

# The Man of Sin Revealed

The apostle Paul was straightforward and clear. Jesus Christ will not come before “the man of sin is revealed!” It is important to note that the apostle Paul did not speak of the “arising” of the man of sin, but of his “revealing.” The Greek word Paul used for “revealed” means to “take off the cover.” The “man of sin” has been “sitting in the temple of God, as God” for most of the time since the apostles were “taken out of the way.” Paul said in his day, “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth (hinders) will let (hinder), until he be taken out of the way” II Thessalonians 2:7. It was Paul, Peter, John, and the other eyewitness apostles who hindered the antichrist spirit in their day.

The apostle John is the only writer in the Bible who uses the term “antichrist.” About 20 years after the death of Peter and Paul, John wrote, “...as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists” I John 2:18. Notice he was not speaking of political leaders, but false teachers, false prophets, and false apostles. John, when warning against false prophets, said “...this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world” I John 4:1-4.

Certainly there have been political leaders who were of the spirit of antichrist. Yet more dangerous, however, are those with the spirit of antichrist who are working in the church. It is not a man who will declare himself to be god in some future “temple;” it is our adversary, the devil, who is called Satan and that old serpent. Isaiah revealed him to be “Lucifer,” the “shining one.” Lucifer had been God’s “anointed cherub that covereth” Ezekiel 28:14, of whom God said, “thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee” Ezekiel 28:15. The prophet Isaiah revealed the “iniquity” that was in Lucifer. “...thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north” Isaiah 14:13.

Notice the words of Lucifer, “I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation...” That is where the Temple of God was located. Yet from the moment Christ died on the cross “to make an end of sins” Daniel 9:24 the “temple in Jerusalem” has never again been “The Temple of God.” The apostle Paul speaks of the church which Christ built as the temple of God, saying, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God...?” I Corinthians 3:16; “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost...?” I Corinthians 6:19, and “...ye are the temple of God” II Corinthians 6:16. The ambition of Lucifer was never to be “the god of the drug house;” his ambition is to be “god in the church” and to receive the worship of the people.

Our text says he “...*exalteth*

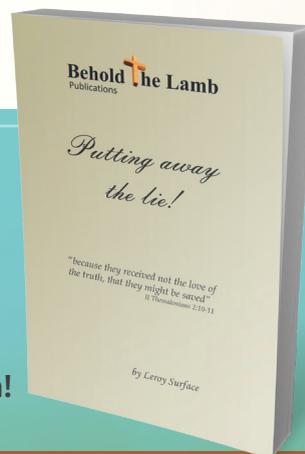
*himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God”* II Thessalonians 2:4. That is exactly what Lucifer said he would do. He succeeded in leading the church into “the dark ages,” which were brought to an end only when men of God began to once again preach the gospel of Christ. Today, we are living in the prophetic time of “the false prophet.” Exactly as “antichrist” is not one individual, but many with the “spirit of antichrist,” so “the false prophet” is not one, but many with a “false anointing.” Jesus gave the sign of “great tribulation” Matthew 24:21 when He said, “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” Matthew 24:24. It is happening all around us.

In 1994 I saw a vision of a famous preacher who continually twisted the scriptures to exalt and enrich himself from the offerings of God’s people. In the vision, I challenged the man with the simple words, “**but the scripture says.**” At first he ridiculed me as a “nothing,” but I continued, with the bible open in my hand, to say “but the scripture says.” Soon, when he could no longer deny the scriptures, he fled into a dark alley and took refuge in a manhole. At the end of the vision, I saw the man standing waste deep in sewer, as a drunk man pouring sewer over his head with his hands, and laughing uncontrollably. A short time later, when I first saw the “laughing revival,” I knew where it had come from. Since that time, the “fad revivals” have become increasingly demonic in nature, while being promoted as “the great endtime revival.” Gone are the great gospel hymns of the past. Gone is the powerful preaching of “Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” In their place has arisen what God calls “...the noise of thy songs” Amos 5:23, a cultural gospel, and a “new spirituality” that is often more “Hindu” than “Christian. The truth has “fallen in the streets” Isaiah 59:14, with none to “plead for the truth” Isaiah 59:4. This “new wave” will continue to devour our youth and our nation until such time as those men and women who

know the truth and are willing to be ridiculed as “nothings” II Corinthians 12:11, begin to challenge the lie with the truth, saying exactly what God says in the scripture. When this happens, the “strongholds of the enemy” will fall, and the “imagination of men” will be “cast down” II Corinthians 10:11. These cannot stand before the man or woman who knows the truth and is willing to confront the lie with “...but the scripture says.”

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