

A. The *Antichrist Mindset* Observed in the Scriptures

In a biblical study of the *spirit of antichrist*, many different characteristics will be identified that are helpful for us to recognize and understand. Note the following carefully.

1. **A Spirit of Anarchy** – All throughout the Scriptures (from Genesis to Revelation), God has had an established order of authority in all areas. These include from before the entrance of sin, after the entrance of sin, in Heaven, on earth, in the home, in government, in the church, in the workplace, in the military, and more. At its core, this *spirit of anarchy* is a disdain and/or complete rebellion against those in authority (often multiple levels simultaneously) that exalts one's own self-interest in an extreme manner. This mentality will be flourishing particularly in the last days. Because of this, believers are specifically warned about *perilous times* which are the direct result of this *spirit of anarchy*. Please note II Timothy 3:1-5 to see several elements of a *spirit of anarchy*.
 - Without natural affection – This would certainly involve an abnormal lack of affection for both revered institutions and those people in positions of accepted authority. This would include parents, teachers, law enforcement, public officials, etc.
 - Trucebreakers – This involves those who refuse to work with others and refuse to come to any agreement to cooperate in an honorable manner. This mentality takes regular guidelines and ignores, violates, and/or abuses them for their own devices.
 - False Accusers – The heart of this world in this age revolves around a mentality that is not interested in facts or evidence, but rather about using their words to harm others if it will benefit them in any manner.
 - Incontinent – This word is simply defined as *out of control*; in this context it has to do with those who have no self-control. The last days will be *perilous*, in part, because it will be a time of anarchy when people are not just **out** of control but **cannot** control themselves.
 - Fierce – In the Greek this word is defined as *untamed* or *savage*. The *spirit of anarchy* involves people with an unnaturally brutal, wild, and uncaring/mean attitude toward others around them. (The word literally means *not gentle*.)

3. A Spirit of Manipulation – One of the major components of the *spirit of antichrist* occurring almost universally in the *last day* texts is an unusually aggressive and excessive form of manipulation. It involves a rampant, comprehensive, and coordinated plan of deception designed to control people specifically and society in general. This characteristic is found in many Scriptures; please note a couple examples below.

- *Speaking lies in hypocrisy* – This important phrase is found in I Timothy 4:1-2 and has two primary and important components. They are:
 - *Speaking lies* – which involves knowingly telling people things that are clearly not true; it needs no further explanation.
 - *In hypocrisy* – adding this phrase brings a whole new depth of description. *Hypocrisy*, by definition, conveys a difference on the inside from what is portrayed on the outside.

When these two phrases are combined, the picture portrayed is those who would not only lie, but would do so to cause a reaction, manipulate, or control in a way that would be advantageous to them. It is the equivalent of using the lie as a simple tool to accomplish an outcome (regardless of the content of that lie); the lie itself is _____ to the process. This is a frightening prospect to consider, but it is already common in our society at this time.

- *Clouds ... without water* – This description found in Jude 12 is of those in the last days who speak great things but actually deliver nothing. The text speaks of *great swelling words...* of those who boldly offer only empty (vain) promises. These empty promises are believed and embraced by enough people that the speakers will get an *advantage* (verses 12 and 16) over those around them. It will be a classic and extreme form of manipulation.

The Biblical *antichrist mindset* of the last days is explained clearly to us. It certainly includes the powerful, Satanic tool of manipulation. (In studying the book of Revelation and other related texts, i.e. Matthew 24, you can recognize some of the tribulational pressures that are present on earth at this time. This particular characteristic continues to gain prominence and is used to turn people (families and friends) against one another, to control commerce (the mark of the beast), and to turn people against those who are becoming believers, etc.

4. A Spirit of Targeted Hatred – *Targeted hatred* is found in many texts of the Scriptures (from Genesis to Revelation). However, the *hatred* of the last days is worse in its intensity and its universality. These texts show that true believers have become, and are, the specific targets of evil simply because

3. In Regards to Clearly Evident Biblical Signs in Our World – The Bible forecasts many tangible and recognizable *signs* of the last days. When carefully looking at these texts and signs, and seeing them in conjunction with other material (both mindset and activity) previously studied, they become compelling and exciting to the child of God! The Scriptures, and our Lord Himself, mention many signs of the last days noted below.

- Increase of ethnic and national conflicts - Matthew 24:7; Luke 21:10
- Increase of famine and pestilence - Matthew 24:7; Luke 21:11
- Increase of earthquakes - Matthew 24:7; Luke 21:11
- Increase of persecution - Matthew 24:9-10; Luke 21:12
- Existence of the nation of Israel - Jeremiah 32:37-42
- Return of the Jewish people to Israel - Jeremiah 32:37-42
- Increase of “peace talks/accords” in the Middle East - Daniel 11:21-23, 27
- Increase of international alliances/coalitions - Daniel 2:31-34, 41-44; 7:7-8, 23-24

This section is an explanation of the Biblical stage being set for what is to occur in these last days. Remember to shine light on the context in which the *spirit of antichrist* operates in the last days as previously studied to see how it affects us.

NOTEWORTHY

In the world today, see the political, social, and military alliances and consider the Biblical signs clearly evident in this modern era, to acknowledge the uniqueness of this time in history and its obvious connections to Biblical prophecy.

D. Our Response to the Spirit of Antichrist in the Last Days

As the scriptural pieces of the last days fall into place, the last days’ stage is being set. God has chosen to place us in this world at a special period in history! This is a time which many of the writers and prophets within God’s holy Word have written and spoken about for thousands of years. It is both sobering and exciting to each of us. Understanding that this was not by accident, nor by coincidence, but was planned since before the foundation of the world, realize that your presence has an important purpose; it is not random. (See Esther 4:11-16.)