

prophecies DECODED

CAN THE PAST REVEAL YOUR FUTURE?

PRESENTATION 8

The Antichrist and the Cults that Follow Him

I. In Search of the Antichrist

- a. Throughout history, there have been many suggestions given on the identity of the Antichrist
- b. Reformers taught it was the papal system, but the Counter Reformation created "Futurism," to avoid it
- c. The popular teaching on the Antichrist is partly biblical

II. The Antichrist Defined

- a. Anti = "against" or "in place of." The Bible highlights its deceiving quality, thus Antichrist is a counterfeit Christ
- b. Not merely a person but the teaching of false doctrines
- c. 1 John 2:18-22; 4:3; 2 John 7 The antichrist is a liar, denying Christ in the flesh, who is already at work at the end of the 1st century and yet appears "at the last time," and who originates from within the church
- d. 1 John 4:3 Not confessing Jesus coming in the flesh is denying the need for Jesus, potentially suggesting self
- e. 2 Thess 2:3-9 Paul calls the Antichrist "that man of sin" or "the lawless one." Restrained at the time, he would show up during "the apostasy," and sit in the temple of God, showing himself as God by signs and wonders

III. The Timing and Activity of the Antichrist

- a. Dan 7:7, 8; Rev 13:1 Daniel calls the Antichrist "the little horn," and in Revelation John calls him "the beast"
- b. 2 Thess 2:5-7 The one "restraining" the Antichrist in Paul's time was Imperial Rome which fell in AD 476

NOTES

- c. Dan 7:25; 12:7; Rev 13:5 After Rome fell, 1,260 years (see Eze 4:6) of apostasy would follow (538 to 1,798)
- d. 2 Thess 2:3, 4 The Man of Sin would:
 - i. Deny true Christian worship and even heathen worship (“above all... that is worshipped”)
 - ii. Take the seat of God (see Dan 7:9)
- e. Dan 7:25; 8:11, 12 The Little Horn would be arrogant before God, persecute the saints, and try to change God's law, casting truth and God's sanctuary down
- f. The way to avoid the Antichrist is to know Jesus Christ!

IV. How to Identify a Cult

- a. For centuries, honest people were deceived by the Antichrist. Today, the same vulnerability exists
- b. Cults have a self-proclaimed messiah:
 - i. Matt 24:24 At the end, false christs will come
 - ii. Rev 17:13 They give their power to the Beast
 - iii. Acts 4:12 Salvation is found only in Christ
- c. The leader's words are above Scripture:
 - i. Isa 8:20 All revelation must match Scripture
 - ii. Rev 18:23 Nations deceived by “sorcery”
 - iii. Mark 7:3-9 Christ condemned men's traditions
 - iv. John 17:17 Only God's word is truth
- d. Cults coerce followers into submission:
 - i. Rev 13:16, 17 The Beast forces people to receive a mark of identity in order to survive
 - ii. 2 Cor 11:14 Satan has great powers to deceive
- e. Cult leaders appeal to miracles as sign of authority:
 - i. Rev 13:13, 14 The Beast deceives via miracles
 - ii. Rev 16:14 This is fueled by spirits of demons
- f. Cults urge group conformity:
 - i. 2 Thess 2:10, 11 Those deceived avoid the truth
 - ii. Eph 4:11-14 God's plan keep us from deception
 - iii. Rom 14:12 Each one will be judged individually

V. Truth Can Set Us Free

- a. John 8:32, 36 Only Christ's truth can set us free
- b. The way to avoid the Antichrist is to know Jesus Christ!