

BEWARE THE ANTICHRIST! (1 John 4:1-3)

(Nov. 11th, 2007)

Intro. Anti-acid, anti-aircraft, anti-biotic, anti-freeze, anti-histamine, anti-septic, Antichrist

I. What is the Antichrist?

A. Jesus tells us he is a false Messiah (Christ) who comes to mislead God's people (Matthew 24:23-25)

B. St. John tells us he comes from within the Church, denies Christ, tries to deceive believers (1 John 2:18-29)

II. There are numerous biblical and secular examples of this denier/deceiver/misleader

A. Old Testament Examples

1. Gog - 587 BC (Ezekiel 39)
2. Antiochus IV - 530 BC (Daniel 7, 31-32)

B. New Testament Examples

1. "Man of Lawlessness" - 50 AD (II Thessalonians 2:3-4)
2. "False Christs" - 60 AD (Matthew 24:23-25)
3. Caesar Nero - 90 AD (Revelation 13:1-18 and the "666")

D. Church and secular history have discussed this as well

1. 140 AD - He's "like the Son of Man"
2. 155 AD - He's the spirit of heresy"
3. 635 AD - He's identified with Mohammed and Islam
4. 1202 AD - He's identified with false Popes
5. 1550 AD - He's connected with the Roman Catholic Church
6. 18th - 20th centuries: Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, Hitler, Ayatollah Khomeini....

III. So, is there an Antichrist, or are there various antichrists?

A. The key New Testament passage: 1 John 4:1-3

1. The *spirit of the antichrist* (Found in false teachings throughout the ages)
2. There are *many false prophets* (Who rise up throughout the ages)
3. THE ISSUE: Our ability to identify the antichrist spirit & flee his deceptions:
 - a) Liberal, anti-biblical theology (From within the Church)
 - b) Modern religious cults (From outside the Church)
 - c) Secular media (Newspapers, TV, movies, personalities)
 - d) Music
 - e) The values of the world which are crammed down our throats
 - f) Our personal, ungodly attitudes and habits
 - g) Don't forget: "*The frog in the kettle*" experiment

B. What (who) is behind all of this? (1 Peter 5:8)

C. BUT: What is Jesus' wonderful promise? (Matthew 16:16-18)