

119

MINISTRIES

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The Antichrist Agenda and the Great Delusion: Which Spirit Are You Following?

What do you imagine when you think of the Antichrist? Most people imagine a global ruler—a charismatic leader who deceives the nations and makes war against the saints. While this is true, Scripture also reveals something far more subtle and far more dangerous.

What if the Antichrist’s primary weapon is not open war—but spiritual deception?

What if the real danger is a slow, quiet drift away from the commandments of God and way from truth?

Let’s test everything to the Word of God.

The Strategy of the Antichrist

Daniel 7:25

He shall speak words against the Most High,
and shall wear out the saints of the Most High,
and shall think to change the times and the law;
and they shall be given into his hand
for a time, times, and half a time.

This prophetic verse reveals the Antichrist’s long-term plan: to speak against YHWH, to persecute his people, and to change the times and the law. These aren’t just random attacks—they are aimed directly at the foundation of YHWH’s covenant: his calendar and his commandments.

And this agenda didn’t begin in the future—it’s been playing out since ancient times.

Antiochus Epiphanes IV – A Type of the Antichrist

In the 2nd century BCE, Antiochus Epiphanes IV led a campaign to destroy the covenant obedience of

YHWH's people:

- He outlawed the Sabbath and feast days.
- He burned copies of the Torah and prohibited its observance.
- He defiled the temple with pagan sacrifices.
- He banned circumcision and the keeping of the dietary commandments.

This historical event is recorded in 1 Maccabees 1:45–49, which describes how Antiochus's goal...goal was to “*make them forget the law and change all the ordinances.*”

This was not merely political control. It was a spiritual war against the covenant.

Antiochus Epiphanes stands as a clear historical foreshadowing of the Antichrist—embodying the same agenda of changing YHWH's appointed times and laws, a pattern that Scripture tells us will fully manifest again in the end times.

The Spirit of Antichrist: Already at Work

1 John 4:3

...every spirit that does not confess Jesus [Yeshua] is not from God. This is the **spirit of the antichrist**, which you heard was coming and **now is in the world already**.

John tells us this spirit was already present in his day. But what does it mean to “*not confess Jesus*”?

John's warning about the *spirit of the antichrist* is not about whether we use the name “*Jesus*” or “*Yeshua*”—whether we call him by his transliterated Greek name or by his original Hebrew name meaning “*YHWH is salvation*.” It's not a matter of pronunciation; it's a matter of role identity and authority.

The issue is denying who he truly is—the living Word made flesh—and rejecting the commandments he taught. That is the context of John's message: the *spirit of the antichrist* was already at work in the world, leading people to separate the Messiah from the Torah he upheld.

Knowing Yeshua Means Obeying His Commandments

Just a few verses before John speaks directly about the *spirit of the antichrist*, he begins to define what it actually means to deny that Yeshua is from God.

1 John 2:3–6

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says “I know him” **but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him**, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

To walk as Yeshua walked is to walk in obedience to the Torah. John makes it clear: whoever claims to know the Messiah but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in them. According to John, knowing the Messiah is inseparable from obeying him—so to reject his commandments is, by

definition, to deny him. That same person is described as a *liar*.

This theme—that *denying* Messiah is demonstrated by a refusal to obey his commandments—continues just a few verses later, where John directly identifies this agenda as the *spirit of the antichrist*:

The Antichrist Denies the Son and the Father

1 John 2:22–23

Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus [Yeshua] is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

So John’s message is clear: denying the Son includes rejecting his mission, his message, and his authority as the prophesied Messiah. And that prophetic authority is rooted in Scripture.

According to Deuteronomy 18:18, the Messiah would come speaking the very words of YHWH. He would not create new doctrine or a new religion—he would teach the Torah faithfully. This is one of the primary ways Israel would know he was the true Messiah.

To falsely claim that the Messiah came to abolish or change the Torah is to deny one of the key qualifications of his prophetic identity. And that’s not a small error—it’s a direct contradiction of the Word of God.

Even more serious, Deuteronomy 13 warns that if a prophet performs signs or miracles but leads people away from YHWH’s commandments, that prophet is to be rejected—he is Biblically defined as a false prophet.

So, if we claim that Yeshua came to change or abolish the Torah, we’re not just misrepresenting his message—we’re framing him as a false prophet according to the biblical standard. And that is no small accusation. In fact, that very claim is, by definition, against Messiah—which is what anti-Christ means.

This is precisely John’s point. His warnings about the spirit of the antichrist are not isolated—they are embedded within a broader call to obey the commandments of Yeshua. The spirit of the antichrist redefines the Messiah in such a way that portrays him as a lawbreaker—effectively casting him as a false prophet according to the standards of Deuteronomy 13. Tragically, many who make this claim don’t realize that, in doing so, they are aligning with the very spirit that stands opposed to the true Messiah.

- To deny Yeshua is to deny the Father.
- To reject Yeshua’s teachings is to reject who he is.
- To knowingly reject what Yeshua taught is to deny that he was sent by YHWH.

That is the spirit of antichrist, according to John.

2 Thessalonians 2 – The Man of Lawlessness and the Great Delusion

Paul also gives a similar warning:

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the son of destruction...

This figure is called the man of lawlessness—*anomia* in Greek—Torah-lessness.

He is not simply evil—he is defined by his rejection of the law.

2 Thessalonians 2:9–10

The coming of the **lawless** one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all **wicked deception** for those who are perishing, because **they refused to love the truth** and so be saved.

Why are people deceived? Because they refused to love the truth.

And what is the truth?

Psalm 119:142

Your **righteousness** is righteous forever, and your **law** is **truth**.

Psalm 119:151

...all your commandments are truth.

Then Paul says:

2 Thessalonians 2:11–12

Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

This is key:

Rejecting YHWH's truth is not just what leads to the great deception—rejecting his truth is the great deception. It is the delusion itself.

The Nations Have Inherited Lies

Jeremiah 16:19

“O LORD [YHWH], my strength and my stronghold,
my refuge **in the day of trouble**,
to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say:
‘Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies,
worthless things in which there is no profit.’”

Jeremiah 16:19 refers to the time of the Great Tribulation, when the gentile nations (House of Israel) confess, “Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies.” This confession is directly linked to verse 11, which accuses their ancestors of forsaking YHWH's law (Torah), revealing that the inherited lies are specifically about rejecting the commandments. Paul builds on this in 2 Thessalonians 2, identifying

“lawlessness” (Greek: anomia) as the core of end-time deception. The great deception of the last days is not merely general falsehood—it is centered on rebellion against Torah. Therefore, recognizing the prophetic unity between Jeremiah 16 and 2 Thessalonians 2 is crucial: forsaking YHWH’s law is the defining feature of the end-time apostasy.

This is the great deception. This is the delusion.

Clarifying the Message – Salvation by Grace, Not Works

In a teaching that emphasizes obedience and exposes the danger of lawlessness, it is essential to pause and clearly state what Scripture teaches about salvation.

- We are not saved by works. We are not justified by obedience to the Torah.
- We are saved by grace through faith in Messiah Yeshua.

However, true faith is never without fruit. That fruit is obedience—not to earn salvation, but because we love the One who saved us.

Salvation Is by Grace Through Faith

Ephesians 2:8–9

For **by grace you have been saved** through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **not a result of works**, so that no one may boast.

Romans 3:28

For we hold that one is **justified by faith apart from works of the law**.

We are not saved by our obedience. We are saved through trust in the finished work of Yeshua. Salvation is a free gift received through our faith.

But Paul Was Deeply Concerned About Misunderstanding

Paul clearly anticipated that his message of grace might be misunderstood. He feared some might twist his words to mean that the Torah was no longer important.

That is why, immediately after declaring that salvation is not by works in Ephesians 2:8–9, he clarifies:

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus [Messiah Yeshua] for good **works**, which God prepared beforehand, that **we should walk in them**.

We are not saved **by** good works—but we are saved **for** good works. Paul understood these works to be consistent with the commandments of YHWH.

Likewise, in Romans 3, after affirming that justification is by faith, Paul is quick to prevent misinterpretation:

Romans 3:31

Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we **uphold the law.**

Paul knew that some would wrongly assume he was dismissing the Torah. In reality, he upheld it. Sadly, many Christians today do exactly what Paul tried to prevent: they interpret these verses as if obedience no longer matters. Paul's concern was prophetic—and sadly accurate.

This Pattern Is Also Found in Acts 15

Acts 15 is another passage that is commonly misunderstood.

The question being addressed was whether Gentile believers must be circumcised and keep the Torah in order to be saved.

Acts 15:1

But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, '**Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.**'

The apostles rightly rejected that idea. Salvation does not come through Torah observance.

But notice what James says in conclusion:

Acts 15:21

For from ancient generations **Moses** has had in every city those who proclaim him, **for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues.**

In other words: Let's not burden Gentile converts up front with the expectation of complete understanding and application of the Torah—but they will hear and learn the Torah each Sabbath as they continue to grow in the faith.

Once again, we see the pattern:

- No, the Torah does not save us.
- Yes, we are still to learn it and live by it as we walk in faith.

Obedience Is the Fruit, Not the Root, of Salvation

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus [Messiah Yeshua] for good works...

Romans 3:31

Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

Faith in Messiah does not abolish the law—it establishes it. True faith produces obedience.

Yeshua Differentiated Between the Mistaken and the Defiant

The Mistaken (Yet Sincere)

Matthew 5:17–19

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets... Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same **will be called least in the kingdom of heaven...**

Yeshua recognizes that some will minimize parts of the Torah out of ignorance or misunderstanding.

They may still be in the kingdom, but they are considered least. He corrects them but does not condemn them.

Then there's the defiant, the willfully lawless

The Defiant (Willfully Lawless)

But for those who know the truth and reject it, Yeshua issues a much more serious warning.

Matthew 7:21–23

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you **workers of lawlessness.**'

These are not unbelievers. They are people who were active in ministry. They performed miracles. They confessed Yeshua as "*Lord*."

But they were rejected—not because they failed—but because they lived in lawlessness (*anomia*—Torah-lessness).

These are not people who were simply misled about the truth. These are individuals who should have known better. They had sufficient exposure to the Scriptures to understand what YHWH desires, yet they chose to reject it. Their ignorance is not innocent—it is willful. They are not merely deceived—they are without excuse.

When Yeshua declares, "*I never knew you*," it comes as a shock to them—but not to him. Despite their surprise, YHWH views their lawlessness as such gross negligence of his Word that it amounts to blatant disobedience, whether they acknowledge it or not.

This is not about those who struggle in weakness or are growing in understanding. This is about those who have heard the truth, yet deliberately choose disobedience under the banner of grace, those that despite multiple chances, continue to reject correction.

Jude 4

For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who **pervert the grace** of our God into sensuality and **deny** our only Master

and Lord, Jesus Christ [Messiah Yeshua].

These are people inside the community, twisting grace into permission to sin and, in doing so, denying the very Messiah they claim to follow.

And for those who knowingly walk this path, the outcome is clear:

Hebrews 10:26–30

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, **there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins**, but a **fearful expectation of judgment**, and a **fury of fire that will consume the adversaries**. Anyone who has **set aside the law of Moses** dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be **deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God**, and has **profaned the blood of the covenant** by which he was sanctified, and has **outraged the Spirit of grace**?

We Obey Because We Love Him

Obedience is not legalism—it is love in action.

John 14:15

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

- Love without obedience is emotionalism.
- Obedience without love is legalism.

But love that leads to obedience—that is biblical faith.

The Spirit of YHWH vs. The Spirit of Antichrist

1 John 3:24

Whoever **keeps his commandments** abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the **Spirit** whom he has given us.

Ezekiel 36:27

And I will put my **Spirit** within you, and **cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules**.

- The Spirit of YHWH leads us into covenant obedience.
- The spirit of antichrist leads us away from it—while calling it grace.

Which Spirit Are You Following?

Scripture makes the distinction clear:

- The Spirit of YHWH leads us to his commandments, his truth, and his Son.
- The spirit of antichrist offers religion without obedience, and a Messiah without Torah.

1 John 2:4

Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:22

Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus [Yeshua] is the Christ? This is the antichrist...

2 Thessalonians 2:10–11

...because they refused to love the truth... God sends them a strong delusion...

Psalms 119:142

Your law is truth.

Jeremiah 16:19

Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies...

Let us not continue in those lies.

Let us return to the ancient paths.

Jeremiah 6:16

Thus says the LORD [YHWH]: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls."

Let us walk as Yeshua walked.

Let us reject the delusion and embrace the truth of YHWH's Word.

We hope that you have been blessed by this teaching, and remember, continue to test everything. Shalom.

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