

Question: Who is the Antichrist and when will he come?

The apostle John is the only inspired writer who uses the word “antichrist” (1 Jn 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 Jn 7). “Anti” is a preposition that means “against.” “Antichrist” is defined as one who stands against Christ; one who is a defiant adversary of Christ. The word “antichrist” should be distinguished from the “false Christs” foretold by Jesus (Mt 24:5,24; Mk 13:22). An “antichrist” opposes and denies Christ, while “false Christs” pretend to be Christ. John also declares that “many antichrists” had already arisen at the very time he was writing (2:18; 4:3).

The important question for us today is not when will “the antichrist” come, but who are the opponents of Christ presently in the world. This we are able to do by contrasting their teaching with that of the apostles of Christ (4:1-6). Every religious doctrine and custom that does not mirror those teachings of the apostles is in essence opposed to (or “anti”) the will of Christ (2 Jn 9). For example, Jesus commissioned the apostles to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mk 16:15-16). Therefore, proponents of doctrines that deny the necessity of water baptism for salvation, and the necessity for one being able to believe before being baptized are in essence “anti-Christ.”

Many people have taken it upon themselves to talk and write much about a certain individual, whom they suppose is “the antichrist,” that will soon appear to rule the world. All such speculation is purely imaginary, and has no scriptural basis.

Now a related question: are there anti-Christ’s alive today?

- 1) The word anti-Christ is found four times. 1 Jn 2:18,22; 4:3; 2 Jn 7.
- 2) From these verses we learn that there are many anti-Christ’s (1 Jn 2:18).
- 3) He denies the Father and the Son (1 Jn 2:22).
- 4) Every spirit that confesses not Jesus is not of God (1 Jn 4:3).
- 5) Those who confess not that Jesus Christ came in the flesh (2 Jn 7).

To the extent that one is guilty of the sins specified in these passages, one is therefore identified with the anti-Christ mentioned in the Bible. Let me encourage you to study this and other Bible subjects for yourself, from the Scripture. It is complete, and it will give you all the information you need to know on subjects relating to your soul. We have a tendency to think that we cannot understand the Bible on our own, but we truly can. God intended it to be so.