

# The Antichrist

The Antichrist is generally regarded in Christendom as a diabolic individual who will appear at the second coming of Jesus to challenge his authority\*1 - but what does the inspired word of God say? Antichrist is mentioned only in the letters of the apostle John. **1 John 2:18** “*Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come . . .*” So earlier Scripture had already warned\*2 believers, without naming “antichrist” - see **Matthew 7:13; Acts 20:29; 1 Timothy 4:1; 1 Timothy 6:20; 2 Peter 2:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:1**. The “many antichrists” who had left the church denied that Jesus was the Messiah, repudiating the father-son relationship of God and Jesus - **1 John 2:22** “*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.*”

John refers again to the earlier warnings in the New Testament - **4:3** “*... this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*” He exhorts them to test their teaching, by comparing it with the inspired Scriptures, warning - **4:1** “*... many false prophets have gone out into the world.*” This was the beginning of the apostasy which would overwhelm the church of believers in “the truth” - **1:21**. The time of John was one of ferment in the pagan world, a dissatisfaction with the crudity of idolatry, some adopting a philosophy of inner light, which included the concept that all material, including the human body, was evil.

Paul warned Timothy against those who claimed this special “knowledge”, and so history calls them Gnostics - **1 Timothy 6:20** “*O Timothy! . . avoid the ... contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge = Greek, gnosis 21 by professing it, some have strayed concerning the faith.*” There was good reason for his warning, because it was these who brought with them into the church their “knowledge” that all matter is evil. They could not accept that the saviour came in a material body, but only made it look that way, and so denied that Christ had “come in the flesh” - **1 John 4:2** “*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 that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God...*” This was not a blip in the progress of Christianity, it was the beginning of an overpowering declension from “the truth” which John was defending against the current “spirit” of man-made ideas - “*... and this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming.*” John’s readers had “heard” these warnings from the inspired writers of the Scriptures, who also taught that at death, the soul ceases to exist\*3.

Against Scripture teaching, the Gnostics accepted the view of Plato that souls are eternal and divine, and that souls were created in a separate state of existence before their union with the body. With their acceptance of Jesus they combined this notion of the soul, and the central concept of Gnostic dualism—the conflict between matter and spirit. They concluded that Jesus began as an *aeon*, one of their imagined orders of spirits that emanated from the Godhead. And so they taught that Jesus Christ, as existing now, existed also from all eternity, before his body was formed in the womb. This “*knowledge falsely so called*” directly contradicted apostolic testimony that God is the Father of Jesus, e.g., **Luke 1:35; John 3:18**, since by definition a father exists before a son\*4. The Gnostics are long gone, but the current apostasy, by insisting on “*Aeternus Pater; aeternus Filius*” - “the Father eternal, the Son eternal”, continues the original practical denial of the Father-and-Son relationship of God and Jesus. The message from God to all lovers of “the truth”, is “*... Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues*” - **Revelation 18:4**.

\*Click for more details: 1-[Opinions about antichrist](#) 2-[Warnings about antichrist](#) 3-[About the soul](#) 4-[Jesus the Son](#).