

The Spirit of Antichrist

Webster's dictionary describes an Antichrist as this: A denier or opponent of Christ. It also describes the Antichrist who is to appear during the Great Tribulation, when it says, "A great antagonist, person or power, expected to precede Christ's second coming."

Take a look at what the Apostle John writes in **1 John 2:18** "*Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*"

Did you notice that he mentioned the future antichrist, but he also says that there are many antichrists already in the world.

At the time that John wrote this, there were several who had walked away from the early church, because as John said, they were never truly a part of it anyway. They hadn't gone through the steps of confession, repentance or baptism, and by not doing so, they had chosen not to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Whether it was just too hard for them or they just weren't being called, it doesn't really tell us here, but to deny Christ is to walk in the spirit of Antichrist. We can find proof of this in what John goes on to say in **1 John 2:22-23** "*Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*" *Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*"

Take a look at **1 John 4:3-6** "*And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*"

The world is filled with the spirit of Antichrist, because the world refuses to obey God and serve Him. We, as God's children, have come out of the world and resist that spirit of Antichrist that denies God. Or, at least I hope so.

Continue reading **verses 4-6** "*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*"

Yes, the spirit of Antichrist is growing in this world and eventually it will look just like it did in the days of Noah. In fact, it will be even worse.

Matthew 24:37-39 "*But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*"

This world today is acting exactly like the people of Noah's time. When I read the previous verses, I see it speaking of hatred, murder, rebellion, revelry, partying, abominable acts of same sex marriages and the world proclaiming and celebrating, saying that it's alright. Noah preached repentance for 120 years proclaiming the coming of the flood, but the people didn't listen and they were destroyed.

Genesis 6:5-7 "*And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*" **Genesis 6:13 (KJV)** "*And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*"

This is, no doubt, the same wickedness that they were doing in Sodom and Gomorrah. **Genesis 13:13** "*But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.*" Just because it speaks of only men here, doesn't mean that it doesn't include the acts of the women also. Just as it only speaks of Sodom being wicked, Gomorrah and a few other cities were included and they were all destroyed. So, what were they doing that was so bad that it brought God's wrath down upon them? It had to have been bad for the Lord to come down. **Genesis 18:20-21** "*And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because*

their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know."

The Lord sent two angels to Sodom and when they arrived Lot convinced them to stay in his house, because he knew how wicked the city was. Just as they were about to lay down for the night something happened.

Genesis 19:4-8 *"But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:"* It wasn't just a few people, this was the whole city, and they, men and women, wanted to have their way (sex) with these two angels. This was the spirit of Antichrist working in full force. Let's continue with **verse 5**: *"And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them."* There will be some people who will try to say that the, "words may know them," are just referring to them wanting Lot to introduce the two men to them. We can disprove that theory right away by reading the next **verses, 6-8**: *"And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof."*

If they were only wanting to meet these two men (angels), then why would Lot go out, shut the door behind him and then offer his daughters to them. Jude describes what their thoughts were in **Jude 1:7** *"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."*

These people were wicked and Lot was trying to protect these two who were under his care, although he didn't need to. In fact, the angels had to rescue him, as we will see in the following verses. **Genesis 19:10-11** *"But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut the door. And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door."* The angels blinded all of them.

There was no doubt, in the Lord's mind, that these cities were so wicked that they needed to be destroyed and so He did just that after Lot and His family had left. Let's look at what God did to the cities for the wickedness that they committed against Him. **Genesis 19:24-25 (KJV)** *"Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground."*

Can you see that same wickedness, that same spirit of Antichrist working in the world today? Earlier, I said that things in this world would get worse. Well, one of the reasons I believe that is because of what God said in a previous verse we read.

Look at **Genesis 6:5** again and think about what it says: *"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."*

The wickedness has to get bad enough that every imagination of the thoughts of world has to be evil continually. It's definitely moving in that direction, but I believe the worst is yet to come. As our world continues to grow farther and farther away from God, we are seeing an increase in hate crimes. We are seeing lawyers coming out of the woodwork to sue anyone and everyone they can to make several of those all-important dollars. I watched the news the other day as a young man, going into the NFL, came out as being gay and it seemed as though, from my view, that the world is celebrating this young man's decision. That's all I've heard on the news for the last several days. In fact, the cheers for him at an MU rally were greater than the cheers for the football team's accomplishments. We are seeing more and more states cave in to the allowance of same sex marriages. Most of Hollywood are big supporters. In fact, I heard that a woman who calls herself "Queen Latifa," officiated the marriage of around thirty same sex couples at an awards show awhile back. The Spirit of Antichrist is definitely growing in our world and Satan the biggest "Antichrist" of all, is driving every bit of it.

We have already seen the changes that are happening in the schools. They are pushing the idea that young people can have sex as long as they do it safely, instead of impressing upon them that they should wait until after marriage. They're also encouraging young people to experiment with their sexual orientation to find out if they might prefer those of the same sex or not. In fact, I was reading the local newspaper last week and printed on the front page in big letters it said, "I am a girl." The picture under the title showed the back of a child with long hair, sitting and playing on a bed which caused me, the reader, to think that it's a girl, when in fact, it's a 6-

yr old boy who believes he was supposed to have been born a girl at birth. His parents are encouraging these thoughts. The article itself is talking about transgender children who were born into the wrong bodies. We need to stop for a moment and ask, "Where would thoughts like these come from?" The answer is clear, Satan! These things that we have been talking about are not natural, they come from evil influence.

Let's take a look at **Exodus 20:5-6 (KJV)** "*Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*"

Now, you might ask, "What does these verses have to do with what I've been writing about?" Look at where it says, "*visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.*" What the Lord is describing here is sin through disobedience. When a person sins against God, they are acting contrary to Him and His laws. This is what is described as hate towards God. Now, we who have God's Spirit, can and should be repenting daily of any sins we commit and God forgives them. Those that don't have God's Spirit, the world, as the bible describes them pass their disobedience on to their children and their children's children, thus the curse goes on, as it says, until it is broken by someone being called and choosing to obey God and make Jesus the Lord of their lives. For example, a family without God is much more apt to be under the influence of Satan and so he is able to confuse their minds as to what is right or wrong. If they don't believe or worship God, the Father, then the spirit of Antichrist will be passed on to their children and to their children's children until that curse is broken. This is the Spirit of Antichrist that was in the Garden of Eden that grew when Adam and Eve listened to the Serpent (Satan) instead of obeying God. It is the same Spirit of Antichrist that caused God to destroy the world in Noah's day and caused the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. If you read about the Israelites coming out of Egypt and their wanderings in the wilderness, you will see the spirit of Antichrist working there too.

Even in God's church today, we can see that same spirit working among many of the people. We see it in acts of betrayal, false witness against the brethren, wicked gossip, jealousy, bitterness, unforgiving attitudes, the act of breaking down instead of building up one another, the lack of faith, the lack of works and the one act that, if missing, will cause us to fall into any one of the traps I just described, and that is the act of LOVE.

Paul said it well in **1 Corinthians 13:4-13** "*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but **the greatest of these is charity.**"*

It is hard for me to sit and listen to people say, "God bless the U.S.A.," while they curse Him with their outright disobedience, but the Lord Jesus tells us to wait patiently and not to think that He has forgotten us, or that God is not in control. He is waiting patiently. We are to wait and while we are waiting, we are to profess the truth of God to everyone who will listen and we are to give warning to those who are sinning to repent and be baptized. While some in the church believe that we are to sit back and wait on the Lord to return, I will tell you this. The job, or commission, of the church has not changed and neither has our God.

Malachi 3:5-6 "*And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*"

Hebrews 13:8 "*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*"

The world is becoming more and more like Satan, rebellious and disobedient, sinning against God. As the world looks away from God, we have to keep looking to Him because, if we don't, then we might just fall back into the world and its bondage and lose out on eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Keep in mind that Satan can twist things so that they might look good to you but it is wrong. He also has many agents in the world that work

to deceive also. Read **2 John 1:7** “*For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*”

Satan even has ministers that serve him in the church and their job is to deceive, cause chaos, confusion and to draw people away from God. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15** “*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*”

We are not to hate any of these people, but we are to hate the acts of disobedience against God. If you are not sure what you can do, you might think about writing. We should never be afraid to speak or write the truth when it comes out of the pages of our bibles. The Word of God is the best weapon we have and we should use it. **Hebrews 4:12** “*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*”

What you and I see happening in this world should deeply trouble us, just as it has troubled the prophets and patriarchs and disciples that came before us.

In the end, the spirit of Antichrist will be destroyed by our Lord Jesus when He returns. We have to hold fast until He comes and keep the faith so that when He returns, He will find us righteous in His eyes, as He did Noah before the flood. When He returns, He won't destroy the world with water again, but with fire.

2 Peter 2:4-9 “*For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*”