

# The Man of Lawlessness

*2 Thessalonians 2:1-12*

# First Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18:

*Comfort concerning the Lord's Return*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11:

*Exhortation to always live ready for the Lord's Return*

# Second Thessalonians

1. Encouragement during persecution
2. Admonish the Idle (ch. 3)
3. Correct false notions about the Lord's Return (ch. 2)

# The Man of Lawlessness

Man of Lawlessness Described (vv. 3-4)

Restraining & Revealing of the Man of Lawlessness (vv. 5-8)

Effect of the Rebellion & Man of Lawlessness (vv. 9-12)

## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

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.

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### 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21

Do not despise prophecies,  
<sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast  
what is good.

### 1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the  
spirits to see whether they are from God, for many  
false prophets have gone out into the world.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

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.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

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.



## ***1 Timothy 4:1-3***

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, <sup>2</sup>through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, <sup>3</sup>who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

# The Rebellion

Greek: Apostasia

- *Rebellion* (ESV, LEB, NIV, NET, NRSV)
- *Falling Away* (MEV, NKJV, YLT, ASV)
- *Apostasy* (CSB, NASB)

**Acts 21:21** and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to **forsake** Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.

# The Man of Lawlessness

1. Man of Lawlessness
2. Son of Destruction
3. Opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship
4. Takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God

# What Temple?

1. Jerusalem Temple
2. Pagan Temple
3. Metaphoric Temple
4. The Church

# The Church as the Temple of God

**1 Corinthians 3:16** *“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”*

**2 Corinthians 6:16** *“What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*

# The Church as the Temple of God

***Ephesians 2:20-21*** “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”

***1 Peter 2:5*** “you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

## 2 Thessalonians 2:5-8

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.

# What/Who is the Restrainer?

1. Paul?
2. The Gospel?
3. The Roman Empire?
4. The Holy Spirit

***1 Corinthians 13:8-10** Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.*



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## 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

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.

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# Power, Signs, and Wonders

**Acts 2:22** *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know”*

**Hebrews 2:4** *“while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”*

# Satan Mimics God's Work

A “coming” of Christ (v. 8)

Mystery of godliness (1 Tim. 3:16)

God “works” (Eph. 3:7; Php. 2:13)

Signs, wonders, & Miracles

A coming of the lawless one

Mystery of Lawlessness

“Activity” or “working” of Satan

Power, false signs and wonders

## **2 Corinthians 11:14**

And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

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## ***Deuteronomy 13:1-3***

If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup>and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' <sup>3</sup>you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

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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

1. God is in Control
2. We must be vigilant!
3. Right doctrine is important
4. We must love the truth