

Welcome to The Citadel Global Community Church where stars are born and great futures are created. Welcome to the home of consummate and conscientious nation builders whose hearts are open to the plans of the Holy Spirit, and in whose lives all things godly are possible because we choose to win by righteousness.

EXIT FROM BABYLON: THE MYSTERY OF LAWLESSNESS (PART 1)

...exposing the subtle modus operandi of the antichrist spirit
By Pastor 'Tunde Bakare

I must clarify from the beginning that this message is not a comfortable one. Why? It is a confrontation with deception disguised as devotion, with lawlessness wearing the appearance of anointing, and with the antichrist spirit operating within the temple of God—the hearts of those who call upon His name.

When Deception Wears the Garment of Anointing

The antichrist spirit the Bible warns about is not coming from Europe, as some have taught. For too long, the Church has looked outward, searching distant horizons for an apocalyptic figure, while the spirit of lawlessness has quietly found acceptance within the Church—accommodated, embraced, and even enthroned in the hearts of many.

So, the mystery of lawlessness is not

a future event to fear but a present reality to confront. It does not reveal itself openly. Instead, it comes clothed in anointing, speaking the language of prophecy, and finding comfort within the house of God while quietly opposing the glory of God in the hearts of people.

The mystery of lawlessness is already at work. The question is not whether it exists, but whether you can recognise it. The question is not only whether the antichrist is coming, but whether his influence has already found a place within you. So, how can one decode it, analyse it, comprehend it, and shut down its influence in one's life? This message provides biblical clues and a way out of its subtle influence.

The Antichrist Within

The Antichrist has been in the Church for so long that we have appointed him the “spokesman” for the Church. We have become so

accustomed to this spirit that it sits right in the temple. Unfortunately, some theologians have taught that the day is coming when the man of sin (the Antichrist) will emerge from Europe and sacrifice a pig in the temple of God in Jerusalem, thereby fulfilling the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel (**Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15–22**). Because the Church has held on to this destructive heresy, we have forgotten that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit (**1 Corinthians 6:19**), and it is precisely at the centre of our hearts that the antichrist holds this banquet of abomination of desolation from time to time.

When Deception Takes the Place of God

In **2 Thessalonians 2:1–12**, the Bible shows us the modus operandi of the antichrist spirit. Many churches in our cities and nations today are nothing but churches of the antichrist. Jesus called Judas Iscariot the son of perdition, a type of antichrist within the church (**John 17:12**). He was the treasurer of the Lord Jesus Christ (**John 12:4–6**).

Jesus prayed all night before choosing His disciples, including Judas Iscariot (**Luke 6:12–19**). Yet

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WHO WE ARE

“We are a people sent to the nations, governments and powers of the earth as the voice of reason, possibilities and hope. We are the instrumentality of catalysing change and centralising God in the governance of nations. Our mandate is to enforce the Kingdom of God over the kingdoms of this world that have become the Kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ. We are men and women, boys and girls who love God and love people and who serve God and serve people. We always seek to give hope and to be at the forefront of driving change both spiritually and governmentally. We exist, primarily, as a fully functional church and conceptually as a governmental force for change, good governance and leadership.”

THE CGCC CREDO

- ➔ Love God, Love People
- ➔ Serve God, Serve People
- * By doing the above, we glorify God individually and corporately.

OUR COMMITMENTS

- ➔ Wholehearted Worship of God
- ➔ Prayer ➔ Ministry of the Word ➔ Evangelism
- ➔ Seeing People Grow Deeper (Discipleship)
- ➔ Helping People Build Vital Relationships with Other Believers
- ➔ Loving God and Loving People
- ➔ Serving God and Serving People

OUR CORE LEADERSHIP VALUES

- ➔ Compassion
- ➔ Intelligence
- ➔ Responsibility
- ➔ Judgement
- ➔ Influence



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...exposing the subtle *modus operandi* of the antichrist spirit (Cont'd from page 1)

the antichrist secured his heart until Satan filled him, to the extent that he committed suicide (**Luke 22:3-6, Matthew 27:3-5**). If Jesus chose twelve disciples and one of them turned out to be the son of perdition, what wisdom do you and I possess that is greater than His? Ponder this.

The antichrist opposes and exalts itself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that it sits as God in the temple—the hearts of God's people—declaring itself to be God.

Revelation and Truth: The Distinction

The distinction between revelation and truth is that truth is where God has been, while revelation is where God is. It was God who ordained the tabernacle of Moses (**Exodus 25:8-9; 25:40; 40:16; 29:45, Hebrews 8:5**). It was God who raised the Levitical and Aaronic priesthoods. It was God who gave them the high priest to enter the Holy of Holies once a year to offer sacrifice to Him on behalf of the children of Israel (**Exodus 28:1, Leviticus 16:1-2, 9-10, 34, Hebrews 9:7**).

I can assure you that when you read **John 12**, at the triumphal entry of the Lord Jesus Christ, the high priest was there. Yet there was no Ark of the Covenant in the temple, and the people did not know it. On the day the veil was torn in two, it was empty (**Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38, Luke 23:45, Hebrews 10:19-20**).

Jeremiah contains the final Old Testament prophetic reference to the earthly Ark of the Covenant, declaring that it would no longer be remembered as the central symbol of God's presence (**Jeremiah 3:16**). Yet the high priest kept going there, and the people believed he was

meeting with God. Those who refuse to embrace the present revelation of what God is doing today will continue to bring the abominations of the past before Him. God has already said no to such things, yet that is what they offer to people. Just look around you and see the things that are going on in the body of Christ today. You will see that so many peddlers of the Antichrist order are leading the Church.

Comprehensive Scriptural Survey of the Antichrist

The antichrist is a deceptive spirit associated with end-time activities. It arises from within the Church, denying not the reality of Jesus Christ but His Lordship over His people. It does not say Jesus does not exist; rather, it reduces Him to a principle instead of a living reality.

Although a false spirit, it can influence the hearts and minds of people. It is inherently prophetic. It can speak, impart, and attempt to steal or diminish the full reward of the saints of God. Because of strong delusion, the Church often cannot discern the antichrist. That strong delusion is not from men or Satan; it is from God, because the people have no love for abiding truth (**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, 2 Timothy 4:3-4**).

The Antichrist denies divine government and order in the Church. It denies the sovereignty of God. It resists the revelation and doctrine of Jesus Christ. It opposes true apostolic and prophetic order. Finally, it binds people in religion so that they think they are worshipping God when, in reality, they are worshipping the beast.

The Two Mysteries: Godliness and Lawlessness

By way of comparison, the Bible also

OUR 4-DIMENSIONAL OPERATIONAL DYNAMICS

- Church-in-the-House
- Church-in-the-Community
- Church-in-the-City
- Church-in-the-Cloud.

OUR 4-DIMENSIONAL GROWTH DYNAMICS

- To grow up.
- To grow big.
- To grow very rich.
- To grow together.

speaks of the mystery of godliness (**1 Timothy 3:16**). That mystery is great, but the Church already understands it because it has been revealed. What is this mystery? God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, and received up into glory (**John 1:1-5; 10:30-33; 12:19, Matthew 1:23, Romans 1:3-4**).

All these truths concerning the mystery of godliness can be demonstrated, but the mystery of lawlessness is not so easily understood.

What is a mystery? A mystery is a hidden truth. It cannot be understood until it is revealed. It exists beyond the reach of natural understanding, regardless of academic qualifications. Yet the fact that it is a mystery does not mean it does not affect you. It influences your life, manipulates your thinking, and persuades you that your actions are entirely your own when, in reality, it operates from without, shaping your thoughts and conduct (**2 Thessalonians 2:7-8**).

The mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but it can be revealed if the veil is removed. Then you will begin to discern the spirit behind activities in the Church.

How do you identify the influence of the antichrist spirit in an age of increasing lawlessness? More importantly, how should you respond?

Explore these vital questions in the second part of this message, in the August edition.

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