



2 Thessalonians 1:6-12 – The Slaying Of Satan’s Superman – Part 2

October 13, 2024

Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:8 (ESV)

1. Background

A. The Crisis

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 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 2:1–2 (ESV)

B. The Correction

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, 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. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 2 Thessalonians 2:3–5 (ESV)

- The Rebellion must take place before Jesus’ return.
- The man of lawlessness must come before Jesus’ return.

C. 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 (ESV)

2. The Revealing of the Man of Lawlessness (And The Riddle Of The Restrainer)

And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 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. 2 Thessalonians 2:6–7 (ESV)

A. Who/what is the restrainer?

But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince. Daniel 10:21 (ESV)

B. Why are Satan and his Antichrist being restrained?

...so that he may be revealed in his time. 2 Thessalonians 2:6 (ESV)

C. What is the mystery of lawlessness?

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. 2 Thessalonians 2:7 (ESV)

3. The Destruction Of The Man Of Lawlessness

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth... 2 Thessalonians 2:8a (ESV)

A. How will Jesus destroy the Antichrist?

...he shall smite the earth with the word of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he destroy the ungodly one. Isaiah 11:4 (Brenton LXX En)

and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:10 (ESV)

B. How will Jesus dismantle the Antichrist's worldwide empire?

...and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:8b (ESV)

4. The Deception Of The Man of Lawlessness

The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 2 Thessalonians 2:9 (ESV)

A. The Antichrist will try to copy the miracles of Jesus.

So Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." John 4:48 (ESV)

B. We should not be surprised at counterfeit miracles.

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. Mark 13:22 (ESV)

5. The Influence Of The Man of Lawlessness

and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 2 Thessalonians 2:10 (ESV)

A. **The Antichrist's miracles will be so convincing that only the elect will not be fooled.**

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Matthew 24:24 (ESV)

B. **The only way to avoid being deceived by the Antichrist is to love Jesus, who is the truth.**

...because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.
2 Thessalonians 2:10 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (ESV)

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!
James 2:19 (ESV)

6. The Consequences Of Following The Man of Lawlessness

...because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
2 Thessalonians 2:10–12 (ESV).

A. **People go to hell not because they don't know about Jesus, but because they refuse to love Him.**

...because they refused to love the truth and so be saved
2 Thessalonians 2:10b (ESV)

You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. John 5:39–40 (ESV)

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. John 3:19 (ESV)

If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed... 1 Corinthians 16:22 (ESV)

B. **God deludes those who don't believe the truth, so they are hardened in unbelief.**

Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 2 Thessalonians 2:11 (ESV)

But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go.
Exodus 8:32 (ESV)

But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken to Moses. Exodus 9:12 (ESV)

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” Hebrews 4:7b (ESV)

7. The Condemnation Of The Man of Lawlessness

... in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 2 Thessalonians 2:12 (ESV)

A. The Antichrist will end up in the lake of fire.

and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:10 (ESV)

B. Those who are deceived by him will join him.

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 2 Thessalonians 1:9 (ESV)

Conclusion

- If God removed the restrainer, so Satan and his Antichrist rose to full power, would you be deceived into following them, or would your love for Jesus keep you from being lured away?
- When the Antichrist is at the apex of his power, Jesus will return and defeat him. No matter how overwhelming evil appears, Jesus only needs to breathe on it to destroy it.

Life Group Questions

1. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2.** Review the message. How did this challenge your understanding of the time of Jesus' return? After 2 Thessalonians 2, how do you look differently at the self-proclaimed end-times prophets who set dates and times for Jesus' return?
2. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7.** Paul talks about someone/something that God is using to restrain Satan and his current Antichrist. How does that change the way you look at the problems in the world and the outcome of major events in history?
3. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:9 and Mark 13:22.** Did you realize Satan has real power and can perform counterfeit miracles to lead people astray? What supernatural powers have you heard of at work in false religions? What keeps us from being deceived?
4. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:10.** According to Paul, why do people go to hell?
5. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 and Hebrews 4:7.** What is the consequence of refusing to believe the truth, to love Jesus, and to be saved? What is the danger of hardening our hearts to the things of Jesus, His word, and His church?