

190612-4 Doctrine Series, Antichrist, The Person—CThurman

23. Antichrist*

The Anti-Christ is a person who shall arise in the last days also called the son of perdition or the beast. He is also called the abomination that makes desolate. He shall oppose all that is called God and shall sit in the temple of God, showing himself to be God and requiring all who dwell on the earth to worship him. Those who will not worship him shall be killed. He shall require all persons, small and great, to take a mark in their foreheads or in their right hands. Without receiving this mark there can be no buying or selling, no commerce. He shall gather all the armies of the earth in a final assault against the Lord Jesus Christ but he and his armies shall all be destroyed at the coming of Christ.

Mt.24:15; Mk.13:14; 2Th.2:3, 4, 8, 10; Dan.7:25; 1Jn.2:18; Re.13:11-18, 19:19, 20, 20:10.

**This is an added article not in the 1644 COF.*

Defining the term *antichrist*

The word antichrist is a noun that comes from a compound Greek word, ἀντιχρίστος, ἀντί *in the room or place of, to be against, contradict* + χρίστος Christ, The Anointed; the verb form of χρίστος is χρίω, *tss. to anoint* (the anointed of God); the Hebrew equivalent for χρίστος is מָשִׁיחַ, Ma-shee-ach, an adjective, *tss. the anointed (one)*, from which we have the English, Messiah. The verb form for מָשִׁיחַ, Ma-shee-ach, is שָׁחַ, ma-shach. שָׁחַ refers to the act of pouring. For example, Jacob poured oil (יָצַק, ya-tzaq, *to pour, to pour out, cast, set down*) on a stone that he had used for a pillow.

Ge 28:18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

That act of pouring is called anointing, מָשִׁחַ, ma-shach in Ge.31.13.

Ge 31:13 I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.

The idea that a man or men were anointed of the LORD is found very early in the history of the nation of Israel. It was first applied to Aaron and to his sons.

Le 4:3 If the priest that is anointed (מִשְׁחָה, ma-shee-ach, a masc. adj.) do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering.

Everything that was special, holy, & devoted to the service of the LORD, by the LORD was to be anointed. So, the tabernacle, its furniture, the priesthood, prophets and kings were all anointed with oil. Everything that was anointed always in some way pointed the Lord Jesus.

Antichrist is understood of one who stands in the room of Jesus Christ as if he is Jesus Christ. For anyone to stand in the place of Christ, as if he is the Christ is antichrist, and this is what the Antichrist will do. This person stands against the Lord, opposes Him and contradicts Him. Though there are many antichrists, the Bible tells of a certain person coming that is The Antichrist. There is coming a man who is absolutely persuaded that he is the Christ of God. And there is coming a day when those who are not of God's elect shall believe his false claims.

Re 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

My opinion is that there have been men of this sort since man's fall into sin. These men presented themselves as a savior of men. It is certainly worth noting that since the first *one world government* of Babylon, since that time, there began the prophecy of the coming of the one, notable man called the Antichrist. It was written that this man, The Antichrist, would rise at the last week of Israel's seventy weeks.

The first one-world government:

Da 2:37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

The prophecy of the coming of the Antichrist:

Da 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. (cf. Ez.39.7, 25)

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks (totaling 483 yrs.): the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. (which accts. for the 7 weeks of years [49 yrs.]

26 And after threescore and two weeks [62 week so yrs. is 434 yrs.) shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself (not for anything that He had done): and the people of the prince that shall come (in A.D.70) shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he (context, the prince, who is the Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (a covenant of peace with Israel for 7 yrs.): and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The apostle John wrote that the Antichrist would come in the last days.

1Jo 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come (or literally, 'that the Antichrist comes [comes, ἔρχεται, 3ps. pres. ind.]), even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

The time of the one-world order and the rule of the Antichrist go hand in hand.

Re.13.7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

The Antichrist is Known by Several (7) Names:

He is called:

The Prince That Shall Come

Dan.9.26 And after threescore and two weeks [62 week so yrs. is 434 yrs.] shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself (not for anything that He had done): and the people of the prince that shall come (in A.D.70) shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he (context, the prince, who is the Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (a covenant of peace with Israel for 7 yrs.): and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate (a waste, astonishment, wonder), even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

The Man of Sin & the Son of Perdition

2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day (the day of Christ, v.2) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

perdition, ἀπωλείας, gen. sing. of ἀπώλεια, destruction, waste, perdition, death, damnation, perniciousness.

The Thessalonians thought that the day of Christ was present, was come.

The Wicked (One)

2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked [one] be revealed ...

The Abomination that Makes Desolate

Da 12:11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Mt 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

2Th 2:4 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.

The Beast

Re 13:18 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.

Re.19.19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

The Little Horn

Dan. 7.8 I considered the [10] horns [that came out of the 4th dreadful & terrible beast, v.7), and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

The World Shall Receive This Man

Before our eyes we watch in amazement as this nation and all of the nations of the earth turn away from the most fundamental truths of God's word and to great error: evolution, climate change, sanctity of human life, life after death, and a sovereign, unchangeable, and eternal God. This turning is an evidence that God

has poured upon the earth a spirit of delusion or seduction so that it might believe a lie.

2Th.2.11 And for this cause God shall send them strong (effectual, fervent work of) delusion (deception), that they should believe a lie:

12 That (ἵνα, hina, in order that) they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

strong, ἐνέργειαν, acc. sing. of ἐνέργεια; KJV tss. working, effectual working, operation, strong; the verb, ἐνεργέω, to shew forth, to work, to be effectual, to work effectually, effectual fervent [prayer].

*delusion, πλάνης, gen. sing. of πλάνη; KJV tss. error, to deceive (meaning of deception), of deceit, delusion; the verb πλανᾶω, is tss. to go astray, to err, to deceive, to go out of the way, to wander, **seduce**.*

This prepares them for receiving the Antichrist when he comes. Brethren, there must come a one-world order.

Re.13.7 ... and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

There must come a kingdom on this earth unlike any other kingdom previous to this time.

Da 7:7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

The Antichrist must come. The notion that the world is getting better and that the world shall turn to Christ is a lie proposing a false hope.

What Antichrist Shall Do

This man will be infamous for his speech against God, his rebellion against the true Christ of God, the Lord Jesus, and his animus to both the people of Israel and the churches of Jesus Christ. And this man will move the inhabitants of the earth against everything God and Christian.

Dan.7.20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up [the little horn], and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them ...

...

25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. (or 3 ½ years, 42 mos., 1,260 days)

2Th 2:4 Who (that man of sin, the son of perdition) 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.

Re 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman (national Israel), and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (through means of the Antichrist, Re.13.5, 7)

Re.13.5 And there was given unto him (the beast becomes personalized) a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. (3 ½ yrs., 1,260 days)

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Dan.7.7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly (the Roman kingdom, Dan.2.40); and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and

brake in pieces, and stamped the residue (of the kingdoms before: Babylon, Persia/Mede, and Greek) with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns (parallel to the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's dream).

8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Re.17.12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

14 ¶ These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Re 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

He, and those of his world-wide confederation, will make war with the saints and overcome them for a time.

Dan.7.21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them ...

Da 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Re.13.7 And it was given unto him (the beast) to make war with the saints, and to overcome them ...

For the Antichrist to make war with the saints means that they shall see him.

2Th.2.3 ¶ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day (the day of Christ, v.2) shall not come, except there come a falling away first (an apostasy, a great forsaking), and that man of sin be revealed (revealed for who he is), the son of perdition ...

Rabbit [for some who might read this later]

In the last lesson we brought the doctrine of the two resurrections, the first resurrection and the last resurrection at the last day. Some of those of the church at Thessalonica has begun to think that the day of Christ was at hand. *At hand* is the Greek, ἐνέστηκεν, a 3ps. perf. ind. of ἐνίστημι, tss. *to be present, at hand, and come*. So, some of them thought that they lived in that day, and being of that mind probably began to give up a proper attitude of living day to day, resigning themselves of any preparations for the future. This kind of attitude is manifest in those who receive the predictions of men when they set dates about the end of the world. It was in this second epistle to the church at Thessalonica that the apostle Paul by inspiration of the Holy Spirit set the record straight. He tells them in clear terms, if we will receive the truth, that the day of Christ shall not come except a couple of things be fulfilled. What are these things?

2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

(Paul writes, brethren we want to comfort you by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto him ... the first resurrection ...)

2 That ye be not soon shaken (σαλεύω, also, to be moved, stirred) in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

be troubled, θροεῖσθαι, pres. infin. pass. of θροέομαι, and otherwise only found in the apocalyptic texts of Mt. 24 (v.6) & Mk.13 (v.7);

only once found in the LXX, at Song of Solomon 5.4 *to be moved*; these three places where this is found in the N.T. is always passive voice, and so means *to be inwardly aroused* (cf. B-D-A-G Lexicon, p.364), and so *to be disturbed in mind*.

Paul assure them that the day of Christ is not at hand, is not come yet. Notice that to think otherwise is to be *deceived ...* and then he explain why the day of Christ is not come yet.

3 ¶ *Let no man deceive you by any means* (any manner, means, way, conversation): *for that day* (What day? The day of Christ) *shall not come, except there come a falling away* (ἀπόστασία, apostasy, not only among the people of God from the true doctrine of Christ, but also among the people in the earth as they forsake the clear evidences of God in nature, Ro.1.25] *first, and that man of sin be revealed* (for who he is), *the son of perdition*;

...

2Th 2:6 *And now ye know what*

Not who. *What* refers to the necessary apostasy and the revelation of the man of sin.

withholdeth

withholdeth, κατέχων, acc. sing. neut. part. pres. act. of κατέχω; lit. holds down & tss. *keeps, stays, retains, holds, letteth* (meaning *hinders*, v.7)

The apostasy and the revelation of the man of sin withholds something. What? The topic is the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him isn't it? (vss.1, 2)

that he (the son of perdition) *might be revealed in his time*.

This wicked man must come into human history. He must do what has been prophesied that he would do. If not, the word of God is not true. But we know the God's word is true. And so, it is an undeniable fact that the saints of God shall see the Antichrist because he comes before the day of the coming of Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him.

Too many are not following the simple progression of thought that Paul presents in this second chapter of the epistles to the church at Thessalonica. Anyone that expositors this text and practices a good hermeneutic will not inject any notion of the Holy Spirit at verse 7. The Antichrist must come. This terrible event is what hinders the coming of Jesus Christ. It is not a matter of who has greater power. No, the matter is that God has decreed a certain unfolding order of historical events; plain and simple.

The Saints Overcame Antichrist By Christ's Shed Blood

There is no question that the saints shall suffer greatly at the hands of this man.

Re 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

But because Christ died for them they have already overcome Antichrist, even if they die. The Antichrist is given power over the saints only for a time. Do we believe that God is sovereign? Then we can say that our Lord allows this evil man to come into power. We can say that our Lord enthrones this evil man to do the things that he does.

Ro 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

But remember this. He has only the power to kill the body, and he can do no more.

Mt 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Like our Lord Jesus, the saints learn obedience to God through the things we suffer.

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered ...

Antichrist's Has an End

And when Antichrist has served the purpose which God has for him to do, he will be removed from his place of authority and be cast into a lake of fire & brimstone to suffer eternal punishment.

Dan.7.11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

Re 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Christ shall rule the earth, and the saints shall reign with Him.

Dan.7.16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.

18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Dan.7.21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Our confession of faith includes in it an article (#23) which concerns the prophecies of the coming of a person that we shall know to be the Antichrist. Our confession of faith includes this point in it because the Bible teaches it. I wouldn't be surprised if this man is alive today, that's how close we are to seeing all of the eschatological, premillennial events unfold.

If we know Christ, His death has made us overcomers.

Re 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

Ro.8.37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

But if you don't know Christ to the saving of the soul you will be deceived by this man. You will agree with this man's program. You will follow this man leadership. You will receive his mark in your forehead or in your right hand.

How do I know that I know Christ? Do I love Him? Do I love His word? Have I truly repented of sin and believed the gospel of Jesus Christ? Have I said so? Have I after that confession received Baptist baptism (a complete immersion in water, a watery burial showing my death, burial and resurrection with Christ)? Do I love the people of God? Am I walking in fellowship with Christ and His people in one of His churches? Am I living in holy expectation of His return? These are the marks on one who has faith in Christ. What we do is not what saves us. What we do is what shows whether we really believe or not. Faith works!