

## Our Future Hope

### Three Phrases

Jesus is revealed (1:7)

Jesus comes (1:10, 2:1)

The Day of the Lord (1:10, 2:2)

### One Event, or Multiple Events?

*Pastor Brian’s take: In this passage, it seems to make the most sense that they both represent one distinct event. The Thessalonians were worried that somehow they missed their future hope (vs. 2). So he says, “that day will not come until...” It seems these phrases are used interchangeably.*

Most important: UNITY!

*Hope Fellowship’s “Theological Minimum”*

*How can we get distracted by this when there are souls at stake, a mission to complete?*

Won’t happen until two events – the Rebellion and the Lawless One

## The Rebellion

This original word was used to refer to a political or military revolt. Some say this indicates the falling away is not of Christians, because such a revolt would be against a power to whom the person was not already committed.

Pastor Brian’s take: a rebellion or revolt means a rejection of the authority of a king. I think this works with the lawlessness which is taught throughout the rest of the passage and coincides with the man of lawlessness.

Further, Paul probably is drawing on Jesus who said “and because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold” Matthew 24:12

## The Man of Lawlessness

### A False Imitation of Christ

He’s a man (vs. 3), who comes (vs. 9), who is revealed (vs. 3), who has supernatural power (vs. 9), who does miracles (vs. 9), and who desires a name above all names (vs. 4). Who does that sound like?!

And so the Apostle John calls this one the antichrist (1 John 2:18).

Opposes all other forms of religion

Colin Smith: “Have you noticed that, not just in our culture but across the world, that people are growing into a consensus that religion promotes intolerance, and intolerance promotes violence?” It’s not hard to imagine such a figure arising and putting to an end all forms of religion.

Keller points out that it is not a man who is anti-law, but it is a man who says there should be no law. It is one who asks, “Who is to say what is right or wrong?”

Takes his place in the temple (two approaches)

Approach 1: *What was in the temple?* A copy of the law, the mercy seat, and the presence of God.

Approach 2: *The center of the temple isn’t a thing, it’s an action. A sign of sacrifice, “my life for yours.”*

The anti-Christ wants to undo these things by placing himself in the temple:

1. No law: no one will tell me what to do
2. No sacrifice: I’m a good person
3. No God: It’s about me
4. Not “my life is for you” but: “your life is for me”

The mystery of lawlessness

Vs. 7 – “The mystery of lawlessness is already at work.” These spiritual powers manifest against us now!

**The Splendor of His Coming and the Destruction of the Man of Lawlessness**

A battle of loves

vs. 10 “They did not love the truth.” vs. 12 “Had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Loving the appearance of Jesus

*To the extent you behold Jesus, you will love his truth and have growing delight in the Lord.*

**Questions for Personal Study**

1. How do we see the power of lawlessness at work in the world today? In ourselves?
2. Are you prepared to hold fast to Christ in the midst of persecution and difficulty?
3. Is your hope in Christ and his return, or are you settling for worldly hopes?
4. Is your heart full of love for God? How do you love him each day?