

THE GREAT DECEPTION

The Antichrist, the Beast, his Mark, Name & Number

The Deceptive Traditions and Operations of Antichrist

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; ⁴ Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitting in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God ... And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.
2 Thess. 2:3, 4, 8, 9

Here the Apostle Paul refers to the antichrist as “that man of sin” “son of perdition” “that wicked”. I submit to you that:

1. The antichrist is not Satan, though he works like Satan
2. He has power and uses signs, and lying wonders to deceive just like Satan
3. The antichrist lives for centuries even as Satan lives for millennia, they are both still alive

Also notice in verse 9 that the Apostle further says “whose coming is after the working of Satan”. What does he want us to understand by this expression? How does Satan work? Just take a look back to the start of the war in heaven with Satan’s rebellion. Deception was his modus operandi, and still is.

“With his own evil characteristics, he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men.”
DA 21.3

This has been the modus operandi of the Antichrist from his entrance on the stage of action and also of all other “antichrists”, deceivers. Hence the statement “let no man deceive you” is most instructive for all deception is after the working and order of Satan.

This also mean that no one-man Antichrist can fulfil the conditions of the prophecy of Antichrist. Antichrist could not from the start appear fully formed for such would have been fatal to his pretensions. Considering that he wants to replace Christ who first appeared as an infant, the Antichrist has to go through the stages of growth even as Christ did. Christ first appeared as an infant in the manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes (Luke 2:7, 12) and he grew (Luke 2:52). Similarly, the Antichrist must go through all the stages of growth even as did Christ.

The Antichrist was “working” in the days of Paul and John (2 Thess. 2:7; 1 John 4:3) he grew up and developed stage by stage from his first appearance, and in process of time reached his full stature, and will eventually be destroyed in the future in the lake of fire at the glorious coming of Christ (Rev. 20:10, 15). The lifespan of Antichrist is counted in centuries as Satan’s is counted in millennia. His days would far exceed the days of the life of any man. His life in years was to span the period between the time when Paul and John wrote this prophecy and the appearance of Christ the second time.

The Antichrist would therefore have to be a system presided over by a race of rulers who were to take their place in succession at its head. This headship is linked by the same spirit (1 John 4:3) since there

was to be identity in the system from start to finish. Antichrist must therefore be a corporate or legal individuality and this means that death or inability of the head to perform his duties would not affect its continuity. So it matters not however powerful or wicked any one man may be he cannot fulfill the prophecy of Antichrist.

Let us take a closer look at the deceptive workings of the heads of the corporate individuality and their mimicking of and seeking to replace God and Christ (2 Thess. 2:4). Whatever God does the head of the corporate individuality, the Pope, professes to do also. Notice in the following points the opposition to God and Christ by Antichrist who seeks to insert himself in the place of God and replace both God and Christ.

1. Every knee shall worship and bow down to God because he is the creator (Psalm 95:6; Rev. 14:6, 7).
2. As head of the corporate individuality, the Pope/antichrist also requires to be worshipped with prostration and kissing. That's tradition – paradosis.
3. God is holy (Isaiah 43:3, 15 Hosea 11:9)
4. The antichrist claims to be holy being called “his holiness the pope” “holy father”. That's tradition – paradosis.
5. God is the “only wise” (Rom. 16:27; 1 Tim. 1:17; Jude 1:25).
6. So, too, the Pope claims to be “inerrable” i.e. incapable of erring. “the Catholic Church considers the Pope infallible”. That's tradition – paradosis.
7. God alone has the prerogative to pardon sin (Mark 2:5-7; Luke 5:20-23)
8. The Pope assumes the same prerogative claiming to pardon the sins of the living and the dead. That's tradition – paradosis.
9. It is God's prerogative to assign men their eternal destiny? (Eccl. 3:17; Matt. 10:28).
10. The Pope pretends to hold the keys that open and shut purgatory and reserves to his

followers

the realms of paradise. Whoever is not of his church he consigns to eternal woe. That's tradition – paradosis.

11. God sanctified, blessed and hallowed the seventh day as the memorial of his authority to create (Exodus 20:8-11; Rev.14:6, 7).
12. The Pope claims to have replaced the seventh day Sabbath with the first day Sunday-Sabbath as the mark of his authority. That's tradition – paradosis.
13. The Bible tell us of the birth of Christ, but never of the date of his birth. (Matt. 2:1-2; Luke 1:26-31).
14. The Catholic church makes Dec.25th the birth date of Christ, a pagan festival to unite Christians and pagans. That's tradition – paradosis.
15. The Passover was replaced by the Lord's supper in commemoration of the sacrifice of Jesus (1 Cor. 11:23-25).
16. The Antichrist established Easter or what they call Resurrection Sunday to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. That's tradition – paradosis.
17. The bread and wine used at the communion of the Lord's supper are emblems or symbols (Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).
18. The Catholic Church with their doctrine of transubstantiation turns the bread and wine into the literal body and blood of Christ. That's tradition – paradosis.

Yours in the Service of God

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