

## Antichrist

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### 2 John 7

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(HCSB)

Ὅτι πολλοὶ πλάνοι	Many <a href="#">deceivers</a>
ἔξηλθον εἰς τὸν κόσμον,	have gone out into the <a href="#">world</a> ;
οἱ μὴ ὁμολογοῦντες	they do not confess
Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν ἐρχόμενον ἐν σαρκί·	the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh.
οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ πλάνος	This is the <a href="#">deceiver</a>
καὶ ὁ ἀντίχριστος.	and the <a href="#">antichrist</a> .

You can see [planos](#) is glossed “deceiver.” Think of a “planet” as a wanderer, trespassing across the star field. Of course [kosmos](#) is “world.” But the most interesting word is the last one, [antichristos](#).

Arthur Pink’s 1923 classic, *The Antichrist*, is a wild ride. According to Pink, the Antichrist is the “seed” of Gen 3:15, “Assur” of Num 24:22, the “crooked serpent” of Job 26:13, “the Assyrian” (Isa 10:5), the “little horn” (Dan 7:8), “Leviathan” (Isa 27:1), the “Spoiler” (Jer 6:26), the “Nail” (Isa 22:25), the “King of princes” (Hos 8:10), the “mighty man” (Psa 52:1), the “son of the morning” (Isa 14:12), the “idol shepherd” (Zech 11:16 – 17), the “unclean spirit” (Matt 12:43 – 45), the “man of sin” (2 Thess 2:3), the “Judge” (Luke 18:2), “the Lie” (John 8:44),\* the “one who comes in his own name” (John 5:43), the “Son of Perdition” (John 17:12), the Beast (Rev 13:4), the “vine of the earth” (Rev 14:18)—and *lots* more. Pink connected the dots and expected him to rise as a king of Syria, rebuild Babylon and the Temple, and proclaim himself God.

But in her [commentary](#), our EPC scholar [Karen Jobes](#) points out that the term “antichrist” does not actually denote a future world leader; it occurs only in 1 John and our verse, describing John’s contemporary situation.

She translates 1 John 2:18, “even now many have become antichrists” (p. 123). She continues, “while John’s original readers ... may have been expecting a larger-than-life evil person to arise, the kind of heretical teaching going around was actually an evil of similar proportion.” Antichrists had left the church denying that Christ had come in the flesh. They “oppose the person and work of Christ through a distorted understanding of him” (p. 265).

The “spirit of antichrist” (1 John 4:3) does not confess that Jesus was from God. Antichrists have always plagued the church, despite Pink’s analysis. But who channels the “spirit of the antichrist” today? Jobes says,

John’s concerns ... are still at issue today, for the apostolic teaching that John used to separate truth from error has been inscripturated in the NT. ... Those who reject or distort its message are sadly self-deceived. If such people find a voice of leadership in the church, they will lead others, not to sound Christian theology, but to what John called antichrist teaching. (p. 185)

An EPC ordinand told me that when asked, the then-moderator of his PC-USA presbytery could not affirm that “Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, the only way to the Father.” The presiding bishop of the Episcopalian church also [denied](#) that Jews, Muslims, and Hindus need conversion to Christ. Is this the gospel of Jesus? Compare, for example, Rom 10:9.

This picture is of a “Christa,” a female Christ, which has adorned several churches. Read about it [here](#). But, did Jesus come in the flesh or not? If so, why purposely undermine his historicity? And who can forget the World Council of Churches honoring the goddess Sophia in November 1993, represented by many mainline denominations. The fact of the matter is that antichrists have filled liberal pulpits and seminaries for generations.



But—it isn't only the liberals who are culpable. Our own Christology needs to be renewed daily, lest we also slide into an antichrist mindset. Have you given up on praying for someone? Isn't that because you have given up on Jesus? Has the spirit of antichrist seduced you to a lesser Christ?

Do you harbor a secret sin? When you indulge, don't you regard Jesus as less than the Lord of your life?

Yesterday my expected bonus wasn't in my paycheck. For hours I had bad feelings. Then I remembered Luke 12:15, "one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." I regained my zeal for ministry. But for hours, I thought little of Jesus and was the plaything of the spirit of antichrist.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28). Where do you go when you feel bad? If anywhere but to Jesus, your Christology is defective.

It takes discipline to remind yourself on a daily basis who Jesus really is, and to trust him. We continue to struggle against the spirit of antichrist until Jesus returns for us. Then we will live with him forever. Amen!

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\* Look at the Greek here. "For he is a liar and his father." That is, father of the Lie.