

Doctrinal Summary of Antichrists & The Final Antichrist Dictator of the Tribulational Beast

In 1 John 2:18, John identifies that one who will attempt to remove and replace Jesus as the Christ is on his way.

“Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.”

The word “antichrist” is translated from the Koine Greek word ἀντίχριστος (“an-ti-chri-stos”) which literally means, “one who stands against the Christ and attempts to replace Him as the Christ, based on initiation.” The antichrist referred to by John is one who oppose Jesus as the Christ and proclaim himself to be the one that will save man from God’s judgment. He will do this based on his own initiation.

Unlike Jesus the actual Christ, anointed by God to pay for the penalty of man’s sins, the antichrist will attempt to keep man from God’s judgment rather than propitiate the demand for justice that is derived from God’s righteousness. This is the spirit of the antichrist that John mentions later in 1 John 4:3.

“and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.”

The “spirit of the antichrist” refers to the message proclaimed (cf. 1 John 4:1) by Satan & Company & Associates in this world system that directly and indirectly claims man can create a peaceful environment amongst men and live in an environment that is judgment free and completely without God. From the Tower of Babel until present day Satan & Company are continuously seeking to destroy God’s standards and kingdom in order to establish new standards and a kingdom belonging to Satan. While many antichrists have already come, the final antichrist will arrive in the tribulation after the removal of the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit in church age believers (cf. 2 Thess. 2:3, 6-7).

During this time the antichrist will take the seat in the temple of God, displaying himself to be God (cf. 2 Thess. 2:4). His ability to do so will be through deceptive means of powerful signs and works masterfully counterfeiting divine power. At the beginning of the tribulation the antichrist will make treaty with man and reinstate sacrifices in the temple. However, he will break this treaty halfway through the tribulation and defile the temple of God (cf. Dan 9:27, 11:31; 12:11).

During this final half of the tribulation the antichrist, along with the beast and the dragon, form a horrendous trio of evil (cf. Rev. 16:13-14). The antichrist (also known as the “false prophet”; cf. Rev. 19:20) will direct man’s worship to the beast (the revived Roman Empire; cf. Rev. 13:12) and act as the beast’s dictator. He will possess the power and authority over man while professing to save man from the judgment of God. His ability to motivate man will be developed through false signs and miracles that will give credence to him and his claims (cf. Rev. 13:13-15) as well as manipulate tribulational unbelievers to receive the mark of the beast in order to engage in commerce in the empire (cf. Rev. 13:16-17).

Between the deception and coercion, the antichrist will continue Satan’s attempt to establish a kingdom apart from God and His righteous judgment of Satan & Company and sinful man, getting closer than any of Satan’s antichrists before. Yet God will cast the antichrist into the Lake of Fire just prior to the millennial reign (cf. Rev. 19:20).