

Reprinted from the Christian Science Sentinel, April 6, 1999
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What About anti-Christ By Elise L. Moore

Recently a well-known spokesperson for evangelical Christians stated that since Jesus was a Jewish male, we can assume his antagonist, the anti-Christ, will be Jewish and male as well. Though the remark carried a matter-of-fact tone and was purported not to convey anti-Semitic sentiment, many Christian churches protested this usurpation of Christian doctrine. Those denominations that believe the Biblical passages about anti-Christ refer not to a literal personality but to influences contrary to Christ, felt this statement misrepresented them.

Anti-Christ is mentioned specifically only in John's writings. (See I John 2:18, 22; I John 4:3; II John 1:7.) It is opposition to Christ that denies the existence of Christ. Such opposition has existed since Jesus' time. John indicated this when he said, "As ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists" (I John 2:18; see also 4:3). Christians then and now have had to overcome denial of the Christ, and of the Christ's power to heal and save.

Christian Science acknowledges Jesus as the incarnate Christ, the Son of God. Jesus embodied the Christ. He demonstrated the divine power to heal sin, sickness, and even death. He taught others the nature of Christ and showed the way for them to demonstrate Christ in their own lives. Even though the man, Jesus, ascended, Christ is still present, as always, to heal and save mankind. As Christ Jesus told his followers, "I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20).

Christ remains active today, as the spiritual idea of God, divine Truth, healing and saving humanity. Every feeling of "God with us" is evidence of Christ operating in our lives. Every awakening from sinful behavior, together with the effort to reform, is evidence of Christ at work. The spiritual healing of disease and restoration to health are Christ manifest in the flesh. The founder of this magazine, Mary Baker Eddy, glimpsed the continuity of Christ and its reformatory presence on earth. "Christ," she wrote, "as the true spiritual idea, is the ideal of God now and forever, here and everywhere" (*Science and Health*, p. 361).

Christ overcomes anti-Christ – the denial of Christ, or that which opposes divine Truth and Love. Didn't resistance to Christ crucify Jesus? Yet, through divine

power, Jesus rose above hatred and malice, proving the supremacy of good over evil, of Christ over anti-Christ. Through Jesus' example, we, too, can employ Christ, Truth, to defeat all types of resistance to good.

One of John's references to anti-Christ requires special consideration, however. If taken literally, his statement regarding the appearance of "many antichrists" in his own age would seem to indicate that his era was "the last time." This might seem shortsighted, even mistaken (see I John 2:18). It is axiomatic, after all, that time didn't stop two millenniums ago. Might not John's reference to "the last time" refer to the final effort of opposition to Christ before it is overthrown in the lives of faithful followers of Christ? Christ, Truth has come to heal and save all mankind and will continue to do so until humanity realizes that the power of divine Truth and Love reigns on earth.

We need not wait for some future time to challenge evil with divine power, to heal sickness and conquer sin. As Paul wrote. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2).