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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *“Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..” Acts 16:31a* And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *“That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord”, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10:9,10* *“For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13. “Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1*

Antichrist

“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.” 1 John 2:18

Intro:

Every Christian for nearly the past two eons has heard of the term *antichrist*. Most of the focus, though, has been on the man of sin, *The Antichrist*. It is found only in four NT passages, which we will study, and the term *antichrist* is exclusive to the Apostle John, who wrote his letters in circa 96 or 97 AD.

The Apostle John was one of the sons of Israel, a believer in Jesus Christ as his Savior, the youngest of all the Apostles, the closest friend to the Lord and the one who outlived all the other Apostles.

The word, *antichrist*, has tremendous significance, but not along the lines that so many Christians attach to it today. It is a word to be defined in the context of the person of Jesus Christ, his humanity and his position as Messiah of Israel.

What we will find is that the term *spirit of antichrist* refers to any religious teaching that denies that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel, and that *an antichrist* is any individual that states that Jesus is not the Messiah of Israel.

A. Many antichrists

“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.” 1 John 2:18

παιδια εσχατη ωρα εστιν και καθως ηκουσατε οτι ο αντιχριστος ερχεται και νυν αντιχριστοι πολλοι γεγονασιν οθεν γινωσκομεν οτι εσχατη ωρα εστιν

In the first part of the verse John uses the definite article to show that he is referring to **the Antichrist**, the final man of sin. “*You have heard that the antichrist is coming*”. And in the second part of the verse he now refers to *antichrists*, many of them. Many *antichrists* have come to be, all connected to their denying that Jesus is the Messiah.

B. Who is an antichrist?

“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ, that [Jesus is the Messiah of Israel]? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.” 1 John 2:22

τις εστιν ο ψευστης ει μη ο αρνουμενος οτι ιησους ουκ εστιν ο χριστος ουτος εστιν ο αντιχριστος ο αρνουμενος τον πατερα και τον υιον

The definition of an *antichrist* is **anyone, or any teaching, that denies that Jesus is the Messiah!** Now to understand this properly we need to put things in perspective. And it all

begins with the name of Jesus Christ and the nation of Israel.

The name, Jesus Christ, in the Greek is *Iesou Christou*, which is transliterated into the English, Jesus Christ. But taken back into the Hebrew we have *Yeshua Meshiah*. The word *Yeshua* comes from two words *Yah* and *Shua*. *Yah* being the proper name of God derived from *Yahweh* and *Shua* meaning salvation.

So *Yeshua* means *Yah's Salvation* and *Meshiah* means the Messiah, the Anointed One showing that God anointed him with his Spirit; a reference to the Redeemer and Deliverer of Israel, the Promised One, the Coming One. When you take the Hebrew word, *Meshiah*, up into the Greek language you end up with the word *Christos*, which simply meant the Anointed One.

So the name Jesus Christ means Jesus the Messiah, or Jesus the Anointed One. Jesus Christ isn't the Lord's name. Jesus is his name and Christ, or the Messiah, is what he is. So what it all means is that Jesus Christ is really to be rendered, "***Jesus the Messiah of Israel***". **All this is to be taken in the context of the nation of Israel.**

Now Israel was the covenant nation of God on earth and for centuries he had promised them a Messiah, a Deliverer, a Redeemer, the Messenger of the Covenant, the One who would free them from their sins by dying for them. And this would be evidenced, among many other things, by the Eternal One placing his Spirit on him.

And then one day, in the fullness of times, a man was born into Israel, a righteous branch from David's line, through the virgin Mary. And he was given the name Jesus, and later on when he began his public ministry, after John's baptism and being anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, he was now called Jesus the Messiah, or, as he was referred to then and today, Jesus the Anointed One, or, Jesus Christ.

And this is what the Apostle John is bringing out in this passage. He says, who is the liar? **Anyone who denies that Jesus is the Messiah!** And he says that he not only is a liar, but that he is an ***antichrist!*** This passage is very Jewish in its context for the term Messiah belonged uniquely to the nation of Israel. It is also reinforced by the Apostle John being Jewish himself. Any religion, any teaching, or any individual that states that Jesus is not the Messiah of Israel is *antichrist* and an *antichrist*.

C. The definition of antichrist.

“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.” 1 John 4:3

και παν πνευμα ο μη ομολογει τον ιησουν χριστον εν σαρκι εληλυθота εκ του θεου ουκ εστιν και τουτο εστιν το του αντιχριστου ο ακηκοατε οτι ερχεται και νυν εν τω κοσμω εστιν ηδη

This passage deals with the concept of teaching certain doctrines. *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are*

gone out into the world.” 1 John 4:1 Spirits are connected with the teachings of men. False prophets teach false doctrines and certain spirits are attached to their doctrines.

This is why it is so important for Christians to be under the sound teaching of God's Word **so they will be able to test the teachings** of certain men and groups to see if they line up with what the Word says.

In this particular passage, and in the matter of *antichrist*, it deals with two concepts. **One**, that Jesus is not only the Son of God and Savior of the world, but that **he is the Messiah of Israel**. And **two**, that he came in the flesh, that is, he was a real human being, a man.

The Greek preposition *anti*, which is attached to *christos*, has three meanings: equivalence, exchange and substitution. And these three ideas are found in the final man of lawlessness. In fact they were also found in certain religions in the first century: Gnosticism, Judaism, Mithraism and Freemasonry, etc..

The first meaning of *anti* was **equivalence**, that **one thing is equal to the other**; equal in value, equal in power and equal in effect. The second meaning of *anti* is **exchange**, that **one person, or thing, has been exchanged for another**. The third meaning of *anti* is **substitution**, that **one person, or thing, has been substituted for another**. The French term is “in lieu of”; one thing has been **put in place of another**.

Denying that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel is not only a denial of his position, person and work on the cross, but it's **also saying in effect that they don't need him**. That they have no need of Christ and his redeeming work, or that they have something else they have substituted for him, something that is the equivalent of him or better. Which gets into the idea of religion, where one's religion will get them right with God.

In 1 John 2:22 we have the statement, “*denieth that Jesus is the Christ*”, (*arneomai*), and in this passage we have “*that confesseth not that Jesus Christ*”, (*homologeio*). To **confess** is to agree, to admit and to state something, while to **deny** is its opposite. It's to refuse to believe, to reject, to disavow, to refuse to recognize or to acknowledge, to go beyond simply not believing something to be true, but to declare something to be untrue! The spirit of *antichrist* openly and publicly **denies that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel**.

D. Antichrists deny and deceive.

“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.” 2 John 1:7

οτι πολλοι πλανοι εισηλθον εις τον κοσμον οι μη ομολογουντες ιησουν χριστον ερχομενον εν σαρκι ουτος εστιν ο πλανος και ο αντιχριστος

There are millions of people that do not know that Jesus is the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the world. But the fact that they do not know that does not make them *antichrist*. There are millions of people in the world that have not believed on Christ as their Savior, but that does not necessarily make them *antichrist*.

To come under the category of *antichrist* one must not only **refuse** to believe on Christ as their Savior, but to go beyond that and **deny** every saving work he has done and deny who he is as the Messiah of Israel and Savior of the world! They are those who declare these things to be untrue! It speaks of those with entrenched negative volition and hatred of the truth. **The spirit of antichrist is uniquely Jewish to the core.**

The word to **deceive**, *planoo*, means to lead someone astray. If salvation, the forgiveness of sins and the guarantee of eternal life comes only to those who believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Messiah of Israel, died on the cross for their sins, was buried and raised from the dead, and is now sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven and will forgive those who trust Him as their Lord and Savior... If salvation comes to us by believing that, and if *antichrists* are openly stating that this is not true, then they are leading unbelievers away from the truth and into a Christless eternity!

They are *antichrists* because they have substituted something else for Jesus Christ and the salvation that comes freely in his grace through faith in him. Some *antichrists* will say that you don't need him at all. Other *antichrists* will say that you don't need anything at all! While other *antichrists* will say, you don't need him we have a religious system to replace him. Name your poison, there are plenty of *antichrists* and *antichrist* systems. **And poison they are for they are all taking people to Hell!**

There were those in John's day, as there are today, people who concede to the person of Jesus Christ, but hold to an unbiblical position concerning him. Some say that he was not a real human being, but some sort of emanation that appeared to be human. But this is a denial of his true human nature as God manifested in the flesh.

There were those in John's day, as there are today, even among some Christian sects that teach that Jesus rose from the dead, but not in a resurrected flesh body, but a spirit body. And went back into heaven in this spirit body. Again a denial of the biblical account.

There are some Christian sects that also deny that God exists and has always existed in three persons at one time in the persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and in the OT, before Christ's incarnation, they were the first, second and third members of the trinity.

They teach that in the OT God was known as Jehovah the God of Israel. In the Gospel era he incarnated as Jesus Christ in the flesh. But his resurrection was not a resurrection of the body, but that he rose from the dead in spirit form and is now the Holy Spirit. Again this is a denial of the biblical account concerning Christ.

In the time of Christ the majority of the people living in Israel did not believe that he was the Messiah! And especially the Scribes, Pharisees and religious leaders of Israel; **they vehemently denied that Jesus was the Messiah.**

It boggles the mind to think that here was the God of Israel walking in their midst and they rejected him. "*He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*" John 1:11 But they not only refused to receive him as their Messiah, they **overtly declared** that he was not their Messiah. This is what being antichrist is all about. Remember, *arneomai*, to deny, was to go beyond simply not believing something to be true, but to the place of

openly declaring something to be untrue.

And look at the reaction of the men in the Synagogue there in Nazareth the day he began his public ministry as Israel's Messiah. *“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.”* Luke 4:16-30

Especially note their reaction of **rage!** Luke 4:28,29 *“And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with **wrath**, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.”*

Jesus Christ is the uniquely born Son of God. He is also the second member of the trinity incarnated in human form. He is both God and man in the same person. There are some “christian” sects that deny this about Jesus Christ saying that he was an incarnated angel! Jesus Christ, while here on the earth, lived the perfect life according to the Law of God. He not only was perfect in his humanity, that is, no sin nature, as we all possess, existed in his body passed on down from Adam and Eve. He was perfect in his humanity and perfect in his walk before the Father. In addition to that Jesus lived his entire life by faith! Not once in awhile, but perfectly, always. At the end of his life he was nailed to a cruel cross where the sins of the entire world, Israel included, were imputed to him and God judged him as a sinner and he died! His body was taken down from the cross, and his soul went down to Hades, or the Hebrew Sheol, where he spent three days and three nights. His soul was raised up out of Hades to join his resurrected physical body. A body that was able to live on both a physical and spiritual plane. He walked among man once again for forty days showing many that he was alive once again as proof of his resurrection. And was taken up into heaven where he ascended Mount Zion in the heavenlies to be seated at the right hand of his Father on high. This is who Jesus Christ is and what he did. To state that this is not true, whether by an individual or from a religious teaching, makes one an antichrist.

Pastor Mike