

Briefing Document: 1 John Lesson 42

November 26, 2025

Executive Summary

This briefing document synthesizes the key themes from a theological lesson centered on the biblical concept of the Antichrist, drawing primarily from 1 John, Revelation, and 2 Thessalonians. The central argument distinguishes between the singular, prophetic Antichrist of the end times and the broader category of "antichrists" that currently exist.

The final Antichrist is portrayed as a satanically empowered figure—a "beast" from Revelation—who will rise to global power during a future 42-month Great Tribulation. He will blaspheme God, demand worship, and viciously persecute both Jews and Christian believers. His career, though devastating, will be short-lived, ending with his defeat by Jesus Christ at the Battle of Armageddon, whereupon he will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

The lesson's core thesis, derived from 1 John, asserts that the defining spirit of the Antichrist is the denial of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. The speaker argues that the difference between the final Antichrist and any person who rejects the true identity of Jesus is not one of *quality* but of *quantity*. Consequently, anyone who denies Jesus's divine nature and messianic role—regardless of whether they consider him a good man or a prophet—possesses the spirit of antichrist. These "many antichrists" are present in the world today, and their existence is a sign of the "last hour."

Church Announcements & Prayer Requests

Community Announcements

- **Operation Christmas Child (OCC):** It is still possible to build a donation box online.
- **Pregnancy Center:** The center is in need of board members and backup personnel.
- **Food Drive:** A "bring a can of food night" is mentioned.
- **Church Budget:** The proposed 2026 budget is available for review in the foyer.
- **New Life Women's Fellowship:** An ornament-making event is scheduled for December 13th at the church.
- **Christmas Store:** The Christmas store event will be held on Wednesday, December 17th. There will be no Bible lesson that evening.
- **DAV Angel Tree:** The DAV is hosting an angel tree for local veterans.
- **Christmas Cards:** A mailbox for internal church Christmas card exchange is in the foyer, with a cutoff date of December 14th.

- **Kids Praise Team:** Team members are to arrive at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 6th, for dress rehearsals for the Christmas program.

Prayer Requests

- **Renee:** Continued prayers for her general well-being.
- **Sally:** Prayers for safety while traveling for Thanksgiving.
- **Tim Cesolini:** Recovery from a stroke; he is currently home.
- **Marty:** For strength and well-being as he undergoes the second half of his radiation treatment.
- **Esther:** For the successful sale of their RV to facilitate the purchase of a van with a lift.
- **General Prayers:** For those unable to attend the service, for the church family and relatives, for those experiencing sorrow during the holiday season, and for the families of two National Guardsmen who were murdered, as well as the family of the perpetrator.

The Prophetic End-Times Antichrist

The lesson provides a detailed profile of the final Antichrist, a singular eschatological figure, by synthesizing scripture from Revelation and 2 Thessalonians.

Profile from Revelation 13

While the book of 1 John mentions the Antichrist, it does not offer a detailed description. For this, the lesson turns to Revelation 13, where he is depicted as a "beast."

- **Origin and Appearance:** The beast is seen "rising out of the sea," which is interpreted as representing humanity or the nations of the world. He is a man who emerges from mankind. His appearance is described as having seven heads, ten horns, ten crowns, and blasphemous names on his heads.
- **Symbolism:**
 - **Horns:** Denote his immense power.
 - **Crowns:** Signify his dominion as a future world ruler.
 - **Seven Heads:** Interpreted as representing seven world empires: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, Rome, and a revived Holy Roman Empire.
 - **Amalgamation of Beasts:** His characteristics are compared to a leopard, a bear, and a lion, echoing the imagery in Daniel 7.
- **Source of Power:** The Antichrist's authority is explicitly given to him by "the dragon," who is identified as Satan. The world will ultimately worship Satan through their worship of the beast.

- **The "Mortal Wound":** One of the beast's heads appears to be mortally wounded but is healed. This miraculous event causes "all the world" to marvel and follow him. It is noted that Satan cannot resurrect anyone, so this is an act of profound deception.
- **Reign of Terror:** His authority is granted for 42 months (3.5 years), corresponding to the Great Tribulation. During this time, he will constantly speak "great things and blasphemies" against God. His primary targets will be the Jewish people, followed by Christian believers ("saints"), with whom he will "make war" and "overcome," meaning he will martyr many.

Role and Defeat from 2 Thessalonians

The Apostle Paul's writings in 2 Thessalonians provide further context on the Antichrist's arrival and ultimate doom.

- **The Restrainer:** The Antichrist, or "man of sin," cannot be revealed until a restraining force is removed. This restrainer is identified as God, specifically the Holy Spirit, who holds back this ultimate demonic evil until God's appointed time.
- **The Revelation:** Once the restraint is removed, the "lawless one" will be revealed. His rise to power is enabled by the activity of Satan, marked by false signs and wonders.
- **A Short Career:** Despite his immense power, his reign is brief. The Lord Jesus will "overthrow him with the breath of his mouth" at the end of the Battle of Armageddon.
- **Final Judgment:** Following his defeat, the Antichrist and the False Prophet become the first two residents of the Lake of Fire.

The Nature of Belief and Non-Belief in the Last Days

The period of the Antichrist's reign will be a time of stark division between belief and non-belief.

- **Context of the Tribulation:** This period begins after the Rapture of the church. The absence of the church and the subsequent withdrawal of the Holy Spirit will contribute to the world's wickedness.
- **The Gospel Continues:** Despite the persecution, the gospel will be actively preached by three sources:
 1. The two witnesses in Jerusalem.
 2. The 144,000 Jewish evangelists (12,000 from each tribe).
 3. An angel flying in "mid-heaven," proclaiming the gospel globally.
- **A Great Deception:** Those who perish do so because they "refuse to love the truth and be saved." God will send a "deluding influence" so that those who have rejected the truth will believe the Antichrist's lies and fall in love with wickedness, sealing their judgment.
- **The Worshippers:** Revelation states, *"All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the*

world." The world will be divided into two distinct groups: believers in Christ and worshippers of Satan.

Identifying the Spirit of Antichrist

The lesson's central focus shifts from the singular, future Antichrist to the multiple "antichrists" John warns about in his first epistle. John's teaching establishes a direct theological link between the final, ultimate figure and any individual who rejects the core identity of Jesus Christ.

The Defining Characteristic

The fundamental difference between the final Antichrist and any non-believer is presented not as a difference in *quality* of belief, but of *quantity* of influence and power. The spiritual essence is the same.

- **The Primary Test:** The definitive mark of an antichrist is found in 1 John 2:22: *"Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son."*
- **Denial of the Son and Father:** To deny that Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ) is to deny both the Son and the Father. One cannot be accepted without the other. This denial constitutes the spirit of antichrist.
- **Insufficient Beliefs:** The lesson stresses that holding a positive but incorrect view of Jesus is a form of denial. To call Jesus merely a "good man," a "great prophet" (as in Islam), or the "brother of Lucifer" is to possess the spirit of antichrist, because these definitions fall short of his true identity as the Son of God.
- **The Divine Nature:** Jesus possesses the same "DNA" or "essence" as God the Father. To deny His deity—that He is God in the same way His Father is God—is to deny the core of the Christian faith.

The Confession of a Believer

In contrast to the denial of the antichrist, the mark of a true believer is confession.

- **The True Confession:** As stated in Romans 10:9, *"if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*
- **The Meaning of Confession:** The Greek word for confess, *homologeo*^[^1], means "to say the same thing." A true believer confesses and says the same thing about Jesus that God the Father says about Him.
- **The Apostates:** 1 John 2:19 addresses those who were part of the church but left: *"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us."* Their departure is presented as evidence that they were never true believers.

- **The True Believer's Assurance:** True Christians have an "anointing from the Holy One" and know the truth (1 John 2:20). John writes to fortify their faith against those who would lead them astray.

Greek Word Reference

Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition from Source
<i>homologeō</i> ^[^1]	ho-mo-lo-GEH-o	To "say the same thing." Composed of <i>homo</i> (same) and <i>logio</i> (word), it signifies confessing with one's mouth the same words and truth that God proclaims about Jesus Christ.
[^1]: Spoken as "homologial" in the source.		