

“Who Is The Antichrist?”

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

INTRODUCTION:

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 & 11)
- B. **New Testament Examples**
 - 1. “Man of Lawlessness” – 50 AD (2 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”)
- C. **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 their 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, internet, movies, media personalities)
 - d) Music
 - e) The values of the world which are crammed down our throats
 - f) Our personal, ungodly attitudes and habits
- B. **What (who) is behind all of this?** (1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:12)
- C. **BUT: What is Jesus’ wonderful promise?** (Matthew 16:16-18)

CONCLUSION:

The granite landmark to Napoleon’s 1812 folly in Russia