

# 2 Thessalonians 2

Apostasy &  
The Man  
of Sin

# 2 Thessalonians 1 *Review*

## Paul's pride over them (2 Thess 1:3-4)

"We ought always to give  
thanks to God for you, ..

Your *faith* grows greater (v.3)

Your love *grows* even greater (v.3)

We brag about your *perseverance* to other churches (v.4)



Your enemies will suffer penalty of *Eternal Destruction* (v.8-9)

Jesus will come to be *Glorified* in His Saints on that day (.10)

We pray Always for you that God may count you *Worthy* (v.11)

# 2 Thessalonians 2

2 Thess 2:1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him... v.2 *as to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.*

What was their **FIRST CONCERN** regarding the Second Coming?  
(1 Thes 4:13-18)  
*The brethren*

What was their **NEXT CONCERN** regarding the Second Coming?  
(2 Thes 2:1-2)  
*It's come*

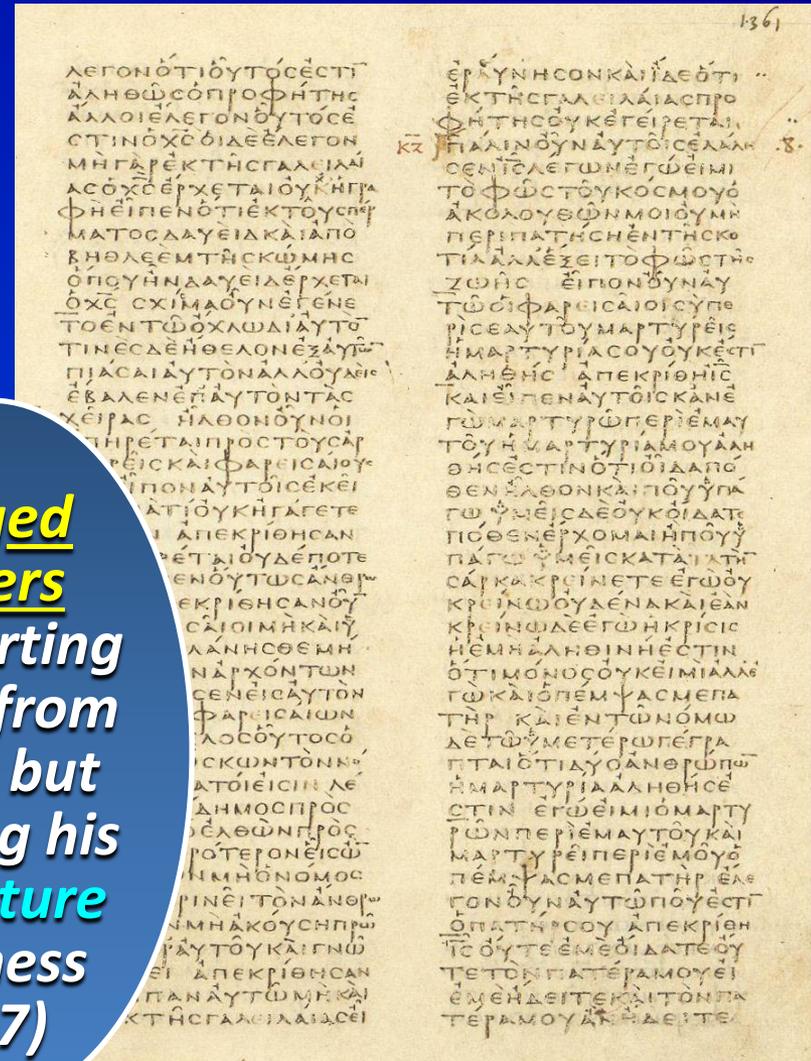
# 2 Thessalonians 2

2 Thess 2:2 That you may not be quickly *shaken from your composure* or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter...

By a Person claiming the Spirit of Prophecy (1 Cor 12:10)

Sayings wrongly asserted to be of someone. (Compare Jn 21:23)

Forged letters purporting to be from Paul, but lacking his signature (2 Thess 3:17)



Leaf from the Codex Vaticanus 4<sup>th</sup> Century

# 2 Thessalonians 2

2 Thess 2:2 Be not be quickly *shaken from your composure or be disturbed ... as to the effect that **the day of the Lord has come.***

**“Has Come”**

Grk enistemi

“Impending”

**Grk Perfect Tense**

**‘action is complete**

**& results continue’**

**Strong’s #1764**

It is not so imminent as to justify the neglect of every day duties.

The **“Day of the Lord”** always refers to what?

Some **“Day of the Judgment”** as upon Babylon (Isa 13:1,6,9)

Upon **“False Prophets”** (Ezek 13:1-5)

Upon **“Israel”** (Amos 5:1, 18-20)

Upon **“Edom”** (Oba 1:1, 15)

# 2 Thessalonians 2

*2 Thess 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will **not come unless the apostasy comes first.***

*Jesus SPOKE the words recorded in Mt 24 ca. about the "Falling Away" **about AD 33.***

*2 Thess was written about AD 53.*

*1 Tim was written about AD 63-64.*

*Matthew wrote his gospel before the other three according to early and practically universal tradition (cf. Irenaeus, Eusebius, Clement).*

*The book must **have been written before AD 70**, perhaps as early as AD 62. ISBE.*

*Where else in the NT is **apostasy** foretold?*

*Mat 24:10-12 At that time **many will fall away** and many false prophets will arise and mislead many.*

*1 Tim 4:1-4 In later times **some shall fall away from the faith***

# APOSTASY

Barnes 2 Thess 2:3 “There is scarcely any passage of the NT which has given occasion to **greater diversity of opinion** than this. Though the reference seems to be plain and ... easy in its interpretation.”

## Theories:

1. Apostasy by Christians under Nero's persecution (64-68AD).
2. Christians defect back to Judaism before Jeru destroyed.
3. Defection of Christians to Gnostics under Simon Magus.
4. Catholics say defection of Catholics at the Reformation.
5. Protestants say Pope is Man of Sin under Catholicism.
6. Apostasy of Jews from worship of God (Dan 11:36)

# 2 Thessalonians 2

*2 Thess 2:3 The apostasy comes first, and the Man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction*

v.3 Who *might be* this  
*“Destructive, Lawless Man?”*

*Jewish High Priest???* Incited disturbances which began to upset the Roman social order.

*Apostles Persecuted* —  
(Acts 5:17-18, 40)

*Stephan Executed* —  
(Acts 7:1, 58-59)

*Church Persecuted* —  
(Acts 9:1-2)

v.6-7 Who *might be* the..  
*“One who restrains?”*

*Roman Authority in Palestine???*  
After the Sanhedrin put James the brother of Jesus to death, *King Agrippa*— wrote in anger to

*Roman Authority in Palestine???*  
When there was a conspiracy

*Roman Authority in Palestine???*  
Jews were required to bring their accusations before Roman Authorities. (Acts 24:6-8)

# 2 Thessalonians 2

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LAWLESS ONE

2 Thess 2:4 He who opposes & exalts himself above every *so-called god or object of worship*,

When a person will *not accept what God says, and exalts their own opinion* they oppose God!  
( 1 John 2:18; 22) Antichrist

So that he takes *his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.* 

*Is this Jerusalem's High Priest who was so corrupt that the Essenes didn't want anything to do with him? (Cf Acts 23:3)*

*Or is this like Pope Clement 6<sup>th</sup> who commanded angels to admit certain souls into Paradise?*

*Is this the Temple in Jerusalem?  
(Acts 5:42; 21:30)*

(Isa 14:13-14) King of Babylon: "I will raise my throne above the stars of God. *I will make myself like the Most High.*"

# 2 Thessalonians 2

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESTRAINER

v.6 And you know what  
restrains him now...

v.7 He who now restrains  
will do so until he is taken  
out of the way.

On one hand, it doesn't matter  
critically to us—because in  
either event the time horizon  
has already elapsed!

Whatever it was— they  
KNEW about it already!!!

Is the RESTRAINER of the  
lawless one fulfilled by~~

Roman Authorities like:  
Herod Agrippa restraining  
Jewish persecution until  
he dies? (Acts 12:23)

Or, the Apostle Paul re-  
straining development of  
religious corruption until  
he is executed? (2 Tim 4:6)

# 2 Thessalonians 2

## DESTRUCTION OF THE LAWLESS ONE

v.8 And then that lawless one will be revealed **whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth ...**

*The Lord is pictured with a **two-edged sword** coming from his mouth (Rev 1:16; 19:15, 21) and **make war** against the unrepentant (Rev 2:16)*

## NATIONAL JUDGMENT

*Hos 6:4 What shall I do with you, O **Ephraim**? [And] you, O **Judah**? For your loyalty is like a morning cloud, 5 Therefore I have hewn them in pieces by the prophets; **I have slain them by the words of My mouth.***

*Isa 11:4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, **And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.***

# 2 Thessalonians 2

## DESTRUCTION OF THE LAWLESS ONE

v.8 ... and bring to an end **by**  
***the appearance of His coming...***

***The Language of Judgment!***  
***(Isa 19:1; 2 Sam 22:10-12) With***  
***the fall of Jerusalem the HP***  
***and priestly system ended !***

***(Mat 24:30-34) And they will***  
***see the Son of Man coming on***  
***the clouds of the sky with power***  
***and great glory... v.34 Truly I say***  
***to you, this generation will not***  
***pass away until all these things***  
***take place...***

***Matt 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His***  
***Father with His angels; and will then recompense every man ac-***  
***cording to his deeds. 28 "Truly I say to you, there are some of***  
***those who are standing here who shall not taste death until***  
***they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom."***

# 2 Thessalonians 2

v.9 The [lawless] one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, **with all power and signs and false wonders...**

v.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.

v.11 God send a **de-luding influence...**

*Isa 6:9-10 Keep listening*

*Re: Destruction of Jerusalem  
Jesus says (Matt 24:24-25)  
“For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs & wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.”*

Josephus writes: “And now these imposters and deceivers persuaded the multitude to follow them into the wilderness. A false prophet made a proclamation in the city that God had commanded them to get up on the temple and that there they sacrificed, brought forth a lamb in the midst of the Temple.” Josephus: Wars; Bk 6, chp 5, v.3