

Counterfeit Christs

A study of false saviors and false salvation

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." - John 8:24

Counterfeit Christs

The Ultimate Counterfeit

““And through his shrewdness He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; And he will magnify himself in his heart, And he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, But he will be broken without human agency.”

- Daniel 8:25

"Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour."

(1 John 2:18)

Antichrist

ἀντί

- ① indicating that one person or thing is, or is to be, replaced by another, *instead of, in place of*
- ② indicating that one thing is equiv. to another, for, as, in place of equiv. equiv. = equivalent
- ③ opposite.

Note: both definitions fit Antichrist: he will at first masquerade as a messiah, but then will reveal his true (evil) self afterwards.



“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”
(Matthew 24:24)



Preparation for Antichrist...

Brief Review of Emperor Worship

Egyptian kings regarded as sons of gods



Alexander the Great encounters divine kingship; worshipped



Emperor worship begins in 29 B.C. in Ephesus with Julius Caesar



Caligula (A.D. 37) first to allow veneration of living Roman Caesar



Those coming after (e.g. Domitian) saw political value from being deified

“The more intense man’s predicament, the more entrenched is man’s determination to prove that he can rule the world without God. Such firm resolve together with the worsening world situation makes man susceptible to the claims to an ultimate man – a man who opposes God, who seems to have the ability necessary to solve the world’s problems and to rule the world well without God, a man who claims to have attained deity and has supernatural powers which appear to support that claim, a man who eventually demands total devotion from the human race and is the ultimate expression of absolute dictatorship and ruthless self-rule”

-Renald Showers

The Deification of Man

Preparation for the deification of Antichrist:

- The serpent said man could become like God...
- Emperor worship said man was a god...
- The Gnostics said humans were divine...
- Hinduism says mankind is God...
- New age teaching says man is a god...
- Mormons say man can become gods...
- Humanism says man is the measure of all things; a god...
- The unification church sees a man as god...
- Scientology says man is divine ...

“My search is at an end.
In Thee I behold all things.
I, myself, am God.”

- Jiddu Krishnamurti

The Immortal Friend

Desperate for a Deliverer

“By forcing on mankind more and more lethal weapons, and at the same time making the world more and more interdependent economically, technology has brought mankind to such a degree of distress that we are ripe for the deifying of any new Caesar who might succeed in giving the world unity and peace.”

- Arnold Toynbee, Historian



Profile of Antichrist...

The Origin of Antichrist

"And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

(Genesis 3:15)



The Origin of Antichrist

“Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.”

(Daniel 9:26)



Names of Antichrist

- Antichrist (1 John 2:22)
- The man of sin (2 Thess. 2:3)
- The son of perdition (2 Thess. 2:3)
- The lawless one (2 Thess. 2:8)
- The beast (Rev. 11:7)
- The king of Babylon (Is. 14:4)
- The little horn (Dan. 7:8)
- The prince that shall come (Dan. 9:26)
- The willful king (Dan. 11:36)
- The idol shepherd (Zech 11:16-17)



Tracing Antichrist Through Scripture...



“After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. “While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and three of the first horns were pulled out by the roots before it; and behold, this horn possessed eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth uttering great boasts. . . . Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. . . . (Daniel 7:8-11)

“Then I desired to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, and which devoured, crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet, and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth uttering great boasts and which was larger in appearance than its associates. “I kept looking, and that horn was waging war with the saints and overpowering them until the Ancient of Days came and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom. “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. ‘As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. ‘He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. ‘But the court will sit for judgment, and his dominion will be taken away, annihilated and destroyed forever.”

(Daniel 7:19-26)

“Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. “So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. “Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. “And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.””

(Daniel 9:24-27)



“Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. “He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all. “But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones and treasures. “He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him and will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.”

(Daniel 11:36-39)

“At the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow them and pass through. “He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon. “Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. “But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels. “But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many. “He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.”

(Daniel 11:40-45)

““I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.”
(John 5:43)

" Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved."

(2 Thessalonians 2:1-10)



" Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer."
(Revelation 6:1-2)

"And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain."

(Revelation 13:1-8)

"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six."

(Revelation 13:11-18)

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.” And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly. And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. “The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. “Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. “The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. “These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.” (Revelation 17:1–13)



The Great Imitator/Deceiver..

Comparing Jesus and Antichrist

Jesus	Antichrist
Subject of prophecy	Subject of prophecy
Typified by Old Testament characters (e.g. Joseph)	Typified by Old Testament characters (e.g. Cain)
Revealed at God's appointed time (Gal. 4:4)	Revealed at God's appointed time (2 Thess. 2:6)
A real man of God (1 Tim. 2:5)	A real man of sin (2 Thess. 2:3)
More than a man – the God Man	More than a man – the Satanic man
Made covenant with Israel (Heb. 8:8)	Makes covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27)
King of kings (Rev. 17:14)	King over earthly kings (Rev. 17:12-13)
Performed miracles	Performs false miracles (2 Thess. 2:9)

“But in the ages to come, man will attain to greater heights . . . And at last, a mighty master soul will come to earth to light the way up to the throne of perfect man.”

-Levi Dowling

Aquarian Gospel of Jesus Christ, pg 48

Comparing Jesus and Antichrist

Jesus	Antichrist
Died and rose again	Appears to die and rise again (Rev. 13:3)
Object of universal worship (Dan 7:13; Phil. 2:10)	Object of universal worship (Rev. 13:4)
Seals followers on forehead (Rev. 7:3)	Seals followers on forehead (Rev. 13:16-17)
Followed by Holy Spirit who causes men to worship Him	Followed by False Prophet who causes men to worship him (Rev. 13:12)
Rides white horse (Rev. 19:11)	Comes on white horse (Rev. 6:2)
Prince of peace (Is. 9:6-7)	False prince of peace (2 Thess. 5:3)
He that "was, is, and is to come" (Rev. 4:8)	He that "was, and is not, and shall ascend" (Rev. 17:8)



The True Antichrist...

Contrasting Jesus/God and Satan

Jesus	Satan
Sows good seed (Matt. 13:24)	Sows tares (Matt 13:25)
Has children of God (Matt 13:38)	Has children of devil (Matt 13:38)
Works in his good children (Phil. 2:13)	Works in sons of disobedience (Eph. 2:2)
Has true gospel	Has false gospel (Gal. 1:6-7)
Christ appointed apostles	Satan appoints apostles (2 Cor. 11:13)
Spirit has deep things of God (1 Cor. 2:10)	Has deep things of Satan (Rev 2:24)
Seals servants on forehead (Rev. 7:3)	Seals servants with mark of beast (Rev 13:16)
Seeks worshippers (John 4:23)	Seeks worshippers (Rev 13:4)
Christ quotes Bible (Matt. 4:6)	Satan quotes Bible (Matt. 4:6)
Christ is light of the world (John 8:12)	Appears as angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14)
Lion of Judah (Rev. 5:5)	A roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:6)
Christ has angels (Matt. 24:31)	Satan has angels (Matt. 25:41)

Contrasting Jesus/God and Satan

Jesus	Satan
Worked miracles	Works false miracles (2 Thess. 2:9)
Seated on a throne	Seated on a throne (Rev. 2:13)
Has His Church	Has a synagogue of Satan (Rev. 2:9)
Has a bride, the Church	Has his whore (Rev. 17:16)
Is/has a Vine where followers abide	Is/has a Vine where followers abide (Rev. 14:19)
Has city, new Jerusalem	Has city, Babylon (Rev. 17:5)
Has mystery of godliness (1 Tim 3:16)	Has mystery of iniquity (2 Thess. 2:7)
Has only begotten Son	Has son of perdition (2 Thess. 2:3)
Is seed of the woman (Gen. 3:15)	Has seed of the serpent (Gen. 3:15)
Called Son of Man	Has Man of sin (2 Thess. 2:3)
Part of Holy Trinity	Part of evil trinity (Rev. 20:10)
Given authority from Father	Gives authority to Antichrist (Rev. 13:4)

“But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”

(Isaiah 14:13-14)

Contrasting Jesus and Antichrist

Jesus	Antichrist
Is Christ	Is Antichrist
Man of sorrows (Is. 53:3)	Man of sin (2 Thess. 2:3)
Son of God	Son of Perdition (2 Thess. 2:3)
Seed of Woman (Gen. 3:15)	Seed of serpent (Gen. 3:15)
The Lamb (Is 53:7)	The Beast (Rev. 11:7)
The Holy One (Mark 1:24)	The wicked one (2 Thess. 2:8)
The Truth (John 14:6)	The Lie (John 8:44)
The Good Shepherd (John 10:11)	The Idol Shepherd (Zech 11:17)
Came down from Heaven (John 3:13)	Comes up from Abyss (Rev. 11:7)
Does Father's will (John 6:38)	Does own will (Dan. 11:36)

Contrasting Jesus and Antichrist

Jesus	Antichrist
Humbled Himself (Phil. 2:8)	Exalts himself (Dan. 11:36)
Honors God of fathers (Luke 4:16)	Refuses God of fathers (Dan. 11:37)
Cleansed temple (John 2:14)	Defiles temple (Matt. 24:15)
Rejected by men (Is. 53:7)	Accepted by men (John 5:43, Rev. 13:4)
Leads His flock (John 10:3)	Leaves the flock (Zech. 11:17)
Slain for people (John 11:51)	Slays the people (Rev. 13:7)
Glorified God on earth (John 17:4)	Blasphemes God on earth (Rev. 13:6)
Received into Heaven (Luke 24:51)	Received into Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20)
Powered by Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14)	Powered by Satan (Rev. 13:4)
Submits to God (John 5:30)	Defies God (2 Thess. 2:4)



The Fate of Antichrist...

The Abomination of Desolation

“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate,.”(Daniel 9:27)

“From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.”(Daniel 12:11)

“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),”(Matthew 24:15)

“who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”(2 Thessalonians 2:4)

“And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.”(Revelation 13:14-15)



“He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon. “Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape. “But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels. “But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many.

“He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.”

(Daniel 11:41-45)



" And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone."

(Revelation 19:20)

Only One True Christ



" And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.""(Revelation 19:11-16)

“He was the meekest and lowest of all the sons of men, yet he spoke as coming on the clouds of heaven with the glory of God. He was so austere that evil spirits and demons cried out in terror at his coming, yet he was so genial and winsome and approachable that the children loved to play with him and the little ones nestled in his arms. No one was half so kind or compassionate to sinners, yet no one ever spoke such red hot scorching words about sin. A bruised reed he would not break. His whole life was love, yet on one occasion he demanded of the Pharisees how they ever expected to escape the damnation of hell. He was a dreamer of dreams and a seer of visions, yet for sheer stock realism he has all of our self-styled realist soundly beaten. He was the servant of all, washing the disciple’s feet, yet masterfully he strolled into the temple and the hucksters and money changers fell over one another in their mad rush to get away from the fire they saw blazing in his eyes. He saved others, but at the last himself he did not save. There is nothing in history like the union of contrast which confronts us in the gospels, the mystery of Jesus is the mystery of divine personality.”

- Preacher James Stewart

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A study of false saviors and false salvation

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." ~ John 8:24