

Here's the outline we're using for 2 John:

- v. 1-3 ~ John's greeting to the church he loves:
Grace, mercy, and peace
- v. 4-6 ~ John's request of the church he loves:
love one another.
- v. 7-11 ~ John's concern for the church he loves:
watch yourselves.
- v. 12-13 ~ John's desire for the church he loves:
that our joy may be complete.

John's point: Love one another to prevent the
damaging spread of deception in the church.

But before we get to v. 7-11, there are a couple of things we need to look at...

I'm going to touch first on the 2nd thing we need to look at (which we won't get to today)...

Look at v. 7—"For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh."

Why is it such a big deal that we hold to the full humanity of Christ in addition to His full deity?

- Why is this a thing that false teachers distorted?
- Why is this such a dangerous deception?
- What happened in the 2nd century among those who held to this deception?
- Is it an issue still? Does this little letter have any real relevance to us today?

Ok—that's the 2nd thing we need to look at before we can dig into v. 7-11. Here's the 1st:

WHO IS THE ANTICHRIST?

You have to have kind of a creepy picture for this. It helps if it's vaguely reminiscent of the Evil Emperor in Star Wars. Black hoods that cast shadows on to the face are a nice touch.



**WHO IS THE
ANTICHRIST?**

Well...who is it?

How about...

It's intelligent, good-looking young men dressed in black who have black hair and look kind of Middle-Easterny!

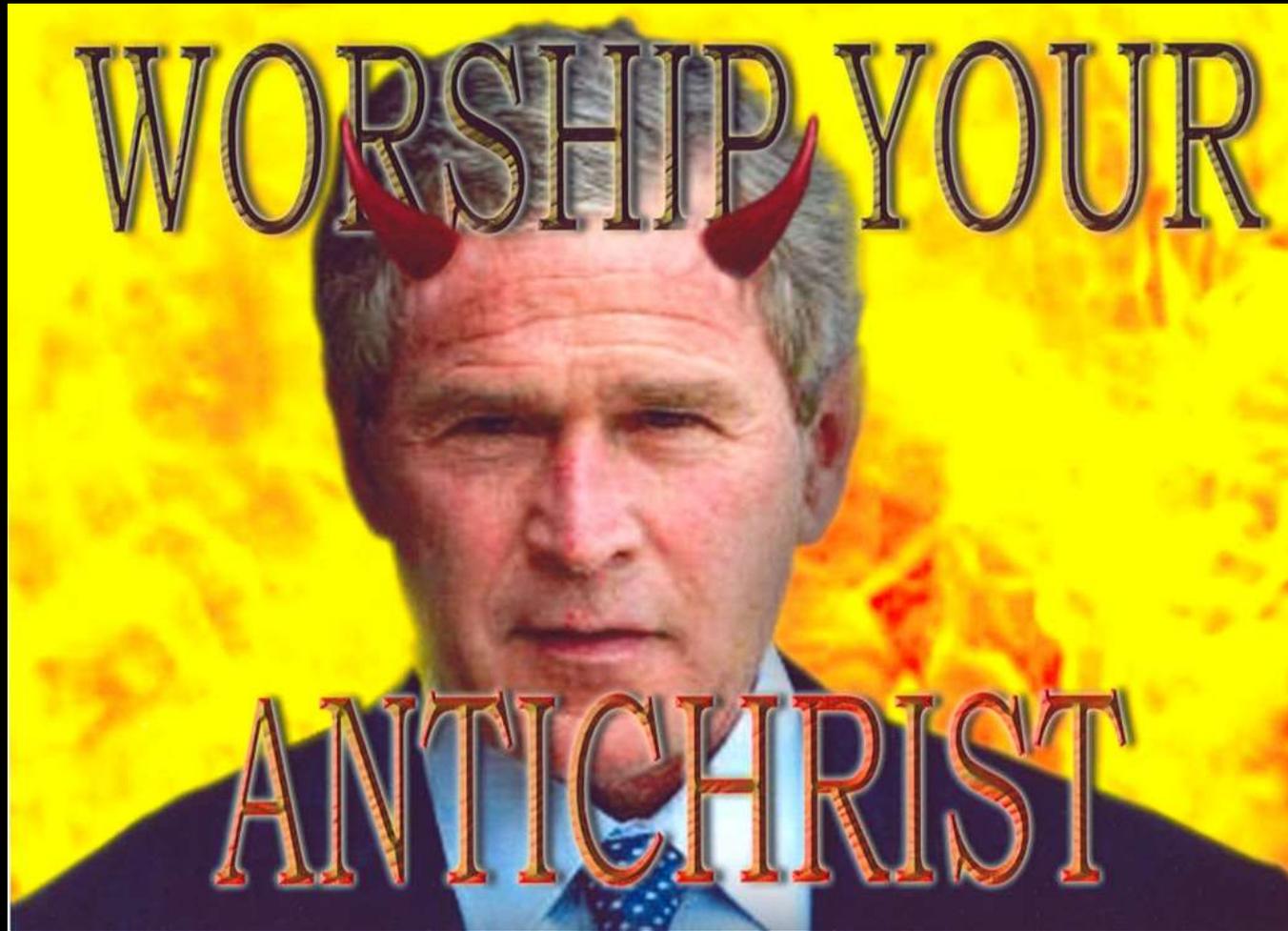


No—it's...



...clearly Adolf Hitler. Clearly.
Except, he died.

No—it's...



...George W. Bush!!
Or...not.

No—it's...

**CHRISTIANS LOVE ISRAEL BUT CAN NOT SEE
CHRISTIANS SEARCH FOR THE ANTICHRIST**

**How does the Holy Bible
blind Christians to the
most wicked Jew alive?**



**SATANYAHU IS
WELL ON HIS WAY
OF TAKING DOWN
THE WHOLE WORLD**

See!
Proof!

WHERE IS HE, WHO IS THE ANTICHRIST?

...Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu!

No—it's...



...shady-looking rich guys!

No—it's...



...Madonna!

No—it's...



...Napoleon! But he died too.

No—it's...



...President Obama! The front-runner in the voting for several years.

See! Proof!!



No—it's...



...pretty much every Pope!

No—it's...



...Donald Trump!

No—it's...

- Bill Gates!
- Henry Kissinger!
- Sadaam Hussein!
- Hillary Clinton!
- Josef Stalin!
- Pat Robertson!
- Joel Osteen!
- Vladimir Putin!
- Most Jewish leaders over the centuries!
- Marilyn Manson!
- Barney the Dinosaur!
- Mikhail Gorbachev!...Glen Beck!...Rasputin!...
and a whole lot more.

See! Proof!!



Well...can we answer the question? Let's start here:

Question: What does Scripture say?

Answer: Not a whole lot.

First, this: What's the word mean?

The Gk word is *antichristos*.

- The prefix *anti* indicates either someone who is against Christ, or one who claims to be a messiah instead of Christ.
- Matt. 24:24 and Mark 13:22 speak of “false christs (*pseudochristos*) and false prophets (*pseudoprophetes*).”
- Only John uses *antichristos* in the NT, and only in his first two letters.

Well...can we answer the question? Let's start here:
What does Scripture say about *antichristos*?

1 John 2:18-27 ~

- John first gives a time stamp: "it is the last hour," the last part of earth's history.
- They have been given some instruction that "antichrist is coming," and John indicates that this time has arrived: "many antichrists have come."
- In v. 19 John shows that they began within the church and then left it, showing that their faith was never genuine. True Christians do not abandon Christ (Jude 24).

Well...can we answer the question? Let's start here:
What does Scripture say about *antichristos*?

1 John 2:18-27 ~

- In v. 20-21 he states that because true believers are genuinely saved, they know the truth of the deity and humanity of Christ—therefore they can be discerning about what they hear.
- In v. 22-23 John gives a key point that his readers can use to discern whether what they hear is truth or not: “Jesus is the Christ.” There are not many paths to God.
- In v. 24-27 John tells them to hang on to what they know: they need no instruction that diverges from the gospel message.

Well...can we answer the question? Let's start here:
What does Scripture say about *antichristos*?

1 John 4:1-6 ~

- John again tells his readers to be discerning—test the spirits because there are *pseudoprophetes* in the world—many of them.
- In v. 2-3 he again establishes a key doctrinal test. Remember: *doctrine* is a good word—we need to be convinced of foundational things. One of the primary purposes of Bible reading, study, memorization, teaching, and preaching is that we might know sound doctrine in order to carefully test what we hear.

Well...can we answer the question? Let's start here:
What does Scripture say about *antichristos*?

1 John 4:1-6 -

- Notice that John writes in v. 3 of the “spirit of the antichrist.” An antichrist is coming, and antichrist is here (more on this in a bit...).
- In v. 4-6 he again exhorts them to be discerning: he speaks of the authority of the antichrists in v. 4, their origin in v. 5, and the result of applying the sound doctrine of Scripture in v. 6.

Well...can we answer the question? Let's start here:
What does Scripture say about *antichristos*?

2 John 7 ~

- In his 2nd letter he identifies them as deceivers ~ their teaching is deliberate deception. The goal: to cause believers to wander from the truth.
- John connects v. 7 with v. 4-6...what is the connection between exposing and guarding against the spirit of the antichrist, and the love of believers for one another?
- John was concerned that those who accepted the false teaching would cease to love actively, and thus split the church.

Does Scripture say anything else about antichrist?

Yep!—by comparing Scripture with Scripture we can draw out some more information...

...but be careful here, because we're going to take a quick look at some OT & NT prophecy, which can be notoriously difficult to interpret when we start trying to pin down details.

Take a look at...

- Daniel 7:23-28, 8:15-27, 9:25-27
- Matt. 24:15-25
- 2 Thess. 2:1-12.
- Notice that 2 Thess. 2:13-15 echoes the same concern that John has (2 John 8).

Does Scripture say anything else about antichrist? If we lump all of that together and try to decipher it, we can say a few big picture things:

- It appears that at the end of earth's history there will be one who is the personification of *antichristos*, and that the ones John is referring to simply display his spirit: they oppose Christ & try to deceive the elect.
- This final antichrist appears to be energized by Satan himself, will exalt himself above all other gods, and will cause terrible destruction.
- All of this is one component of God's final judgment: because unbelievers have rejected God's offer of salvation in the gospel, they will embrace antichrist's deception fully.

Does Scripture say anything else about antichrist? MacArthur summarizes it like this: "Before Christ's 2nd coming, the Bible predicts a specific 'man of sin,' an ultimate antichrist figure, who will be the consummate embodiment of sin and evil. During the coming day of the Lord, this person will be Satan's counterfeit to the Lord Jesus (2 Thess. 2:3-4). Jesus is the God-man who is the embodiment of righteousness and love. But Satan's man will be the opposite. Paul called him 'the man of lawlessness' (2 Thess. 2:3)..."

Does Scripture say anything else about antichrist?
“...The conditions surrounding this ‘man of lawlessness’ are detailed in 2 Thess. 2. There Paul refuted the erroneous belief that the ‘day of the Lord’ had already started. He revealed that two events would coincide with the coming of the day of the Lord, and since neither of them had occurred, the day of the Lord could not yet have arrived. The first event would be a massive rebellion in which a great apostasy against God would occur. The second would be the arrival of the man of sin who would oppose God and demand worship of himself.”

Ok—Christians have been speculating for centuries about the identity of *antichristos*.

Question: Using what you know now of the doctrinal and moral tests that can be applied to this “man of lawlessness,” who is it??

What is the *Biblical* answer to that question?

This: We don't know and speculation is useless. It is unlikely that we will be alive at the time of antichrist's coming, but if we are—those who are alive when he arises—have the clear doctrinal and moral tests to apply to reject his teaching and to hold to the truth to the end, though it may cost them (or us) their (or our) lives.

Well...what do we do with all of this?

- John will give us some more detailed instructions in the last part of his short letter, and we'll get to those in due time.
- But do we have some conclusions that we can come to that will genuinely help us right now?
- Of course we do! After all, this is God's inerrant Word we are talking about, and Psalm 119:105 and 2 Tim. 3:16-17 apply just as well here as it does anywhere else.

Let's go back once again to Matthew ch. 24...

Well...what do we do with all of this?

Take a look at Matt. 24:23-27, 36-44, and 45-51. We have some very specific instructions from our Lord here:

Matt. 24:23-27 – Summarize Christ's instructions to His disciples here. What is He saying?

- Don't be swayed by supernatural signs and wonders—they are not indications of the work of God.
- Don't be swayed if someone gives "prophecies" of the time of Christ's coming.
- When He comes (v. 27), you won't miss it. No one will.

Well...what do we do with all of this?

Take a look at Matt. 24:23-27, 36-44, and 45-51.

We have some very specific instructions from our Lord here:

Matt. 24:23-27 - Summarize Christ's instructions to His disciples here. What is He saying?

Instead, do this:

- Be very discerning. Evaluate carefully what you hear and what you read.
- There have always been false christs and false apostles, and that will continue up until the very end. Be very discerning. That's like—again—Ps. 1 and Prov. 4:23.

Well...what do we do with all of this?

Take a look at Matt. 24:23-27, 36-44, and 45-51.

We have some very specific instructions from our Lord here:

Matt. 24:36-44 – Summarize Christ's instructions to His disciples here. What is He saying?

- You are not going to know the specific time of the end—God has reserved that information for Himself.
- The end—when it comes—will be sudden; all mankind will be unaware. So we can say this: all end times speculation is just that, and none of it will be accurate.

Well...what do we do with all of this?

Take a look at Matt. 24:23-27, 36-44, and 45-51.

We have some very specific instructions from our Lord here:

Matt. 24:36-44 - Summarize Christ's instructions to His disciples here. What is He saying?

Instead, do this:

- Notice that Jesus says "stay awake...be ready."
- Expect the consummation of all things...
- ...but don't obsess over the details. You won't get them right, and it will just cause confusion.

Well...what do we do with all of this?

Take a look at Matt. 24:23-27, 36-44, and 45-51.

We have some very specific instructions from our Lord here:

Matt. 24:45-51 ~ Summarize Christ's instructions to His disciples here. What is He saying?

- The short parable in these verses suggests (as do the parables in ch. 25) that Christ's return will be delayed, though we are not going to know how long that will be.
- He will come on a day that is unexpected.

Well...what do we do with all of this?

Take a look at Matt. 24:23-27, 36-44, and 45-51. We have some very specific instructions from our Lord here:

Matt. 24:45-51 – Summarize Christ's instructions to His disciples here. What is He saying?

Instead, do this:

- Be about the tasks Christ has given you. What guidance has He given?
- The Great Commission in Matt. 28—that remains our primary task until the end. In any way you can, make disciples.
- Be “so doing when He comes,” – v. 46