

Distracting People from God - The Antichrist



- Do you find yourself easily distracted from thinking about God or from reading the Bible?
- Do you believe evil spiritual forces are at work seeking to keep you from God, the Bible, and church?
- Have you heard about a person called the Antichrist and wondered if he is in the world today?

The power of leadership, for good or bad, is often underestimated. We must be careful about who we follow. We need to follow the example of a good leader.

One of the prominent figures in the Tribulation period is a world dictator called the Antichrist. The Bible describes him as a world leader unlike any in human history. He will be an intellectual, political, commercial, and military genius with hypnotic influence over the world nations. No ruler equals his abilities and power of influence for evil. He will be controlled and empowered by Satan. The Bible says: "...the dragon [Satan] gave the beast [Antichrist] his own power and throne and great authority." Rev. 13:2 (NLT). Also, see Revelation 13:4 and 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10. **The main mission of the Antichrist will be to deceive and distract people from God. He will work to divert their attention and devotion to Satan and himself as the objects of worship.** The Bible also says: "*And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast* [Antichrist]...." Rev. 13:8 (NLT).

The Meaning of the Title—Antichrist.

The prefix *anti-* can mean "against, opposed to," or "instead of, in place of." The Antichrist is Christ's adversary and a false, counterfeit messiah. Theologian, J. Dwight Pentecost, writes: "**Satan is seeking to give the world a ruler in place of Christ who will also be in opposition to Christ so that he [Satan] can rule over the world, instead of Christ.**" *Will Man Survive?* p.93.

A study of the Antichrist in the Bible teaches us that the Devil will do everything he can to deceive, distract and divert our attention and devotion away from God. He will seek to get our focus on anything other than God—such as material possessions, money, pleasure, prosperity, position, prestige, sensuality, addiction, business, etc.

Central Lesson:

We must be intentional and disciplined about staying focused on God—because the Devil is working to distract us from God.

We must intentionally discipline our schedules, feelings, and priorities to spend time with God—in daily Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, small group Bible study, etc. Without being intentional and disciplined, we will naturally drift away from God. The Devil will throw numerous enticements in front of our eyes to divert our attention away from God, just as the serpent diverted Eve's attention away from God with the attractiveness of the forbidden fruit (cf. Genesis 3:1-6).

An Overview of the Future Reign of Antichrist

1. The Antichrist Will Be **Revealed** to the World after the Restrainer's Removal at the Rapture (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8).
2. The Antichrist Will Rise to Power through **POLITICAL** Manipulation (Rev. 6:2).
3. The Antichrist Makes a **PEACE TREATY** with Israel, and the Tribulation Period Begins (Daniel 9:27).
4. The Antichrist Is Given Power by **SATAN** (Rev. 13:2, 4).
5. The Antichrist Will Be **ASSASSINATED** Near the Middle of the Tribulation and Resurrected (Rev. 13:3, 12, 14; 17:8).
6. The Antichrist Heads Up the Revived **ROMAN EMPIRE** (Daniel 7 and Rev. 17).
7. The Antichrist Will Kill the **TWO WITNESSES** (Rev. 11:7).
8. The Antichrist and the Ten Nations **DESTROY** the One World Religion (Rev. 17:16-18).
9. The Antichrist **STOPS** Israel from Worshipping & Sacrificing in the Temple and Demands the World **WORSHIP** Him as God (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4) as He **BLASPHEMES** God (Rev. 13:5-6; Daniel 7:8).
10. The Antichrist will **PERSECUTE** the Jewish people (Rev. 12:6; Daniel 7:21, 25) and All Christ-followers During the Second Half of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 13:7).
11. The Antichrist Gains a Partner—A Great World-wide **RELIGIOUS** Leader (Rev. 13:11-18).
12. The Antichrist Will Establish a World-wide **IDENTIFICATION MARK** (666) of Antichrist (Rev. 13:16-18).
13. The Antichrist Will Face a **REVOLT** from the Kingdoms of the South (Egypt and Arab allies), North (possibly Russia), and East (possibly China) (Daniel 11:40-44).
14. The Antichrist Will Gather All the Nations against **JERUSALEM** for the Battle of Armageddon. Christ Will Rescue Jerusalem from the Antichrist and the Nations at His Second Coming (Zechariah 12:1-3; 14:1-5; Rev. 16:16; 19:19).
15. Christ Will Defeat and Send the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and All Who Received the Mark of the Beast to the **LAKE of FIRE** (Rev. 19:19-21; Daniel 7:11).

Conclusion

We must be intentional and disciplined about staying focused on God—because the Devil is working to distract us from God. *What place does God have in your heart, schedule, priorities, affections, finances, etc.? In what ways have you been distracted from God?*

Action Steps: ► Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's Bible study. ► Attend a small group. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.