

II Thessalonians 2: 8-10

The Revelation of the Man of Lawlessness

HHBC





II Thessalonians chapter 2: 8-10

8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.



A Structure of 2:1-10

- Paul, in 1st Thessalonians comforts the believers about being caught up in the Rapture and that loved ones will be resurrected at that time and be part of the Event as well
- He doesn't go into detail about the Day of the Lord in his first epistle, and since they will not be in the Day, and tells them in I Thess. 5:1: *“Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.”* to keep the details light and to keep them focused on the Rapture
- But in 2nd Thessalonians Chap. 2, he needs to give them some details of the Tribulation because they think they're in it; note how he keeps it simple though, by giving them the Beginning point, Mid-Point and the End Point of the Day of the Lord:



Paul's Structure in Presenting the Tribulation:

BEGINNING POINT:

“Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our ***gathering together to Him***” (2:1)

MID-POINT:

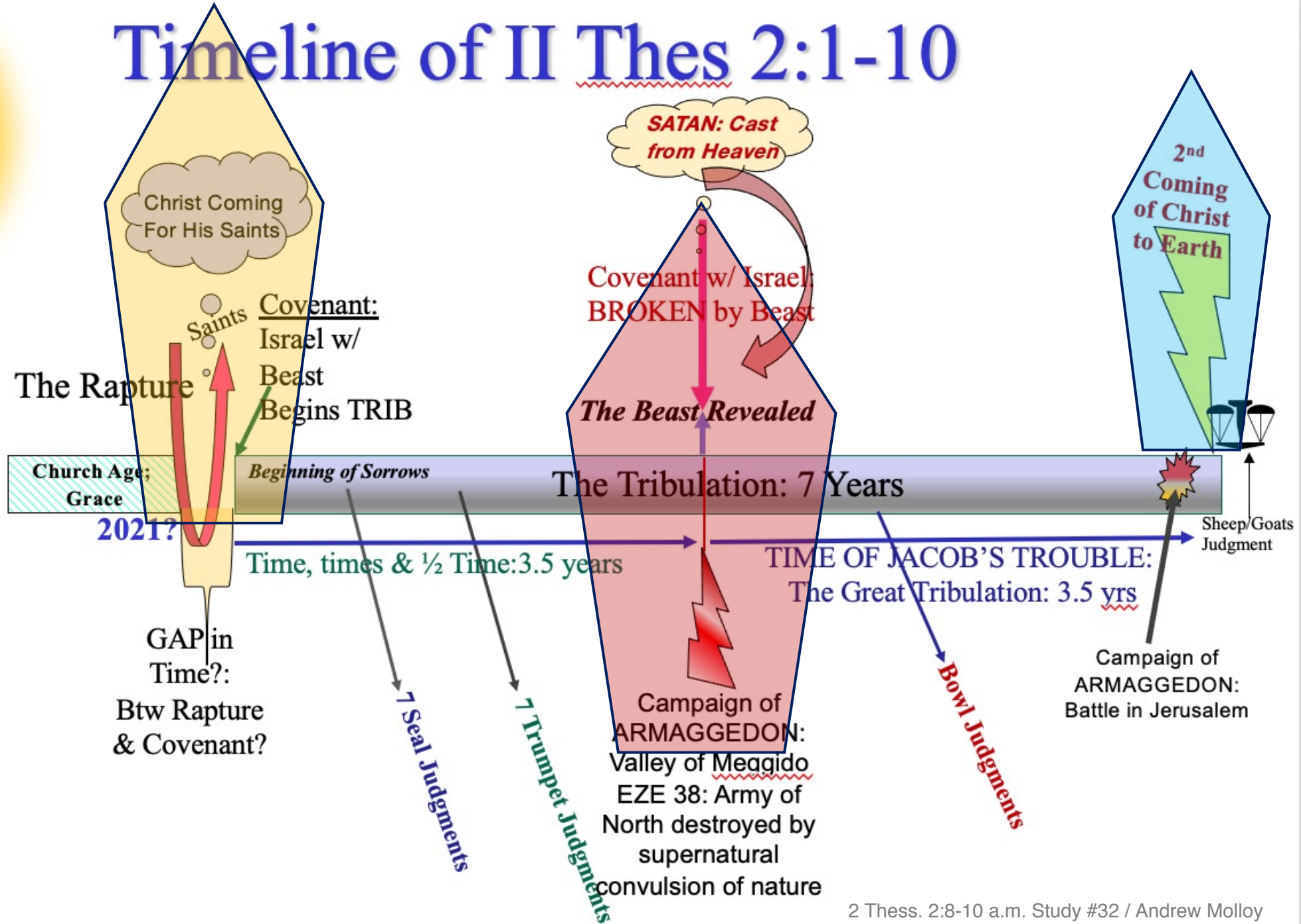
“Who (the man of lawlessness; The Beast) opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, ***so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God***” (2:4)

END POINT:

“Then that lawless one will be revealed (MID-TRIB.) whom ***the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;***” (2:8)



Timeline of II Thes 2:1-10





II Thessalonians 2: 8

8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

The Lawless one:

- Prior to this study, I thought that the lawless one; The Beast in Revelation, the man of lawlessness in 2:8 is referred to as the 'The Antichrist' in scripture, but that's not the case
- The only use of the term 'antichrist' is in I John 2:18,22, 4:3 & II John 1:7:

*Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that **antichrist** is coming, even now **many antichrists have appeared**; from this we know that it is the last hour.*

*Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? **This is the antichrist**, the one who denies the Father and the Son.*

*and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; **this is the spirit of the antichrist**, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.*

For many deceivers have gone out into the world**, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. **This is the deceiver and the antichrist.



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The Lawless one:

- The term 'antichrist' is used specifically as the condition of denying Jesus Christ, his deity and humanity and His Coming presently in the church age
- But the man that is coming in the Tribulation period, even though he is the final, genuine article Antichrist is referred to as with specificity:



Names of the Daniel's 70th Week Antichrist:

The Bloody and Deceitful Man (Ps. 5:6), the Wicked One (Ps. 10:2-4), the Man of the Earth (Ps. 10:18), the Mighty Man (Ps. 52:1), the Enemy (Ps. 55:3), the Adversary (Ps. 74:8-10), the Head of Many Countries (Ps. 111:6), the Violent Man (Ps. 140:1), ~~the Assyrian (Isa. 10:5-12), the King of Babylon (Isa. 14:2)~~, the Sun of the Morning (Isa. 14:12), the Spoiler (Isa. 16:4-5; Jer. 6:26), the Nail (Isa. 22:25), the Branch of the Terrible Ones (Isa. 25:5), the Profane Wicked Prince of Israel (Ezek. 21:25-27), the Little Horn (Dan. 7:8), the Prince that shall come (Dan. 9:26), the Vile Person (Dan. 11:21), the Wilful King (Dan. 11:36), the Idol Shepherd (Zech. 11:16-17), the Man of Sin (2 Thess. 2:3), the Son of Perdition (2 Thess. 2:3), the Lawless one (2 Thess. 2:8), the Antichrist (1 John 2:22)?, the Angel of the Bottomless Pit (Rev. 9:11), the Beast (Rev. 11:7; 13:1). To these could be added: the One Coming in His Own Name (John 5:43), the King of Fierce Countenance (Dan. 8:23), the Abomination of Desolation (Matt. 24:15), the Desolator (Dan. 9:27).

It is thus possible to see how extensive the revelation concerning this individual is. It is not surprising, since this one is Satan's great masterpiece in the imitation of the program of God.

I struck names Pink gives that I believe refer to actual ancient kings; e.g. King of Babylon would be Nebuchadnezzar that Isaiah is prophesying of roughly 160 years into the future: Source: Arthur W. Pink, 'The Antichrist'; quoted by J. Dwight Pentecost in 'Things to Come', Zondervan



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The Lawless one: Who he is; Part I, the peaceful part

Adapted from: J. Dwight Pentecost in 'Things to Come' see SUPPLEMENT for scripture references

- He does not appear until the 'latter times' of Israel's history
- He will not appear until the Day of the Lord has begun. His manifestation now is being hindered by the Restrainer and his appearance is preceded by a departure [from 2 Thes. 2:1-10; our topic of study]
- He is a Gentile: 'from the sea'; he comes from the vestiges of the Roman empire; he is a political leader
- His influence is world-wide; he is an alliance maker; he is intelligent and persuasive; but also subtle and crafty; he doesn't force things (in the early part of the 70th Week); nations give him their willing consent
- He comes to power through a peace program
- *I believe in the first 3.5 years (or before if there is a pre-70th week pause/gap), he will bring pseudo-millennial kingdom-like conditions to the world, (eg. Solve 'global warming'; bring crops, water, better living conditions to the impoverished; bring new technologies; green energy)*



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The Lawless one: Who he is; Part II, the Revealed: the Evil part

- But: his interest in power and authority are insatiable; he introduces changes to long-established laws and customs
- At the 3.5 year mark: He breaks the Peace covenant with Israel; He then introduces a system of idolatrous worship, and he sets himself up as god in the Jewish temple of the Tribulation period
- He blasphemes God, he is energized by Satan (The dragon) and he receives authority from Satan
- He is the head of satan's lawless system (the apex of the mystery of lawlessness even now in the world); he also is the false christ (pseudochristos of Mat. 24) of Satan's religious system
- He is received by the world and apostate religious system as God because of the blindness of the tribulation period unbelievers. (The strong delusion of II Thes. 2:11)
- He is able to display miraculous signs and wonders in conjunction with his Next in Command: the False Prophet (who is Jewish)



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The Lawless one: Who he is; Part III: his Doom

- Then, an alliance builds against him; the Northern confederacy: Russia-Iran-*Ethiopia(?)*-*Libya(?)*-Germany-Turkey; could also be Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq or Turkmenistan, which scripture could label as Ethiopia and Libya (See Campaign of Armageddon Supplement)
- This alliance, assembled and encamped in the Jezreel- to take a spoil of Israel- is destroyed by God, (Armageddon part 1) This supernatural display could be the trigger that causes the man of lawlessness to break of the 7-year peace covenant with Israel. The Beast and Satan to start persecuting Israel and this man blasphemes God in the temple.
- He will take over Jerusalem and surrounding areas and gear up for Armageddon part 2, against the "Kings" of the South and King of the East in Edom and Jerusalem (See 'Armageddon' Supplement)
- He somehow destroys the harlot religious system, (the apostate church system) that helped bring him to power, and then he rules over the satanic-self religious system unhindered
- He goes into protracted battle (Armageddon Part 2) with the King of the East and South
- His End: the returning Lord Jesus Christ & His saints: both the Beast and the False Prophet are "slayed" with a word uttered by Christ (v. 8); and then both cast alive into the Lake of Fire [Rev. 19:20]

Adapted from: J. Dwight Pentecost in 'Things to Come', 1958; 64 Zondervan, pp 332-334



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'The one who is coming in accord with the activity of Satan':

- Satan gives the Beast/ man of lawlessness his ability to powers to perform signs and false wonders
- Sweigart argues that the man of sin is possessed by a certain demon: *“He is called the Son of Destruction because his abomination is related to the rise of Apollyon in Rev. 9:11. As has often been noted, there are presently chained groups of angels who have been confined to the Abyss because of their behavior in the pre-flood world. Half-way through the Tribulation period, these chained demons are released by an angel from heaven who has the keys to the Abyss. They have a king over them called Abaddon or Apollyon. This is very appropriate since there was a worship center to Apollo located on the isle of Patmos where John was exiled. One of the symbols for Apollo was the locust. He then indwells the physical body of the Man of Sin whose identity has not been revealed until that time.”*
- Christ speaks specifically of these signs and false wonders in Mat. 24:24: **“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”**

Dr. John M. Sweigart: 'Rebellion, Falling Away or Departure' pp. 19-20



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Some of the signs and false wonders the Man of Sin does: **a:**

Rev. 13:11 Then I saw another beast (**The False Prophet**) coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. 12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. 13 **He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.** 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who *had the wound of the sword and has come to life. 15 **And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.** 16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.



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Some of the signs and false wonders the Man of Sin does, **b.**:

- The below passage seems to indicate that the Beast/Man of Lawlessness/The Antichrist had a fatal wound and was resurrected, but Pentecost and others dispute Satan has the power of Resurrection; that is reserved for God, Who alone has the power to give life . . .

Rev. 13:11: Then I saw another beast (**The False Prophet**) coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. 12 He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, ***whose fatal wound was healed***. 13 ***He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men***. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth ***to make an image to the beast who *had the wound of the sword and has come to life***. 15 ***And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed....***



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10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

The Apostate Church/The Harlot/ Religious Babylon system:

SEE: Supplement; Identity of the Harlot-Religious Babylon System; compiled by H.A. Ironside

- Brings us full-circle back to the last 2 weeks' lessons and the discussion of the Apostasy
- There IS a fact certain Apostate Church alive, active & well during the Tribulation
- These belong to this "church" that will have its full maturity in the Tribulation, I think are the unsaved being referred to in verse 10
- A Note on The Apostate Church from J. Dwight Pentecost:

"The complete apostasy of the period on the part of the professing church prevents the church from being in the world. The only organized church ever mentioned in the tribulation period is the Jezebel system (Rev. 2:22) and the harlot system (Rev. 17 and 18)." The Beast, who was dominated by the harlot system (Rev. 17:3), rises against her and destroys her and her system completely. Without doubt the harlot system was in competition with the religious worship of the Beast, promoted by the False Prophet, and her destruction is brought about so that the Beast may be the sole object of false worship as he claims to be God."