

# Who is The Man of Lawlessness?

*2 Thessalonians 2:1-12*

# Other Passages to Consider

Daniel 7-9

Matthew 24

1 John 2:18-23

1 John 4:1-3

2 John 4-7

Revelation 12-13

# Description of the Man of Lawlessness

1. Apostasy
2. Not yet revealed (when written by Paul)
3. Lawless
4. Exalts Himself
5. Sits in the Temple of God (church)
6. Proclaims to be God
7. Restrained for a time
8. Already at work (when written by Paul)
9. Restraint will be removed
10. Will last until Jesus' return
11. Performs False signs, power, and wonders
12. Mimics God's pattern for purpose of deception

**1. All Fulfilled**  
**2. Partially Fulfilled**  
**3. All yet to be fulfilled**

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## Suggestions/Theories

1. Satan
2. Principle of Evil
3. Judaism
4. Roman Ruler
5. Future Anti-Christ
6. Catholic Papacy

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“It is sufficient that the Papacy still exists, and if it *continues to exist* till the Lord comes, and is brought to naught by that event, it will fulfill that part of the prophecy under consideration. In short, while we will not attempt to say that the final form of antichrist, Papal or otherwise, may not exceed in wickedness all that we have yet seen (for prophecies are certainly iterative), yet we are constrained to contend that if no other form appears, the Papacy has already fulfilled the prophecy, for it agrees in all the points...”

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~ *J.W. McGarvey* ~

The central imperative of his eschatological discourse, then, is explicitly stated in 2:15: “stand firm and hold firmly to the traditions you were taught.” *Stay the course.*

*(Nijay K. Gupta, New Covenant Commentary)*

The apostolic perspective is that there is a right way and a wrong way, and that the power of Satan is and will be powerfully operative to assure that people, in the end, will be eternally lost. The stakes in the battle for truth and against error could not be higher. The reason why these people eternally perish is because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. The apostle’s conviction is that a person’s ultimate destiny is bound up with his or her relation to the truth.

*(Gene L. Green, PNTC)*

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