

The Term “antichrist” is used in the Holy Scriptures in both a general and specific sense. Generally speaking any pastor who denies Jesus’ atoning work and person of Jesus is an antichrist.

1 John 4:1-3, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

However, there is also one specific person called the Antichrist, the man of sin, the son of perdition, and the lawless one.

1 John 2:18-23, “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. ¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. ²⁰But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. ²¹I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. ²²Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. ²³Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.”

2 Ths. 2:3-4, “...the man of sin...the son of perdition....”

Though the spirit of antichrist was already at work in John’s time (1 Jn 4:3), his work would grow worse and more pronounced.

2 Thessalonians 2:7, “For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume...”

The marks whereby antichrist can be recognized

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, “Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ²not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. ...

Acts 20:29-31, “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰“Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. ³¹“Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

The Bible describes the Antichrist so that we may recognize him and be warned (Acts 20:31).

A. There will be “a falling away” from the truth (2 Ths. 2:3) and a “speaking of perverse things” (Acts 20:30).

B. The Antichrist is within the Christian Church. He “sitteth in the temple of God” (2 Ths. 2:4) and is “among yourselves.” (Acts 20:30).

C. Usurps the authority from God to speak infallibly in matters of faith and morals denying God’s Word. “Who opposeth and exalted himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Ths. 2:4)

2 Ths. 2:5-12, “⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹²that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Daniel 11:36-38, “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. ³⁷He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. ³⁸But in their place he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things.

D. The rise of antichrist to his full form and stature will be gradual. At first it will be restrained(2 Ths. 5-7), but then come full-force and be revealed(v.8).

E. The driving force behind this ambitious striving for preeminence and primacy in the Church “is according to the working of Satan,” himself, (2 Ths. 9-10).

F. This antichrist shall continue in the visible Church unto the end of time. “And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming” (2 Thes 2:8).

G. Forbid Marriage, Human Traditions, etc. (1 Tim 4:1ff, Dan 11:36ff)

Who is this Antichrist?

The Scriptures do not expressly state who this Antichrist is, but from the history of the church, we can find only one institution which bears all the marks of the antichrist: the Papacy.

2 John 7-11, “For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. ⁸Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward. ⁹Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; ¹¹for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

Papal Infallibility.--On July 18, 1870, the First Vatican Council has defined as "a divinely revealed dogma" that "the Roman Pontiff, when he speaks *ex cathedra* -- that is, when in the exercise of his office as pastor and teacher of all Christians he defines, by virtue of his supreme Apostolic authority, a doctrine of faith or morals to be held by the whole Church -- is, by reason of the Divine assistance promised to him in blessed Peter, possessed of that infallibility with which the Divine Redeemer wished His Church to be endowed in defining doctrines of faith and morals; and consequently that such definitions of the Roman Pontiff are irreformable of their own nature (*ex sese*) and not by reason of the Church's consent."

Note: “There are still believers in the Catholic Church (baptized children and those who in spite of false doctrines officially taught, personally cling to Christ and His merits), this church must be included in the visible Church of Christ on earth....” (p.275-276).