrines of deceitfully pious men - 2Peter 2:18-19
 - In the parable of the tares - Matt. 13:37-39
 - He works, not by possession, but by persuasion, enticing men to corrupt the pure doctrine of Christ into something with more convenience and tolerance for sin - 2Tim. 3:1-9

Opposition To Christ

- The man of sin
 - 2Thes. 2:3-12 - “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, 4 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. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 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. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Opposition To Christ

- The man of sin - 2Thes. 2:3-12
 - The succession of Roman emperors?
 - The Pope as the so-called vicar of Christ?
 - Protestantism that edits the gospel by teaching a doctrine of salvation by faith only?
 - Moslems that kill Christians and forbid Bibles in Middle Eastern countries and Africa?
- Is there a connection between Paul's man of sin and John's antichrist?
 - The man of sin is anyone at the pinnacle of apostasy, and many people have occupied that seat over the years.

Opposition To Christ

- 666 - The number of the beast?
 - Rev. 13:1, 11-18 - “Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name... 11 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. 12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. 16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is six hundred and sixty-six.”

Identifying The Antichrist

- Many are looking for a single personality to appear on the scene and fight openly against Christ.
- There is not just one powerful person opposing Christ. Instead there are many who are secretly, deceptively working in opposition to the Son of God and His people.

Identifying The Antichrist

- Identifying antichrists is possible today
 - Our salvation depends upon understanding who they are and what motivates them - 1John 2:19
 - “They went out from us”
- The key to identifying the antichrists: all who deviate from the word of revealed word of God oppose Christ.
 - Anyone can become “antichrist”

Identifying The Antichrist

- Matt. 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."
- Luke 6:46 - "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord, and do not do the things which I say?"
- John 8:31 - "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.'"

Identifying The Antichrist

- We are either with Him or “anti” Him
 - Matt. 12:30 - “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”
- Accepting His doctrine
 - 1John 2:24 - “Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.”
 - 1John 4:6 - “We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

Identifying The Antichrist

- We need not fear the antichrist, for we have been warned, prepared, instructed in how to identify, resist, and defeat him.
 - 2Thes. 2:1-4 - “Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means...”

Identifying The Antichrist

- Everyone in this world has taken a stand in relation to Christ; we are either on His side, fighting for and living in His kingdom, or we are against Him, His cause and His people.
- If one rejects Christ and is against Him and His cause, he needs only to look in the mirror to see the spirit of the antichrist.