

Three Spirits of Antichrist



“It is the last time,” John wrote.

“You have heard that antichrist shall come.

Even now there are many antichrists.” 1John 2:18

“He is antichrist, that denies the Father and the Son.” 1John 2:22

“Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is the spirit of antichrist.” 1John 4:3

John, the last remaining disciple of Jesus, described an antichrist much different from the notion popularized in today’s books and movies. His understanding was not some future villain, but a mindset affecting any and all at any time in history who would deny the Father and His Son. This could include simply a denial of Their existence (as any atheist does), refuting the sincerity of Their love and care for humanity, or rejecting the plain declarations of Scripture that God is indeed a true Father and Christ, the actual “Son of God in truth” (2John 3).

Furthermore, anyone can exhibit antichristian thinking by refusing to acknowledge that Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, actually can come and reside in humanity. “What,” Paul asked, “Know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you?” 2Cor 13:5.

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the **dragon**, and out of the mouth of the **beast**, and out of the mouth of the **false prophet**.

For they are the spirits of devils... Rev 16:13,14



The dragon, beast, and false prophet are often referred to as “the False Trinity.” They are introduced in chapters 12 and 13 following the same sequence that parallels that of Jehovah, the one true God (John 17:3) and Father of His Son (1Cor 8:6), the appointed heir of all things (Heb 1:2) which the Father delivered into his hands (Matt 11:27), who is before all things and created all things (Col 1:15,16), the Word and that Eternal life which was with the Father in the beginning (1John 1:2) before the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14) as Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed one, holy and undefiled (Heb 7:26), that he might taste death for every man (Heb 2:9), reconcile us back to the Father’s heart of infinite love (2Cor 5:19), and destroy him who has the power of death, that is the Devil (Heb 2:14).

The dragon, beast, and false prophet thus mirror the Father, the Son of God, and the Son of man. These three diabolical characters appear once again in John’s apocalypse (Rev 20:10) where they end their careers together in the lake of fire which also flows from the sea of glass mingled with fire. While they will be destroyed in the flames of God’s consuming glory, the redeemed of all ages will stand with the Lamb on the sea mingled with fire, issuing before the Father’s throne, there to dwell with everlasting burnings forever bathed in the glory of God (Isiah 33:14,15).

The **great red dragon** is featured in chapter 12 as it stands before the woman giving birth to the man child, ready to devour him, the Son of the Most High (Rev 12: 1-4; Mark 5:7). The dragon is none other than “that old serpent, the Devil, and Satan” who was “cast out into the earth, and his angels with him” (Rev 12:9). He is “the Father of lies” and “a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44), lying about God’s word (“Has God said?” Gen 3:2) and plotting to eliminate Him and His Son (“If you are the Son of God, cast yourself down” Matt 4:6). The dragon aspires to be “Like the most high” (Isaiah 14:14) to “ascend into heaven” and “sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north”—precisely where the Father’s throne is situated (Psalm 48:1,2).

Notice the striking parallels between the dragon and the Father.

The Dragon

great dragon
That old serpent
Murderer
Red
Sardius & Jasper (Eze 28:13)
All the world
Water cast out (Rev 12:15)

The Father

the Most High God
the Ancient of days
Fountain of Life (Ps 36:9)
Green emerald rainbow
Jasper & Sardine (Rev 4:3)
Every creature in heaven
Word proceeds forth

The **beast** emerges from water (Rev 13:1) which the serpent “cast out of his mouth...as a flood” (Rev 12:15). So also, the Son of God “came out from God”, He “came forth from the Father” (John 16:27,28). The beast received everything from the dragon. “The dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.” (Rev 13:2). Likewise, “the Father had given all things into [his Son’s] hands” (John 13:3). “All power in heaven and earth” was given to the Son (Matt 28:18). The beast is wounded unto death (Rev 13:3). So also the Son of God “gave himself” (Gal 2:20) to die for us (Matt 27:40). The beast’s deadly wound was healed (Rev 13:3). So also, Christ was “declared to be the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead” (Rom 1:4).

The Beast

Parallels

Our of the waters
 born of the dragon
 Dragon gives power,
 seat, authority
 Wounded to death
 Deadly wound healed

The Son

Our of the Father
 Begotten of the Father
 Father gives power,
 throne, authority
 Obedient to death
 Resurrected by Father

Another beast comes up out of the earth “like a lamb” (Rev 13:11) “exercising all the power of the first beast” (Rev 13:12) to do “great wonders” and “miracles” and “makes fire come down from heaven” (Rev 13:13,14). This is “the false prophet that wrought miracles” (Rev 19:20), the Lamb wannabe.

The False Prophet

Parallels

Another beast
 Lamb-like
 Comes up
 2 horns
 Speaks as dragon
 Exercises power
 Brings down fire
 Spirits like frogs
 Wonders & Miracles

Spirit of Truth

Another Comforter
 The Lamb
 Comes down
 7 horns 7 eyes
 Speaks for Father
 Receives all power
 Casts down fire
 Breathes Spirits
 Miracles and wonders
 (Acts 2:22)

Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light (2Cor 11:14). He appears at the very end for his final overwhelming deception masquerading as the very Son of God, “exalting himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, So that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” 2Thes 2:4. “For many shall come in my name,” Jesus said, “saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.” Matt 24:5. But the final deception will be “the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place” verse 15.

Daniel saw and Daniel wrote of “the abomination that makes desolate” Daniel 11:31. It would be a flattering corruption (verse 32). It would appear at “the time of the end” at “a time appointed” (verse 35). This is “the king” that will “exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods.” (verse 36). Though claiming to be God, he will “honor the God of forces; and a god whom his fathers knew not...a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many” (verses 38,39). The strange mystery god of Babylon (Rev 17:5).

It has ever been Satan's ambition to be worshipped. "Satan was once an honored angel in heaven, **next to Christ.**" EW 145.1 "In heaven Satan was **next to the Son of God.**" YI1903Ap16.3; Ms50-1900.7. But "sin originated with him, who **next to Christ,** had been most honored of God" GC 493.3 "Standing **next to Christ** in power and glory, yet he coveted the honor that belonged to the Son. He desired to be equal with God." RH Feb 4, 1909. Third in heaven, he wanted to be first.

His *coup d'etat* temptation was that Christ should bow down and worship him. Matt 4:9. But the Son of God was not deceived, yet today the whole world is. "And they worshiped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast" Rev 13:4. The dragon and his image, the beast, are finally worshipped. Satan's dream at last comes true. In fact, it will appear that "all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him." But not all; it is only those "whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb" Rev 13:8. Satan's triumph is spoiled by "a little flock" who are assured that it is their Father's good pleasure to give them the kingdom. Luke 12:32.

This little company, God's loyal friends, has discovered the One altogether lovely, Jesus, the divine Son of God as he "comes in the clouds of heaven to the Ancient of days" Dan 7:13 at the end of the 2300 day of atonements to begin the final cleansing of the sanctuary (Lev 16:30; John 2:14-16; 1Cor 6:19; 2Cor 6:16,16). They see Him as their great High Priest standing before his Father's throne in the heavenly sanctuary offering up their prayers in faith. As they bow before the throne and pray, looking to Jesus, "A light would come from the Father to the Son and from the Son to the praying company. Then an exceeding bright light would come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son it waved over the people before the throne." *Early Writings* p. 54.2. The Father of lights, the one true God, of whom are all things, glorifies His Son with the glory which he had with Him before the world was (John 17:3,5; 1Cor 8:6) and gives him the Spirit without measure (John 3:34).

As they continue praying, they see the Father rise and move to the most holy place of the temple in heaven for the time had come for the prophecy of Daniel 8:14 to be fulfilled, exactly 38 jubilees after the death of Christ in AD 31 at the midst of the final 70th week. Jesus then follows His Father but pauses before entering the holy of holies and bids His faithful ones to wait for Him as He goes to receive the kingdom from His Father.

They pray, "My Father, give us Thy Spirit. Then Jesus would breath upon them the Holy Ghost. John 20:22. In that breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace." EW p. 55.1. They were filled with the Spirit of Jesus (Phil 1:19; Gal 4:6).

Another company, uninterested and careless, are still bowing before the now empty throne, the table of shewbread, back in the holy place. They are totally unaware that Jesus has left it. "Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God." They look up to the throne and pray, "Father, give us Thy Spirit." Satan then "breathes upon them an unholy influence." Oh, there is "much light and power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace." EW p. 56.1

Satan again is worshipped! Nearly all the world and nearly all Christians bow, pray, and worship before Satan's throne, asking for their father's spirit, the father of lies. He will lie about "the God of peace" (Rom 15:33; 16:20; Phil 4:7; 1Thes 5:23; Heb 13:20) who does not break a bruised reed, nor quench a smoking flax (Isa 42:3). Instead, Satan will be a "god of forces." "He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark...that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark." He then gives "life unto the image of the beast" and will "cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." Rev 13:15-17. Then will be fulfilled the words of Jesus, "The time comes, that whosoever kills you will think that he does God service. And these things will they do to you, because they have not known the Father, nor me." John 16:2,3.

Satan will lie about "the perfect law of liberty" (James 1:24), reassuring them that the law has indeed been nailed to the cross, a "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2Thes 2:11. The time has come for Jehovah to work: "for they have made void Thy law." Psalm 119:126. Satan wants to nail the law of God to the cross. But it was Jesus, who was nailed to the cross, who says, If you love me keep my commandments.

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, "Christ has come! Christ has come!" The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands, and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed his disciples when he was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in

his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion.” *Great Controversy* p. 624.

The ultimate antichrist will then have control of nearly all the earth. He, the dragon himself, will send his spirits to call “the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Rev 16:14.

He vowed to be “like the Most High.” Instead, he became a great red dragon. He aspired to place his throne above the stars of God. But he only drew a third of the stars with his tail (Rev 12:4). Like the Father, he brought forth one in his own image, and gave it power and authority. He also brought forth a miracle-working prophet out of the earth who spoke like him (Rev 13:11). Even as the Son of man was a prophet (Deut 18:18) who spoke his Father’s words (John 14:10) and performed “miracles and wonders and signs” (Acts 2:22).

The beast received power for 3½ times (Dan 7:25) ending with a deadly wound. Jesus ministered 3½ years which ended with His death on the cross. The 42 months, 1260 days, 3½ years, always end with death. The 3½ years of Elijah’s drought ended with the death of Jezebel’s false prophets. The 3½ years following Christ’s ascension ended with the death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

In the end there are two sides, two groups, two companies, two synagogues. There is **the synagogue of Satan**, those which “say they are Jews [worshippers of the true God], and are not.” Revelation 2:9. They blaspheme, they lie. Revelation 3:9. They worship the dragon and the beast; they “have fellowship with Devils” 1Cor 10:20. They have “Mystery” written on their forehead. They deny the Father and the Son.

But **the synagogue of Christ** is “the church of the Firstborn of heaven” Heb 12:23. He is the Lamb and they that follow Him “whithersoever He goeth” are “the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile” or deceit Rev 14:4,5. They worship God and His Son; their “fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” 1John 1:3. They have the Father’s name written on their forehead. They have the Son’s Spirit dwelling in their heart. The Father (Lord God Almighty) and Son (the Lamb) are the New Jerusalem temple (Rev 21:22). “The glory of God (the Father) did lighten it, and the Lamb (His Son) is the light thereof” verse 23.

Spirit of the Dragon
Spirit of the Beast
Spirit of the False Prophet

The Spirits of Antichrist,
denying the Father and the Son,
the true God and Jesus Christ.

