

The Antichrist

Lesson 03 of 04 in the series “the Second Coming”

A. Near the end of human history an evil ruler, the Antichrist, will become king over the entire world.

“Now, dear brothers and sisters let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. Don’t be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don’t believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction (the son of perdition).” 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 (NLT)

1. The Antichrist will be a political mastermind.

“...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 and will become arrogant; he will destroy many without warning. He will even take on the Prince of princes in battle, but he will be broken, though not by human power... But none of these things will happen for a long time, so keep this vision a secret.” Daniel 8:23-26 (NLT)

2. The Antichrist will claim to be God.

“He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.” 2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NLT)

“The king will do as he pleases, exalting himself and claiming to be greater than every god, even blaspheming the God of gods. He will succeed, but only until the time of wrath is completed. For what has been determined will surely take place.” Daniel 11:36 (NLT)

3. The Antichrist will be an agent of Satan.

“This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 (NLT)

Note: the only other person referred to in the Bible as a “son of perdition” was Judas.

“Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the **son of perdition**, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” John 17:12 (NKJV)

“When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, “Hurry and do what you’re going to do.” John 13:27 (NLT)

“I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery—but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast. They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and they also worshiped the beast. “Who is as great as the beast?” they exclaimed. “Who is able to fight against him?” Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months. And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering his name and his temple—that is, those who live in heaven. And the beast was allowed to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer 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 before the world was made—the Book that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered.” Revelation 13:3-8 (NLT)

Note: “Beast” = the Antichrist, “Dragon” = Satan, “Lamb” = Jesus

4. The Antichrist will NOT win.

“Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast... Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse.” Revelation 19:19-21 (NLT)

“Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.” 2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NLT)

B. Four ways we must respond to prophecies of the Antichrist:

1. We must beware of false teachers and deceptive spiritual leaders actively working all around us.

“For this lawlessness is already at work secretly...” 2 Thessalonians 2:7 (NLT)

“Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared.” 1 John 2:18 (NLT)

“There are a lot of smooth-talking charlatans loose in the world who refuse to believe that Jesus Christ was truly human, a flesh-and-blood human being. Give them their true title: Deceiver! Antichrist! And be very careful around them so you don't lose out on what we've worked so diligently in together; I want you to get every reward you have coming to you. Anyone who gets so progressive in his thinking that he walks out on the teaching of Christ, walks out on God. But whoever stays with the teaching, stays faithful to both the Father and the Son. If anyone shows up who doesn't hold to this teaching, don't invite him in and give him the run of the place. That would just give him a platform to perpetuate his evil ways, making you his partner.” 2 John 1:7-11 (MSG)

2. We must have a personal relationship with Jesus so we'll know the real Messiah when He comes.

“Don't let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and saying, 'The time has come!' But don't believe them.” Luke 21:8 (NLT)

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand.” John 10:27-29 (NLT)

“As for us, we can't help but thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are always thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation—a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and through your belief in the truth. He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 (NLT)

3. We must read and study the Bible so that we know the truth.

“With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching we passed on to you both in person and by letter.” 2 Thessalonians 2:15 (NLT)

“Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15 (NLT)

4. We must help each other mature in our faith.

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.”

Ephesians 4:11-14 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. Ask someone in your group to Google search, "Milli Vanilli." How did this music group deceptively win a Grammy Award and sell millions of records?
2. Read Proverbs 27:6. Why do you think people would rather have the "kisses of an enemy" than the "wounds of a friend?"
3. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4. Do you remember when you first heard about the Antichrist? How did you respond?
4. Read Genesis 3:1-13. Based on this passage, how does Satan deceive us? Why do these strategies work?
5. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:6-12. What are some ways people are being deceived today to believe things against God?
6. Read Hebrews 10:25. In your opinion, why is it important for a believer to regularly attend worship services and a connect group?
7. Read Hebrews 5:11-14 and Ephesians 4:11-14. How can a believer become mature enough to resist the tactics of Satan?