# Who is the Antichrist?

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*Every now and then, you hear someone on social media or read in a newspaper or religious magazine that a certain person or organization is the antichrist mentioned in the Bible. Many are the theories and hypotheses about who or what is the antichrist and in the mind of many, the antichrist remains a mystery. Let's see if it is not possible using our only sure source of truth, God's holy Bible, whether we can come to a clear and definite comprehension of who and/or what is this much talked about, antichrist.*

**Please Note:** All comments in brackets [ ] or in parentheses ( ) as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the "Holy Spirit" before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the "Holy Spirit" is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

## The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

> Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated "God" is "Eloheem" which is the plural form of "Eloah which means "God". The word "Eloheem" refers to "gods." It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

> Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

> Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

> Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

## God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

> Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

> Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

> Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

> 1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

## God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

> Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

> Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [I,Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

> Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

> Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

## The Holy Ghost

The expression "Holy Ghost" used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

> Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

> Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

> Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

> Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

> Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

> Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., nothing existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

> Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

> Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

> Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and

no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no biblical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the "Holy Spirit" who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

## God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God's called, chosen and faithful.

> Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.
>
> Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.
>
> Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but o to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God's Kingdom.

> Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God's Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.
>
> Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the begnning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

## Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression "the Holy Spirit" without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate

and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words "holy" and "spirit" are adjectives that describe the nature of God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the "Holy Spirit" or simply the "Holy Spirit" in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father's will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father's perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father's calling.

## Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God's spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives "holy" and "spirit". This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the "Holy Spirit." Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God's spirit without capitalizing the word "spirit" to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the "Holy Spirit" but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God's family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God's plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God's Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the "Holy Spirit" and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version and Who or What is the Holy Spirit?

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The controversy over who or what is the antichrist, of course, only arose after Christ's First Coming to the nation of Israel. The Israel that Christ came to are the members of the Southern Kingdom, the tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah (nicknamed the Jews) who came back from their captivity under the Persian Empire.

They rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem and built a second temple as the first temple had been thoroughly destroyed when Jerusalem was overrun by the Neo-Babylonian armies and the survivors taken captive. Some 100 years before, the Northern Kingdom, Israel had gone into captivity under the Assyrians and became known as the lost ten tribes of Israel who to this day remain unknown and are scattered among the nations.

Jacob whom God renamed Israel (Gen 32:28), had 12 sons who became the 12 tribes of Israel but we sometimes see Israel referred to as having 13 tribes. This is because the tribe of Joseph was doubled when Jacob adopted his 2 sons, Ephraim and Manasseh altogether making Israel a 13-tribe nation.

**The Antichrist**

We can get an idea of what the world believes to be the antichrist by reviewing what is their definition of the word "antichrist."

> *The meaning of ANTICHRIST is one who denies or opposes Christ; specifically : a great antagonist expected to fill the world with wickedness but to be conquered forever by Christ at his second coming. Ref. Merriam-Webster Dictionary*

> *ANTICHRIST definition: a particular personage or power, variously identified or explained, who is conceived of as appearing in the world as the principal antagonist of Christ.* Ref. Dictionary.com

> *1. Antichrist The great enemy of Christ expected by the early Church and historically by many branches of Christianity to rise to power in the last days before the Second Coming.* Ref. Freedictionary.com

I haven't quoted all the different beliefs about who is the antichrist and what he supposedly will do when he comes but these are some of the most common.

Many are those who, at some point or another in their lives, will spend time reading the Bible but unless they are called and chosen, it is not possible for them to understand it correctly. They come up against the word "antichrist"and not knowing what it really means, they start to imagine it to be someone who will appear in the world and do some of the things mentioned in the definitions we have just read. What they don't know is that the Bible is a book about only one nation, the nation of Israel, first as a physical nation (the Old Testament) and then as a spiritual nation (the New Testament). And, they also don't really know who is Israel both the physical one and especially, the spiritual one.

When the Bible speaks about "antichrist" or just about any other topic, it is always with respect to Israel as either a physical or a spiritual nation. The context and focal point of what is said in the Bible is never the unconverted world. So when the Bible talks about "antichrist" it is something that will occur within and affect God's nation of Israel, in this instance, His spiritual nation of Israel, not the unconverted nations of the world.

Keep this thought in mind as we now go forward and start examining what or who is the antichrist mentioned in the Bible. Let's get started by reviewing the different Scriptures which talk about the antichrist.

> 1Jn 2:18 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.

This verse makes it clear that there is not just one antichrist but many; it is not just one, particular man who is an antichrist.

> 1Jn 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

The antichrists are some of those who associated for a time with the First Century congregations of God's Church but they were not truly converted Christians. As John says, "....but they were not of us...."

> 1Jn 2:20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

But you, truly converted Christians, have been called and chosen by God the Father (....have an unction....) and you know the truth about antichrists. (....ye know all things...)

> 1Jn 2:21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

John says he is writing to them because they know the truth (that Jesus was the son of God) and that they know that no lie can be part of the truth they believe. In other words, they can't believe lies and be Christians. And, what is the lie that is being told as being the truth?

> 1Jn 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Anyone who denies that Jesus was the promised Christ or Messiah, that He was begotten by God in Mary's womb making God the father of Jesus and making Jesus God's Son, is a liar and antichrist.

> 1Jn 2:23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

In other words, anyone who denies that Jesus was the Son of God is not a Christian; he is antichrist and he who believes that Christ was the Son of God is a Christian and God the Father and God the Son dwell in him.

> Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Now, continuing with our reading of 1 John.

> 1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Christians always need to be checking with their Bible what men say is the truth because many false prophets (men who say they are teachers sent from God but who aren't) have gone out into the world seeking to make their fortune by preaching. One way of finding out if someone is a false prophet preaching for money is whether he believes that Jesus Christ who came in the flesh is of God.

> 1Jn 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

Every spirit which is to say, every person who believes that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, God the Word made flesh, is of God. It is something that comes from God and that only truly converted Christians believe.

> 1Jn 4:3 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.

Every spirit or person who does not believe that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of the spirit of antichrist. Not believing that Christ was God's Son is not something that comes from God; it is not of God.

> 1Jn 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: [the false prophets] because greater is he [God] that is in you, than he [the devil who works in the children of disobedience (Eph 2:2)] that is in the world.

True Christians have overcome the many false prophets gone out into the world because of Christ dwelling in them (John 14:23) who is stronger than the devil who inspires the false prophets in the world. True Christians believe that Christ is the Word of God made flesh.

> 1Jn 4:5 They [the false prophets] are of the [unconverted] world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them [the world believes their lies].

Truly converted Christians don't believe the false prophets but false Christians and the unconverted do as, they and the false prophets, are all part of the same unconverted world.

Then in 2nd John we are given another detail about what it means to be antichrist.

> 2Jn 1:4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.
>
> 2Jn 1:5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

In Bible terminology, the word "lady" is sometimes used to denote a "church" or a congregation of God's First Century true Church. The context, of course, tells us whether the word "lady" is referring to a person or to a church. In this instance, it is referring to God's Church.

> 2Jn 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.
>
> 2Jn 1:7 For many deceivers [false prophets] are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

So here it is again stated that those who do not believe that Jesus Christ is God the Word come in the flesh as a man born of woman is a deceiver and an antichrist.

> 2Jn 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.
>
> 2Jn 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

The "doctrine of Christ" taught by the apostles is that Jesus of Nazareth was the promised Christ or Messiah and that He was God in the flesh: fully human and fully God.

> 2Jn 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

If anyone who professes to be a true prophet of God (the verses we have been looking at all have to do with Christians knowing what to do to identify the false prophets that may come among them) does not

believe that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, you, as a true Christian, are not to accept him coming into your house nor are you to encourage him by bidding him God speed. The early congregations of God's Church in the days of the apostles met in members' houses.

> 2Jn 1:11 For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

If you encourage false prophets by allowing them to teach you (come into your house) and then wishing them God speed when they leave you become part of his evil doings.

**Christ God in the Flesh**

The Bible tells us that God the Word who dwelled in eternity with God voluntarily (John1:1) accepted to become a man born of woman for the purpose of becoming God the Father's perfect sacrifice for sin and make sure God the Father's plan of salvation for mankind.

> Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

The mind or consciousness that was in the flesh and blood body of Jesus of Nazareth was that of God the Word.

> Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

God the Word, who became Jesus of Nazareth and the Christ, was with God and was also a God being. He was equal with God as He was also a God being. He was not taking anything away from God (He was not robbing God (the Father) of anything by saying He (God the Word} was God as He was also a God being.

> Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

However, God and God the Word are not equal in authority as God (the Father) is higher in authority than the Son of God (God the Word).

> Joh 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

> Joh 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Let's continue reading Php 2.

> Php 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

God the Word accepted to become a man in obedience to God for the purpose of living a sinless life and being God's perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind making sure God's plan of salvation for mankind. Until He began His ministry He didn't stand out to the public in any special way (He was of no reputation). Judas Iscariot had to identify Him to the soldiers who came to arrest Him. He came to serve those God the Father would give Him (His disciples and all true Christians through the ages) and He was made in the likeness of men which is to say He looked just like all men born of women.

> Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

God the Word humbled Himself by becoming a man and accepting in obedience to His Father to endure the very painful death of being crucified.

Jesus of Nazareth was conceived in Mary's womb by God who then became God the Father and Jesus of Nazareth then became God's only begotten Son.

> Luk 1:26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

> Luk 1:27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

> Luk 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

> Luk 1:29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

> Luk 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.
>
> Luk 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

The spirit that was in Jesus of Nazareth, in addition to the human spirit placed by God in every man, was the holy spirit God the Word by whom God the Father created all things.

> Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom [God the Word] also he [God the Father] made the worlds;
>
> Joh 1:4 In him [God the Word] was life; and the life was the light of men.
>
> Col 1:15 Who [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
>
> Col 1:16 For by him [God the Word who became Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
>
> Col 1:17 And he is [existed] before all things, and by him all things consist.

If Jesus of Nazareth was just a man then His death could not have made it possible for the sins of mankind to be forgiven upon their repenting and believing. The only person's sins He could have atoned for was His own but if He was God in the flesh than His life was worth more than the lives of all human being that will have ever lived and His death then makes possible the forgiveness of mankind's sins upon repentance and belief. Christ never sinned and died for the sins of mankind.

If Jesus was just a man then we are all yet in our sins and there is still no possible salvation for mankind.

**Conclusion**

Men, converted and unconverted, through the ages and now, have been reluctant to accept that Jesus of Nazareth was God in the flesh. The concept that a man could be both fully human and fully God causes

their minds to seize up. They just can't reconcile how both things could be true at the same time.

Nowadays, the problem persists with some, even among the leaders of the so-called churches of God who came out of the organization called the Worldwide Church of God, who strongly deny that Christ was God in the flesh. Jesus, they say, was just a man. Their lack of understanding on this matter and many other Biblical ones goes to show they are but churches of men using religion as a means to make money.

> 2Jn 1:7 For many deceivers [false prophets] are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

These deceivers are men claiming to have a mission from God to bring salvation to men. They claim to have been sent by God (prophets) to give men the knowledge they need for salvation. God says they are ravenous wolves in sheep's clothing seeking to make merchandise (money) out of those they can get to follow them.

Many of them are of the spirit of antichrist. An antichrist is anyone who denies the Father and the Son which is to say they refuse to believe that God caused the miraculous conception of Jesus in Mary's womb and that the spirit in the human body of Jesus was that of God the Word.

They are unconverted for the greatest part and cannot correctly understand the Scriptures. None of these many antichrists will have any impact on the events that are to take place in the world leading up to Christ's second coming or during the Millennium and the Last Great Day.

There is no single individual who will be THE antichrist that people believe will arise, fill the world with wickedness, fight against Christ at His Second Coming and be defeated by Him.