ANTICHRIST(S)

The word “antichrist(s)” appears five times in the scriptures. All are in First John, and Second John. The word appears nowhere else in the Bible. It doesn’t appear in any Gospel, or any Epistle of Paul, Peter, James, or Jude, nor in Revelation, or Daniel, not in any Old Testament book or prophesy.

The first appearance of the word (and the second) are in 1 John 2:18;

“Little children, it is the last hour, and, according as you hear that the antichrist is coming, now also there have come to be many antichrists, whence we know that it is the last hour.”

In some translations where the word antichrist is first mentioned the translators capitalize the “A”: Antichrist, others have low case “a”; antichrist. Also, in some versions the definite article “the” is omitted, where the word antichrist first appears.

Most Bibles will have a chain reference to other verses in the scripture, both in the New and Old Testaments, where “they” believe antichrist is mentioned, or prophesied by the inspired writers. Here are some of the verses that are said to be the antichrist that we first read of from John’s first epistle: Daniel 7:8 (the little horn), Daniel 8:23 (insolent king), Daniel 9:27 ( covenant maker, and breaker), Daniel 11:36 ( the king who does what he wants), 2 Thessalonians 2:3 ( man of lawlessness, son of destruction) 2 Thessalonians 2:8 ( lawless one), Revelation 13:11 (the beast).

As was mentioned there is no reference to antichrist anywhere else in the scriptures other than in John’s two epistles, and John never says “one” antichrist is coming in the future during what many call “the end times”. So why does anyone believe that those above references are speaking of “the” antichrist? John never says, in his epistles antichrist(s) have a desire to rule the world, nor make or break a covenant, or be a king…..Could it be that the concept of “ONE” future antichrist has created an artificial character. One who many have believed, since the apostles left the scene, will rise out of the masses, and take control of the world’s religious and political systems?

Antichrist in the Greek language is: *antichristos* ; instead anointed.

So, anything/everything other than Christ anointed. Christ/*Christos* means anointed. Anti means instead. John actually explains some aspects of “instead anointed” in the previous verses in 1 John 2:

“15 Be not loving the world, neither that which is in the world. If ever anyone is loving the world, the love of the Father is not in him,
16 for everything that is in the world, the desire of the flesh, and the desire of the eyes, and the ostentation of living, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
17 And the world is passing by, and its desire, yet he who is doing the will of God is remaining for the eon.”

The very things that Jesus was tempted by; the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, and the pride of life, the things in the world, and overcame, are things that are instead anointed; antichrist. They are the things that can and will draw us further from being Christ anointed, and into the world systems that quench holy spirit. Johnathan Mitchell’s New Testament translates 1 John 2:15-18 this way:

**You folks should not be habitually loving** (as indicative: are not normally accepting; as imperative: Stop constantly seeking reunion with) **the world** (secular realm and the controlling ordered System of culture, religion, economy and government), **neither** (or: not even) **the things within the world** (ordered system). **If anyone is in the habit of** (or: keeps on) **loving the world** (ordered system of religion, or of secular society), **the Father's** [other MSS: God's] **Love** (or: the love which the Father has; the Love which is the Father) **does not exist within him,**

16. **because everything within the world** (ordered but dominating System of the secular and the religious) **– the flesh's over-desire**

(full passion of the alienated human nature; lust of the estranged self; earnest wants of the false persona that was conformed to the System), **and the eyes' over-desire, and the arrogant ostentation** (haughty, presumptuous or pretentious egoism) **pertaining to living** (= the biological and sociological life we live), **is not out of the Father as a source** (or: does not proceed from the Father), **but rather is continuously forth from out of the world** (the ordered System of society, culture and religion),

17. **and the world** (ordered System of religion, society, culture, economy and government) **is progressively** (or: constantly; repeatedly) **being caused to pass along** (pass by; pass away), **as well as its over-desire** (full passion; earnest wants; lust), **yet the person constantly doing** (or: performing) **God's will** (intent; purpose; desire) **remains** (abides; dwells) **on into the Age** (= the time and sphere characterized by the Messiah).

18. **O undeveloped ones or folks of the age to be educated** (or: servants, little boys and little girls who might be hit in training and for discipline), **it continues being** (or: is progressively) **a last hour** (= an *eschaton* of the Day, or the closing moment [of the age]), **and according as you hear** (or: heard) **that an antichrist** (or: anti-anointing; that which is instead of, or in the place of, Christ or the Anointing) **repeatedly comes** [other MSS: the anti-anointing (or: antichrist) continuously comes], **even now many anti-anointings** (or: antichrists; many things or people taking the place of Christ or stand in opposition to the Anointing) **have been born and are here** (or: have come into existence and are at large), **from which fact** (or: whence) **we constantly know by experience that it continues being a last hour** (= a closing moment [of the age]).

Antichrist isn’t a one time coming future Satan filled world ruler . Antichrist(s) continually come. Antichrist is a movement within all who are not Christ anointed. John in verse 19 tells us where some antichrist’s come from:

“Out of us they come, but they were not of us, for if they were of us, they would have remained with us. But it was that they may be manifested that they are not all of us.”

These may be the ones who Jesus is referring to in Matthew 7:21-23:

"Not everyone saying to Me 'Lord! Lord!' will be entering into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who is doing the will of My Father Who is in the heavens.
22 Many will be declaring to Me in that day, 'Lord! Lord! Was it not in Your name that we prophesy, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many powerful deeds?' 23 And then shall I be avowing to them that 'I never knew you! Depart from Me, workers of lawlessness!'

The third occurrence of antichrist can be found in 1 John 2:22:

“Who is the liar, if not he who is denying, saying that "Jesus is not the Christ"? This one is the antichrist, who is disowning the Father and the Son.”

Once again, the definite article “the” is omitted in many manuscripts. Also, in the CLNT “one” is in lightface type, meaning it is not found in older manuscripts. The adding of “the” and “one” has also led many to assume there is “one” future antichrist yet to come. Here, again is the Johnathan Mitchell translation:

“**Which one is** (exists continuously being) **the liar, if not the person habitually denying** (repeatedly disowning; = constantly turning his back), **[saying] that Jesus is not the Christ** (the Anointed One [= Messiah])**? This person is** (exists being) **the anti-anointing** (or: anti-anointed person; the one taking the place of and being in the opposite position of the anointing and of Christ)**: the one habitually denying** (constantly turning his back on) **the Father and the Son.”**

We can plainly see that the antichrist person that John is speaking of here are all who deny Jesus is the Christ. Some say that John uses the noun person in this verse to single out the one future Great Antichrist who is yet to come. If that is so, then in verse seventeen where he says; “the person doing God’s will will remain for the eon” must mean, only one person will remain for the eon. No, John is not speaking of “One” future antichrist, that many claim is the insolent king of Daniel, or lawless one from Paul’s epistle, or the beast from Revelation. John is simply telling his readers that; antichrist is someone who habitually denies the existence of Jesus Christ and God.

 Are these people in verse twenty two the same people that John is speaking of in verse eighteen; those who came out from among them who believed? I don’t think so. Most who claim to believe, such as those who Jesus says to: “I never knew you” believe there is Jesus and God, they don’t deny Them, or Their existence. Those who deny Him in the above verse, deny Their existence. I believe John is giving us here another class of antichrist(s), unbelievers. A denier and a false believer are similar in many ways, but where they differ is whether they believe in God and Christ’ existence. I am not dogmatic about this, but my understanding towards this leans that way.

The fourth time that we read of antichrist can be found in 1 John 4:3, I will quote the first and second verses for context sake:

“1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see if they are of God, for many false prophets have come out into the world.
2 In this you know the spirit of God: every spirit which is avowing Jesus Christ, having come in flesh, is of God,
3 and every spirit which is not avowing Jesus the Lord having come in flesh is not of God. And this is that of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and is now already in the world.”

Here we read of the spirit of antichrist. This spirit, John tells us of, was already in the world. It isn’t coming in the future, it was there at the time John wrote his epistle, and before. Some teach that this spirit is an invisible force outside of humans that causes humans to become false prophets, or deniers of Jesus Christ coming in the flesh, or His and God’s existence. Others believe this spirit is the spirit of Satan, which must be every bit as powerful as God, as well as omnipresent . It could also be the spirit behind the words, the attitude, or influence coming from the false prophet, not necessarily a spirit entity. Or more probable, it is the spirit of humanity/the world, which is at odds with holy spirit. In 1 Corinthians 2:11-16 we read:

“11 For is any of humanity acquainted with that which is human except the spirit of humanity which is in it? Thus also, that which is of God no one knows, except the spirit of God.
12 Now we obtained, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we may be perceiving that which is being graciously given to us by God,
13 which we are speaking also, not with words taught by human wisdom, but with those taught by the spirit, matching spiritual blessings with spiritual words.
14 Now the soulish man is not receiving those things which are of the spirit of God, for they are stupidity to him, and he is not able to know them, seeing that they are spiritually examined.
15 Now he who is spiritual is, indeed, examining all, yet he is being examined by no one.
16 For who knew the mind of the Lord? Who will be deducing from Him? Yet we have the mind of Christ.

Whatever this spirit of antichrist may be, it has been going on since before John wrote this epistle, and had influenced the many false prophets of John’s time.

The last place (fifth time) we read of antichrist(s) is found in the second epistle John wrote:

“For many deceivers came out into the world, who are not avowing Jesus Christ coming in flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.” (7)

This is almost word for word with 1 John 4:3.

So we can see by the above verses concerning antichrist, that John was not warning of, or waiting for some future supernatural evil antichrist, filled (possessed) with the Devil to come and take over the world, John never even hints at that. He nowhere suggests that these antichrists are possessed by the Devil. He tells his readers that, antichrist is here, and there are many of them. They can be identified by what they prophecy, and Who they deny. Those who are discerning will also be able to recognize what spirit is behind their words; is it the spirit of antichrist, or of God.

As was said, these are the only five places in scripture where you will read of antichrist(s). You won’t read the antichrist lawless one, the antichrist beast, the antichrist little horn, the antichrist insolent king, the antichrist man of lawlessness, the antichrist son of destruction, the antichrist covenant maker and breaker. Not saying that these titles don’t suggest instead anointed characteristics in whatever, or whoever these titles apply to , but they are not what Christendom has caused many to believe in (what John has said is already in the world, and there are many of them), a future evil Satan filled Antichrist superhuman, waiting in the shadows of the political/religious systems of the world for his time to enter the scene.

John wasn’t prophesying a future “Great” antichrist, you nowhere read that in his epistles. Antichrist’s are here, and are the force behind every false teaching/prophecy concerning Christ and God, as well as the chaos in every arena on the planet , and are the reason why so many look to the daily newspaper, or news broadcast for their spiritual enlightenment about this personage, instead of the plain teachings from the scriptures. Once it is realized that John does not tell us there is a future One Time Antichrist yet to come, who will take control of the world, who will make all the so called lesser antichrists before him look like saints at a Sunday school picnic, as many say he does, we will be more apt to recognize what is antichrist, not only in the world and religion, but in our lives that is instead of Christ, that which is instead anointed, therefore giving us cause to test the spirits to see if they are of God.

So to sum up; antichrist(s) according to John’s description are false prophesiers concerning Christ the Lord. Those who deny Christ Jesus’ and Gods existence. As well as having a fondness for the things of the world, things that take take the place of His rule in their lives. Antichrist is not some future ruler over the world, John never once even hints at such a thing, that application of antichrist(s) appears to be from the imagination of the many prophecy teachers throughout the centuries.

“ **O undeveloped ones or folks of the age to be educated** (or: servants, little boys and little girls who might be hit in training and for discipline), **it continues being** (or: is progressively) **a last hour** (= an *eschaton* of the Day, or the closing moment [of the age]), **and according as you hear** (or: heard) **that an antichrist** (or: anti-anointing; that which is instead of, or in the place of, Christ or the Anointing) **repeatedly comes** [other MSS: the anti-anointing (or: antichrist) continuously comes], **even now many anti-anointings** (or: antichrists; many things or people taking the place of Christ or stand in opposition to the Anointing) **have been born and are here** (or: have come into existence and are at large), **from which fact** (or: whence) **we constantly know by experience that it continues being a last hour** (= a closing moment [of the age]).”