

THE GREAT DECEPTION

The Antichrist

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Eccl. 1:9

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 2 Thess. 2:3, 4

The antichrist and the first beast of Rev. 13 are one and the same entity. A careful comparison of 2 Thess. 2 and Rev. 13 under the Spirit's guidance shows this to be. The highlight of the two scriptures shows blasphemies to be the common thread. Both John and Paul are speaking in reference to the same power, time period and the exaltation of one who opposes and exalt himself above God and Christ in the Christian church. And both are spoken as coming to their end at the second advent. 2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19:20; 20:10

The antichrist not only opposes but exalts himself above all that is called God. He sits in the temple (church) of God shewing himself to be God (a god). But first let us consider the origin of "antichrist".

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Isaiah 14:12-14. Here Lucifer is not merely antigod, i.e. against God, but seeks himself to be God or rather to replace or to be a substitute God. Likewise, antichrist is not only against Christ, but seeks to be instead of Christ, i.e. to replace or to be a substitute Christ.

Satan in heaven had hated Christ for His position in the courts of God. He hated Him the more when he himself was dethroned. He hated Him who pledged Himself to redeem a race of sinners. **DA 49.1**. These are three levels of hatred which I call the 666 levels of hatred or the "mark of the dragon".

In English the prefix anti means against, therefore we say that antichrist means against Christ. But is this what anti in the Greek of the New Testament is seeking to convey, just against Christ?

The word antichrist is translated from the combination of two ancient Greek words ἀντί + Χριστός (anti + Christos). In Greek, Χριστός (Christos) means "anointed one" and the word Christ derives from it. "Ἀντί" (anti) means not only anti in the sense of "against" and "opposite of", but also "in place of". Wikipedia.

Also from Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament words, Antichrist: can mean either "against Christ" or "instead of Christ," or perhaps, combining the two, "one who, assuming the guise of Christ, opposes Christ" (Westcott).

Strong's concordance G473 The prefix (word) anti does not only mean against, but can also mean instead of or in place of or a substitute for.

(Strong's Definitions Legend) †ἀντί *antí*, an-tee'; a primary particle; opposite, i.e. instead or because of (rarely in addition to):—for, in the room of.

In Acts 20 this idea of the antichrist seems to be what the Apostle Paul means where he states, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.²⁹ For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.³⁰ Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Acts 20:28-30. With this treasure trove of clues as to what the antichrist is, we shall be able to easily identify him and all other antichrists today.

Consider the following thoughts.

1. The antichrist was to be the outcome and head of the falling away, i.e. the apostasy of the early church.
2. The apostasy was to spring up in the Christian Church; as "the falling away" is a falling away from the Christian faith.

3. Antichrist therefore could "sit," that is, establish himself and exercise authority only in the professedly Christian Church.
4. As one who seeks to replace Christ all of his visible characteristics and all his environments must be professedly Christian and apostolic.

The four above mentioned points effectively dismiss the false theories that Antichrist would be some powerful atheistic personality who would arise and rain terror on the earth during a brief but terrible career. As also some teachings claim that his reign is to last for three years and a-half. Such cannot fulfil the conditions of Paul's prophecy.

The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true, that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. GC88 593.1

Yours in the Service of God

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