

Sermon to the Saints of God assembled at Topeka, KS: Sunday, April 12, 2026

## Spirit of Antichrist

Recently, we had some discussion about how to phrase a sign message relating to the pervasive “spirit of antichrist” in the world around us. Before giving serious thought to the phrasing of the sign message, I spent some time reviewing the relevant passages of scripture, and thought it would be useful to bring those scriptures forth for your consideration today. Some of this material might seem overly obvious to you, but I want to try to connect some fundamental dots, hoping that it will be useful to at least some of you.

We will begin by reading through all of the passages that contain the word “antichrist”. Notably, only John (the Revelator) uses the explicit term “antichrist”. The Greek word “antichristos” (Strong’s #500) is used exactly 5 times in the Bible, with every instance contained in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> epistles of John. The compound word quite simply means “against Christ”. We will work through the context of every usage, which will help us to understand the full meaning.

But ... before we dig into the passages, I want to spend some time being clear about our subject. We know clearly that Antichrist - Satan’s superman - will deceive the nations in a foolish bid to oppose and overcome Christ. The scriptures style him variously as the “Beast” (**Rev. 13**), “the abomination that maketh desolate” (**Dan. 11&12**), “the abomination of desolation” (**Mt. 24 & Mr. 13**) “that man of sin, the son of perdition”, and “that Wicked” (**2Thes. 2**).

**2Thessalonians 2:3-12** “3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Our brother Tim preached 3 sermons directly related to Antichrist (6/28/2015, 7/5/2015, 7/17/2016). That work is ever useful as the years pass, and I highly recommend reviewing it. Here is an excerpt speaking to the Satanic spirit of that beast, and the cruel, damning deception that the reprobate masses are only too willing to imbibe and obey.

*"It is by Satan's power that this beast speaks ... it is Satan's message of old that carries the day: "Ye shall not surely die: ... ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4-5) The worship of deities by any name must be done away with ... man is his own champion! Man can assume, through the proper application of his own intellectual prowess and mastery of the natural world around him -- "science, falsely so called" (1 Timothy 6:20) -- control of his own destiny. Man can take up his own life again, and do away with any unhealthy reliance upon notions of all-powerful beings in the skies." (Sermon 7/17/2016)*

John styles this wicked man as "antichrist" in this one verse:

**1John 2:18** *"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."*

He speaks of him as a known quantity; a man that will surely arrive with an appointed timing and purpose. He shall come. Then John pivots, and doesn't mention him again, instead he speaks about the spirit of antichrist that will permeate the world until the way is prepared for Satan to bring forth that Wicked to do his hateful, murderous work. Every subsequent use of the word antichrist is speaking to the satanic spirit that increasingly manifests throughout mankind in the last time. That spirit of antichrist is our focus as we now read through the passages.

**1John 2:15-27** *"15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. 18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. 20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. 21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. 23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same*

*hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. 24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. 25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. 26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. 27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."*

**1John 4:1-13** *"1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. 7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 12 No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit."*

**2John 1:5-11** *"5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. 6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it. 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."*

## Conclusions about the Spirit of antichrist:

- **Defining Characteristics:** According to our passages, the spirit of antichrist is defined as not confessing that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, thereby denying the Father and the Son. That sounds like a pretty simple thing: just say that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. Billions of people do that. This is not a catechism with some rote words to say. We are talking about a confession of faith that becomes a walk of life. It speaks to the whole work of salvation that defines our Messiah.
  - **He is God.** To say that He is come in the flesh includes an acknowledgment that He is God. By his nature, He is not of the flesh – He had to lower himself to take on flesh, in order to complete His peculiar work of mercy and love. It is antichrist to treat Him as less than God, as many do. (Atheists, Universalists, Muslims, Jews, etc)
  - **We need a savior.** He had no need to take on flesh, except that we are totally depraved, hopelessly lost, and unable to save ourselves. We cry Hosanna to our king! Save us, we pray! To minimize the truth of that matter, by trying to hold on to a shred of human righteousness and goodness, is to deny the Father and the Son. It is antichrist.
  - **He did what He promised.** He came in the flesh to complete the work that He, and He alone, promised to perform: the Lamb that was slain before the foundation of the earth. He, and He alone is able to perform that work of salvation. Any doctrine which even slightly diminishes His role in the work of salvation, and even slightly inserts the righteousness or ability of mankind to perform a work that merits or accomplishes salvation, is a damnable heresy that denies the Father and the Son. Such doctrine is built upon the murderous lies of Satan, and is in fact antichrist. The doctrine of human works – accepting and cooperating with good old Jesus – is the de facto doctrine of more than 2 Billion people claiming the title of Christian at this hour.
  - **Confess Him.** When the Holy Spirit enters the heart of a man, he is changed – born again. Faith, belief, and repentance enter the picture – free irresistible gifts of God. “We love him, because he first loved us.” (**1John 4:19**) That change brings forth a confession of Christ as his savior, and obedience to submit to the outward ordinance of baptism. But that is only the beginning of confessing Christ. What must follow is a conspicuous and persistent walk, maintaining doctrine and practice, which includes obedience to assemble in love with fellow servants of Christ, communing at the Lord’s table with them. If you’re not going to make confessing Christ a part of your warp and woof, then you have no part with Him. This confession is not a group project, it is personal to you. There is no plausible deniability – “you don’t know my heart

... you don't know what I believe". Confess Him and abide in Him, with sincerity and truth!

- **Mark of the Beast:** Additionally, we can gain some insight into the spirit of antichrist from considering the mark of the antichrist beast (**Rev 13**). The spirit of antichrist will culminate in that Beast, and will be codified in his kingdom, sealed upon his servants with a mark:
  - **Revelation 13:16-18** *"16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."*
  - Clearly the mark of the Antichrist beast is six – six – six. Why? "Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast": Reckon it – give an accounting for it, seeing that it is (or contains) the number of man. I don't know of other scripture that outright states what that number is, or why. Exposition on this question is all over the place, and nearly all contains worthless obsession with numerology applied to trying to name the antichrist as a Roman emperor, a pope, or something related to the Catholic church.
  - I don't pretend to have full wisdom about this question, but I believe that the answer is rooted in the work of creation itself. God baked the hebdomadal cycle into the fabric of creation – a week of seven days. Six days of work; one day of rest. The entire creation was formed in six days: the earth, the sun and stars, the flora and fauna, culminating with the creation of man, in God's own image. Then he rested. "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." (**Genesis 2:1-3**)
  - Man is congenitally unable to reach past the pride of his own self, the work of his own hands, and reliance upon the creation itself. Six. He cannot attain to the sanctification and rest of God by anything within him, around him, or coming from the work of his own hands, though it be the continual, grotesque, satan-inspired work of the depraved human heart to try with all his might:
    - **Romans 1:19-25** *"19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by*

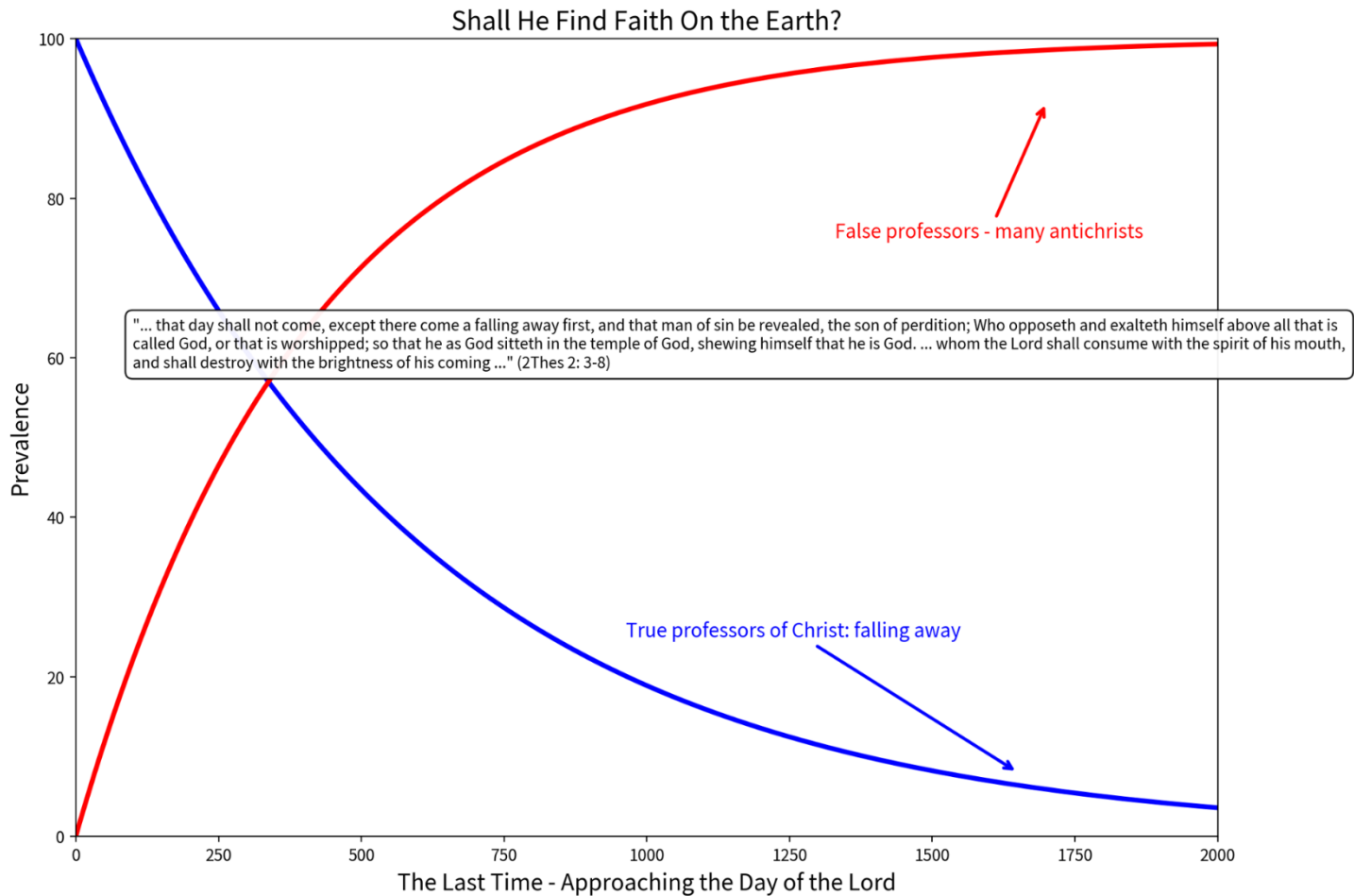
*the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”*

- Again, six represents the creation, and it’s pinnacle: man. Seven represents our rest upon God who is separate from His creation – sanctified and holy. We cannot enter into His rest unless the Father draws us, the Son redeems us, and the Spirit sanctifies us. His work! His glory! His power! His will! Our salvation cannot come from anything contained within the six days of creation. Our salvation – our rest – is in the seventh.
  - **Hebrews 4:1-5** *“1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. 5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.”*
- Any thought that we can save ourselves is born of the spirit of antichrist, as it sets Christ our King and Redeemer at naught, and makes Him subject to man.
- **The Last Time:** John tells us plainly that the rise of this spirit of antichrist is a defining characteristic of the “last time”. The last time will bring forth the “latter day” spoken of by Job, when Jesus Christ will stand upon the earth as King, Savior, and Judge.
  - **Job 19:25-27** *“25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”*

- Zooming out to the entirety of the depraved human creation, we are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> act – the final epoch. The first epoch opened with the light of creation, and direct instruction from God; it was characterized by the sons of God being set apart and separate in life and worship ... until they weren't. The second epoch opened with the establishment of a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and included various direct interactions with God, including his very presence in the pillars of cloud and fire, and in the Holy of Holies; it was characterized by a nation of God's people that was distinct, sanctified, and holy ... until they weren't. The third and final epoch - the last time – opened with the blazing light of the Word of God incarnate, crucified, risen, and standing at the right hand of the Father; it is characterized by the church maintaining and defending the Gospel of Jesus Christ until He comes in power and glory to establish His kingdom. Largely, the churches have apostatized. It is our duty to hold fast until He comes.
- When John wrote his letters, he was indeed in the last times, characterized by direct opposition to Christ – God in the flesh. Many antichrists. The proliferation of that spirit of antichrist is a sign of the coming of Christ. The worse it gets, the closer we are to the moment when antichrist himself – that man of sin – will be revealed, followed closely by the revelation of Jesus Christ. The inverse is also true: the decline of true servants of Christ is a sure sign that the day of our Lord is rapidly approaching. Christians – in deed, in truth, and in love – have fallen away. There is no disputing that matter. How far have we fallen from the days when there were true churches from city to city? The landscape has become absolutely barren. Instead, false Christians cover the land like ravenous, devouring locusts.
  - **Luke 18:7,8** *“7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”*

- I'm not cooking up some new, strange doctrine. I'm not date setting. I'm simply pointing to a scriptural truism. The last time will bring forth the latter day. That day will come. Christ will come. There are signs of His coming. The spirit of antichrist is one of those signs; it is not some mystical and mysterious thing – it is straightforward, it is real, and it is rising. Many of you are already clear about this matter, but I don't think everyone is. If you are already clear about this, then please excuse the overly concrete chart that I've prepared. Sometimes a picture makes things click for someone.

- **Try the spirits:**



- John focuses on the fact that this spirit of antichrist is preached and proselytized by those that call themselves Christian. Satan works tirelessly through false Christians to inject his poisonous deception, seducing men away from Christ, and back to the pride of their heart, and the desires of their flesh. As such, John warns and instructs us: *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (1John 4:1)*

- If we accept shallow lip service and flatteries, then we are not trying the spirit. If we accept stiff-arms, silence, and plausible deniability, then we are not trying the spirit.
- We have to try the spirits according to the truth that has been given us (see above). We are teaching, inspecting and correcting for doctrine and practice – word and deed – to align with the Word.
- The work of trying the spirit has to be done with sincerity, meekness, truth, love, fear and trembling. It is not about us; in fact, inspecting our own selves continually is a part of the work. We have no righteousness to bring to the table. We carry the treasure of the Spirit of God in these earthen vessels, and we must abide in the truth of that Spirit.
- We have had many experiences where false doctrine has crept into our midst; quiet, dormant, roots of bitterness waiting to spring up and defile many. Our Lord is coming, my friends - Watch! Provoke! Speak to one another with the word of God, not the wisdom of men.
  - **1Corinthians 11:18-19** *“18 For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. 19 For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.”*

Let us close with these blessed words of truth and encouragement from John:

**1John 1:1-7** *“1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. 5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”*

I love you all. Amen.