

In Conclusion

The stage is set! We are now prepared to identify the antichrist. The Biblical picture is compelling and conclusive. In our next lesson we will give 10 identifying characteristics of the antichrist.

We began this lesson with John 17:3. This text makes it very clear that salvation is beautiful in its sublime simplicity. Salvation is based on a relationship of love and commitment between an individual and God. The plan of Satan (through the antichrist), in brief, is to obscure the person and place of Jesus, and thus compromise or prevent altogether that relationship. The essence of deception is that one doesn't know that he or she is being deceived. So a person may actually believe that he has a relationship with God, when, in reality, he has been deceived by the antichrist. The Bible is the elixir (the cure) for deception. Our relationship with God must be based on love *and* truth—Biblical truth! This is what Jesus meant when he said in John chapter four that we must “worship in Spirit and truth.”

Bible truth makes our love for God _____. Never forget this. We must be sure that we are worshipping and serving the *right God* in the *right way*. Christianity is based on a relationship of love. This love, however, cannot be sloppy, haphazard, or unbiblical. Our love for God must be informed by sound Biblical teaching. This is an essential point that cannot be overlooked.

Our next lesson will make this clearer still.

Our Next Topic Will Be:

Revelation's Antichrist Exposed, part 2

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

Discover: Does Jesus Christ Have a Twin?

No. 07

This lesson and the following lesson will address the very important issue of the antichrist *from a Biblical perspective*. Conjectures, opinions, and ideas about the identity of the antichrist abound. We are not interested in these. We want to know the truth; we want to know what the Bible *actually* teaches. This is, of course, a serious topic so we want to be sure to be honest and humble in our study. God will richly bless us if we seek to do this.

Simple Salvation

Perhaps the simplest salvation text in all of the Bible is John 17:3: “And this is _____, that they may _____. You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” There it is, simple. Eternal life comes from “knowing” God. That is, having a faith relationship with Him. To know God, then, is to have salvation. To not know God is to fail of experiencing salvation. As we shall see, the thrust of Satan's attack (through the antichrist) is to prevent individuals from coming to know God personally and truly. This is precisely why we spent the last three lessons grounding ourselves in the Cross of Jesus Christ and its prophetic importance. Knowing who the antichrist is won't save anyone! Knowing Jesus Christ, however, will result in salvation.

Are You Deceived? Are You Sure?

The _____ of deception is that you are _____ you are being deceived. That's what makes deception so sticky. After all, no one ever says, “Hey, I'm being deceived right now.” If one knows he is being deceived, it ceases to be deception. You may be sitting there thinking to yourself, “Well I'm just glad that I'm not deceived.” The problem is *that is exactly how deceived people think!* How can we be sure that we will remain undeceived? Simple: be sure that _____ you believe is consistent with the Bible. The Bible is the _____ for deception.

The Apostle Paul and the Antichrist

Paul wrote about the coming antichrist in 2Thesallonians 2:1-4. In v.3 Paul uses two names to refer to the antichrist, what are they?

- 1.
- 2.

What is the significance of that second name? Only one other person in the Bible is referred to by that moniker (name). Who was it? _____.

In what text is that found? _____
Wow! What a discovery! _____ did not violently oppose Jesus Christ, rather he subtly betrayed Him. He came, not from the violent opposition of the Pharisees or the Romans, but from the very _____ of Christ's followers, the disciples. He looked friendly, but secretly betrayed.

The antichrist will not appear as a _____, but as a _____. This is very important to grasp.

Note also that according to verse 4, the antichrist goes into "the temple", not to show that he is *against* God, but rather that he _____ God!

Another important text, taken from a sermon that Paul preached in Ephesus, is found in Acts 20:28-30. Here Paul says that these coming deceivers would arise from within the church. Just like Judas Iscariot, the conflict comes from inside (betrayal), not from outside (overt opposition).

Before we go on to the book of Revelation, remember what the dividing issue is in the book of Revelation. It deals with the issue of _____. Remember also that Satan uses the antichrist as a *front-man* in order to procure what he always wanted, namely, _____. This helps to solidify still further that we are looking for a religious figure who will obscure the true *place, power and person* of Jesus Christ, thus preventing people from coming to truly know Him. Amazing! Plainly, this is serious stuff!

Does Jesus Christ Have a Twin? The Great Counterfeit

The book of Revelation, as we would expect, agrees perfectly with what Paul says about the antichrist. We discover that the antichrist is a religious entity that seeks to obscure the true place and person of Jesus Christ. In fact, strange as it may seem, the antichrist actually seeks to impersonate Jesus Christ. This is portrayed very clearly in Revelation. This is why this lesson is entitled *Does Jesus Christ Have a Twin*. Of course the answer to that question is *no*. But the way that the antichrist seeks to "ape" Jesus, one would wonder.

We will now compare the picture of Jesus Christ given in the Gospels with the picture of the antichrist given in Revelation 13. We will note 8 points of counterfeit and comparison. (Remember to put the Scriptural reference.)

<u>Jesus Christ</u>	<u>Antichrist</u>
---------------------	-------------------

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |
| 6. | |
| 7. | |
| 8. | |