



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle of Paul to Thessalonica

## 2 Thess 2:3-4 – The Rapture and The Day of The Lord, Part 2

- *2 Thessalonians 2:3,4 - Let no one deceive you by any means; for ...unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin (lawlessness) is revealed, the son of perdition (destruction), who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*
  - *that Day will not come* is not in the original translations.
  - *Let no one deceive you by any means* – how very important?
    - Keathley III - “Deceive” is a compound verb, exapatao,, a strengthened form of apatao,,. It means “to deceive completely” or perhaps “deceive successfully.” It is used of Satan’s deception of Eve in *2 Cor 11:3* and *1 Tim 2:14*.
  - So, what is Paul’s big concern here and to whom does it apply and why?
    - False teachers were omnipresent, and this is a warning.
      - Be on guard!



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» Acts 20:28 - “Therefore **take heed** to yourselves **and to all the flock**, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **shepherd the church** of the Lord and God which He purchased with His own blood.

– Be alert!

» Acts 20:31 - “Therefore **watch** and remember that **for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.**

– *unless the falling away comes first*

• *Implying the Day of the Lord – when or after what?*

– 1. *falling away* is the *apostasy (apostasia)*, an aggressive and positive revolt, defined as the abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief and here this is not an *apostasy* but ***the apostasy***.

» Acts 21:21 - “*but they have been informed about you that you **teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses**, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.*

» 1 Tim 4:1,2 - Now the Spirit expressly says ***that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.***

– 2. *the man of sin (lawlessness) is revealed*

– 3. *the son of perdition (destruction), who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God*

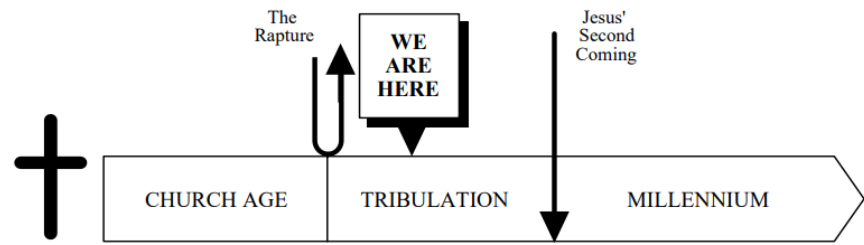


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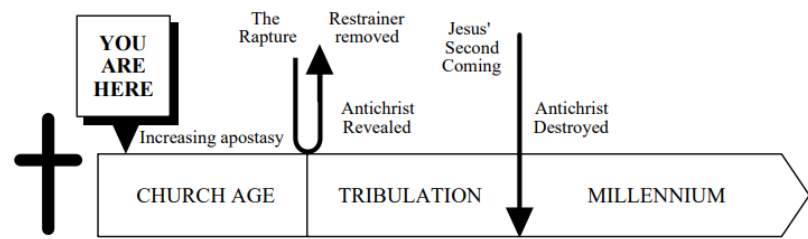
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- What would this look like or have all these events occurred?
  - And the Lord Jesus Christ had proclaimed them all!
    - » *Matt 24:10-12 - “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. “Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*
  - Let’s look at the biblical truth and sequelae of these events!

The Thessalonians' False Idea



Paul's Correction of their Error





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- *and the man of sin (lawlessness) is revealed, the son of perdition (destruction), who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped,*
  - Who is this *man of sin (lawlessness) who is (being) revealed, the son of perdition (destruction)*?
    - *Being revealed (passive)* seems to reflect the political and social climate of that day.
    - McCalley – ‘The word lawlessness points to refusal to operate within laws as they exist—probably rejection of moral absolutes. The other designation son of destruction, assures of his final destiny. This expression was also applied to Judas Iscariot. The man of lawlessness will be the personification of pride and ego.’
    - Keathley III – ‘We are not told who or what it is that reveals his person or to whom he is specifically revealed, however, for those who know something about Scripture, that which first reveals him will undoubtedly be the covenant he will make with the Jewish people (*Dan. 9:27*). *Revelation* teaches us that the early stages of the Tribulation will unveil one who, appearing as a White Horse rider, will conquer many by peaceful tactics (*Rev. 6:2*). It is not until the middle of the Tribulation that his true colors manifest themselves. ....This is a person yet to appear who will be completely lawless and whom God will doom to everlasting destruction. The



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breaking of that covenant seems to be the event that unmasks this individual for who he is, the opponent of Christ. He will eventually seek to make everyone worship himself and will claim to be God (cf. *Rev. 13:5-8*).’

- » *Rev 13:5-8 - And he was given a **mouth speaking great things and blasphemies**, and he was given **authority to make war** for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in **blasphemy against God**, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to **make war with the saints and to overcome them**. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. **All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***
- *who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped,*
  - He will seek to destroy and abolish all forms of worship and replace them with himself.
  - McCalley – ‘The words *as being God* contain a verb. A literal translation would be, he is God.’
    - » *Dan 7:25 - He shall **speak pompous words against the Most High**, shall **persecute the saints of the Most High**, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time.*
    - » *Dan 11:36 - “Then the king shall do according to his own will: **he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god**, shall **speak blasphemies against the God of gods**, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.*



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- so that he sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.
  - This is likely the rebuilt Jewish temple as described in *Daniel* and *Mark*.
    - » *Dan 9:26* - “And after the sixty-two weeks **Messiah shall be cut off**, but not for Himself; **And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary**. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.
    - » *Mark 13:14*- “So when you see the ‘**abomination of desolation, standing where it ought not**’ (let the reader understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
  - More evidence that these events have not occurred is seen in *1Thess 2:7,8*.
    - » *2 Thess 2:6-8* - And now you know **what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time**. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only **he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way**. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.
- So, now returning to the **coming of (parousia) or day of (hemera) the Lord**, what is our interpretation?