

Eternity Past

Eternity Future

The LandBetween

M I N I S T R I E S

The mission of the LandBetween Ministries is to equip leaders to fulfill Christ's Great Commission of heart-focused discipleship in a broken world.

Newsletter

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"...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..." 1 John 4:3

**WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT
BIBLE PROPHECY
INFLUENCES YOUR LIFE TODAY**

The Spirit of Antichrist

It was 1297 AD. The man was dressed like a Franciscan monk. Appearing as a man of peace, he was hiding a sword under his brown robe. As he approached the fortress, he worked to look harmless... until it was time. When the unsuspecting guard opened the entrance to the fortress, the fake Franciscan unleashed his sword; followed by his cousin and their team of warriors, they stormed the fortress and took it over.

The valuable fortress on the French Riviera was taken over by Francois Grimaldi and his cousin, and is known as the Principality of Monaco. This Principality has been ruled by the royal Grimaldi family for almost 720 years.

But, Monaco's story did not start with the Trojan Horse takeover in 1297 AD. Rather, the story began many years earlier, as the area on which Monaco's fortress was built above the port on the Mediterranean Sea, had long been a strategic place of business. Princess Grace Kelly and many other famous people have called Monaco home.

The point of this story is that *you*, both your body and spirit, are infinitely and inherently *more valuable* than the billions of dollars held by Monaco's residents. Since you are so valuable, there is a fierce battle over what you believe about Jesus Christ and Bible prophecy. 1 John 4:3 discusses a "spirit of antichrist." Understanding this spirit is key to defending



your value. Lack of understanding this spirit will destroy you.

WHAT IS A SPIRIT?

In North American culture, the idea of "spirit(s)" brings up various meanings.

The "spirit of Christmas" can mean celebration and giving. The "Spirit of '76" can mean the values of independence and

freedom. Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis" plane stood for courage, endurance, and pioneering new achievements.

There are evil spirits infiltrating churches. These evil spirits claim to be of the "Holy Spirit" when they have nothing to do with what is holy or of the Spirit of God. Even a Charismatic pastor and author, Andrew Strom, has noticed this infiltration. In his book, "Kundalini Warning: Are False Spirits Invading the Church?" Strom gives many examples of the bizarre things going on in certain churches that reflect New Age behaviors and are not of the Holy Spirit. — The first mention of "spirit" in the Bible is in Genesis 1:2 in the creation account, "... and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters." The Spirit of God inspired the skillful builders of God's temple and His Spirit came upon soldiers to win wars against evil. God's Spirit reflects His character in various ways, as seen traits of the Holy Spirit Galatians 5:20-22) and the spirit of wisdom and other good spirits. But, spirits can be of Satan, reflected in spirits of harlotry (Hosea 4:12; 5:4), timidity (2 Tim. 1:7), and, among many other evil spirits, the spirit of antichrist (1 John 4:3). In Hebrew and Greek, the term "spirit" can mean "wind, breath"

and it is this aspect of humans that will last for eternity. Humans are made up of material elements (the body) and one's spirit is the immaterial aspect God put in humans.

SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST

The word "antichrist" is a compound term with a preposition and a noun. The preposition "anti" means "against" or "instead of"; the noun, "christ" is the "anointed one" which is the Person of Jesus Christ, who fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah concerning the Messiah.

A pre-tribulation view of the antichrist is that the church will be secretly "raptured" away from earth just before a seven-year period called the tribulation. During these seven years, the antichrist is predicted to broker a peace deal with Israel and its enemies. But, 3.5 years into this 7-year deal, the antichrist will break the peace agreement and the world will go into 3.5 years of unprecedented war, death, and chaos. Finally, this view holds that at the end of the seven years of tribulation, Jesus will return with the church and set up a 1,000 year kingdom reign on earth from Jerusalem. The problem with this pre-tribulation rapture view is that no Scripture states that the church will be "raptured" away before a seven-year tribulation period of antichrist rule.

Belief in a single, future Antichrist has led to much speculation. St. Martin of Tours, France, wrote, "There is no doubt that the Antichrist has already been born" (Dr. Gary DeMar, *Last Days Madness*, pg. 221). However, St. Martin died in A.D. 397 and there was no Antichrist. Numerous men have been predicted to be the Antichrist, from Mussolini to Hitler, and others. However, some modern Bible scholars will be careful not to predict the name of the person who may be Antichrist, but that he will fill the *position* of Antichrist. The basis used that one future man will be Antichrist is derived from taking verses from Daniel, 2 Thessalonians, 1-2 John, and Revelation, and compiling these verses together. However, as Dr. DeMar states, "Quoting verses

from one book of the Bible and claiming that they correspond to statements in another book of the Bible does not constitute truth." (*Last Days Madness*, 223).

Dr. Demar lists what the Bible defines as the antichrist (*Last Days Madness*, 224):

- Anyone "who denies that Jesus is the Christ (1 John 2:22)
- Anyone who "denies the Father and the Son" (1 John 2:3).
- Every spirit that does not confess Jesus (1 John 4:3).
- "Those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist" (2 John 7).

One may ask, "What is the 'beast' in Revelation 13, isn't this the Antichrist? There is ample evidence, both from the Bible and historical records that the "beast" in Revelation 13 was Nero Caesar. Dr. Kenneth Gentry's book, "The Beast of Revelation" and Dr. Jay Adams' book, "The Time is at Hand" and other sources provide a cogent case for Nero.

Based on his murderous, inhumane treatment of Christians, there is no doubt Nero chose to manifest the spirit of antichrist (1 John 4:3). In John 2:18, John is writing to the first century church and he is telling them that they may have heard that antichrist was coming, but he corrects them by saying, "even now many antichrists have appeared" during the "last hour" which was just before the destruction of the temple in AD 70. The point is that the spirit of antichrist is very active *right now*, at the close of 2015. One would have to be quite sheltered to not see the growing killing, hatred, and bigotry against Christians. North America is stiff-arming Christians who are suffering in the Middle-East. This past year, the number of persecuted Christians from Syria that North America allowed in for refuge would not even fill up a small fast-food restaurant (deplorable). However, it appears many are not concerned about the spirit of antichrist because they think they will be "raptured out of here" before Antichrist allegedly comes. But, they fail to recognize the spirit of antichrist is wreaking havoc on the church right now. A Barna poll taken in

April of this year showed how only 48% of Millennials in America believe Jesus is God, which is only one of many signs that the spirit of antichrist is doing well in America. Also, North Americans make light of Bible prophecy by using pithy comments like, "I've read the end of the Bible and I know who wins...we do." These type of comments may sound like they are respecting God's sovereignty, but in reality they are mocking the seriousness of Bible prophecy and what God wants them to do right now.

2015 marked the 100-year anniversary of the Armenian Genocide where over 1.5 million Christians were killed; the Russian Revolution began in 1917, resulting in the death of over 66 million Russian Christians. In both Armenia and Russia, Christians constituted the vast majority of their populations. But, in both Armenia and Russia, the killings took place by small and well-coordinated attacks by people both atheistic and religious; the common bond among the diverse killers of Christians was the spirit of antichrist. Today, there appears to be a false sense of security in North America and a mistaken belief that what happened in Armenia and Russia would *never* happen here.

One group of North American Christians can believe, "The Antichrist is distant history, there's no need to be concerned." The other group can believe, "Since we will be raptured out of here before Antichrist comes, it's all good." Both groups are off mark. Both groups are looking back or forward and getting blindsided by the spirit of antichrist in the present. The antichrist is not one person, but a spirit that can manifest in many people.

What is a specific way you can resist the spirit of antichrist? Pray for Christians in the military, who are facing relentless litigation and attacks against their faith and religious freedom by those with the spirit of antichrist. Pray that church leaders will recognize the spirit of antichrist as a real enemy; Pray that the church will stand strong against evil.

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