



## PROPHECY AGAIN

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### SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON: WE DON'T KNOW WHO ANTICHRIST IS! THE ANTICHRIST PRODUCES MANY ANTICHRISTS

1. What prophecy does the Lord give to us through the apostle John? 1 John 2:18 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Note: There is a chief antichrist and also people who manifest the traits of the antichrist.
3. What does antichrist mean? The greek word translated antichrist means the opponent of Jesus Christ. See *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, number 500.
4. In the primary sense, Satan is the antichrist. See Isaiah 14:12-14 and Revelation 12:7-9.
5. Note: Additionally, the greek word translated antichrist means a person who claims to stand in the place of Jesus, claims to stand as a substitute of Jesus, and opposes Him and His truth simultaneously. See *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, numbers 500 and 475.
6. Note: The Pope of the Roman Catholic takes the title to himself the Vicar of Jesus. The Pope is the chief antichrist on this earth. "Since the XIV Century, the two crossed keys have been the official insignia of the Holy See. The gold one, on the right, alludes to the power in the kingdom of the heavens, the silver one, on the left, indicates the spiritual authority of the papacy on earth. The mechanisms are turned up towards the heaven and the grips turned down, **in other words into the hands of the Vicar of Christ [the Pope]**. The cord with the bows that unites the grips alludes to the bond between the two powers." [http://www.vatican.va/news\\_services/press/documentazione/documents/sp\\_ss\\_scv/insigne/sp\\_ss\\_scv\\_stemma-bandiera-sigillo\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/news_services/press/documentazione/documents/sp_ss_scv/insigne/sp_ss_scv_stemma-bandiera-sigillo_en.html) This is blasphemy, see Revelation 13:5,6. <https://www.ewtn.com/faith/teachings/papab3.htm>
7. Throughout history and in these last days, through which entity will Satan work to oppose Jesus Christ? Answer: The Papacy. See 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4.
8. Yet there are Seventh-day Adventists who say that the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church is not the antichrist. The following is an article written by Marcos David Torres in the Sabbath School Net on October 1, 2015.  
**As a historicist I find myself in that very position and wonder**, how can I effectively share this story with those who do not share my worldview...Examples of hateful rhetoric can include articles and memes insulting the Pope with phrases such as "Marxist," "idolater," "blasphemer," or "man of sin." Now some may argue "but that's what the Bible calls him!" To which I would say, No. That's what we call him while borrowing Scripture's language. **Truth is, we don't know who the Antichrist is.** While I share the conviction that the **Antichrist is certainly the papacy, that does not automatically mean that a particular pope is the Antichrist.** <http://ssnet.org/blog/top-3-mistakes-avoid-sharing-prophecy/>
9. Note: Marcos Torres labels himself a historicist, while at the same time declaring that he does not know who the antichrist is. It is evident that Marcos Torres is taking a title to himself that he does not understand nor meet the criteria to hold.
10. Who did John Wycliffe and Martin Luther, Protestant Reformers, call the antichrist? \_\_\_\_\_  
The schism, with all the strife and corruption which it caused, prepared the way for the Reformation by enabling the people to see what the papacy really was. In a tract which he published, *On the Schism of the Popes*, **Wycliffe called upon the people to consider whether these two priests were not speaking the truth in condemning each other as the anti-christ.** {GC 86.3}  
**When the papal bull reached Luther**, he said: "I despise and attack it, as impious, false. . . . It is Christ Himself who is condemned therein. . . . I rejoice in having to bear such ills for the best of causes. Already I feel greater liberty in my heart; **for at last I know that the pope is antichrist, and that his throne is that of Satan himself.**" {GC 141.3}  
**"Yet it was not without a terrible struggle with himself that Luther** decided upon a final separation from the church. It was about this time that he wrote: "I feel more and more every day how difficult it is to lay aside the scruples which one has imbibed in childhood. Oh, how much pain it has caused me, **though I had the Scriptures on my side, to justify it to myself that I should dare to make a stand alone against the pope, and hold him forth as antichrist!** {GC 143.1}
11. Who did the Lord's messenger call the antichrist? \_\_\_\_\_  
The special characteristic of the beast, and therefore of his image, is the breaking of God's commandments. **Says Daniel, of the little horn, the papacy:** "He shall think to change times and the law." Daniel 7:25, R.V. **And Paul styled the same power the "man of sin," who was to exalt himself above God.** One prophecy is a complement of the other. **Only by changing God's law could the papacy exalt itself above God;** whoever should understandingly keep the law as thus changed would be giving supreme honor to that power by which the change was made. **Such an act of obedience to papal laws would be a mark of allegiance to the pope in the place of God.** {GC 446.1}
- 12a. Note: The present pope, Francis I, still acknowledges the fact that the Papacy was the entity that expunged the second commandment from God's Decalogue (Exodus 20:4-6) and changed God's seventh-day Sabbath to Sunday (Exodus 20:8-11). Read the following.  
Although the Gospel says to love Christ more than our parents and children, it is not Jesus' intent to **"delete the fourth commandment" – honor your father and your mother** – the Pope said. <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/alliance-between-families-and-god-can-change-the-world-pope-francis-says-15507>

237. **"Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world... Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest [Sunday], centered on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor."** [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

12b. See Genesis 2:2,3; Exodus 20:8,11; Hebrews 4:4,8-11.

13. Note: The following quotation confirms the fact that if a pastor or layperson refuses to declare publicly who the antichrist is, after receiving this knowledge from God's word and history, then he cannot preach correctly the first angel's message; and surely he cannot preach correctly the second and the third angels' messages. See Revelation 14:6-12.

Here we are taught that finite man is not to be placed where God should be. He is not to be honored as a god, or to be bowed down to. **"Worship Him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters [Revelation 14:7]."** **The man of sin is worshiped in the person of the pope, and his representative, the cardinal.** But God has not given this power to pope or prelate. **The pope is not regarded by God as anything more than a man who is acting out in our world the character of the man of sin, representing in his claims that power and authority which Satan claimed in the heavenly courts.** {5MR 102.2}

14. What is one of the chief traits of character of the antichrist? 2 John 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_

15. In what flesh did Jesus come to earth? Romans 8:3; Hebrews 2:14,16,17; Philippians 2:5-8 \_\_\_\_\_

Clad in the vestments of humanity, the Son of God came down to the level of those he wished to save. In him was no guile or sinfulness; he was ever pure and undefiled; **yet he took upon him our sinful nature.** Clothing his divinity with humanity, that he might associate with fallen humanity, he sought to regain for man that which, by disobedience, Adam had lost for himself and for the world. {RH, December 15, 1896 par. 7}

16a. However, what does the Papacy say regarding the humanity of Jesus Christ, in connection with the nature of Mary? See Luke 11:27,28 Jeremiah 7:16-18.

At the General Audience of Wednesday, 12 June, the Holy Father [Pope John Paul II] continued his catechesis on the Immaculate Conception, this time discussing the dogmatic definition of the doctrine by Pope Pius IX....Finally in 1854, with the Bull *Ineffabilis*, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception: "... We declare, pronounce and define that the doctrine which asserts that **the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from every stain of original sin is a doctrine revealed by God** and, for this reason, must be firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful" (DS 2803). <https://www.ewtn.com/library/papaldoc/jp2bvm23.htm>

16b. This plainly puts the nature of Mary entirely beyond any real likeness or relationship to mankind or human nature as it is. **Having this clearly in mind, let us follow this invention in its next step. Thus it is, as given in the words of Cardinal Gibbons:** We affirm that **the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Word of God,** who in His divine nature is, from all eternity, begotten of the Father, consubstantial with Him, was in the fullness of time again begotten, **by being born of the virgin, thus taking to himself from her maternal womb a human nature of the same substance with hers.** As far as the sublime mystery of the incarnation can be reflected in the natural order, the blessed Virgin, under the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost, **by communicating to the Second Person of the adorable Trinity, as mothers do, a true human nature of the same substance with her own, is thereby really and truly His mother.** "*Faith of Our Fathers*," pages 198, 199. {January 15, 1901 ATJ, ARSH 40.30}

17. Since the Papacy rejects the Biblical truth that Jesus came to earth in the form of sinful flesh, she is the chief antichrist. By rejecting this truth and Jesus who else does the Papacy reject? 1 John 2:18,22,23 \_\_\_\_\_

18. Note: The Father and the Son (Jesus) that the Papacy talks about and professes to worship are not the Father and the Son of the Bible.

19. What does the messenger of the Lord say that emphasizes the fact that we should know and expose the antichrist?

**The experience of these noble Reformers contains a lesson for all succeeding ages.** Satan's manner of working against God and His word has not changed; he is still as much opposed to the Scriptures being made the guide of life as in the sixteenth century. In our time there is a wide departure from their doctrines and precepts, and there is need of a return to the great Protestant principle--the Bible, and the Bible only, as the rule of faith and duty. **Satan is still working through every means which he can control to destroy religious liberty. The antichristian power which the protesters of Spire rejected is now with renewed vigor seeking to re-establish its lost supremacy. The same unswerving adherence to the word of God manifested at that crisis of the Reformation is the only hope of reform today.** {GC 204.2}

20. What did the Protestant Reformers say and do, as the Papacy attempted to destroy civil and religious liberty? \_\_\_\_\_

"The principles contained in this celebrated Protest . . . constitute the very essence of Protestantism. **Now this Protest opposes two abuses of man in matters of faith: the first is the intrusion of the civil magistrate, and the second the arbitrary authority of the church.** Instead of these abuses, **Protestantism sets the power of conscience above the magistrate, and the authority of the word of God above the visible church.** In the first place, it rejects the civil power in divine things, and says with the prophets and apostles, 'We must obey God rather than man.' In presence of the crown of Charles the Fifth, it uplifts the crown of Jesus Christ. But it goes farther: it lays down the principle that all human teaching should be subordinate to the oracles of God." {GC 203.4}

21. What does the messenger of the Lord say that emphasizes the fact that we should know and expose the antichrist?

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**Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures.** By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested. {GC 593.1}

22. The following news report shows that the Papacy is regaining world dominance, while the majority of God's professed people are asleep. Additionally, the world identifies Pope Francis and the Papacy as the antichrist, yet professed Seventh-day Adventist pastors and laity claim ignorance and silence. See Luke 16:8.

**"From Antichrist to Brother in Christ: How Protestant Pastors View the Pope"** <http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2015/september/antichrist-brother-christ-protestant-pastors-pope-francis.htm>

23. In which other entity is the spirit of the antichrist seen, other than the Roman Catholic church? \_\_\_\_\_

And Dr. Hopkins, in "*A Treatise on the Millennium*," declares: "There is no reason to consider **the antichristian spirit and practices to be confined to that which is now called the Church of Rome. The Protestant churches have much of antichrist in them**, and are far from being wholly reformed from . . . corruptions and wickedness."--Samuel Hopkins, Works, vol. 2, p. 328. {GC 384.2}

24. Note: Both in the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Churches people believe that Jesus did not come in the form of sinful flesh.

25a. The following is another application. Any person who believes that it is impossible to get victory over sin on this earth, is manifesting the spirit of the antichrist. If a person believes that Jesus came to this earth in the form of sinful flesh, he or she must also believe that it is possible to get victory over sin. Meditate upon the following scriptures. Romans 8:3,4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-8,13; Hebrews 10:19-22; 1 Peter 4:1,2.

25b. Note: What did Satan say to Jesus and what words did he omit? Compare Matthew 4:6 with Psalm 91:11,12 \_\_\_\_\_

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26. Meditate upon the following and write your thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

"The prince of this world cometh," said Jesus, "and hath nothing in Me." John 14:30. There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan's sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. So it may be with us. Christ's humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And He came to make us partakers of the divine nature. So long as we are united to Him by faith, sin has no more dominion over us. God reaches for the hand of faith in us to direct it to lay fast hold upon the divinity of Christ, that we may attain to perfection of character. {DA 123.3}

And how this is accomplished, Christ has shown us. By what means did He overcome in the conflict with Satan? By the word of God. Only by the word could He resist temptation. {DA 123.4}