

2 THESSALONIANS 2 STAND FIRM

THE ANTICHRIST

Chapter 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, **(RAPTURE)** we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ **(TRIBULATION PERIOD)** had come.

- **NLT** - Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. 2 Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us.
- For whatever reason – Some false teachers were saying that the tribulation had already begun... This teaching denied the “In-air” return of Jesus was in the future.
- There are still some Christians who believe that all of the prophetic events have happened, and that we are in the 1000-year reign of Christ already. **I DO NOT SEE IT!** But the “Preterist,” as they are called, believe that.
- The Apostle Paul sets us all straight here in 2 Thessalonians 2.

THE TRIBULATION PERIOD

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day (The day of the Lord) will not come unless the falling away (Apostasy, AKA Departure, Rapture) comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,*

- Only two men in history were called “The Son of Perdition.”
 - The Antichrist
 - Judas Iscariot
 - It is a title reserved for worst enemies of God. But...
- The Antichrist has 14 other titles.

- There is a chart in my notes that compares the titles of Antichrist with some of the titles of Christ...
- It is free to the first 9000 people who download it 😊

Antichrist: 1 Jn. 2:18, 22; 1 Jn. 4:3	Christ: Mark 8:29, Jn. 1:41
Assyrian (not Syrian): Is. 10:20-27 (v. 24); Is. 14:24-27, Is. 30:18-33 (v. 31); Is. 31:4-32:20 (v. 31:8); Mic. 5:3-15 (v. 5 & 6)	From Bethlehem: Luke 2 From Nazareth: Mk. 6:1
Beast: Rev. 11:7	Lamb: John 1:36, Rev. 5:6
Idol (worthless) shepherd: Zech. 11:16-17	Good shepherd: Jn. 10:11
King with a fierce countenance: Dan. 8:23 King of many kings: Dan. 8:24	King of Kings: Rev. 19:16.
Lawless one: 2 Thess. 2:8-9, Dan. 7:25	Lawful one: Gal. 4:4, Heb. 10:9
Little horn: Dan. 7:8, 24; Dan. 8:9	
Man of sin: 2 Thess. 2:3	Man without sin: Jn. 8:46, 2 Cor 5:21
Prince that shall come: Dan. 9:26	Prince: Act 5:31
Prince of Tyre: Ezek. 28:2-10	
Profane and wicked prince of Israel: Eze. 21:24-27 (Other verses pointing to Jewish ancestry are Dan. 11:37, Eze. 28:10, Gen. 49:16-18)	Prince of peace: Is. 9:6 King of the Jews: Matt. 27:37
Spoiler, extortioner: Is. 16:1-5	Redeemer: Is. 59:20
Son of perdition: 2 Thess. 2:3	Son of the Blessed: Mk. 14:61
Vile person: Dan. 11:21	Without sin: Jn. 8:46, 2 Cor. 5:21
Willful King: Dan. 11:36	Humble Servant: Phil. 2:5-8

SO, THIS EVIL MAN...

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

- This religious leader will demand to be worshipped as God and will assassinate anyone who refuses to worship him.
- WHERE will this event take place? IN THE TEMPLE!
 - But there IS NO temple... YET.
 - There WILL be and it will be built by the antichrist with the permission and encouragement of the Muslim world.
 - Somehow he will bring the Jews and the Muslims together... He will make a treaty with Israel... And then he will break it and begin to persecute everyone who will not join ranks with him.
- WHEN will this event take place?

- After the Rapture of the Church.
- We read about this in Daniel 9:25-27.
- Paul had taught them about this, so he says...

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

- How long was Paul with them? Three weeks is all.
- But in three weeks he had taught all about the last days theology and he expected them to have an expert level of knowledge too.
- It is ironic that some people make a lifetime long living writing books about prophecy when Paul taught them in 3 weeks.

6 And now you know what (**or who...**) is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

- I like how Jon Courson explains this “restraining” force...
- A “let” in tennis is the term used when a served ball bounces off, or is deflected, by the net. In other words, the net keeps the ball from being a fair serve. So, too, there is a force deflecting Satan's attempt to control the world. Who is the force hindering Satan? The Holy Spirit. The only thing keeping any degree of sanity on this planet is the Spirit working in and through the church. When the Rapture takes place, the “net” is removed, and Satan's volleys will no longer be deflected.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He (**Capital H**) is taken out of the way.

- **GUZIK** – “This great principle of evil is already present in the world. It will be ultimately unveiled in the man of sin, but he does not introduce a new wickedness into the world, only an intensity of prior wickedness. “
- I never thought that we would see the evil of this world not only tolerated... but celebrated as if it were a good thing to be perverted. ***It is sad!***
- BUT... We are the people, the people with the Holy Spirit in them, who CAN make a difference.
 - We are the oil in the engine that keeps it from coming apart...
 - We are the coolant that keeps cars from over-heating – AND if you don't

think electric cars have coolant you don't much about them.

- We are the Family of God just like the family of Noah and the family of Abraham that restrained the wrath of God... **WHEN WE ARE GONE...**

8 **And** then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **(IE, Jesus)**

- This antichrist will heal people... perhaps raise the dead... Calm the weather... Finally create green energy... Make long lasting enemy's friends for the first time...
 - He might even make it possible for men to finally understand women...
 - There will be no problem too great for him to solve...
 - Poverty will end... He will probably cure cancer...
 - OR AT LEAST IT WILL APPEAR SO... His life will be a lie.

BECAUSE THEY DID NOT RECEIVE...

11 **And** ...for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- This rejection of Jesus' salvation IS the sin that is the unpardonable sin, I BELIEVE, and for this, God will send a delusion upon the people who refused the truth.
- So... Please let me encourage you to accept the Lord Jesus Christ and serve Him with all of your heart – holding nothing back from Him.
 - Make Him your King... Make Him your boss... Make Him your Savior and serve Him everyday for the rest of eternity.
 - If you say “No” to that offer we have little hope that you will survive the tribulation.
 - Seriously, if you think it is hard to be a believer now...

SO... STAND FIRM

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for

salvation through sanctification (**Cleansing**) by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- How did God choose you? Knowing everything He knew that you would choose Him... SO... He chose you! He chose you before you chose Him!
- So, like the Apostle, I too am thankful for all of you chosen people!
 - And like the Apostle, I am looking forward to being able to give God glory through His Holy Spirit working in us!
 - Wouldn't it be nice to have a FREE cleaning crew on your porch every day? All you would have to do is open the door and let them in... but, you could refuse to.
 - We have the Holy Spirit waiting each day for us to allow Him to work in our lives... SO...

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

- It was very hard for the Thessalonians to stand up against the temptation to go with the flow and compromise their beliefs... AND, it is getting harder for us too to stand against the cultural deterioration in our country... BUT WE MUST!
- Stand fast Fathers! Stand fast Mom's! Stand fast at home... Stand fast at work... Stand fast in your relationship with the Lord!
 - Will it be easy?

PAUL SAYS A BLESSING

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

AMEN!