

The Spirit of Antichrist and the Antichrist

September 1, 2020
Jerry E. Smith, Ed.D.

1 Tim 4:1 The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons...

Acts 20:29-30 When Paul addressed the elders of the Ephesian church for the last time, he said, "I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch. Recall, that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

1 John 2:18-29 Dear children, this is the last hour; and as **you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come.** This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

But you have an anointing from the Holy One and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. **Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist — he denies the Father and the Son.**

1 John 4:2-3 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 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.

2 John 7-8 **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.**

All antichrists are deceived, empowered, and led by Satan, the devil; and his hosts of principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and wicked spirits.

The spirit of antichrist has been operative in the earth since God announced the birth of Christ, the Seed of woman. The LORD God said to the serpent: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel" (Gen 3:15).

Having heard these words from God, Satan declared war against any person or people called by God, any person or people through whom the "Seed of woman" might come. Hence, Satan is the root cause (motivator) and empowerment of all anti-Semitism and anti-Christ.

Gen 12:1-3 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

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I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

Satan has opposed and repeatedly attempted to annihilate the Jews, the family of Abraham, because God called them into existence, therefore they would likely be the people through whom the Seed of woman would come. Do you believe Satan understood the phrase "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed?"

Matt 2:1-16 Shortly after the birth of Jesus, Herod, the Roman king of Judea, learned of Him who was prophesied to be King of the Jews? To prevent this newborn King from displacing him, Herod put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under.

Who motivated and empowered Herod to destroy the young Hebrew boys? Why?

Who has been and is the most persecuted people group on earth? Why?

Consider all the empires/kingdoms, including Hitler and the Third Reich, who have attempted to conquer and destroy Israel, the Jews (Abraham's seed). Who was motivating and empowering them? Why?

What is the Great Tribulation? Upon whom does the great tribulation focus? Where does the Great Tribulation reach its climax?

Jer 30:4-7 These are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah. "For thus says the LORD: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it."

Matt 24:15-22 "When you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place... Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."

2 Thes 2:1-3 (Amp) Relative to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and our gathering together to meet Him... Let no one deceive or beguile you in any way, for that day will not come except the apostasy comes first [unless the predicted great falling away of those who have professed to be Christians has come], and the man of lawlessness (sin) is revealed, who is the son of doom (of perdition), who opposes and exalts himself so proudly and insolently against and over all that is called God or that is worshiped, even to his actually taking his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming that he himself is God.

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The preceding event is referred to as “the Abomination of Desolation.”

Dan 12:11 From the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Dan 7:25 He (*Antichrist*) will defy the Most High and wear down the holy people of the Most High. He will try to change their sacred festivals and laws, and they will be placed under his control for a time, times, and half a time.

Dan 8:23-25 "At the end of their (*earthly empires-Daniel 2*) rule, when their sin is at its height, a fierce king, a master of intrigue, will rise to power. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause a shocking amount of destruction and succeed in everything he does. He will destroy powerful leaders and devastate the holy people. He will be a master of deception, defeating many by catching them off guard. Without warning he will destroy them. He will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power.

Dan 11:36-38 "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one (*god*) desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.

1 Thes 2:5-8 (Amp) Do you not recollect that when I was still with you, I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining him (*the Antichrist*) from being revealed at this time; it is so that he may be manifested in his own appointed time.

For the mystery of lawlessness (that hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority) is already at work in the world, but it is restrained only until he who restrains is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one (the antichrist) will be revealed and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end by His appearing at His coming.

The coming (of the lawless one, the antichrist) is through the activity and working of Satan and will be attended by great power and with all sorts of miracles and signs and delusive marvels--all of them lying wonders--and by unlimited seduction to evil and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing (going to perdition) because they did not welcome the Truth but refused to love it that they might be saved.

Therefore God sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error and a strong delusion to make them believe what is false, in order that all may be judged and condemned who did not believe in (who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely on) the Truth, but (instead) took pleasure in unrighteousness.

Rev 13:1, 5-8 (NLT) Now in my vision I saw a beast rising up out of the sea...

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The beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do what he wanted for forty-two months. And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and all who live in heaven, who are his temple. And the beast was allowed to wage war against God's holy people and to overcome them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation. And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names were not written in the Book of Life, which belongs to the Lamb who was killed before the world was made.

Rev 14:9-13 (NLT) Then a third angel shouted, "Anyone who worships the beast and his statue or who accepts his mark on the forehead or the hand must drink the wine of God's wrath. It is poured out undiluted into God's cup of wrath. And they will be tormented with fire and burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb. The smoke of their torment rises forever and ever, and they will have no relief day or night, for they have worshiped the beast and his statue and have accepted the mark of his name. Let this encourage God's holy people to endure persecution patiently and remain firm to the end, obeying his commands and trusting in Jesus."

Rev 19:19-21 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse.

Toward the end of the battle of Armageddon, as the Antichrist and his armies are about to annihilate Israel, the Jews, and the tribulation saints; Jesus and His armies from Heaven alight amidst the battle and He totally defeats the Antichrist and his forces (Rev 19:11-21). The Antichrist and his false prophet (primary advocate) are cast alive into the Lake of Fire. The person of the Antichrist is history. Satan, the one who empowers him, is imprisoned for 1000 years, but not completely finished with his ministry of deception.

Rev 20:1-5 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.

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Prayer Points

- Pray that God would convict and empower all Christians, especially pastors, elders, and prominent Christian leaders, to boldly proclaim the Truth, the whole counsel of His word.
- Pray that Christians, especially called Christian ministers, be delivered from the fear of man and be motivated by the fear of God.
- Pray that the church (Christians) be baptized afresh with the Holy Spirit and fire, that the zeal of God would consume us.
- Pray for a great awakening in the church, that the church develop a love for the truth (Jesus, the Word), that it be delivered from end-time deception and apostasy.
- Pray that the Lord deposit a heightened sense of discernment in His children, the church.
- Pray that Christians be strengthened in their faith, that they be filled afresh with faith, hope, and love. Remember, faith comes by hearing and hearing and hearing God's word!

FYI from BBC: Christian persecution 'at near genocide levels.' The persecution of Christians in parts of the world is at near "genocide" levels, according to a report ordered by Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt. The review estimated that one in three people suffer from religious persecution. It found that Christians were the most persecuted religious group. Mr. Hunt said he felt that "political correctness" had played a part in the issue not being confronted. The report said the impact of "genocidal acts against Christians is exodus" and that Christianity faced being "wiped out" from parts of the Middle East.

Jeremy Hunt is a British politician serving as a Member of Parliament since 2005. A Conservative Party member, he served in the Cabinet from 2010 to 2019, most recently as Foreign Secretary.

- The preceding item should renew our motivation to pray for the persecuted church. Thank you, Martha, for keeping us on the "right track."