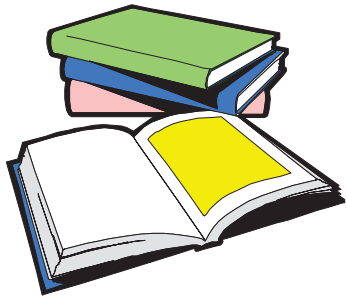




Books in Review

UNMASKING THE ANTICHRIST

Dispelling the Myths, Discovering the Truth
by Ron Rhodes

Harvest House Publishers, 249 pages, \$13.99

So much artificial, exaggerated, and unbiblical guesswork surrounds the topic of the antichrist these days. The “name game” and “dating game” sell big but are always huge failures because they are based purely on speculation and imagination, not the Scriptures. That’s why *Unmasking the Antichrist* is timely and extremely relevant. It is a study not driven by sensationalism and news headlines — only by the Bible.

In his Introduction, author Ron Rhodes writes, “As soon as the word *antichrist* is mentioned, all kinds of questions come to mind.” He then asks: “Could the antichrist be alive somewhere in the world today? Could he be a child, or perhaps a teenager, a college student, or even an adult waiting in the wings to emerge as a world leader? Could one of today’s well-known political leaders be the antichrist — perhaps even a leader in the United States? And if he is in the world today, is he indwelt by Satan even now, or does that take place in the future? Will he be a Muslim? Will he be a Jew? Is he the mysterious person named Gog in the book of Ezekiel? Do any prophecies need to be fulfilled before the antichrist emerges on the world scene? If so, which ones? Can we calculate with precision when the antichrist might emerge? Will the antichrist have some kind of supernatural birth? Will he be half human and half demon? Will he actually claim to be God on earth one day? Will he really suffer a fatal head wound and then be resurrected from the dead, inspiring awe and wonder around the world? What is the mark of the beast we keep hearing about?” (pg. 7) In the light of world events and so many tragedies and disasters, many are expressing these same questions.

The Introduction to this book further lists many biblical reasons why we can trust the prophecies of Scripture. It is an apologetic on interpreting the Bible literally. It also gives an overview of the book of Revelation with a

helpful outline. What Rhodes is presenting is Eschatology 101. Words such as “pre-” and “post-” rapture and the millennium are explained.

The opening chapter contains a glossary and overview of the main events, including the personalities (antichrist, false prophet) linked to the end times. It is a useful road map for beginners and a review for the more advanced reader and scholar.

Rhodes looks at the differing concepts of the antichrist, as well as many failed past identifications of this mystery man. Church history is replete with silly guesswork and premature pinning the tail on the “real” antichrist.

Rhodes takes up the assertion popularized today by author Joel Richardson and others, which states that the antichrist will be a Muslim. He presents the case for and the case against a Muslim antichrist. He states, “A scriptural analysis emboldens me to say that the antichrist will *not* be a Muslim” (pg. 64). In the next chapter, the case for a Jewish antichrist is examined and also rejected by Rhodes.

In subsequent chapters, Rhodes reviews the names and titles of the antichrist; examines the mark of the beast; considers the question and possibility if the antichrist is alive today; and concludes by covering frequently asked theoretical and biblical questions about the antichrist. Questions like: Will the antichrist have a supernatural birth? Will he be able to read minds? Will he know he is the antichrist growing up? What are the clearest markers for identifying the antichrist? And could he emerge from the United States? These and many more questions are answered well.

As the title promises, the antichrist is unmasked in many ways in this book. However, Rhodes is careful to advise that we need to keep an eternal perspective and be balanced and sound-minded. He urges that we use our knowledge of future events to live righteously. He warns that we should never set dates and, most of all, that if we are in Christ that we need not worry about the antichrist or the tribulation.

Rhodes is eminently qualified to discuss such controversial topics. He holds ThM and ThD degrees from Dallas Theological Seminary. Very few books these days cover this topic in a comprehensive, sane, balanced, and biblical way. This one does and that is why we can heartily recommend it.

—GRF

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