

# The School of Prophecy

July 12, 2015

## Lesson 3: The Spirit of Antichrist

**1 John 2:18 NKJV** - *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.*

**II Thessalonians 2:8-9 NKJV** - *<sup>8</sup>And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. <sup>9</sup>The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,*

The Bible tells us that there will be a world leader who will soon rise in power and will exercise authority over the whole world. This coming leader has many names and titles in the Bible including the best known title, the Antichrist. This world leader will be against God and true Christians and will mock God's Word. The people of the world will be mesmerized by his charm and charisma and they will fall under his deceptive spell. He will use deception and lying wonders to spin his web and to conceal his true motives. The apostle John confirmed that the Antichrist is coming, but he also noted that his spirit has long been at work in the world.

### I. The Antichrist

#### A. Descriptions of the Antichrist

##### 1. What is an Antichrist?

The word "anti" means to be opposed to or to be the opposite of. So the anti-Christ is against Christ, His message, His person, and His character.

##### 2. He is called the "Man of Sin."

This term is descriptive of his rebellion and the deep seated pride that shall dominate his personage.

**II Thessalonians 2:3-4 NKJV** - *<sup>3</sup>Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup>who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

##### 3. He is called "The Son of Perdition"

Perdition means destruction, ruin, or waste. The phrase portrays the progression of an evil character who produces ruin in others, and is headed toward eternal destruction.

##### 4. He is called the "Little Horn," symbolizing the last great ruler in the world.

"Little Horn" seems to be a reference to his slow rise politically, before he attains governmental authority.

##### 5. The "Lawless one," meaning that he is in total rebellion against the laws of God that were given as a safety net for mankind.

**Daniel 7:25 NKJV** - *He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.*

6. He is called the “beast” in Revelation, meaning that he is fierce, cruel and heartless.

**Revelation 11:7 NKJV** - *When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.*

**Revelation 9:11 NKJV** - *And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.*

#### B. The Activities of the Antichrist

1. The Antichrist will be revealed as the hope of the world. As a political figure, he will make a peace covenant with Israel promising to protect them from their enemies.

**Daniel 9:27 NKJV** - *Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.*

2. The Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel, declare himself to be God, and will then take over the Jewish temple.
3. In Matthew 24:15 and Mark 13:14, Jesus mentioned the “Abomination of Desolation.” Most prophecy teachers believe this refers to the Antichrist or his image being erected in the Jewish temple and that the Antichrist demands to be worshipped.

**II Thessalonians 2:4 NKJV** - *who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

4. The Antichrist establishes a worldwide religion and all the world worships him.

**Revelation 13:4 NKJV** - *So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”*

**Revelation 13:8 NKJV** - *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

5. The Antichrist will control world commerce with a mark etched on the right hand or the forehead. If anyone refuses the new economic system, they will be executed.

**Revelation 13:15-17 NKJV** - <sup>15</sup> *He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.* <sup>16</sup> *He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,* <sup>17</sup> *and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

## II. The Antichrist Spirit

### A. Discerning the Influence of the Antichrist Spirit

“The epidemic of world lawlessness is spreading.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)

1. The chief characteristic of the Antichrist spirit is that of lawlessness.

**II Thessalonians 2:7-8 NKJV** - *7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*

Lawless – total disregard for governing authority; to be uncontrolled, unruly, disorderly, or unbridled  
In the spiritual realm, it means to reject God and the governing order He has established.

**1 Timothy 1:9 NKJV** - *knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers*

2. A modern day example of the Antichrist spirit was the teachings of an English occultist, Aleister Crowley. Crowley’s book, “The Book of the Law,” had the central theme, “Do what thy wilt.”
3. Much of the music industry was and is influenced by the philosophy of “Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.”

Example – Ozzy Osborne’s dedication to Crowley

4. The spirit of the Antichrist will work in the political arena to draw diverse nations together to achieve peace, security and the rule of law.

**Revelation 13:7 NKJV** - *It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

5. The spirit of the Antichrist will also produce a one-world religion, of this New-Age World of the Antichrist. The outdated, traditional models of faith must go in order to introduce a new form of worship.

**Revelation 17:1 NKJV** - *Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters.”*

6. The harlot represents a false religious system encompassing all false religions. In scripture prostitution and adultery were sometimes used figuratively to denote religious apostasy and unfaithfulness to God.

**Revelation 1:7 NKJV** - *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*