

Antichrist and Salvation

Commentary for April 17, 2015 — He Will Teach Universal Salvation

The antichrist will teach universal salvation. This may surprise most of you, but there is good evidence to demonstrate this statement.

The antichrist, along with his companion the false prophet, will teach much truth to the world. The vast majority of their teachings will be biblical truth. It is necessary for them to do so. After all, both of them must adhere to what Jesus taught or their teaching would be transparently false to any knowledgeable person. While most people today do not know much about the Bible, most people in the near future will acknowledge God, God's word shall go forth from Jerusalem, and people will believe it this time. Hosea describes the situation in Israel today:

"[1] **For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:**

[2] **Afterward shall the children of Israel return,**"

• *Hosea 3:4-5*

Verse 5 continues, stating that some time after, in a time still ahead of us:

"and [3] **seek YHWH their God, and David their king; and shall fear YHWH and his goodness** [when will this occur?] **in the latter days.**"

• *Hosea 3:5*

So ... let us examine the three time periods indicated in this one passage:

[1] a time when **"the children of Israel"** will not have things necessary for their cult.¹ (This situation existed after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem, and again after 70 AD.)

[2] Sometime later, they will return to the land. This occurred in 1947/48 and has continued to the present.

[3] Still later, they will seek two individuals: **"YHWH their God and David their king,"** then Israel shall fear two things: **"YHWH, and his goodness."** Everything in [3] will occur **"in the latter days."** This means these events will take place before Christ returns, not during the millennium.

The "seeking" by Israel of **"YHWH and His goodness"** occurs after Israel returns to the land. It has not happened yet. Therefore, we are not yet in **"the latter days,"** according to Hosea.

Christian and Messianic groups in the Jerusalem area that Ken Klein and I visited last summer have great anticipation that this "seeking" by Israel will occur soon. I think this is

¹ By "cult," I do not mean anything derogatory, but simply the performance of the rites and sacrifices of the tabernacle/temple cult.

correct, but God's timing of when this will begin is unknown to us and to them. However, it will be unmistakable when it occurs. It will begin slowly and then it will gain momentum. The phrase **"the children of Israel"** in Hosea 3:4 indicates to me that most of the population will hold this view. This desire to seek YHWH will be genuine and He will honor it. The "seeking" will not only begin in Israel, but other passages indicate it will begin from Jerusalem. It will begin from Jerusalem, as it began in the 1st century:

"And [Jesus] said unto them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.'"

• *Luke 24:46–47*

Jesus said in Mark 13:10: **"the gospel must first be published [proclaimed] among all nations."** Then comes persecution upon the people of Israel (Mark 13:9, 11–13).

"Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world [*aion, in Greek*]. Amen."

• *Matthew 28:19–20*

How Antichrist Will Defraud Most Everyone

The antichrist will take this all into account. In fact, he will take credit for what the *ekklesia* of Christ and Israel will do. Then he will fraudulently present himself as the returned Messiah. He will claim to fulfill the prophecies in Isaiah (which the true Christ will do when He returns):

"And many people shall go and say, 'Come you, and let us go up to the mountain of YHWH, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

• *Isaiah 2:3–4 (repeated in Micah 4:2–3)*

The antichrist will speak as though his words are YHWH's words. He and his false prophet (Revelation 16:13, 19:20) must present themselves as continuing the work begun in Hosea chapter 3. In fact, most of the work will be done by Israel teaching the world and fulfilling the Book of Acts. This time the nations will heed, listen, and obey — for a time.² The antichrist and his false prophet must seem to fulfill Old Testament prophecies such as in Isaiah:

"... for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of YHWH, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

• *Isaiah 11:9–10*

Until this time the antichrist will seem benevolent and a speaker of truth from Scripture. This

² The two witnesses shall also teach the truths of God to Israel (Revelation 11:1–14).

will all be part of his deception.

“And then shall many be offended [fall away], and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.”

• **Matthew 24:10–11**

This has not happened yet.

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they [the several antichrists] shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.”

• **Matthew 24:24–25**

“For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.”

• **Mark 13:22**

The information the antichrist must teach will include the doctrine of universal salvation hinted at in Isaiah, taught implicitly in the synoptic Gospels, and taught explicitly in the Gospel of John and particularly the Pauline epistles.

False Christianity

Other biblical doctrines that must be corrected from Christianity today is a rejection of a false pagan 3-in-1, 1-in-3 trinity, a pagan immortal soul doctrine, and the pagan teaching of an eternal hell or annihilation. Of course, the opposite of hell is universal salvation.

Most of all, present-day Christianity is a religion of works. It is believed you must “accept Christ,” or you cannot be saved. Some think you must make a public confession or you will not be saved. If you do not think this is works, then look up the definition. Anything you DO to be saved, no matter how miniscule, is a “work.” You can argue with evangelicals and Protestants, Catholics, and Orthodox and they will deny to your face that “accepting Christ” is a work, even though it is something you must “do” in order to be saved.

You cannot participate in your salvation. It is too important to leave to me, you, or anyone else. It is the job of God’s only-begotten Son. His faith saves, not yours. His acceptance of you counts (not your acceptance of Him and God the Father). His righteousness, His baptism, His circumcision, His death, His resurrection, His blood on the altar in heaven, and His return count — not any possible action by you. Only then Philippians 2:12 come into play.

The antichrist will claim all of these actions, just as he will claim he did in the past what the true Christ did. He will be the “anti-” (instead of) Christ. And he will look and act and talk and exhibit and proclaim false righteousness right up to the last 3½ years before the true Christ returns.

Paul’s Understanding of Antichrist:

“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness 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 Thessalonians 2:9–12*

Understand what Paul is saying here. People will have the truths of God available to them. Then God will allow **“the Wicked”** (Greek, “the lawless one”) to act (verse 7). The result:

- They received the truth, but not **“the love of the truth.”**
- Then God will allow **“a deluding influence”** to lead them from the truth
- The result? They will then leave the truth, **“that they might believe what is false”**
- Those who do **“not believe the truth”** will eventually take **“pleasure in wickedness”**
- God will judge not only their wicked behavior, but also their **“pleasure in wickedness.”**

Later, when the deadly wound of the antichrist, the beast, is supposedly healed (Revelation 13:1–3), only then will he speak blasphemies, and attack the saints. The false prophet, the second beast (Revelation 13:11), he **“deceives people into worshipping the first beast, causes the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast”** (Revelation 13:12). He will require obedience to the Old Testament Law under penalty of death,³ presenting himself as God at the Temple, **“shewing himself that he is God”** (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

Universal Salvation — Used by the Antichrist

Universal salvation will be taught by the antichrist because Christ taught it to His disciples, for them to teach to the world. This is expressed in the Gospel of John (also Luke 15:3–7):

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting [eonian] life. For God sent **NOT his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”**

• *John 3:16–17*

Especially note the last verse of verification by the apostle Paul:

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, ... For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

• *1 Timothy 2:3–6*

Paul’s testimony must be acknowledged by the antichrist. Why? Because this truth will be already known by the world. People will think they can act without regard to morality or wickedness, leading them to take **“pleasure in wickedness”** (2 Thessalonians 2:12 above). The antichrist will teach universal salvation because it is true, and part of his truth telling. Acknowledging universal salvation will allow him to martyr true Christians without reluctance. He will say, those who refuse his “mark” must be killed, to be resurrected by him and saved later. Those killing the saints will think they are doing God’s work.

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³ See Chapter 21, [“The Antichrist Will Establish the Mosaic Law”](#) in Dr. Ernest Martin’s *Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*. This required keeping of the Law of Moses will be the “Mark of the Beast.”