

# THE END – Part 8

## THE SON OF PERDITION

### [2Thessalonians 2:1-3](#)

Who is this “son of perdition” that Paul speaks about? The “son of perdition” is NOT AN INDIVIDUAL. Instead, the “son of perdition” is a title given to those who shall *fall away*.

We spoke to you last time how there will be a *great falling away* coming in the last days when many shall fall away from the faith. Moreover, those who will fall away in the last days are being given the title, “son of perdition.” They’re being given this title in reference to the FIRST “son of perdition.”

### [John 17:11, 12](#)

Of course, Jesus is speaking here about Judas Iscariot who He calls the “son of perdition.” Judas is being given this title, not only because he was the one disciple who ‘fell away,’ but also because he is an example of those who will fall away in the last days!

Now, it’s important to understand that the identity of the first *son of perdition* was unknown until Judas actually fell away. Similarly, no one will know the identity of the coming ‘sons of perdition’ until they fall away in the last days!

### [2Thessalonians 2:3](#)

Notice that the ‘man of sin’ (or son of perdition) will not be revealed until they fall away!

Now, one of the reason the *sons of perdition* will be able to remain ‘hidden’ in the body is because they will, for the most part, continue to perform the same *works* as the rest of the disciples.

### [2Thessalonians 2:8, 9](#)

Paul is still speaking here about the sons of perdition (**verse 3**). Notice that the sons of perdition will perform signs and wonders (albeit *lying* signs and wonders) in the last days!

I also want to point out to you how Paul refers to these individuals as “wicked” (**verse 8**). The word “wicked” means *lawless*. The fact that Paul

calls the *sons of perdition* “wicked” or lawless connects them with those described by Jesus in [Matthew 7](#).

### [Matthew 7:22, 23](#)

Notice, there will be individuals who perform “*wonderful* works,” but who also “work *iniquity*.” (The word “iniquity” is the same word that is translated “wicked” or lawless in [2 Thessalonians 2:8](#)!)

Therefore, you will not be able to identify the ‘sons of perdition’ by their *works*. You must identify them by their *fruit* (or lack thereof)!

### [Matthew 7:16](#)

### [Matthew 13:24-25, 27-28, 30, 36, 38-40](#)

We are told that the “tares” are individuals who might *look* like “children” (sons) of the kingdom, but who are in fact “children” (sons) of the devil. Furthermore, these “sons” of the devil/*perdition* will be allowed to grow alongside the “good seed” (sons of the kingdom) until the “harvest” or the last days. At which time they will be *removed* from the body of Christ!

### [Matthew 13:41](#)

Notice that these same persons are described by Jesus as those that “*offend* and do *iniquity*.” These are the SAME descriptions given to the sons of perdition!

Incidentally, Jesus also tells us WHY the ‘tares’ (sons of perdition) will be removed—so the righteous can shine forth as the *sun*!

### [Matthew 13:43](#)

The same thing happened to Jesus after Judas, the first son of perdition, was removed from their midst!

### [John 13:30, 31](#)

### [2Thessalonians 2:6, 7](#)

The word “letteth” in **verse 7** is the same word that is translated “withholdeth” in **verse 6**! Moreover, it is the *sons of perdition* that are “letting” (withholding or hindering) the sons of the kingdom from being glorified and, therefore, gathered unto God. (“Only the pure in heart shall see God”—**Matthew 5:8**!)

This is not only true *corporately*, it's also true *individually*. In other words, unless the *man of sin* (or the flesh) is "taken out of the way," we will not be glorified (or see God). Yet, the 'man of sin' (flesh) must be REVEALED before it can be removed. Nothing nothing reveals sin like TRIBULATION!

When tribulation arises we are given a choice—will we walk in iniquity (lawlessness), or will we hold fast to our faith. Those who hold fast to their faith and endure til the end, will receive salvation. Those who don't, will receive destruction (or fall away)!

### [1Peter 1:7, 9](#)

Notice, salvation is brought to those who hold fast to faith until the *end*. Most Christians don't realize this about faith, namely that it is intended to bring us to a certain place (salvation), IF we endure to the end of the trial!

Unfortunately, few believe until the end. They are more eager to get through the trial than they are to keep the faith. They don't realize that if they don't keep the faith, nothing else matters!

### [Hebrews 10:35-39](#)

It's like the game of football. It's not enough to get through the defense. You must ALSO maintain possession! Similarly, whenever we go through a trial, the most important thing is to hold on to our faith. We must never speak against what we believe. Instead, we must confess what you believe and always agree with the word. Finally, we must exercise patience and wait til the end for the fulfillment of the promise!

# REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When the Bible talks about the “son of perdition” in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 to whom is it referring? What biblical character shares the same title “son of perdition”?
2. According to Scripture, the true identity of the “son of perdition” will not be known until the last days. Can you think of at least one reason why the identity of the “son of perdition” will remain hidden for so long? Jesus did give us at least one way to “know” the identity of the son of perdition. How did Jesus say we could “know” them?
3. In the Parable of the Good Seed (Matthew 13:24-43), Jesus explains that there are ‘tares’ sown among the ‘wheat’ in God’s kingdom. When did Jesus say these ‘tares’ would be rooted up and removed from the kingdom? What did Jesus say would happen to the ‘children of the kingdom’ once the ‘tares’ are removed?
4. According to 1 Peter 1:5-9, what does it take in order to receive salvation in one’s soul? What is the one thing we must maintain (hold fast to) when we go through any trial or test?