

Refuting PM – Part 4 (The Simple Truth Concerning Antichrist)

I. The popular view concerning the idea of antichrist:

- A. Below is just one of the many examples that could be cited (source: countdown.org).
- B. *“Like Hitler, he will have great charisma & speaking ability. The Antichrist will rise to power as he temporarily saves the world from its desperate economic, military & political problems with a brilliant 7-year plan for world peace and economic stability. The Antichrist could well rise out of the current chaos in the former Soviet Union. His power base will include the leading nations of Europe. The 7-year peace-pact (or covenant) that is engineered by the Antichrist is spoken of a number of times in the Bible, & may even have already been signed in secret. The historic peace agreement signed between Israel & the PLO at the White House on September 13, 1993, vividly illustrates how dramatically events in the Middle East are presently moving in this direction. Under the final terms of the Covenant, Jerusalem will likely be declared an international city to which Judaism, Islam & Christianity will have equal rights. The Jews will be permitted to rebuild their Temple on Mt. Moriah, where they revive their ancient rituals of animal sacrifice. The Antichrist will not only be a master of political intrigue, but also a military genius. For awhile, most of the world is going to think the Antichrist is wonderful, as he will seem to have solved so many of the world's problems. But three-and-a-half years into his seven year reign he will break the covenant & invade Israel. At this time he will make Jerusalem his world capitol & outlaw all religions, except the worship of himself & his image. The Bible says that the Antichrist will sit in the Jewish Temple exalting himself as God & demanding to be worshipped.”*

II. There have been many speculations as to who will fulfill the popular view:

- A. Henry 8; Napoleon; Hitler; Mussolini; Stalin; Kennedy; Arafat; Khadafy; Gates; Clinton; Bush; Blair; Head U.N.; etc.
- B. Sooner or later the folly of such guesses becomes apparent.
- C. When discussing the term “antichrist” we do not have to make guesses regarding identity for the Bible has the answer.

III. The term antichrist is in the Bible:

- A. #500 ἀντίχριστος {antíchristos} – the very term gives the meaning away.
- B. However, most people are puzzled when they learn that the term antichrist is not plastered all over the Bible.
- C. Most people are shocked to learn that the term is not found in Ezekiel, Daniel, or the book of Revelation.
- D. The passages: **1 John 2:18; 2:22; 4:3; 2 John 7.**

IV. Conclusions drawn from passages:

- A. **1 John 2:18** – Not going to come, but had come, were many on the scene in 1st century. Not one man, but certain class.
- B. **1 John 2:22** – Anyone who denies that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) (the Savior of the world).
- C. **1 John 4:3; 2 John 7** – deceivers who deny that Jesus has come in the flesh.

V. Summing it up:

- A. Antichrist is not so much a single person, but as stated a certain class of people (those opposed to Christ and His rule).
- B. In every generation since 1st century there has been (and will be) men who are blatant opponents of Christ, thus...
- C. *“The heresies which sprang up in the days of John were the antichrist of that time. As there has been a succession of oppositions to Christianity in its spirit and spread through every age since its promulgation in the world, so there has been a succession of antichrists”* (Adam Clarke).

VI. Those who hold to the popular view have a choice.

- A. The passages which have the term “antichrist” in them do not come close to supporting the popular view.
- B. Thus, those who are caught up in the theories of men must:
 1. Be honest and surrender their position.
 2. Turn to other passages and twist them to “support” their concept.

VII. Sadly, most choose choice #2.

- A. They take the term “antichrist” and unfairly connect it to other passages; thus drawing unscriptural conclusions.
- B. Next time we will note some of the passages the PM camp turn to and refute their twisting of God’s Word.