

LESSON 12

“Man, of Iniquity” or Antichrist

Objective: To learn the scriptural truths about Antichrist and prepare for the second coming of our Lord.

Bible References: Dan. 11; 2 Thes.2:1-12; Rev. 13:1, 17:7-14

Memory verses: (NKJV): 1 John 2:18; 22

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 2:22

Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.

Introduction

A great number of people in the world are deceived by Satan and they rebel against Christ and His teachings. Apostasy and iniquity are pervading all over the world. At the same time, we see that a small minority of people in all parts of the world are being saved and turning into spiritual awakening. What does this development signify? The whole world is dividing itself into two groups. One group is paving the way for the Antichrist while the other group is waiting for the appearance of Lord Jesus Christ and the establishment of the kingdom of God. In which group are you?

Who is Antichrist?

Antichrist is a world leader who will emerge onto the scene in the last days displaying satanic glory and power together with signs and wonders and claiming the stature and position of the creator of the universe and the Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ. He will deny the existence of God the Father and Jesus Christ (1 John 2:22). Notice the various names given to him in the Bible:

1. Man, of sin (2Thes.2:3-8)
2. Man doomed to destruction (2 Thes.2:3 - NIV)

3. Antichrist (1 John 2:18,22)
4. Beast (Rev. 13:1-2; 17:7-8; 19:20)
5. Little horn (Dan. 7:8; 8:9-12)
6. Wicked king and master of intrigue (Dan. 8:23 – NIV)
7. Coming prince (Dan. 9:26)
8. King who does as he pleases (Dan. 11:36)
9. King of Babylon (Isa. 14:4-12)

The picture of Antichrist in the book of Daniel

1. In chapter 7:

The future of world empires was revealed to Nebuchadnezzar through the four different sections of the image in his dream. After 48 years God revealed to Daniel the nature and future of all nations through the vision of four beasts which came out of the sea. Daniel saw a little horn growing among the ten horns of the fourth beast. At that time three of the old horns were uprooted. The little horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully (Dan. 7:8). The meaning of this vision was also revealed to Daniel by God. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from the fourth kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most-High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time ($1 + 2 + \frac{1}{2} = 3 \frac{1}{2}$ years). But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most -High. (Dan. 7:24-28). Antichrist is the world leader who comes out of the ten nations. His persecution will increase in the latter half of the seventieth week. His rule will end with the appearance of the Messiah and power and dominion will rest with the saints of God.

2. The small horn in chapter 8:

Daniel was pondering over his vision in ch.7. Therefore, God gave him another vision two years later when he was in the palace of Shushan. A ram with two horns representing Medo-Persian empire was destroyed by a goat (representing Greek empire) which came from the west without touching ground. Its great horn (Alexander) was broken and in its place four new beautiful horns

appeared. A little horn came out of one of the four horns and grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land (Dan. 8:5-9). Daniel was told that the four horns were the four kingdoms arising out of the Greek empire and a cruel and cunning leader would arise out of one of the kingdoms. This leader would fight against the Lord of lords and would be destroyed.

The little horns in both the chapters 7 & 8 point to the same person, that is, Antichrist. When we study both the visions together, we can understand that Antichrist will be emerging from one of the nations belonging to the Greek empire which later became parts of the Roman empire.

3. The vision of chapter 11:

More details about the appearance of Antichrist were revealed to Daniel. Up to verse 35 of ch.11, details are given of the wars and treaties between Syria, the northern kingdom and Egypt, the southern kingdom during BC 323 to 146. Prophecies mentioned in these verses were literally fulfilled in history. The mighty king in v. 3 is Alexander whose Greek empire was divided into four and taken over not by his offspring's, but by his military commanders. The southern kingdom of Egypt became strong under its governor, Ptolemy Lagus, who became king. Syria was then under the control of Egypt and governed by Seleucus. Seleucus declared independence and became stronger than Egypt. The two nations were constantly at war with each other. There were also short periods of peace through treaties and marriages. The black deeds of the Syrian king, Antiochus Epiphanes, are forecast in verses 21 to 36. Jewish historians record that he attacked Jerusalem, desecrated the Temple and sacrificed a pig on the altar. His army installed the idol of Jupiter in the Temple and killed many Jewish worshippers. He is a shadow figure of Antichrist of the future. A group called Maccabees resisted Antiochus and declared independence in Judea for a few years. These events were forecast in this chapter.

Antichrist:

Read carefully verses 36 to 44. It may appear that the king who does as he pleases and who exalts and magnifies himself above every god and will say unheard of things against the God of gods is a reference to the Syrian king, Antiochus Epiphanes or any of his successors. Read v. 40: "At the time of the end the king of the South (Egypt) will engage him in battle, and the king of the North (Syria) will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood". Thus, it is clear that the reference is not to any Syrian king but to someone different. The reference is to an autocratic ruler who will

rise up against Israel and persecute them. The beast described in Rev. 13:1-10; 17:7-14 with ten horns and seven heads is also Antichrist. The beast's boasting, cruelty and command to people to worship him or his image are characteristics of the king mentioned in Dan. 11:36. "He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son" (1 John 2:22). "The man of lawlessness and the man doomed to destruction" mentioned in 2Thes. 2:3-8 is also the same person. The beast representing Antichrist that Apostle John saw in Revelations had characteristics similar in one way or the other to all the four beasts that Daniel saw in his vision. Hence it can be concluded that the rule of Antichrist will have all the despotic natures of the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and ancient Rome.

Christ and Antichrist: Comparisons of the two persons are listed below:

<u>Christ</u>	<u>Anti-Christ</u>
1. Came from above John 6:38	Comes from the deep Rev. 11:7
2. Came in the name of Father John 5:43	Comes in his own name John 5:43
3. Humbles Himself Phil. 2:8	Exalts himself 2Thes. 2:4
4. Despised by the world Isa. 53:3	Honored by all Rev. 13:3,4
5. Exalted in the end Phil. 2:9	Cast into the bottomless pit Rev. 19:20
6. Savior Luke 19:10	Destroyer Dan. 8:24
7. Good Shepherd John 10:4	Worthless shepherd Zech. 11:15-17
8. Son of God Luke 1:35	Man doomed to destruction 2Thes. 2:3
9. Mystery of the fear of God	Mystery of iniquity

