

Spirit of Antichrist

1 John 2:18, 4:3

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**BIG BEND
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What does it mean it is the last hour?

1 John 2:18 – *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.*

The Church Age is preceding the culmination of Gentile history that all so easily accommodates rebellion against the Creator-God.

What are the many antichrists that have come?

These are all those who have opposed God and His people.

What is the Spirit of Antichrist?

1 John 4:3 – *“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”*

It is the idea that the story of Jesus paying the penalty of the sins of those who believe Him is a myth.

- The spirit of Antichrist is not recognizing Jesus as the Son of God, our Savior and Lord. It is replacing Him with such things as deliverance from a government to take care of us, wealth, or anything else that makes it possible for people to think they can get by without Jesus in their lives.

Since the Spirit of Antichrist was around during Paul’s day, what is its significance today?

As God removes His restraint of evil in the world which foreshadows the Tribulation, we are seeing increasing instances the Spirit of Antichrist which precedes the actual person of the Antichrist.

What Trend did Paul warn about for the end of the Church Age?

2 Timothy 3:13 – *Evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived*

Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44) and thus the motivator of all deceptions (2 Corinthians 11:14). Those embracing evil and engaging in deception that serves the purposes of Satan will grow as we get closer to the return of the Lord.

- Jesus warned of great deception in the Olivet Discourse when speaking of the Tribulation. There will

be plenty of deception preceding the Tribulation as birth pangs.

What does this characteristic of the Antichrist have to say about what we can expect at the end of the Church Age?

Daniel 7:25 – *He shall... intend to change times and law*

As we get closer to the return of Christ, we can expect governments to deal with their troubles by making radical changes to our laws because the ruling elite conclude that the old ways must not work. These changes will cause chaos to reign as the rule of law is replaced with the rule of man which is unpredictable.

How is it the Antichrist will change times?

We see this is the cancel culture movement.

- As we get closer to the return of Jesus, more and more history will be rewritten to reflect badly on the old ways such as following the rule of law and embracing a biblical worldview.
- We are already seeing serious historical revisionism concerning the founding of the United States and in holocaust denial among Islamists.
- The popularity of Darwinian evolution is just another example of historical revisionism on a grand scale.

Why do the ungodly insist on changing history?

Humanists in this Postmodern Age believe all history is suspect having been written to suit the perspectives of those who have prevailed in the conflicts with others.

- So since humanists are now gaining more power in our society with God removing His restraint of evil, they are taking advantage of their opportunity to re-write history to their liking.

Why does the ruling elite oppose God so much?

Psalm 2:2 – *The rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.”*

They want to be gods over the people and so they reject God’s law and institute their own human morality.

- As we get closer to the return of the Lord, we should expect the rule of law to be used less and less. All law is derived from God's Law which the Antichrist will seek to change.

What other trend can we expect as the Spirit of Antichrist grows?

Matthew 24:12 – *Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold*

As we get closer to the return of the Lord, we should expect more lawlessness. Jesus told us that this growth of lawlessness would be a sign of His soon return. Such departing from God's Law will be accompanied by selfishness abounding and love growing cold.

- It is interesting to note that lawlessness will be personified in the Antichrist who is called "*the lawless one*" in 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

Why is there a movement to defund the police in so many places?

1 Corinthians 14:33 – *God is not the author of confusion but of peace*

The ungodly mind abhors law and order. It is at its core rebellion against the Law Giver, God.

- So when the leftist media encourages people to riot in response to some perceived injustice or to rebel against the police who work to maintain the peace, recognize that they are simply exposing their hatred for God.
- Anarchists are always inspired by the devil with an insidious agenda behind them. In this stage of history, the local police are being ostracized resulting in chaos which will eventually result in an even more totalitarian police state.

What is behind the efforts to accommodate people who are confused about their gender?

Romans 1:28 – *Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting*

As we get closer to the return of the Lord, we should expect more injustice. In an age when we are seeing calls for social justice, true justice has to be sacrificed. God's law is just; man's rule is unjust due to sin. Sacrificing justice in order to satisfy man's idea of what is fair to one group means it has to be unfair to another. We can expect more irrational judgments as leaders get more ungodly.

- The ungodly see everything in terms of a zero-sum game... that if there is a winner, there has to be a loser. They have no sense that there can be a win-win scenario in anything so they never consider it
- The zero-sum mentality is behind Critical Race Theory... thinking competitive racism will fix racism.

How are we seeing this characteristic of the Antichrist?

Daniel 7:8 – *A mouth speaking pompous words*

As we get closer to the return of the Lord, we should expect the character of the Antichrist to be more reflected in political leaders. The Antichrist will be charismatic and depend on oratory; he will be perceived as an eloquent, scholarly speaker. Thus political leaders most embraced by the public in the end times will likewise be those who speak with pompous words.

Are we seeing blasphemies spoken against God?

Daniel 11:36 – *He shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods*

As we get closer to the return of the Lord, we should expect more antichrist-speak from government leaders. Their huge pride will drive them to speak very highly of themselves and blatantly slander God as the Bible reveals Him. And slandering God's people is often how they slander God.

- This spirit was behind Obama calling people "bitter clingers to their guns and Bibles"
- Also, Hillary Clinton referring to her political opponents who were generally conservatives and Christians as "deplorables."

Politicians often give lip-service to the Bible by quoting Scripture but they usually have to take it out of context in order to justify their antichrist ideology.

- It is interesting to note that Satan used this same strategy when he tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:6).

How are we seeing these characteristics of the Antichrist?

Daniel 11:37 – *He 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.*

The trend in religion is universalism, not recognizing the God of Scripture as being legitimate... that God is a generic deity who does not intervene in the affairs of men (Deism).

- The desire of women is a Jewish phrase referring to the Messiah... all Jewish woman hoped they'd be the mother of the Messiah.

Daniel 11:37 – *But 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.*

This god of fortresses is technology. We have elevated science to something more than it is and has come to be regarded as the savior of mankind versus as a blessing from God.

Daniel 11:37 – *Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many*

This foreign god is some demonic entity which will negate the power of human technology. Perhaps it is seen as extraterrestrial technology. There will be a lot of deception during the Tribulation with demons masquerading as “helpful” agents to mankind.

- It is likely this “alien technology” will be invoked to explain away the rapture of the church... God said there would be a “*strong delusion*” to cause people to not recognize the rapture for what it was in 2 Thessalonians 2:11.

How are we seeing this characteristic of the Antichrist?

John 8:44 – *The devil... does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him... for he is a liar and the father of [lies]*

As we get closer to the return of the Lord, we should expect more deception from government leaders. In an age where there is growing support for the end justifying the means, it is more and more accepted that the government lying to the people is not such a big deal.

- Spin-doctors are praised as being shrewd manipulators of the public. So government leaders will get increasingly more deceptive and devoid of integrity. They will apply techniques like “The Big Lie” which Adolf Hitler described in his book, “Mein Kampf.” Hitler found that if you boldly tell a big lie often enough, the public will come to believe the lie rather than consider that their beloved government would so blatantly mislead them.
- This is one of the fruits of Darwinian evolution: Every generation thinks they are smarter than the last and not subject to being manipulated by propaganda. The problem is that despite people thinking they are better than those who came before them, history still does repeat itself.

What kind of “big lies” are we seeing today?

We are certainly seeing this in the COVID-19 response.

- The narrative that Covid is more deadly than it really is (fear porn)
- That mask wearing and lock-downs reduce infections.
- That vaccines are safe and effective despite the suppression of severe reactions and “breakthrough” infections
- That natural immunity is inferior to the manufactured immunity of vaccines.

What kind of Antichrist camouflage are we seeing?

Revelation 13:2 – *The beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion*

As we get closer to the return of the Lord, we should expect more camouflage to hide what government is really doing. The Antichrist will be ruthless, like an animal crushing all opposition to him. And part of his tactics will be to take people by surprise due to camouflage like a leopard. Increasingly we are seeing leaders saying things that sound good but doing the exact opposite of what they promised. Along with that, we are seeing more Orwellian language that masks the true intentions of government officials.

Where have we seen political leaders coming to power by trickery?

Daniel 11:21 – *He shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue*

Election fraud is getting easier and nothing is ever done to roll it back.

- The Antichrist will come to power “*by intrigue*” which according to the Blue Letter Bible Lexicon means by flattery, slipperiness, fine promises, and smoothness.
- The Antichrist will use deception and diplomatic trickery to catapult him to power. Dictators operate without public accountability because wickedness cannot stand the light of scrutiny.
- Having a democracy is not an inoculation against despotism; Adolf Hitler was elected and the “Arab Spring” democratic movement only resulted in rule-of-man Islamists coming into power.

What is this trend that we can expect as the spirit of Antichrist grows?

Daniel 7:25 – *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High*

Jesus said His followers would be persecuted (John 15:20). He also indicated that persecution would be among the birth pangs that would herald the Tribulation (Matthew 24:9). Persecuting Christians is a symptom of the spirit of Antichrist and it will climax during the second half of the Tribulation.

- Due to the Covid crisis, we have already seen government imposing its control over churches even in the USA. This will eventually force churches to go underground as in the case in China.

What does this characteristic of the Antichrist tell us?

Revelation 13:4 – *They worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”*

As we get closer to the return of the Lord, we should expect the agenda of anti-God government leaders to be harder and harder to stop. They will control people by fear and be so destructive that people will have no choice but yield to them.

- Satan is called Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek which means Destroyer (Revelation 9:11). Satan possesses the Antichrist and inspires all who have the spirit of Antichrist (Revelation 13:2).

Why is there such a relentless trend toward socialism?

Daniel 11:24 – *He shall do what his fathers have not done, nor his forefathers: he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches*

Socialism will be the economic system of the Antichrist. Totalitarian control is his objective and is required to make socialism work.

- The problem is that socialism never works as well as it sounds in theory; what could be fairer than everyone having the same income? In reality socialism robs the successful and distributes their wealth to the lazy thus stifling innovation and fostering mediocrity.
- Spreading the wealth around sounds good but it oppresses people, enslaving them to the state. As we get closer to the time of the Antichrist, we can expect the trend toward socialism to accelerate.
- This is the goal of the WEF’s Great Reset... you will own nothing and be happy.

What does this characteristic of the Antichrist tell us?

Daniel 8:25 – *He shall destroy many in their prosperity*

We are already seeing inflation destroying savings so that people will be even more dependent on the government in their role as savior.

Why are wealthy people often on-board with the trend toward socialism?

They already have their wealth and know money buys them favor that they can leverage for even more money.

- The ruling class always does well when they have more control over the public. But this means an end to the middle class which gives the poor hope to improve their condition.
- With socialism there is no hope for the masses, just shared misery. But the wealthy elite who think they will have an advantage with socialism will find that what they have been hoping in will let them down.
- These wealthy elite will be regarded as "useful idiots" to advance the agenda of the Antichrist only to find

that they themselves are caught up in the destruction that follows...

James 5:1-5 – *Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!*

² Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.

What applications do you see from our discussion today?

- The craziness we are seeing will only get worse... life will not return to “normal.” But God is in control; the growing craziness only reveals that He is preparing to intervene in the affairs of men. His kingdom on earth is coming soon!
- The rapidly growing spirit of Antichrist reveals we are close to the end of the Church Age... it is time to get on with whatever God is calling us to do.
- Birth pangs preceding the Tribulation will be uncomfortable but we can be encouraged that they only reveal we are getting ever closer to God’s deliverance in the rapture.