

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**  
**The Man of Lawlessness**

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup> not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. <sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup> And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. <sup>11</sup> Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, <sup>12</sup> in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

—2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (ESV)

The ongoing, and progressive nature of (some) prophecy

vv 1-3 – “Let no one deceive you...”

The “rebellion” will come first

*Apostasia* – apostacy; lit. falling away or departing—here from truth

This is world-wide. Paul does not only mean deserting, abandoning Christian teaching by those who profess to believe, but many people deserting truth itself as something that exists

“What is truth?”; “your truth vs. my truth”; truth rejected and replaced by any current narrative or ideology

Jesus: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Light

A great time of tribulation or “the” great tribulation

This is not something we should argue about.

I believe that the appearance of “the” man of lawlessness signals the beginning of “the” great tribulation

Other views are completely respected, as I hope mine is.

The man of lawlessness will be revealed

The antichrist

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.—1 John 2:18

The abomination of desolation

the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place—Matthew 24:15

...desolations are decreed. And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”—Daniel 9:26-27

<sup>31</sup> Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the regular burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.

<sup>32</sup> He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action....<sup>36</sup> And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done. <sup>37</sup> He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all.—Daniel 11:31-32, 36-37

#### The beast

<sup>4</sup> And they worshiped the dragon [Satan<sup>a</sup>], for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?” <sup>5</sup> And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, <sup>8</sup> and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.—Revelation 13:4-8

#### lawlessness

A term of contempt and utter condemnation in scripture

“Law” equates with the worship of God and obedience to his word and will.

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.—1 John 3:4

On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?” And then will I declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.” Matthew 7:22-23

v 4 – “so that he takes his seat in the temple of God”

Many believe that this will be the Jewish temple in Jerusalem, rebuilt

In any event, it will be an acknowledged religious center

And it will become the temple  
of the man of lawlessness

v 6 – “And you know what is restraining him...”

“And now, that which is restraining, you know...”

The Holy Spirit

v 7 – “for the mystery of lawlessness”

Biblical mystery is that which can only be known through revelation

See 1 John 2:18 above

---

<sup>a</sup> Revelation 12:7, 9

v 8 – “Whom the Lord Jesus will kill...

With the breath of his mouth – pointing to both the word of Christ and the ease with which Christ will defeat him

And will bring to nothing – the utter defeat of the enemies of God, no matter how great they seem upon the earth during their permitted reigns of terror

v 9 – by the activity of Satan

Satan will “create” the man of lawlessness

Satan’s supernatural support will be provided to the man of lawlessness

v 10-12 – wicked deception for those who are perishing

lit. because they refused to receive the love of the truth in order to be saved

Because of their rejection of the truth, God sends them a strong delusion...

This is a judgment upon them

“in order that”...

Lit. “that”

“that all those should be judged, not having believed the truth, but having delighted in unrighteousness”

They were judged for what they did: rejecting the truth and loving unrighteousness