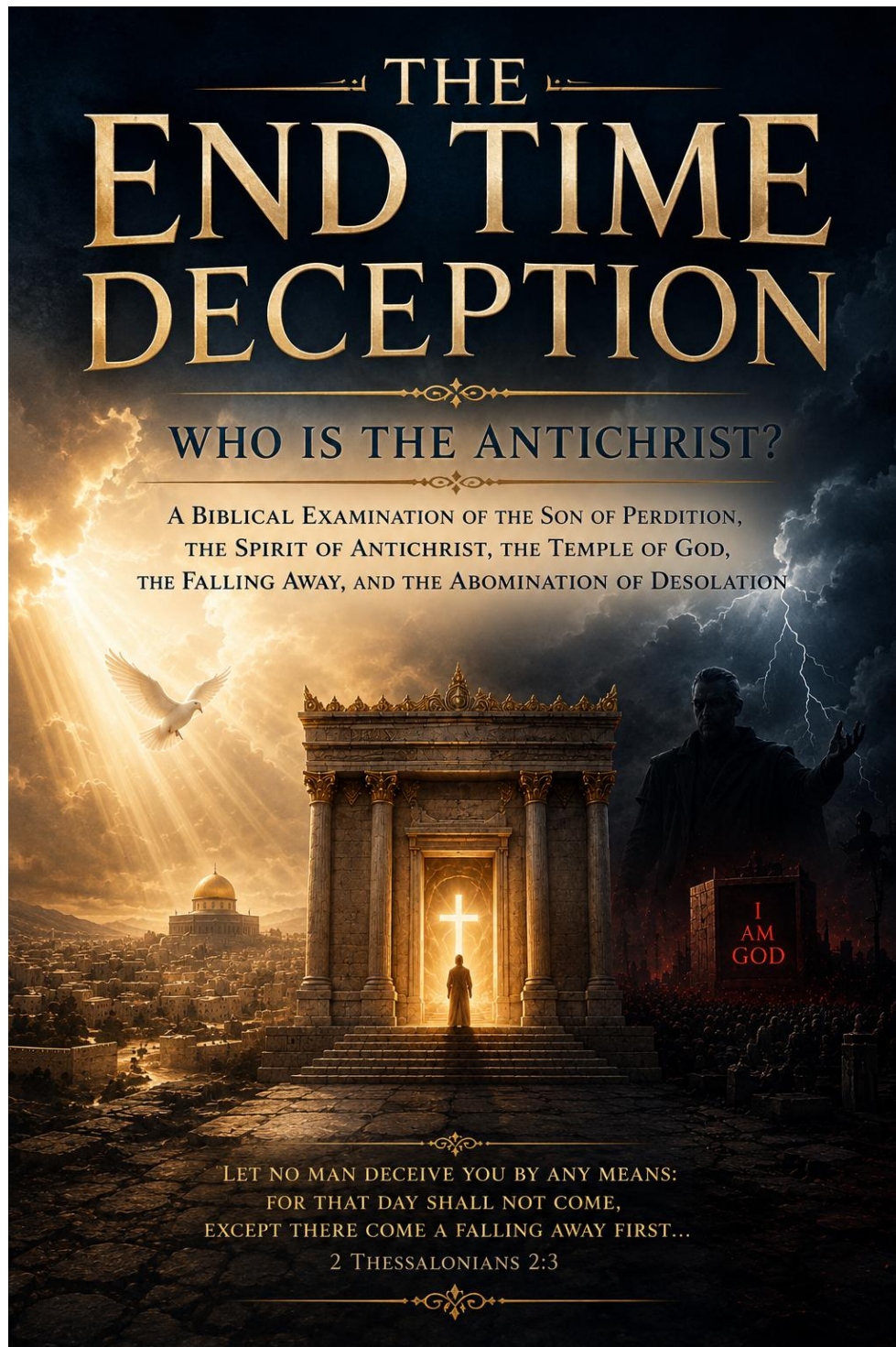




Comprehensive Study Guide Series
Restoring Oneness Apostolic Truth in the Last Days

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INTRODUCTION

According to the traditional Dispensational view, the Church is first removed from the earth in a secret rapture. Immediately afterward, a future individual known as "the Antichrist" rises to power, makes a covenant with Israel, and eventually enters a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem where he declares himself to be God, committing what is believed to be the abomination of desolation. This event marks the beginning of the Great Tribulation, a seven-year period of unprecedented judgment and worldwide chaos. At the end of those seven years, Jesus Christ visibly returns to defeat the Antichrist, establish an earthly kingdom centered in Jerusalem, rebuild or occupy the temple, reinstate temple worship, and reign from David's throne for a literal one thousand years before the final judgment.

I am Apostolic, and over the years I have become convinced that a number of apostolic doctrines have either been overlooked, misunderstood, or simply assumed without careful reexamination in the light of Scripture. Because of that, I understand the magnitude of the deception regarding "THE Antichrist" in the modern Oneness Apostolic Church. It is a teaching that has become deeply ingrained in modern Christianity and is often accepted without question.

However, my concern is not what has been commonly taught, but what the biblical text actually says. The importance of this subject is not only relevant, Jesus warned us that the Abomination of Desolation would be the final sign before the Great Tribulation will begin. That places great significance in understanding what it is. Do we know what this is? Should we be able to recognize it when it happens?

The concept of a future individual known as "THE Antichrist" did not originate within Apostolic theology. It arose within broader Trinitarian eschatological systems and was later adopted by many Oneness churches largely without modification. Over time, repetition gave the doctrine an appearance of certainty. It has been taught for so long, by so many, that most believers simply assume it must be biblical.

Yet, doctrines are not established by popularity, tradition, or repetition. They are established by Scripture.

When I examine the biblical use of the term "antichrist," I do not find a prophecy of a future individual called "THE Antichrist." Rather, I find John speaking of antichrists already present in his own day and describing antichrist as a spirit, teaching, and opposition to the true identity of Christ. That observation alone should cause us to reexamine many assumptions that have become deeply rooted in modern prophetic teaching.

My position is not based upon a desire to be different. It is based upon the conviction that apostolic doctrine must be derived from the text itself, even when that leads us to conclusions that differ from what has become widely accepted.

The Bible teaches many things that tradition has overlooked. The question is not what has been taught the longest, but what can actually be demonstrated from Scripture.

I. Who Is the Antichrist?

These are the facts:

1. "THE antichrist" is not found anywhere on the pages of the Bible.
2. The son of perdition in 2 Thessalonians is never referred to as "the antichrist."

Now let's be clear—**the word "antichrist" is in the Bible**, but not the way it is commonly taught and not as "THE" antichrist. Just "antichrist."

It appears only in the epistles of John, and it is always described as something already present in John's day—not a future individual person or character.

1 John 2:18

"...even now are there many antichrists..."

1 John 2:22

"...he is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

1 John 4:3

"...this is that spirit of antichrist... even now already is it in the world."

2 John 1:7

"This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

1 John 2:19

"They went out from us, but they were not of us..."

So biblically:

- Antichrist is not a single future man
- Antichrist is described as **many**
- Antichrist is identified as a **spirit**
- That spirit was already active **in John's day**
- They abandoned their first love

This is the only description of **antichrist** found anywhere in the entire Bible. No other New Testament writer uses the term, and no other book of Scripture contains it. More importantly, nowhere in the Bible do we find the expression "**the Antichrist.**"

Yet modern theology routinely speaks of "**the Antichrist**" as though the term itself appears throughout Scripture. It is commonly applied to the beast of Revelation, the man of sin in 2 Thessalonians, the abomination of desolation in the Gospels, and various prophetic passages throughout the New Testament. While there may or may not be legitimate connections between these passages, Scripture itself never makes them by using the title "**the Antichrist.**"

This raises an important question: if the expression "**the Antichrist**" does not appear anywhere in Scripture, should it become a formal doctrinal title? We are not suggesting there can be no relationship between John's description of antichrist and other prophetic passages. We are saying that such connections must be demonstrated from Scripture itself rather than assumed. Sound doctrine is built upon what the Bible explicitly says, not upon theological labels that the Bible itself never uses.

II. The Son of Perdition Sits in the Temple of God

Now that we have seen from John's writings that **antichrist is described as a spirit rather than a single literal man**, we must take a closer look at 2 Thessalonians. Although Paul never uses the term *antichrist*, he does speak of **the man of sin** and **the son of perdition** who sits in the temple of God. This raises two critically important questions: **Who is the son of perdition?** And **what is the temple of God?**

The answers to those two questions are essential to understanding not only the modern concept of "the Antichrist," but biblical prophecy as a whole. It is here that Scripture begins to separate sharply from many popular prophetic systems. The conclusions drawn directly from the Bible differ so dramatically from much of modern theology that what follows may seem completely unfamiliar—or even shocking. Yet our responsibility is not to defend tradition, but to allow Scripture to define its own terms and interpret itself.

BIBLE:

"so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."
(2 Thessalonians 2:4)

Q. Where does the son of perdition (not "the antichrist") sit?

A. "sitteth in the temple of God"

Notice that Paul did not say in "the temple", he said, "in the temple *of God*". Paul wrote often about the "temple of God" without variation as to its definition.

Q. Biblically, what is the New Testament temple of God?

A. It is not a building.

Paul, who wrote Thessalonians, also said:

"God that made the world and all things therein... dwelleth not in temples made with hands"
(Acts 17:24)

To be more specific, Paul also wrote:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God...?" (1 Cor. 3:16)

"The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (1 Cor. 3:17)

"Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost..." (1 Cor. 6:19)

"Ye are the temple of the living God..." (2 Cor. 6:16)

A rebuilt temple could never be the temple of God. It would in fact be a rejection of God and His perfect sacrifice Jesus Christ (Who Himself replaced the old temple structure and included us as the new “stones” of His spiritual temple. (1 Peter 2:5). Therefore, no person can enter into the **Temple of God** as a physical structure.

But a **spirit can enter into the living temple of God.**

And it is important to understand this: the term “**son of perdition**” is only used one other time in the Bible, referring to Judas.

John 17:12

“...none of them is lost, but the son of perdition...”

Judas is dead and gone. He cannot be the Son of Perdition. We will address this later.

Now connect it:

The Bible says antichrist is a **spirit**, not a man—and that there are **many** of them.

That same spirit was already in the world in John’s day.

So, what is the son of perdition?

The man of sin, the son of perdition, is the **spirit of the devil operating in God’s people**, as was the case with Judas.

It will happen again – on a grand scale – in the church. This IS the ‘falling away’.

This is also where the **abomination of desolation** comes into view.

When the son of perdition sits in the temple of God, this is the abomination of desolation spoken of by Jesus and the prophet Daniel. Jesus also said this is when and where the Great Tribulation begins.

But when ye shall see the **abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, **standing where it ought not**, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains. (Mark 13:14)

Abomination means something detestable, something that makes God spiritually vomit.

Desolation means to be emptied, abandoned, or left void.

So, when the church commits abominations, individually and collectively, God withdraws His presence. The Holy Ghost leaves that temple, and it becomes desolate.

And when it is empty... something else takes its place.

That is when the spirit of antichrist enters into and sits in the temple.

Judas was a man who was possessed by Satan. He is a typological figure of what we see in 2 Thessalonians—a man yielding himself to a spirit that ultimately takes control. What happened in Judas is the pattern. Judas was a traitor. Those who have been washed in the blood and filled with the overcoming, resurrection power of the Holy Ghost and then continue in or return to their abominable sins are also traitors, and open the door to desolation where the devil comes in. Look how Daniel describes this exactly with explicit detail.

And arms shall stand on his part, and **they** shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily *sacrifice*, and **they** shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. (Dan 11:31)

“His” is Satan himself. They that pollute the sanctuary do it under the control of Satan. They take away the sacrifice of obedience, holy living, prayer, and become lukewarm as they turn their focus away from Jesus.

The progression is simple:

- The temple is the believer
- The Spirit of God dwells in that temple
- The believer yields their temple sinful abominations
- The temple becomes defiled
- God departs
- The temple becomes empty
- Another spirit enters
- The Abomination of Desolation is complete

Paul describes this with precision:

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are. (1 Cor 3:16-17)

Now look at the specificity of Paul's doctrine:

And then shall that *Wicked be revealed*... **in them that perish**; because **they** received not the love of the truth, that **they** might be saved. And for this cause God shall send **them** strong delusion, that **they** should believe a lie: That **they all might be damned** who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thes 2:8-12)

The world is already filled with antichrists.

But now the danger is greater:

believers becoming inhabited again

believers becoming antichrists just like what occurred in John's writings about his day

Prosperity, materialism, greed, immorality, idolatry, and carnality become the vehicle by which Satan gains access back into the soul.

This is not about a future man sitting in a building.

This is about a **spiritual infiltration of the temple of God happening now**. Jesus told us plainly about this.

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first... (Matt12:43-45)

III. The Third Temple

A common objection raised against this position concerns Ezekiel's temple and the modern efforts by some groups in Israel to prepare for the construction of a future temple. Yet the New Testament presents a radically different picture. The temple established by Jesus Christ is not a future building made with hands, but a living temple composed of believers filled with the Holy Ghost. The detailed measurements given in Ezekiel are best understood as a prophetic blueprint of the spiritual temple Christ would establish through His death, burial, resurrection, and the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost. Under the New Covenant, God no longer dwells in temples made with hands, but in His people. If a temple were to be constructed in modern Israel, it could never be the temple of God in the New Testament sense. Christ fulfilled and brought an end to the Old Covenant temple system. To return to animal sacrifices, Levitical priesthood, and temple-centered worship would not be a restoration of biblical worship, but a rejection of the finished work of Christ. Jesus declared that true worship is no longer centered in a sacred location but in a spiritual relationship with God: "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). The true temple is not a building in Jerusalem. The true temple is Christ and His Church.

At this point, we are compelled to remind you of the biblical definition of the post-Pentecostal temple of God.

Q. Biblically, what is the temple of God?

A. It is not a building.

Paul, who wrote Thessalonians, also said:

"God that made the world and all things therein... dwelleth not in temples made with hands"
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"Ye are the temple of the living God..." (2 Cor. 6:16)

IV. The Unforgivable Sin: Sinning Against the Holy Ghost

If the temple of God is the believer, and the Spirit of God dwells within that temple, then the most serious warnings in the New Testament naturally concern what happens when a believer continually resists and rejects the Holy Ghost, and defiles the temple of God.

Jesus declared:

 **Matthew 12:31-32 (KJV)**

"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men."

The unforgivable sin is not merely an impulsive statement specifically against the Holy Ghost. Rather, it is the continual rejection of the very Spirit that convicts, sanctifies, empowers, and preserves the believer. The Holy Ghost is God's presence within His temple. To persistently resist and that Spirit and defile that temple is to reject the only One who can lead a person to repentance.

This warning naturally leads to another question: What causes a believer to reach such a condition?

The answer is found in the repeated New Testament warnings against apostasy and willful rebellion.

If Jesus taught that blasphemy against the Holy Ghost is the only sin that will never be forgiven, then every individual in Scripture who ultimately perished after receiving spiritual light and the baptism of the Holy Ghost necessarily reached that condition. Ananias and Sapphira, Alexander, Hymenaeus and Philetus, Demas, Simon the Sorcerer, and others stand as solemn warnings that apostasy is not merely possible—it is deadly. Their lives demonstrate that the New Testament warnings against falling away are real, and that persistent rejection of the Holy Ghost ultimately leads to the very condition from which there is no repentance.

V. Willful Sin and the Great Falling Away

One of the clearest themes running throughout the New Testament is that believers are called to continue faithfully in Christ. The Apostles never present the Christian life as one that cannot be abandoned. Instead, they repeatedly warn against departing from the faith, hardening the heart, and turning away from the living God.

The writer of Hebrews gives one of the strongest warnings in all of Scripture.

Hebrews 6:4-6 (KJV)

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance..."

Notice carefully who is being described.

These are not unbelievers.

They have:

- been enlightened,
- received the heavenly gift,
- become partakers of the Holy Ghost,
- tasted the good Word of God,
- experienced the powers of the world to come.

Yet Scripture plainly says:

"If they shall fall away..."

Paul likewise warned that a great falling away would precede the coming of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (KJV)

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first..."

The falling away is therefore not merely leaving a denomination or abandoning organized religion. It is a departure from Christ Himself by those who once knew Him.

The warning continues in Hebrews.

 Hebrews 10:26-29 (KJV)

"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins..."

The writer is not describing occasional failure followed by repentance. He is describing deliberate, persistent rebellion against known truth.

He continues:

"...and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace."

The offense ultimately becomes one against the Holy Ghost—the very Spirit who dwells within God's temple.

The progression described throughout this study now becomes remarkably clear.

The believer is the temple of God.

The Holy Ghost dwells within that temple.

Willful, persistent sin defiles the temple.

The Spirit of grace is resisted.

The temple becomes spiritually desolate.

The great falling away occurs.

The spirit of antichrist finds entrance where the Holy Ghost once dwelt.

This is precisely why the New Testament repeatedly calls believers to continue in holiness, faithfulness, and obedience. The warnings are real because the danger is real.

VI. Defiling the Temple of God

Paul gives another solemn warning.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (KJV)

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

The temple under the New Covenant is no longer a building in Jerusalem.

The temple is the believer.

If God judged those who defiled the Old Covenant temple, how much more serious is the warning concerning His living temple?

The New Testament repeatedly calls believers to holiness because God's own presence dwells within them. To knowingly persist in rebellion, immorality, idolatry, unbelief, or false doctrine is not merely the breaking of commandments—it is the defiling of God's dwelling place.

This brings us directly back to Paul's warning in 2 Thessalonians. The temple into which the son of perdition enters is not a rebuilt building of stone. It is the living temple that has first been defiled and abandoned by the presence of God.

The abomination of desolation. Will we see it? Jesus said, "When ye therefore *shall see the abomination of desolation...*" I believe we are already seeing it. There are things happening in our churches that ought not to be. First, there are believers who are playing games with God. They think God will simply wink at their sins, or that they can "repent later." But God is not mocked, and He will come upon them at an hour when they are not expecting.

Second, there is the ministry, which is guilty of turning the Gospel into a profitable business, and the people of God into a steady supply of obligatory income. They have turned the Kingdom of God into their own private kingdoms, where they live luxurious lifestyles while the saints struggle to make ends meet. Money is mentioned more often than loving one another and reaching the lost. Instead of sending good men out into the field, they hoard them for income.

Furthermore, there are many man-made doctrines and traditions that the ministry employs which overrule the Word of God. There are also many inherent heresies in modern, mainstream orthodox Oneness, as well as new abominations creeping in and infecting our churches; even denying the deity of Jesus and saying the resurrection is past. We expose these and other heresies in our studies on Restoring Apostolic Truth, available at ThePresentKingdom.com website, so we will not elaborate on them here.

VII. The Dog Returns to His Vomit

Peter gives one of the strongest warnings in the New Testament.

2 Peter 2:20-22 (KJV)

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein..."

He concludes:

"The dog is turned to his own vomit again..."

This is not describing someone who never knew Christ.

It describes a person who escaped the corruption of the world and then willingly returned to it.

Jesus taught the very same principle.

Matthew 12:43-45 (KJV)

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man... I will return into my house from whence I came out..."

The spirit returns and finds the house empty.

Then it brings seven other spirits more wicked than itself.

The last state becomes worse than the first.

This is the very pattern seen in Judas Iscariot. He walked with Christ, yet ultimately yielded himself to Satan. Judas becomes a prophetic picture of the son of perdition—a person who once walked in the presence of Christ but ultimately surrendered himself to another spirit.

VIII. Modern Abominations and the Spirit of Antichrist

The Bible defines an abomination as something detestable before God. Under the New Covenant, the greatest danger is not merely outward corruption but inward spiritual compromise.

Prosperity above holiness.

Materialism above sacrifice.

Greed above generosity.

Carnality above sanctification.

False doctrine above truth.

Worldliness above separation.

Immorality above purity.

Idolatry above devotion.

Whenever believers exchange obedience for compromise, they begin defiling the temple of God.

This is how the spirit of antichrist operates—not first through political power, but through spiritual corruption. A church that loses its first love, tolerates sin, rejects truth, and embraces the spirit of the age becomes vulnerable to the very deception Paul warned about.

The battle is therefore not centered around a future building in Jerusalem.

It is centered around the living temple of God.

The question is not whether a future man will someday enter a rebuilt temple.

The question is whether God's people will remain holy temples inhabited by the Holy Ghost, or whether they will allow another spirit to occupy what belongs to God.

The call of Scripture remains unchanged:

"Be ye holy; for I am holy."

The true temple must remain filled with the presence of God until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

IX. Conclusion

This study has not attempted to deny the reality of the spirit of antichrist. On the contrary, it has sought to understand it exactly as the Scriptures describe it. John never presents antichrist as a single future individual called "the Antichrist." Instead, he describes antichrist as a spirit already at work in his own day, manifested through many antichrists who departed from the truth and denied the true identity of Jesus Christ. Paul likewise never uses the term "antichrist," but warns of the man of sin and the son of perdition sitting in the temple of God. When Paul's writings are interpreted by Paul's own definition of the temple, the focus shifts dramatically from a future building made with hands to the living temple of God—the believer and the Church.

The consistent testimony of the New Testament is that the greatest danger facing God's people is not merely political deception or a future world ruler. It is spiritual corruption within the Church itself. The Apostles repeatedly warned of a falling away, false teachers, seducing spirits, departing from the faith, defiling the temple of God, grieving the Holy Ghost, and returning to the pollutions of the world. These warnings are not directed primarily toward the unbelieving world but toward those who have known the truth and have become partakers of the Holy Ghost.

This understanding also gives new meaning to the Abomination of Desolation. Rather than looking only for a future event centered around a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, the believer is called to examine the condition of the living temple in which God now dwells. Whenever the people of God embrace false doctrine, tolerate willful sin, reject holiness, and grieve the Holy Ghost, the temple is defiled, desolation follows, and another spirit seeks to occupy what once belonged to God. This is why the Apostles consistently emphasized repentance, holiness, perseverance, and faithfulness until the coming of Christ.

The purpose of this study is not to be controversial, but to call believers back to the Scriptures themselves. Popular prophetic systems, longstanding traditions, and widely accepted interpretations must always remain subject to the authority of God's Word. If our conclusions cannot be clearly demonstrated from Scripture, they should never become articles of faith. We are called to believe what the Bible says—not what tradition assumes.

The final question is therefore not, "Can we identify the Antichrist?" The Bible never tells us to look for a future individual by that title. The greater question is this: **Will we remain faithful temples of the Holy Ghost, preserving the truth once delivered to the saints, or will we allow the spirit of antichrist to gain entrance through compromise, false doctrine, and willful disobedience?**

The New Testament leaves us with one clear exhortation:

"Keep yourselves in the love of God..." (Jude 21)

and

"Be ye holy; for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16)

May we remain faithful until the appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Modern End-Time Deception: Inherited Word for Word from Trinitarian Eschatology or the Teachings of the Apostles?

 THE END TIME DECEPTION ACCORDING TO SATAN	 THE END TIME TEACHING OF THE APOSTLES
A FALSE SYSTEM. A FUTURE MAN. A PHYSICAL TEMPLE. ✗ Looks for "THE Antichrist" – a future man ✗ Focuses on a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem ✗ Believes the Antichrist will be a political world ruler ✗ Teaches a rapture to escape tribulation ✗ Promotes "once saved, always saved" ✗ Ignores the warnings in the Epistles ✗ Believes the church will go through the tribulation ✗ Trusts in man-made teachings and traditions ✗ Exalts materialism, power and position ✗ Deceived by the great falling away	BIBLICAL TRUTH. A SPIRITUAL WAR. THE LIVING TEMPLE. ✓ Knows Antichrist is a spirit – already in the world ✓ Understands the church is the temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16-17) ✓ Recognizes the son of perdition sits in the temple (2 Thes. 2:4) ✓ Sees the falling away as the real danger ✓ Warns that God abandons a defiled temple (abomination of desolation) ✓ Teaches watchfulness, repentance and holiness ✓ Knows the kingdom is not of this world ✓ Warns about the spirit of Antichrist in the church ✓ Preaches the whole counsel of God ✓ Lives for Christ, not for the things of this world
"FOR SUCH ARE FALSE APOSTLES, DECEITFUL WORKMEN, TRANSFORMING THEMSELVES INTO THE APOSTLES OF CHRIST." – 2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15	"THE SPIRIT SPEAKETH EXPRESSLY, THAT IN THE LATTER TIMES SOME SHALL DEPART FROM THE FAITH, GIVING HEED TO SEDUCING SPIRITS, AND DOCTRINES OF DEVILS." – 1 TIMOTHY 4:1

***Further Study:** If you still believe Scripture teaches a future rebuilt temple, we invite you to read our Bible study on eschatology, **Present Millennialism**, where the subjects of the temple, the millennium, the kingdom of God, and Revelation 20 are examined in detail from an Apostolic perspective.*

