

The End Times and the Anointing

1 John 2:20-25

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND OF 'ANOINTING'

1. Anointing in the Old Testament. Ref. Psalm 89:20

- Anointing (pouring on of water or oil) was used to consecrate someone or something for special purpose.
- OT prophets were anointed by God for the purpose of proclaiming truth; Is. 61:1
- OT priests were anointed by God for the purpose of service in the temple; Ex 29:1-9; 40:15; Ps 133
- OT kings were anointed by God for the purpose of ruling as God's viceroy; **1 Sam 16:13**; 15:17; 24:10

2. Anointing in the New Testament

- Anointing with oil for those who are sick. Mark 6:13; James 5:14 I.e., set apart in prayer for healing
- The 'anointing in the NT mostly refers to the Holy Spirit. Gk. **χρῖσμα** shows possession of the Holy Spirit
- Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit. **See Acts 10:34-38**
- Christ = Messiah = 'Anointed One' (Therefore, Christians = 'little anointed ones')
- God anointed believers with the Holy Spirit at the time of our conversion. 1 Cor. 2:12-13; 2 Cor. 1:21-22

'YOU HAVE AN ANOINTING' v.20-21

1. 'Anointing' as a noun is only used 2 X's in NT—both are in 1 John 2: v.20 and v.27.

2. The anointing (HS) is introduced in contrast to the antichrist. v.20a: *But you have been anointed...*

→ The idea is: 'the antidote for the antichrist is the anointing'

3. The anointing (HS) is in all believers. v.20b: *...and you all have knowledge.*

- Not limited to an elite few; remember context of 1 John. Ref. Acts 2:14f & Joel 2:28-32

4. The anointing (HS) gives truth and reveals lies. v.21 Ref. John 14:18; 16:13

→ Summary idea: God has equipped us for the battle. We have what we need—the Holy Spirit!

THE HEART OF THE HERESY. v.22-23

1. The heart of the heresy is denying that Jesus is the Christ. v.22b *...he who denies that Jesus is the Christ*

- This means either denying that Jesus is fully God or denying that Jesus is fully man.
- The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is one person with two natures.

→ Nearly every cult, heresy today is essentially a distortion/perversion of this truth.

2. Denying that Jesus is the Christ is believing a lie. V.22a *Who is the liar but he who denies....*

- This includes denying any part of Christ's person or work.

3. Denying that Jesus is the Christ is diabolical—it is linked with the antichrist. v.22c

-v.22c: *Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist...*

- It is diabolical because it strikes at the very heart of the Gospel and what happened on the cross.
- Jesus had to be fully God and fully man in order to reconcile a Holy God with sinful man. Rom 3:26

4. Denying that Jesus is the Christ is a rejection of God Himself. v.23a Ref. John 5:32; 8:19; 14:7

-v.23a: *No one who denies the Son has the Father...*

- The effect of denying Christ = rejecting the Father. Lk 10:16; Jn 15:21

→ Note: inclusiveness of v.20-21 (*all* believers have HS); exclusivity of v.22-23 (only those with Christ know God)

APPLICATION: THE BELIEVER'S PROTECTION & PROMISE. v.24-25

1. This message was not new to these believers. v.24: *Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you...*

2. Let these truths abide in you. v.24 ("abide" is used 3 times in this verse)

- To 'abide' or 'remain' shows continuing relationship. Abode: to take up residence; 'The place where I live.'

3. Confessing that Jesus is the Christ is the way to have eternal life. v.25

Antichrist → Antidote: Anointing → Abiding

Matthew 10:32-33: Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.