

12/14/25

The Deceiver And The Deceived
2Thess. 2:9-12

In an examination at a Christian school, the teacher asked the following question: "What is false doctrine?" Up went a little boy's hand, and there came this answer: "It's when the doctor gives the wrong stuff to people who are sick." Although the little boy had obviously confused *doctrine* with *doctorin'*, he arrived at the correct definition. (Ill. Bib. Prech:113)

Paul has clearly shown the Thessalonians that the "Day of The Lord" had not come and to believe that "The Day" had come was contrary to the Scriptures.

1. There would first have to be the falling away.
2. The restrainer would have to be removed.
3. Then and only then would the man of lawlessness be revealed.

Let me remind you what I said in our study of 2Thess. 2:4-8, four things happen at the same time for the seven year tribulation to start, 1) Russia attacks Israel, 2) the rapture takes place, 3) the Day of the LORD or Tribulation period begins, 4) the Antichrist appears on the earth.

1. After God destroys the Russian army with it confederacy of Islamic nations, this gives rise to the Antichrist who will appear as a man of peace on a white horse with a bow and no arrows,

conquering through diplomacy having all the solutions for the world. Rev. 6:1-2

* Can you imagine the world's mindset having witnessed the Divine destruction of Russian and putting an end to the armies of Islam, the greatest threat to the world today!

2. The first 3 ½ years of the tribulation are false peace, as the Antichrist will confirm a seven year covenant with Israel, as their Messiah, but will break it in the middle by offering the abomination of desolation in the temple built by him for the Jews. Dan. 9:27
 3. This will cause the remnant of Israel to flee to the wilderness, where God will protect them for the last 3 ½ years of the Great-Tribulation. Rev. 12:6
 4. At this mid-point the Antichrist will be against every form of religion and worship, demanding absolute worship of himself as god by all, giving every person a number on the right hand or forehead to buy and sell, those refusing will be beheaded. Rev. 13:16-17
- * The 7 years are given in increments two 3 ½ years, 42 months and 1,260 days!

Paul gave three vital facts about the Antichrist, the principle person during the last 3 ½ year period known as the "Day of The Lord". 2Thess. 2:4-8

- I. Paul described the character of the man of lawlessness. vs. 4-5

- II. Paul declared the restraint hindering the appearance of the man of lawlessness. vs. 6-7
- III. Paul disclosed the devastation regarding the man of lawlessness. vs. 8

Paul now revealed the deception of the man of lawlessness, the Antichrist, at his coming by three things. 2Thess. 2:9-12

- I. The nature of his coming. vs. 9-10a
- II. The people of his following. vs. 10
- III. The outcome of his followers. vs. 11-12

I. The nature of his coming. vs. 9-10a

A. The presence of the Antichrist is physical. vs. 9a

* “The coming of the lawless one.”

1. The Antichrist will have his coming to the earth, just as Jesus came the first time.

* He could be alive today somewhere, if we are the generation?

- a. The word coming “parousia” means presence and was used for a royal visit by a ruler of Rome as manifested deity.
 - b. The same word is used of the physical presence of Jesus as He manifests Himself at His Second Coming. vs. 8
2. The Antichrist will be a personification of evil, as Jesus was an Incarnation of God.

a. Paul said, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.” 1Tim. 3:16

* Jesus came when the fulness of time had come. Gal. 4:4

b. Paul said, “And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.” 2Thess. 2:6

* The Mystery of lawlessness is in contrast to the mystery of godliness, the epitome of evil.

c. John says, “Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.” Rev. 13:2

B. The source of the Antichrist is Satanic. vs. 9a

* “is according to the working of Satan”.

1. The Antichrist will be working in complete dependence on Satan.

- a. The word working “energia”, means power in action.
- b. The word energy is derived from it.
- c. The same word in a different form is used for the fact that the mystery of

lawlessness is already at work in the world, prior to his appearance. vs. 7

2. The Antichrist will be in partnership with Satan.
 - a. The Antichrist ascends from the bottomless pit, abuso, shaft. Rev. 17:8
 - b. The working of the Antichrist is blasphemous. Rev. 13:1
 - c. The Antichrist receives his power, throne and great authority from the dragon Satan. Rev. 13:2
 - e. The Antichrist or the beast and false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire alive. Rev. 19:20
 - f. The Devil is cast in to the Lake of Fire, where both the beast and false prophet shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. Rev. 20:10
 - * Antichrist is distinct from Satan and the false prophet!

C. The credentials of the Antichrist are supernatural. vs. 9b-d

- * “with all power, signs, and lying wonders.”
- 1. The Antichrist reveals All power “dunamis” means miraculous force.
 - a. Power to solve sinister schemes and world problems. Dan. 8:23
 - b. Power of speech to captivate people. Dan 7:20

c. Power to cause craft to prosper. Dan. 8:25; 11:43

* But his power is not greater than God's!

2. Antichrist will reveal signs “semeion” means an indication or token as evidence of supernatural authority.
 - * The false prophet and Antichrist both will do this, and foretold by Christ. Matt. 24:24; Rev. 13:11-15
3. The Antichrist will reveal wonders “teras” means something that causes one to watch or observe and marvel and be astonished.
 - a. They that dwell on the earth shall wonder. Rev. 17:8
 - b. The false prophet is a focus of signs and wonders. Rev. 13:11-18
 - c. The word lying “psudos” refers to all three, Satan, the false prophet and the Antichrist, descriptive of their intent.
 - 1) They are steeped in falsehood, in order to seduce people from the truth.
 - 2) Jesus used the same word regarding the religious leaders, “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a **lie**, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” Jn. 8:44

4. These same words, power, signs and wonders are used of Jesus and the apostles, whose source is God. Acts 2:22; Rom. 15:19; 2Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:4

D. The character of the Antichrist is deceptive.
vs. 10a

* “And with all unrighteous deception”.

1. The Antichrist will appear as a man of peace on a white horse, as we have noted, but war, famine, pestilence and death will follow him. Rev. 6
* Jesus came with all righteous truth!
2. The Antichrist will confirm a seven year covenant with Israel, but break it after 3 1/2 years. Dan. 9:27
3. The Antichrist will help build the temple and then use it to show himself as God in it. 2Thess. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2
4. Jesus warned of the danger.
 - a. On the Olivet discourse He said, “For false Christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. Matt. 24:24; Mk. 13:22
 - b. Nicodemus who came by night to Jesus made a wrong assessment regarding miracles, he said to Jesus, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” Jn. 3:2

- 1) The Antichrist will not be from God, but Satan, and will perform miracles.
- 2) The revelation that the Antichrist will come “with all unrighteous deception” confirms the fulfillment of all the prophecies about the acceptance of the Antichrist by Israel and the world by his deception!

Illustration

Hitler was a hero to Germany, but as time moved on, he revealed his true colors, but the interworking's of his plan and character were at work from the beginning.

Application

1. The physical presence of evil in our day is overwhelming.
 - a. The educators and those in authority have not seen the real value the family, mothers and fathers in the home, to destroy our nation.
 - b. The unbelievers believe any form of supervision for children will do, how can that be when people are immoral and unethical?
 - c. The philosophy of “It takes a village to raise a child”, was made popular by Hillary Clinton.
 - * The only problem is that it removes objective truth and consequences that the child may grow to know absolute boundaries, but rather subjectivism and relativity that ends up destroying the child and the village!

2. The source in our world is more demonic each day.
 - a. The New Age movement in part is based on demons, seeking channelers and spirit guides.
 - b. The seeking of help from paranormal agents to solve crimes by police is not looked down on.
 - c. The teaching of the occult by our Universities is nothing new.
 - d. The number of movies that depict demon activity or possession is a normal thing.
3. The character of our day is deception.
 - a. Teaching that there is nothing wrong with premarital sex, in fact the youth are facilitated by the handing out of condoms.
 - b. The killing of babies by many forms of abortion are considered and promoted as a good thing.
 - c. The AID's virus and the facts were distorted and lied about in the 70' and 80's.
 - d. The homosexual lifestyle is presented as alternate and normal, to redefine the family as well as the entire transexual movement to destroy children from ever reproducing.
 - * The source of all this is Satanic in nature, "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. 2Cor. 11:13-15

The nature of his coming is Satanic!

II. The people of his following. vs. 10

- A. The spiritual state of the people at the time of the Antichrist is described. vs. 10a
 - * "among those who perish", literally who are perishing.
 1. Those who have not been born-again and are dead in trespasses and sins. Eph. 2:1
 2. Those who walk according to the course of this world, according to the presence and power of the air. Eph. 2:2a-b
 3. Those who are children of disobedience by nature. Eph. 2:2c
 - * The process is ongoing until one accepts Jesus, unless they receive the mark of the beast which seals their eternity!
- B. The spiritual blindness of the people is declared to be of their own choosing. vs. 10b
 - * "because they did not receive the love of the truth."
 1. The people will not welcome the truth of the gospel.
 - a. The word receive "dechomai", means to receive by deliberate and ready reception of what is offered.
 - 1) The idea of welcoming is behind this word.

- 2) The same word is used of being welcomed into one's house. Lk. 16:4
- 3) The word is used of the Thessalonians welcoming God's word. 1Thess. 2:13
- b. The word truth "aletheia" means the reality and genuineness of the message.
 - 1) The truth of Christian doctrine, God's holiness, man's sinfulness, the need of repentance for salvation.
 - 2) Jesus used the word for His own person, "I Am the way, the **truth**: and the life, and no man comes to the Father but by Me." Jn. 14:6
- 2. The people will not welcome the love of God.
 - a. The word Love is "agape", identifying God's divine unmerited love.
 - b. The love of the Father giving His Son. Jn. 3:16
 - c. The love is the motive behind the messengers to impart the gospel.
- 3. The people will choose not to make this decision of their own free-will, having all the truth of God's word, the evidence of creation and the depravity of man all around them.
 - a. Jesus will force no person to repent.
 - b. Jesus will honor the decision of a person to go to hell for all eternity.

- C. The spiritual need of the people is confirmed. vs. 10c
 - * "That they might be saved."
 - 1. The people will neither see themselves in need of salvation from sin or being a sinner.
 - 2. The people will not acknowledge the human race as fallen or the product of sin. Rom. 1:18-21; Eph. 4:17-19
 - 3. The people will throw away the free gift of God, salvation by grace, through faith. Eph. 2:8-9
 - 4. The people will insist on the covenant with hell and all the evil around them.

Illustration

Man is like a blind man who attempts to see the sun and describe it to another, he is deceiving himself!

Application

- 1. God reveals the state of man clearly throughout the Scriptures in order to turn man from his sin. Is. 64:6
 - * "But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away."
- 2. God gives every person a choice to except or reject with the promise that none of their unrighteousness will be mentioned or their righteousness if they turn from it, through the watchman, nor will a person be punished for the sins of another. Ezk. 18:20-22; 32

* “The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. “But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live.”

3. God takes no delight in the death of the wicked.
Ezk. 18:23a, 32a; 33:11

* “Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord GOD, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live?”

4. The tragedy is that the Lake of Fire was made for no one but Satan and his angels, but countless of people will end up there for all eternity. Matt. 25:41

The people of his following are spiritually blind and dead!

III. The outcome of his followers. vs. 11-12

A. God will honor the choice of the person. vs. 11

* “And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie.”

1. God will send them strong delusion.

a. The reason is not based on God’s lack of patience or love, but their hardened

hearts and rejection of God and His word.

1) God has communicated His love letter, the gospel.

2) The people will reject the gospel continuously.

b. The word delusion “plane” means a wandering, whereby those who are led astray roam here and there.

1) The word is used always in the New Testament of mental strategy, wrong opinion, error in morals or religion.

2) The word is used for the spirit of error.
1Jn. 4:6

3) This is an active forwarding of evil in and through the man of lawlessness.

2. God will allow them to believe the lie.

a. The word lie “psudos”, means a conscious and intentional falsehood.

b. The outcome is that they should believe the lie, literally, the lie, Satan.

d. The product of God’s allowance is a long process of God’s long patience on an ongoing basis of their unbelief.

e. God is in control and ordering things as to all that Satan can do and what God allows without violating man’s free will, while at the same time pouring out His wrath in punishment righteously deserved.

- f. The key phrase in the Great-Tribulation is “power was given to them, etc.” Rev. 9:3, 10; 11:3, 6; 13:2, 15; 16:8, 9
- 3. The word “God” is emphatic, He is the one sending as a consequences of their choice and divine retribution.
 - a. This is the outcome of sinning against His love and love letter of the gospel.
 - b. This is the outcome of His love without concern for one’s sins.
 - 1) God sent a distressing spirit upon Saul. 1Sam. 18:10
 - 2) God sent a lying spirit in the mouth of the false prophets in the days of Micaiah. 1Kings 22:23
 - * Some believe perhaps those who have rejected the gospel during the age of grace, will not be able to believe?
- B. God will judge the people. vs. 12
 - * “that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
 - 1. God’s sentence is perfect and just.
 - * “That they may be condemned”.
 - a. The word condemned “krino” means to distinguish, choose or give an opinion as a verdict.
 - b. The giving up was due to their own ongoing rebellion against God’s love.

- 2. God’s judgment is the verdict based on their guilt.
 - * “Who did not believe the truth.”
 - a. The word is the same word for the love of the truth. vs. 11
 - b. The need of the person and people to repentance for salvation as sinners.
 - c. The revelation that God created them and loves them by dying for them. 2Thess. 1:7-10; Jn. 3:36
- 2. God’s judgment is the verdict based on their practice.
 - * “But had pleasure in unrighteousness.” Jn. 3:19; Rom. 1:22-23
 - a. The progression is certain and downward, God gave them up to uncleanness, vile passions and debased or reprobate mind!
 - b. She who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives. 1Tim. 5:6
 - c. The Psalmist declared, “Surely the wrath of man shall praise you.” Ps. 76:10a

Illustration

Some years ago a druggist in the East advertised as follow: “ THE DRUG STORE YOU CAN PATRONIZE WITH CONFIDENCE- ACCURACY AND EXPERIENCE, OUR MOTTO.” After many years of making up prescriptions for the neighborhood, it was discovered that he was doing so without a license. He was not an expert pharmacist.

Who knows how many people suffered in health from his inexpert prescribing or filling of prescription?
How many deaths had he caused? #1105

Application

1. Beginning with Israel God has always given man a choice and He seeks to persuade us, lovingly. Deut. 30:19-20

* “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

2. God will answer according to man’s idols after their hardness of heart. Ezk. 14:1-5

* “Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them? Therefore speak to them, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the LORD will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, that I may seize the house

of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols.”

3. Jesus is the judge of every woman and man that has ever lived. Jn. 5:22-23

* “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, “that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

This is the outcome of his followers, eternal separation!

Conclusion

Paul has revealed the deception of the man of lawlessness, the Antichrist, at his coming by three things.

- I.** The nature of his coming is Satanic!
- II.** The people of his following are spiritually blind and dead!
- III.** The outcome of his followers is eternal separation!