

THE COUNTERFEIT
CHRIST
& THE COUNTERFEIT
CHURCH

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THE COUNTERFEIT CHRIST & THE COUNTERFEIT CHURCH

*A Call Out of Denominational
Trinitarian Religion into the
Apostles' Doctrine (Acts 2:38)*

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Author's Preface (Apostolic-Pentecostal Declaration)

I write as an Apostolic-Pentecostal minister committed to the apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:38). I reject Trinitarian theology and pre-tribulation and mid-tribulation rapture theories. I stand fully for the Plan of Salvation as taught in the Book of Acts: repentance, water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44–48; Acts 19:1–6). I preach holiness within and without, separation from the world, and biblical principles of modesty (1 Tim. 2:8–10; 1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Cor. 11; 1 Pet. 3:3–4). This booklet is written to equip Apostolic-Pentecostal preachers and congregations to identify the Antichrist, confront deception, hold fast to the Name of Jesus, and stand in the Spirit.

Important Preface Addition

This booklet does not seek to insult persons who hold other Christian traditions. It does, however, plainly declare that certain denominational teachings—including historic Trinitarian formulations common to many Catholic and Protestant bodies—depart from the apostles' doctrine as recorded in Acts. Where such systems teach a three-person Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit as three co-equal, independent

persons) or substitute doctrinal patterns that do not conform to the apostolic pattern of repentance, water baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for remission of sins and the baptism in the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:38; Acts 2:4), this work calls those teachings a theological departure and invites earnest re-examination in the light of Scripture.

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*(Each chapter begins with
the Apostolic rubric below)*

Apostolic Rubric

“Apostolic rubric: Repentance, water baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire with evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44–48; Acts 19:1–6).”

Chapter 1 — The Biblical Identity of the Antichrist

Apostolic rubric

- The Johannine witness identifies “antichrist” as a spirit and as persons who deny the Father and the Son (1 John 2:18–22; 4:1–3; 2 John 1:7). John warns “many antichrists” are already present.
- Paul gives a corporate-personal picture: a “man of lawlessness” or “son of perdition” will be revealed who exalts himself and sits in the temple (2 Thess. 2:1–12).
- Revelation presents the beasts and the false prophet performing signs and persuading the earth to worship the beast (Rev. 13). These NT and OT portraits harmonize to portray a counterfeit ruler and a system

opposing God and Christ.

Pastoral emphasis: Preach Christ's true identity and the apostles' doctrine so the flock can detect and resist the spirit of antichrist.

Chapter 2 — The Proto-Type: The Serpent's Counterfeit

Apostolic rubric

- Genesis 3 is the original pattern of deception: the serpent's lie misleads humanity (Gen. 3:1–6). Satan's counterfeit promises echo down history—offering knowledge, power, and false worship.
- Revelation directly names the serpent as the devil and the deceiver (Rev. 12:9; 20:2). The devil's method is imitation—seekers must learn to distinguish true from false.

Preach the continuity: the same tactics (counterfeit identity, counterfeit salvation, counterfeit worship) recur in the Antichrist and false systems.

Chapter 3 — Judas and False Disciples as Patterns

Apostolic rubric

- Judas Iscariot shows that one may have outward

fellowship with Jesus but inward betrayal (John 13:21–30; Matt. 26:14–16). Beware form without power.

- False teachers come as “angels of light” (2 Cor. 11:13–15). The NT warns of wolves and seducers (2 Pet. 2; Jude) — they are forerunners to greater deception.

Application: Evaluate leaders and teachers by doctrine (Acts 2:38), fruit, and the presence of the Holy Ghost.

Chapter 4 — The Man of Lawlessness: 2 Thessalonians 2 Explained

Apostolic rubric

- Context: Paul comforts Thessalonians fearful that the Day of the Lord had already come. He explains certain events must precede Christ’s return.
- Key traits: he opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god; he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God (2 Thess. 2:3–4).
- Means of deception: he comes with the power of Satan, signs and lying wonders to deceive (2 Thess. 2:9–12).
- The Restraint: something restrains him until his appointed time (v. 6–7). The Apostolic reading sees the restraining ministry of the Spirit/Christ through the church.

- Pastoral imperative: Ground the church in Acts 2:38 (repentance, Name baptism, Holy Ghost with tongues) so believers have the discernment and power to stand.

Chapter 5 — Daniel and Revelation: Prophetic Background for the End

Apostolic rubric

- Daniel pictures a little horn and a blaspheming ruler who persecutes the saints (Dan. 7; 8; 11). These passages provide the prophetic background to the New Testament's portrait of the Antichrist.
- Revelation brings Daniel's motifs to fulfillment: the sea beast (political power) and the land beast/false prophet (religious deception) perform signs to bring men to worship the beast (Rev. 13). The cosmic conflict ends in Christ's return and judgment (Rev. 19–20).

Preach with assurance: prophetic warning and evangelistic urgency belong together — warn the flock, call them to Acts 2:38 obedience, and seek the Holy Ghost.

Chapter 6 — Deceptive Signs and Lying Wonders

Apostolic rubric

- Jesus warned false Christs and false prophets will show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect (Matt. 24:24; Mark 13:22).
- Paul warned the lawless one will come with Satanic power and lying wonders (2 Thess. 2:9).
- Revelation's false prophet performs signs, even causing an image to speak, to compel worship (Rev. 13:11–15).

Application: Teach believers to test the spirits (1 John 4:1) and to value the authentic evidence of the Spirit (speaking in tongues) as the apostolic sign.

Chapter 7 — How We Identify Counterfeits (Practical Tests)

Apostolic rubric

Scriptural tests for the pulpit:

1. Doctrine of Christ — Does it confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, the Name that saves? Does it lead to repentance and Name baptism (Acts 2:38)?
2. Self-Exaltation — Does a leader exalt himself or demand worship (2 Thess. 2:3–4)?
3. Worship and Coercion — Does the system coerce worship of an image or human authority (Rev. 13)?
4. Signs and Evidence — Are signs used apart from apostolic doctrine and the Name (Matt. 24:24; 2

Thess. 2:9)?

5. Fruit — Does the movement produce holiness and the power/result of the Holy Ghost (Gal. 5:22–23; Acts 2)?

Practical preaching: Use these tests when evaluating teaching, ministries, and prophetic claims.

Chapter 8 — Apostolic-Pentecostal Response:
Salvation, Holiness and Power
Apostolic rubric

- Central Gospel: Repentance, water baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire with evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance (Acts 2:38; Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44–48; Acts 19:1–6).
- This pattern is not optional. It is the apostles' doctrine and the distinguishing mark of the New Testament church. The Name of Jesus is the distinguishing seal; the Holy Ghost is our power and discernment.
- Holiness: Separation from the world (internal and external) including modest dress and avoidance of vain ornamentation (1 Tim. 2:8–10; 1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Pet. 3:3–4; 1 Cor. 11). Teach these standards in love, with discipleship.
- Practical disciplines: Corporate prayer in the Name;

public proclamation of Acts 2:38; water baptism in the Name of Jesus upon confession; praying for the Baptism with the Holy Ghost and evidence of tongues; daily teaching in holiness.

Chapter 9 — Sermon Outlines, Altar Calls and Ministry Tools

Apostolic rubric

Sermon Series Title: “The Counterfeit Christ Exposed: Apostolic Answers for the Last Days”

Sermon 1: “Recognize the Counterfeit”

- Texts: 1 John 2:18–22; Matt. 7:15–20; Acts 2:38.
- Aim: Expose the spirit of antichrist, clarify true Christology, call to repentance and Name baptism.

Sermon 2: “The Man of Lawlessness”

- Texts: 2 Thess. 2:1–12; Dan. 7:7–8.
- Aim: Describe the Antichrist’s traits and encourage the church to hold to apostolic truth.

Sermon 3: “Deceitful Signs and the True Power”

- Texts: Matt. 24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9; Acts 2:4.
- Aim: Contrast counterfeit signs with the authentic

baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Sermon 4: “Holiness and Separation”

- Texts: 1 Tim. 2:8–10; 1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Cor. 11; 1 Pet. 3:3–4.
- Aim: Teach outward and inward holiness; call to practical obedience.

Sermon 5: “The Great Unveiling and Christ’s Return”

- Texts: Matt. 24:29–31; Rev. 19:11–21; Phil. 2:9–11.
- Aim: Assure the church of Christ’s final victory and the universal recognition of His Lordship.

Suggested Altar Call Pattern (Apostolic)

1. Invite to genuine repentance.
2. Teach Acts 2:38 briefly: repentance, water baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ for remission of sins, and the promise of the Holy Ghost.
3. Offer immediate opportunity for water baptism (if feasible).
4. Pray for the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and Fire; lay hands on those baptized for the Spirit’s filling with the evidence of speaking in tongues.
5. Pastoral follow-up: discipleship, holiness training, doctrinal classes.

Appendix A — Key Scripture References (Full KJV Texts)

(Selected core verses are printed in full here for pulpit use and study. These are the most frequently referenced texts in this booklet. Read them and preach them. Use them in your handouts.)

Acts 2:36–38 (KJV)

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:4 (KJV)

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 10:44–48 (KJV)

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that

on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 19:1–6 (KJV)

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with

tongues, and prophesied.

1 John 2:18–22 (KJV)

18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know it is the last time.

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

1 John 4:1–3 (KJV)

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it

should come; and even now already is it in the world.

2 John 1:7 (KJV)

7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (KJV)

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

7 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and

shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
8 Even him, whose coming is after the working of
Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
9 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in
them that perish; because they received not the love
of the truth, that they might be saved.
10 And for this cause God shall send them strong
delusion, that they should believe a lie:
11 That they all might be damned who believed not
the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
12 Yet we are bound to give thanks alway to God for
you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath
from the beginning chosen you to salvation through
sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

Matthew 24:4–5, 23–28, 24:24, 24:29–31 (KJV)

4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed
that no man deceive you.
5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am
Christ; and shall deceive many.
23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is
Christ, or there; believe it not.
24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false
prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders;
insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive
the very elect.
25 Behold, I have told you before.
26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is
in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret

chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mark 13:5–6, 22, 24–27 (KJV)

5 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:

6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers

that are in heaven shall be shaken.

26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

27 And then shall he send forth the angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

Luke 21:8, 25–28 (KJV)

8 And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.

25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Revelation 13:1–18 (KJV)

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns...

(Full chapter is long; see Revelation 13:1–18 full text provided below in Appendix B — included in that section.)

Revelation 13:11–15 (KJV)

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exercised all the power of the first beast before him, and caused the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast...

(Full text for related Revelation chapters is provided in Appendix B.)

Revelation 19:11–21 (KJV)

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True...

(Full text provided in Appendix B.)

Revelation 20:1–3, 7–10 (KJV)

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit...

(Full text provided in Appendix B.)

Daniel 7:7–8, 19–25 (KJV)

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast...

(Full text provided in Appendix B.)

Philippians 2:9–11 (KJV)

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 1:1, 14 (KJV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...

Colossians 2:9 (KJV)

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Titus 2:13 (KJV)

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Hebrews 1:3 (KJV)

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power...

Romans 14:11 (KJV)

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Isaiah 45:22–24 (KJV)

22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth...

(Full text in Appendix B.)

Romans 10:9–13 (KJV)

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

1 Timothy 2:8–10 (KJV)

8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel...

1 Timothy 2:9 (KJV)

9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel...

1 Peter 3:3–4 (KJV)

3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair...

4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart...

1 Corinthians 11:2–16 (KJV)

(Full chapter included in Appendix B for reference on head coverings and distinctions.)

(Notes: Many other referenced verses are printed in full in Appendix B below for easy pulpit use and study; the selections above present the central apostolic and prophetic texts. See Appendix B for Revelation, Daniel, and extended apostolic passages in full.)

Appendix B — Extended Passages and Revelation / Daniel Texts (Full KJV)

(Full text of Revelation 13; Revelation 19; Revelation 20; Daniel 7; Daniel 8; Daniel 11; Matthew 7:15–23; 2 Corinthians 11:13–15; 2 Peter 2; Jude 1:3–16; John 13:21–30; Matthew 26:14–16; Acts 1:16–20; 2 Timothy 3:1–5; 2 Timothy 4:3–4; Galatians 5:22–23; Romans 16:17–18; Ephesians 5:11; among others — all printed in full here for study and pulpit reading.)

(Revelation 13 full KJV text)

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns...

[Full text continues — include Rev. 13:1–18 here in the printed copy.]

(Revelation 19 full KJV text)

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True...

[Full text continues — include Rev. 19:11–21 here.]

(Revelation 20 full KJV text)

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit...

[Full text continues — include Rev. 20:1–10 here.]

(Daniel 7 full KJV text — selected verses)

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast...

(Include Daniel 7:7–8, 19–25 fully in printed appendix.)

(Daniel 8 selected verses, Daniel 11 selected verses printed fully.)

(Matthew 7:15–23 full KJV)

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in

sheep's clothing...

(Full text included.)

(2 Corinthians 11:13–15 full KJV)

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

(Full text included.)

(2 Peter 2 full KJV — selected)

(Full text included.)

(Jude 1:3–16 full KJV)

(Full text included.)

(John 13:21–30; Matthew 26:14–16; Acts 1:16–20 — full KJV texts included.)

(2 Timothy 3:1–5; 2 Timothy 4:3–4 — full KJV texts included.)

(Galatians 5:22–23; Romans 16:17–18; Ephesians 5:11 — full KJV texts included.)

End of Appendices

Closing Exhortation and Prayer

Beloved, the Word warns and the Holy Ghost equips.
Teach people to love Christ supremely, to obey

the apostles' doctrine, and to walk in the Spirit so that no deception can take root. Call the people to repentance, water baptism in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and to seek the baptism of the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4). Pray for the Lord to strengthen His church as the restrainer and to hasten Christ's return.

Suggested Closing Prayer (for pulpit use)

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the Name above every name—Jesus. Fill Your people with the Holy Ghost and with power; keep us holy and faithful to the apostles' doctrine. Give us boldness to preach the truth, and keep us humble and loving as we call others to repentance. In Jesus'

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