

Antichrist File (vv. 18-19)

VERSE 18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour (Παιδιά, ἐσχάτη ὥρα ἐστίν, καὶ καθὼς ἠκούσατε ὅτι ἀντίχριστος ἔρχεται, καὶ νῦν ἀντίχριστοι πολλοὶ γέγονασιν, ὅθεν γινώσκουμεν ὅτι ἐσχάτη ὥρα ἐστίν [*noun voc.m.p. paidion + adj.nom.f.s. eschatos last + noun nom.f.s. hora hour + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi + conj kai and + adv kathos just as + aor.act.ind.2p. akouo + conj hoti + noun nom.m.s. antichristos + aor.dep.ind.3s. erchomai come + conj kai + adv nun now + noun nom.m.p. antichristos + adj.nom.m.s. polus many + pf.act.ind.3p. ginomai appear as in 1 Jn. 1:6 and Mk. 1:4 + conj othen “from this” + pres.act.ind.1p. ginosko know + conj hoti that + adj.nom.f.s. eschatos last + noun nom.f.s. hora + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi*]).

VERSE 19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us (ἡμῶν ἐξῆλθαν ἀλλ’ οὐκ ἦσαν ἐξ ἡμῶν· [*prep ek from + pro.gen.p. ego + aor.act.ind.3p. exerchomai go out + conj alla but + neg ouk + impf.act.ind.3p. eimi + prep ek + pro.gen.p. ego*]); **for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us** [εἰ γὰρ ἐξ ἡμῶν ἦσαν, μεμεινήμεθα μεθ’ ἡμῶν· [*part ei if + conj gar for + prep ek + pro.gen.p. ego + pluperfect act.ind.3p. meno remain + part an indicates contingency + prep meta with + pro.gen.p. ego*]]; **but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us** [ἀλλ’ ἵνα φανερωθῶσιν ὅτι οὐκ εἰσὶν πάντες ἐξ ἡμῶν [*conj alla but + conj hina so that + aor.pass.subj.3p. phaneroo reveal, make evident*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 18-19

1. In this section (vv. 18-26) John reminds his “children” of something they had previously learned, namely the coming of the Antichrist.
2. He uses that to further inform them that their main concern is the fact that “many antichrists have appeared.”

3. After telling them that the cosmos is passing away, he now states that the angelic conflict is in its “last/final hour.”
4. This “final hour” is the history between the two advents of Christ.
5. This includes the church age and the tribulation.
6. The appearance of the Antichrist in the seven year tribulation is just the culmination of the rise of “many antichrists” of which at the writing of First John there were already many such individuals that were in the world.
7. As their spiritual parent, John wants his readers to be on their guard with respect to such individuals.
8. The term “hour” is used in the Bible literally (cf. Mk. 15:25; Rev. 8:1) and figuratively (cf. Mk. 14:41; Jn. 2:4; 12:23; 17:1; Rev. 3:10; 14:7; 14:15).
9. Hour is used for the seven year tribulation divided into two halves of 3 ½ years (Rev. 17:12).
10. The appearance of so many “antichrists” is a sign that history has moved into this “final hour.”
11. The last days of the present dispensation witnesses like never before the rise of false prophets and false christs (Matt. 24:24).
12. Peter warned believers about the potential infiltration of their ranks by such individuals (2 Pet. 2:1; cf. 1 Jn. 4:1).
13. “Even now” refers to the apostolic era.
14. “Last hour” and “last days” refers to the same thing (cf. 2 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 1:2; Jam. 5:3; 2 Pet. 3:3).
15. The term “antichrist” occurs exclusively in 1st and 2nd John (2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 Jn. 1:7).
16. In 2 Jn. 1:7 John defines what he means by this designation.
17. An antichrist can either be someone who claims to be the Christ or someone who denies the essential doctrines related to the person of Jesus Christ as specified in Scripture.
18. Jude exposed these types (1:4, 8, 10-19).
19. Again, the trend continues throughout the CA and will proliferate as we approach the day of the Lord.
20. For many of these types they were exposed to the teachings of the apostles.
21. This fact is seen in v. 19.
22. John observes that had they been “of us” they would have continued “with us.”
23. For a time they remained within a local assembly, but eventually they abandoned sound doctrine and “went out from us” proving themselves in the end to be “not of us.”
24. A variety of scenarios are in view from rejection of biblical teachings to influencing unstable souls.
25. He is not necessarily passing judgment on their status as believers, as believers can associate themselves with antichristian views (we have seen in happen in our church!!).
26. When a believer walks away from the truth they demonstrate to all who are faithful that they are no longer like-minded.