

<p>18 Παιδία, ἐσχάτη ὥρα ἐστίν, καὶ καθὼς ἠκούσατε ὅτι [ὁ] ἀντίχριστος ἔρχεται, καὶ νῦν ἀντίχριστοι πολλοὶ γεγόνασιν, ὅθεν γινώσκομεν ὅτι ἐσχάτη ὥρα ἐστίν.</p>	<p>³ καὶ πᾶν πνεῦμα ὃ μὴ ὁμολογεῖ τὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ οὐκ ἔστιν· καὶ τοῦτό ἐστιν τὸ τοῦ ἀντιχρίστου, ὃ ἀκηκόατε ὅτι ἔρχεται, καὶ νῦν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἐστὶν ἤδη. (1Jo 4:3 BGT)</p>
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Intro: Time would fail me to exegetically prove any one of the great systems of interpretation of eschatology. Time would fail me even to prove any one particular school's view of antichrist. Time would fail me to bring in all of the witnesses through church history. So I am going to attempt a sound exegetical progression of steps sufficient to drastically narrow down our identification of antichrist. And trust that while I cannot do everything I wish to do, I can do enough to guard you from unfounded views and give you a degree of comfort that this is not an irrational and indecipherable problem.

1. Hermeneutical considerations – Does anyone else talk about the Antichrist?
 - Not mere names but character and nature – John may be the only one to use the name Antichrist, but that does not mean it is nowhere else spoken of.
 - Greece in Daniel: in one vision Greece is the bronze waist of a statue (**2:39**), in another a leopard (**7:6**), in another a he goat (**8:5,21**), in another King of N. and S. (**11:3-6**)
 - Because these different symbols depict an aspect or stage of the kingdom and persons they are identifying – the Bible is not straight-jacketed like this :: Biblical not *Biblicism*
2. John agrees that there is one antichrist <see Greek> **18** (cf **1John 4:3**)
 - John is not correcting them, he could but does not in either place.
3. But adds that there is a spiritual power which can be multiply manifested (cf **1John 4:3**) These are not opposite but complementary and both true.
 - In Paul “The mystery of iniquity” was already at work, being restrained by something from its full manifestation **2Thess 2:3-8**
 - Not a wild card, but not a single SSN either
4. This coheres with the descriptions in Daniel of beasts/horns kings/kingdoms
 - **Dan 7:17,23-24**
 - **Dan 11** Kings of N. and S. one title many persons or kingdom and kings (don't assume 1 name=1 man)
5. What kingdom? He tells you the progression
 - **Dan 2:38-43, 7:23-25, Rev 17:7,9,18,12-13,**
 - Which concurs with Paul **2Thess 2:7** (what withholds?) Tertullian
6. He is a spiritual imposter:
 - Close enough to deceive the elect **2Thess 2:9-12; Mt 24:24**
 - has a doctrine of Christ, but altered; Not an atheist **1John 2:22; 4:3; 2John 1:7**
 - glorifies himself as God **2Thess 2:4**
 - His name anti-christ (LXX **Gen 4:25** instead of Abel, **Lk 11:11**) instead of Christ
7. Who could this be?
 - The Papacy fits this to a tee
 - History
 - Quotes

Conclusion: There are 1.2 Billion Roman Catholics in the world. There are .8 Billion Protestants. The Catholic is a bounden subject to the Pope as his head and to his other-gospel doctrine. Is this serious? Is this system so deceptive as to deceive if possible the very elect? Does the Pope sit in the temple of God (church) showing that he is God? This view was ‘the Protestant view’ represented in most of the Protestant creeds and confessions of the Reformation period. I humbly submit it for your prayerful consideration and all serious action that should follow.