



Beware of Antichrists

1 John 2:18-23

Who is the antichrist?



- Murderous dictators (Stalin, Hitler)
- Evil countries (Nazi Germany, Russia, China)
- Presidents (Franklin D Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan)
- Popular belief: a powerful evil leader before end of world

Actual Bible references

(5 times, 4 in 1 John, 1 in 2 John)

Let the Bible speak..

- 1 John 2:18-23
- 1 John 4:1-3
- 2 John 7

Study in Context..

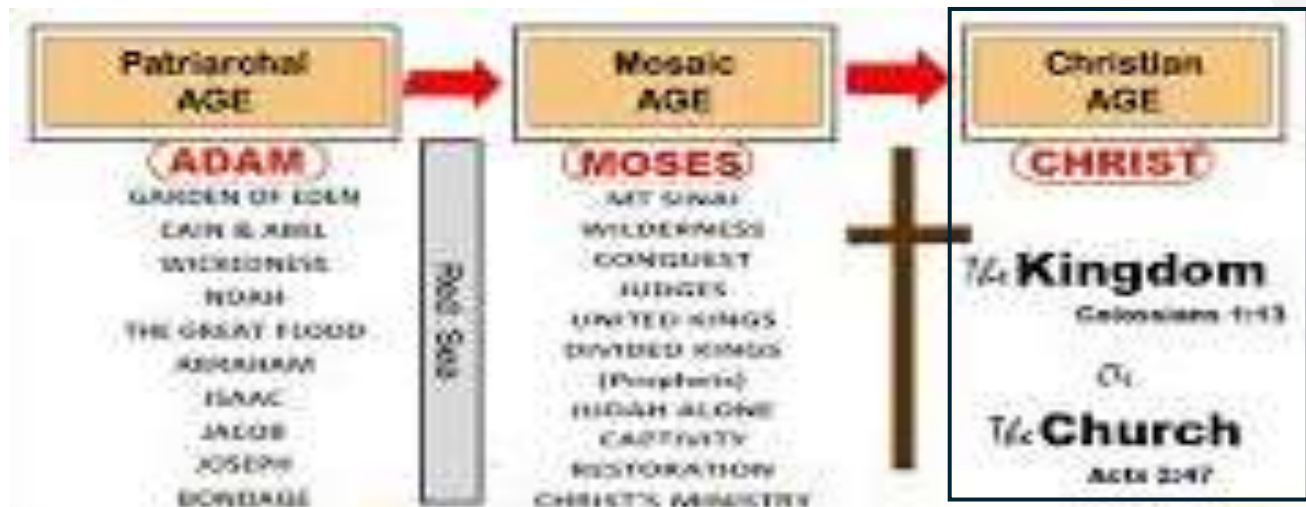
- How it applied for Christians then?
- How it applies to us today?



#1 Antichrist coming means it is the last hour **1 John 2:18**

2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the^[d] Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

- John does not mean “hour” literally
- The last period of time in human history



#2 The Antichrist is not one man in the future 1 John 2:18

1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the^[d] Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess ^[a]that Jesus ^[b]Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

#3 The antichrists had gone out from the church 2:19

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

- They once professed the same truth as the apostles
- They had departed from the true faith
- They are no longer in fellowship with God

#4 Antichrists oppose Christ with new contradictory teachings 2:22-23

1 John 2:22-23 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

- Docetic Gnostics: Christ was not a man, but an illusion
- Cerinthian Gnostics: Jesus was an ordinary man, but the Spirit of God came upon Jesus at baptism and left him before he died

#4 Antichrists oppose Christ with new contradictory teachings 2:22-23

1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess [a]that Jesus [b]Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit of the Antichrist*, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

— They claim “I’m a Christian” but teach doctrines that go against what Christ and his apostles said.



Beware of Antichrists

1 John 2:18-23