



[Understanding the Christ](#)

Episode 3 - Unveiling the 2000-Year Apostasy: A New Perspective

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In this episode, we delve into a profound biblical concept of apostasy that originated with the first-generation church and extends to the present day. Discover how the scriptural narrative unveils the harsh truth of false teachings present since the times of the apostles, with particular focus on the teachings of 1 John and the concept of Antichrist.

The discussion centers on John's portrayal of the Antichrist - not just those who deny Christ's existence, but more importantly, those who deny the deep relationship between the Father and the Son. We also explore crucial biblical events such as the baptism of Jesus and the prophetic implications drawn from Psalms and Micah, deepening our understanding of the true relationship between God and Jesus.

Furthermore, consider how different denominations interpret these scriptures and how their teachings align with or diverge from the essence of Jesus' coming in the flesh and his divine mission. This episode invites listeners to scrutinize the historical context and

reflect on their beliefs regarding the nature of Christ, the Trinity, and the eschatological role of Antichrist in modern Christian faith

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are transcribed directly with notations. Refer to KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi. In our last videocast, I shared with you about the apostasy that began in the first-generation church and will last until the second coming, to the last generation church. That concept is almost too much to grasp, the fact that an apostasy began in the days of the apostles. I mean, I was always taught there would be this apostasy before the end of the world, but no one explained it actually started in the first century and, again, will last all the way to the end.

See, this is the story God has given us in the Bible. This is not something that we're just reading into and making something up. We're reading this from scripture.

1Jn 2:18 ... there are antichrists. We know it's the last time because there are antichrists now.

1Jn 2:19 They went out from us... us, the apostles.

So, can you realize that if this apostasy has been here for two thousand years, how did you and I escape it? Or have we? I guess that's the question. There are two points that John makes about the apostasy.

The two points he gives us prove the apostasy. If you believe the two points, you're going to see the darkness that's in this world, and you're going to see the magnitude of the situation we are in if we're going to believe the truth. So let's turn in our Bibles to 1 John, chapter 2. I want to start at verse 22.

1Jn 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denies Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denies the Father and the Son.

1Jn 2:23 Whosoever denies the Son, the same does not have the Father...

What do we see here? You have liars and you have antichrists. In the last video, I showed you that you can't have an antichrist without having a Christ. So if I were to go back to

the first century and see people denying that Jesus is Christ, well, that would be a liar. Basically, that is what the Jews did. They denied... this can't be the Messiah. Well, that's a liar. But he that denies the Father and Son is an antichrist.

To get into this issue, the Father and Son... because, again, if I were to walk into any denominational church, they all teach the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They would say, "We are not denying the Father and the Son." But what I want to do is point something out to you from the Bible and let you make that decision as you read the inspirational words our heavenly Father has given us. I want to look at the baptism of Jesus. Let's turn to Matthew 3, reading from verse 13.

Mat 3:13 Then comes Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized...

Mat 3:14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of you, and you're coming to me?

Mat 3:15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so for now: for thus it becomes us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

Mat 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were open to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Mat 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

All I want to do is turn over to the gospel of John, chapter 1, and I want to start reading at verse 29.

Jhn 1:29 The next day John sees Jesus coming unto him, and he says, Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.

Jhn 1:30 This is he of whom I said, After me comes a man (King James has put, "which is preferred before me." That word "preferred" actually is "to come to be"). After me comes a man which "came to be" before me. For he was before me,

Jhn 1:31 And I didn't know: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.

Jhn 1:32 And John bare record, and said, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

Jhn 1:33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Unto whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

Jhn 1:34 And I saw, and I bare record that this is the Son of God.

Why the baptism? Why is this important? What we just read in Matthew (you can read it in Luke, you can read it in John), you can go look at this baptism of Christ, and you're reading an eyewitness account of the fulfillment of a prophecy. The prophecy is found in Psalms, chapter 2. Again, what am I addressing? I'm addressing antichrist, 1 John 2:22: *A liar will deny he's Christ, but antichrist will deny the Father and Son.*

So we see at the baptism Jesus being baptized and God speaking from heaven and saying, *"This is my Son."* God bears witness that this is his Son. So let's take this back to Psalms, chapter 2, and I'm going to start reading at verse 1.

Psa 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed one (that's Messiah).

Psa 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Psa 2:4 He that sits in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Psa 2:5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Psa 2:6 And He will say, yet (meaning, despite all the rejection, despite all the anger)...

Yet have I set (this word "set" is to "pour upon." This is how you anoint. This is the Anointed One). I have anointed my king upon my holy hill of Zion. (And then you have the Son speaking.)

Psa 2:7 (He says) I will declare the decree: the LORD said to me, You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.

Now let's think about this. In spite of the rejection that was going on, God anointed his Son, making him the Christ. Think about it. How did he do that? *"I'm going to anoint my Son."* Jesus said, *"Well, I'll declare that decree. He said, "You are my Son. This day have I begotten you."*

Now, there is so much in this, but because of what we've been taught all of our Christian lives, hearing this apostasy, this may be more difficult for you to grasp or accept. Jesus was made the Christ by a decree. The decree was spoken by the Father saying, "You are my Son."

But then he says, *"This day have I begotten you."* Now I have heard TV evangelists say, "Well, he became the Son of God by a decree." No. He became Messiah by a decree. Remember what John said. *I came baptizing so Israel could see their Messiah. I came baptizing to give Messiah the recognition, to show this is who he is.* And he said, *"I saw the heavens opened, and the one who told me to go baptize said, 'This is my Son.'"* It was a witness from God himself. When he said that, it was at that moment that Jesus became the Christ.

That was the anointing, and *"This day have I begotten you"* is not a literal birth. This is the born-again experience that everybody's looking for. This is the born-again experience that I was told if I pray the prayer and believe in Jesus, that I am saved, and, hence, I'm born again. That's not the truth.

When God told Jesus, *"You're my Son,"* he said, *"This day I have begotten you" ...* When was he begotten? And what do we mean by Jesus was born again, or he was born from above, when God spoke that to him? Now, already, we're getting into some deep water, and I'm praying for you that these concepts, when you see this in the Bible, you'll begin to understand the depth of the truth and the darkness of the apostasy. Let's read Micah, chapter 5, starting at verse 1.

Mic 5:1 Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops: he has laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek. (Now we know he's talking about Messiah.)

Mic 5:2 But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you be little among the nations of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel...

Now again, I want you to notice they're going to smite the judge on the cheek, yet he's going to be born anyway. God is going to bring him forth anyway, knowing this is going to happen.

Mic 5:2 ... yet out of these shall he come forth unto me, that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

"Goings forth," in the Hebrew, means "origin." His origin is from everlasting. When did he become the Son of God? He was the Son of God in eternity past. According to the Bible, he has an origin. What does that mean? That means he really is the Son of God.

When we read John 1:1, that *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* ... Two things about that verse. The word "word" is the Greek word "logos." *In the beginning was the logos.* Have you ever looked up logos to see what that means?

It's quoted all the time to me to show me, "Well, Jesus is God," and I believe he is. I have no doubt of the divinity of Christ. But that verse, calling him the logos of God... a "logos," is a "concept." It's a thought. John is telling you that Jesus began as a concept in the mind of God, and God brought him forth in eternity. His origin is in eternity. *"All things,"* he says, *"were created through him. Anything that is, only came to be through him."* Then he says, *"He was made flesh and dwelt among us."* Why is that so hard to believe?

It's difficult to think that the whole Christian denominational groups are deceived. They're in an apostasy. Remember how this began, how I showed you. The people who walked away from the teachings of the apostles believed Jesus was Christ. They had to believe that to be in the church. He's the Christ. He died for our sin. He was buried. He was raised from the dead, and he was seen. They all believed that (1Co 15:3-8).

But there was something the apostles taught that they didn't believe, and this is it. John is saying *antichrist will deny the Father and Son.* Is God really the Father of Jesus? Or is that just, as one denomination told me, "They're just role playing"? Why would they go that direction? Why would they struggle with the scriptures telling us, at his baptism, God said, *"This is my Son. I'm anointing him as Christ. This is my Son."* They deny what that means. Hence, they're denying the Father and Son.

Well, why would God even have to say that at the baptism? Why is that even happening? Well, that brings up the second thing that makes an antichrist an antichrist. Let's turn to 1 John, chapter 4, starting at verse 1.

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

1Jn 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

1Jn 4:3 Every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God: this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof you've heard it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

Second point, the apostasy will deny that Christ came in the flesh. Now, does that mean they deny that he appeared on the earth? That doesn't mean that. Does that mean that they don't believe he came in his skin? He didn't come in the flesh? No. It doesn't mean that. It has a deeper meaning than that. Let's look at Romans 8, reading from verse 1.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

What does it mean to walk in the flesh and not after the Spirit? What does it mean to walk in the flesh? It means to walk in your own opinion. If you're going to live in the Spirit, that means you have an understanding of God, and you live according to that understanding. But if you live in the flesh, you do not have an understanding of God.

They deny that Jesus came in the flesh. What does that mean to us? That when he was born into this world, he was born as a man, and he did not carry with him from heaven all of the understanding he had accumulated from his birth in eternity. Paul even addresses this in Philippians, chapter 2, starting at verse 5.

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery ("Robbery" means "something to be grasped." It's old English. He wasn't grasping to be equal with God). He was not trying to be equal with God.

Php 2:7 But made himself of no reputation (What does that mean "to make himself of no reputation"? If you look that up, it literally means "he emptied himself"). He emptied himself and took upon him the form of a servant and came to be in the likeness of men.

Php 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Why would Paul even address the fact that Jesus emptied himself? Have you even heard that before? When he became a man, he emptied himself to do it. Why even address that? Because the spirit of antichrist was already working in Paul's day. They were denying that Christ came in the flesh. They are denying that he came into this world without an understanding of God. He became a man and grew up learning the truth about God, no different than you and I, using the scripture to do it.

Now, just bear with me. Imagine Jesus growing up, reading the Bible, learning the truth, understanding Messiah, understanding all these verses about Messiah. And then at his baptism, God said, "*You are my Son.*" And what happened to Christ? He became the Christ, and he was born again; he was born from above when God spoke to him and said, "*You are my Son.*" Why would God do that? Because Jesus had emptied himself.

At that baptism, when God spoke to him and said that, he realized who he was. What about when he was twelve years old and they lost him in the temple, and he said, "*I must be about my Father's business*"? He was already in his heart serving God. For him to say that *I must be about my Father's business* would be like you and me saying it, "God's our Father." But he had no clue at that point, he was Messiah. That came at his baptism, and that is why that prophecy is so big.

Psalms 2 is huge to get that in your heart. God anointed him, made him the Christ, by telling him, "*You're my Son.*" The Jews denied he was Christ, hence they're liars. But an antichrist will deny the aspect of the Father and Son, and they will deny that Christ came in the flesh. Well, how do I know they deny he came in the flesh? Because go look at pictures of him as a baby, and you're going to find a halo. You're going to find these halos on people, meaning he had an understanding of God. Well, he didn't. There was no baby with a halo.

There was the Son of God born in Bethlehem with godly parents who led him correctly to find God, and through the scripture, no different than you and I. He learned the truth, and when God spoke to him, he knew who he was. He knew where he had come from, and he knew where he was going. Why? Because God said, *"You're my Son. That means you're Messiah. I've anointed my king upon my holy hill. I said, 'You're my Son.' You've been born from above."*

He knew then where he had come from, and he knew where he was going... to die, because he understood the concepts of a law about sacrifices. He also knew the prophecies that Messiah would die, would be raised again. He understood all that. It all came together that day.

That is why it is so important that when you read the gospels, they begin with the baptism of Jesus Christ. That began his ministry as the Christ. Turn with me to 1 John, chapter 5. I'm going to read verse 1.

1Jn 5:1 Whosoever believes Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loves him that begat loves him also that is begotten... Verse 5.

1Jn 5:5 Who is he that overcomes the world, he that believes Jesus is the Son of God?

1Jn 5:9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he has testified of his Son.

1Jn 5:10 He that believes into the Son of God has that witness in himself: he that doesn't believe God has made God a liar; because he believes not the record that God gave of his Son (That word "record" is "a testimony").

1Jn 5:11 And this is the testimony, God has given to us eternal life, the life is in his Son.

1Jn 5:12 He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life.

1Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you that you believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God.

One more. Chapter 4, verse 14.

1Jn 4:14 We have seen and we testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

1Jn 4:15 Whosoever shall confess Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him, and he is in God.

1Jn 4:16 And you have known and believed the love God has to us. God is love, and he that dwells in love will dwell in God, and God in him.

1Jn 4:17 In this is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

Back up to verse 10.

1Jn 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (or an act of mercy) for our sins.

In the gospel of John, chapter 18, verse 37, Pilate asks Jesus, *"What is truth?"* And Jesus said,

Jhn 18:37 ... For this reason was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth...

In that statement to Pilate, he just admitted to having two births. *"For this cause was I born, and for this reason came I into the world."* He was born in eternity past... a concept in the mind of God that he brought forth, created all things through that concept of love and truth. He was brought forth with the job, or with the function in mind that he would bear witness to the truth. That's why you see Jesus say, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. You don't come to the Father, but through me"* (Jhn 14:6).

He was born in eternity past to bear witness to the truth, and he came into this world. To do what? To bear witness to the truth. He was Messiah, the Anointed One.

Again, what makes this so difficult? Because if you believe the scriptures that the antichrist will deny Father and Son, they will deny that Jesus came without an understanding of God... those two truths annihilate the Trinity doctrine. Remember, the apostasy believes he's Christ. They believe he died for their sins. They believe he was buried. He rose and was seen (1Co 15:3-8), but they deny he's actually the Son of God. They'll say, "Oh, he's the Son of God." But when you say, "Yeah, born in eternity" ... that

is what stops them. "He was born into this world without having a knowledge of God." That stops them.

In their mind, if he were born without a knowledge of God, the Trinity ceases to exist. In their mind, if he's born in eternity, the Trinity ceases to exist. This is the crux of the apostasy and the crux of what we have been in our whole Christian life, and the crux as to what you're seeing wrong in your church.

They do not have the full blessing of God because they're worshiping a Trinity God that doesn't even exist, and they will demand that you worship with them. It takes courage and surety to stand firm in the truth and be counted as a believer of God, as a believer in the Son of God, and not deny the Father and Son.