

11/30/25

The Certainty Of The Antichrist!

2Thess. 2:4-8

Paul attempted to comfort the Thessalonians regarding the false teaching that the Day of The Lord, had started in the opening three verses, by: 2Thess. 3:1-3

- I. Reminding them of what they knew. vs. 1
- II. Reproving them for what they had believed. vs. 2
- III. Re-instructing them on what they had forgotten. vs. 3

Having done that, Paul continued to show them the folly believing that the “Day of The Lord” had already come by focusing on the man of sin during the last 3 ½ years, the Great-Tribulation. 2Thess. 2:4-8

* Remember four things happen at the same time for the seven year tribulation to start, Russia attacks Israel, the rapture, the Day of the LORD, and the Antichrist appears on the earth.

- 1. God will destroy the Russian army with it confederacy of Islamic nations, which will give 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, making the way for the Antichrist! And the weapons of the war are burned for fuel for 7 years. Ezk. 39:9

- 2. The first 3 ½ years of the tribulation are as we said will be a false peace, as the Antichrist will confirm a seven year covenant with Israel, as their Messiah, but brake it in the middle by offering the abomination of desolation in the temple he will build for the Jews. Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15
- 3. The remnant of Israel will flee to the wilderness, where God will protect them for the last 3 ½ years of the Great-Tribulation. Is. 16:1, 4; 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, providing a number on the right hand or forehead to buy and sell, those not bowing to his will be beheaded. Rev. 13:16-17

Paul gives 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

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

A. The attitude of the Antichrist is marked by rebellion. vs. 4a

1. He will decide to oppose God.

* “Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God.”

a. This takes place at the beginning of the last 3 ½ years of Great-Tribulation.

* When the abomination of desolation take place.

b. The personal pronoun “who”, refers back to the title of “The man of sin, the son of perdition in verse three depicting his character of rebellion, opposition to God.

* Paul qualifies him as, lawlessness.

c. The word opposes “antikimai” means to be opposite, be adverse, or withstand.

1) The man will be the epitome of all that is contrary to God!

2) The word is used of the Spirit and the flesh being contrary to one another. Gal. 5:17

2. He will desire to be above God.

* “Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is worshipped.”

a. The source is pride.

1) The word exalt “huperauiromai” means to lift up over something, be haughty, or insolent towards one.

2) The word appears three times in the New Testament.

3) The other two times are used by Paul to describe the purpose of his thorn in the flesh to not be “exalted above measure”. 2Cor. 12:7

b. The purpose is power.

1) The word worshipped “sabasma” means whatever is religiously honored, an object of worship.

2) Paul used the word as he addressed the Athenians regarding their altars, temples and statues etc. Acts 17:23

3) The central idea is that of adoration and dedication.

4) The man of sin and lawlessness defies “all”, be it true or false.

* Both verbs are in the present participle, a continuous attitude.

B. The actions of the Antichrist are marked by self enthronement in the temple of God. vs. 4b

* “So that he sits as God in the temple of God.”

1. His actions are only the product of the process of his attitudes!

a. This is at the middle of the seven years.

b. This is the abomination of desolation Jesus said Daniel declared Matt. 24:15

2. He presumes on his authority, “he sits”.

a. The position of sitting is symbolic of rest and ruling control, but it is temporary.

- b. This was Satan's threat to God, "For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heave, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High". Is. 14:13-14; Ezk. 28:11-19
- 2. He presumes on his person "as God".
 - a. Denying his own human mortality. Ezk. 28:2; Dan. 7:25; 11:36
 - b. Deifying himself before the world.
- 3. He pollutes the place of worship "in the temple of God".
 - a. Defiling the inner sanctuary of the Holy place and most Holy, the word is, "naos".
 - b. Declaring clearly in this verse that the temple has to be rebuilt. (next point)
- 4. He fulfills the prophesy of Daniel, quoted by Jesus as a key sign. Matt. 24:15; Dan. 12:11
 - a. Antiochus Epiphanes was a type of the Antichrist, the lawless man, son of perdition, the beast, all are the same person. Dan 8:11; 11:31
 - b. In 168 B. C. Antiochus set up an altar to Zeus and slaughtered a pig on it forcing the priest to eat it, inciting the Maccabean revolt.
 - c. Antiochus did not fulfill the prophesy in its ultimate prediction for Jesus placed it in the future.

- * Many prophecies have a two-fold fulfillment, if not more in types!
 - d. Gaius Caligula also didn't in 40 A. D. as he attempted to set up a statue, but died.
 - e. Titus the Roman general who destroyed the temple in 70 A. D. also didn't fulfill it, otherwise Jesus had to have returned in 1290 days after to set up His kingdom as He told Daniel. Dan. 12:11
- C. The appeal of the Antichrist is marked by subtle deception. vs. 4c
 - * "showing himself that he is God."
 - 1. Deception by his policy of peace. Dan. 9:27
 - a. He will confirm a covenant with Israel for 7 years, the 70th week of Daniel's prophesy and brake it in the middle.
 - 1) Jesus told the Jews, "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive." Jn. 5:43
 - 2) The first sixty-nine weeks have been fulfilled, 483 years or 173,880 days.
 - 3) The first 3 1/2 years he will officiate the first aspect of the prefix "anti", instead of Messiah or in place of.
 - b. He will help rebuild the temple as part of the covenant.
 - 1) The first temple was Solomon's.

- 2) The second temple was Zerubbabel's, after the Babylonians captivity. (Herod's temple was Zerubbabel's temple that was enlarged and beautified by Herod.
- 3) The third temple will be the temple of the Antichrist build for the Jews in the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation.
 - a) This is where he will sit in the temple, showing himself that he is god. vs. 4b-c
 - b) John tells us the outer court is given to the Gentiles for 42 months. Rev. 11:1-2
- 4) The fourth Temple is in the Kingdom Age, the Millennium. Ezk. 40-48
 - a) Pastor Chuck Smith taught the Dome of the Rock now on the Temple Mound and the temple the Antichrist will build would stand together with a wall separating the holy area from the common or profane.
 - b) He used Ezk. 42:20, but it cannot be correct, the context of that temple is in the Millennium.
2. Deception by his power over death and man.
 - a He will survive a deadly head wound. Rev. 13:3, 14
 - b. He will overcome man by Satan's supernatural powers. Rev. 13:2, 4, 15-18

- c. He will slander God and slay the saints. Rev. 13:5-7
3. Deception by his political preeminence.
 - a. He will rise to power by the ten nation confederacy, the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image. Rev. 17:12; 13:1; Dan. 7:24; 2:41
 - b. He will rule over the ten nations. Rev. 17:13
 - c. He will ravage the religious harlot. Rev. 17:16-17
 - d. He is the "little horn" of Daniel. Dan. 7:8, 20
- D. The affirmation of the Antichrist was nothing new. vs. 5
 - * "Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?"
 - 1. Paul reprovved the Thessalonians for their failure to remember what they knew.
 - 2. Paul had taught them these very things when he was still with them in the founding of the church.
 - 3. Paul had taught them about the rapture and the Day of wrath in the first letter. 1Thess. 4:17; 5:1-9

Illustration

Absalom was a man of evil character exalting himself above David his father, as he judged at the gate and stole the people's hearts.

Application

The similarities of the Antichrist, the Son of Perdition, the man of sin, the lawless one and those who reject God and Jesus as Savior are interesting.

1. All rebellion against God is marked by a spirit that is contrary to God and His Spirit. 1Sam. 15:22-23

* “So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

2. All rejection of God as Creator and redeemer leads to self-exaltation and self-worship, if this identifies you, then you are sitting as a god in your body that should be the temple of God. 1Cor. 6:19

* “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

3. All who hold this philosophy fall into self-deception, telling themselves they can live any way they want and escape death and judgment. Heb. 9:27

* “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

Paul described the character of the man of lawlessness!

II. Paul declared the restraint hindering the appearance of the man of lawlessness. vs. 6-7

A. The Thessalonians knew as well as Paul what was restraining the Antichrist from being revealed. vs. 6a

* “And now you know what is restraining.”

1. The word “what” is in the neuter, Paul is talking about very common knowledge and familiar ground regarding who or what was restraining the appearance of the Antichrist.

2. The word restraining “katecho” means to hold back, prevail or hold down.

B. The Thessalonians as well as Paul knew as long as the restrainer was present, it could not be “the time” of the man of sin or lawlessness. vs. 6b

* “that he may be revealed in his own time.”

1. The personal pronoun “he” refers to the person of the Antichrist to come.

a. John says, “Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.” 1Jn. 2:18

b. John again says, “By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard

was coming, and is now already in the world.” 1Jn. 4:2-3

2. The person of the Antichrist will be revealed in his own time.

- a. The word for time “kairos” means occasion, proper time, or season.

- 1) The word is used for the demons at Gadara, “torment us before the time”. Matt. 8:29

- 2) The word is used by Jesus about the time of His cross, “before My time”. Jn. 7:6

- 3) The word is used by Paul for the “Day of The Lord”, the times “chronos” and seasons “kairos”. 1Thess. 5:1

- b. The time speaks of a very specific period by various names.

- 1) The Day of the LORD. Joel 2; Amos 5

- 2) The 70 Weeks of Daniel. Dan. 9:27

- 3) The time of Jacob's trouble. Jer. 30:7

- 4) The Tribulation and Great-Tribulation. Matt. 24; Mk. 13; Lk. 21

C. The Thessalonians knew as well as Paul that the mystery of lawlessness was presently at work in principle. vs. 7a

* “For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work.”

1. The “mystery of lawlessness” is an unusual term .

- a. This expression is found in the Thanksgiving Psalm in the Dead Sea Scrolls identifying evil and rebellion against God.

- b. The word mystery “musterion” comes from the word, “to shut the mouth”.

- c. The word was used of the secret religions and initiatory rites known only to the members.

2. The term mystery in the New Testament is used of things hidden previously, but now revealed.

- a. It is used of the mystery of Israel’s blindness until the fullness of the Gentiles. Rom. 11:25

- b. It is used of the mystery of the resurrection and rapture. 1Cor. 15:51-52

- c. It is used of the Gospel hidden from ages and generations, but now revealed. Col. 1:26

- d. The term is never used of something not understood or unknown, but equally this knowledge is not known by the natural human intellect, but revealed by God’s word and spiritual illumination.

3. The mystery of lawlessness is more than evil of the world through the fall.

- a. It is the spirit of the Antichrist in principle that is hostile to all that stands for God and Christ.

- b. It is identified with the man of lawlessness and indicated to be at work already. 1Jn. 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2Jn. 7
 - c. The word work “erergeo” means to be efficient and effectively at work.
 - 1) The word is used of the Holy Spirit in the believer. 1Thess. 2:13
 - 2) We get our word energy from it.
- D.** The Thessalonians knew as well as Paul that one day he who now is restraining the man of lawlessness from being revealed in his own season would be removed. vs. 7b
- * “only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.”
- 1. The restrainer was identified in the neuter gender in verse six, but now in the masculine gender “he”, appearing two times in this verse, who is he?
 - * The word taken “ginomai” is in the aorist tense, indicating a definite event!
 - 2. The restrainer has been interpreted and identified in the following ways.
 - a. The Roman empire “neuter”, the emperor “he”, can’t be, where is the Antichrist?
 - b. The Jewish state, no again, the violence of the Antichrist is against Israel.
 - c. Paul, no, where is the Antichrist?
 - d. The preaching of the gospel, impossible, people get save through the gospel.

- e. The Holy Spirit will illuminate, convict and enable sinners to repent from sin during the seven years of tribulation.
 - f. The only viable and correct interpretation is the Church, the salt and light of the world through the Holy Spirit, holding back the full outpouring of the mystery of lawlessness in and by the person of the Antichrist, not just the principle at work.
- 3.** The restrainer will be taken out of the way.
- a. The word way “mesos” denotes middle, among or in the midst.
 - * The word is used by Jesus, “I send you as sheep in the midst of wolves”. Matt 10:16
 - b. The restrainer will be taken out from the midst of society, which the mystery of lawlessness is already working in principle.
 - 1) Some argue that the neuter in verse 6a represent the Holy Spirit that is removed, but Jesus taught the role of the Holy Spirit is convict the world of sin and operate through the church? Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13, 14; Acts 1:8
 - 2) Again without the Holy Spirit present in the seven years of tribulation, no one could or would be saved.
 - 3) My Spirit will not always strive with man. Gen. 6:3

Illustration

The law of gravity is restrained by the law of aerodynamics which holds back the full force of gravity from taking place!

Application

* The Thessalonians knew as well as Paul, certain and absolute facts about the man of lawlessness and the restrainer, do you understand them so that you are not deceived like them?

1. Remember both the person of lawlessness, the Antichrist and the power of restraint the church cannot be present at the same time.

- a. The time of Grace is from the First Coming of Jesus till the rapture.
- b. The time of the wrath of God is Jacob's trouble.

* Jesus warned, "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." Lk. 21:34-36

2. Remember each has their own season or time period.

- a. The church is the bride of Christ called out of darkness of the world to the Kingdom of the Son of His love.

b. The Man of Sin, the Antichrist will bring the greatest darkness of deception to the world.

* "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive." Jn. 5:43

3. Remember the mystery of lawlessness is active in the present time of the church in principle, but not in the person of the Antichrist, until his set time.

* "Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour." 1Jn. 2:18

4. The removal of the restrainer, the church at the rapture, will give way to the revelation of the Antichrist.

* "By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world." 1Jn. 4:2-3

Paul declared the restraint hindering the appearance of the man of lawlessness!

III. Paul disclosed the devastation regarding the man of lawlessness. vs. 8

A. The devastation regarding the world. vs. 8a

* "And then the lawless one will be revealed."

1. Once the restrainer is removed the man of lawlessness will be revealed.
 - a. The word revealed “apokalupto” means to be unveiled.
 - 1) This is the third time the word appears in this form regarding his unveiling. 2Thess. 2:3, 6, 8
 - 2) The falling away of verse three, certainly will begin before his revelation and reach its climax at the departure and removal of the church. 1Tim. 4:1-4; 2Tim. 3:1-9; 13; 4:3-5
2. Once the restrainer is removed the “Day of The Lord” will begin.
 - a. False peace and safety followed by sudden destruction. 1Thess. 5:3
 - b. God will turn the world over to believe the lie. 2Thess. 2:10-11
 - c. The Antichrist will appear as a man of peace through diplomacy, but war, famine, pestilence and persecution will follow him. Rev. 6:1-11
 - * It’s called “The hour which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” Rev. 3:10
- B. The devastation regarding his person. vs. 8b
 - * “whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.”
 1. The Lord will bring him to his end.

- a. The word consume “analisko” means to use up, destroy.
 - 1) The word is used of the disciple desiring to call down fire from heaven to consume the Samaritans. Lk. 9:54
 - 2) The word is used of Christians consuming one another by their flesh. Gal. 5:15
- b. The Lord is the One doing the consuming of his person.
 - 1) God spoke the world into existence. Gen. 1:1
 - 2) Jesus will put a stop to his person by the breath of His mouth.
 - 3) It does not mean annihilation!
2. The Lord will destroy him with the brightness of His coming. “Is 10:4”
 - a. The word destroy “katargeo” means to make idle, inoperative or inactive.
 - 1) He will no longer have his place and power as has been described.
 - 2) He will no longer deceive anyone.
 - b. The word brightness “epiphania” means manifestation in physical presence and glory “parousia”. 2Thess. 1:7-9
 - 1) God is called a man of war. Is. 42:13
 - 2) Jesus returns to fight the battle of Armageddon. Rev. 19:11-21
 - 3) Nebuchadnezzar image was struck with a stone not cut with hand at the feet and it crumbled, then the stone

grew till it covered the entire earth,
 setting up the Kingdom Age. Dan. 2
 * He will say, “You were, I Am!”

Illustration

The Covid Pandemic was a plandemic, it was a global experiment to see how far the people of the world would obey blindly to bow to the globalist, they admitted to it all being false the following year orders, under the guise to save the world, when in fact it was the greatest power and money grab globally. It killed millions, destroyed business, disrupted everyone's education, attempted to shut down churches and people were not permitted to visit their sick loved ones and they felt abandoned and died all alone.
 * This was the dress-rehearsal for the Antichrist!

Application

1. The Scriptures clearly teach the world is not going to get better, “But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.
2Tim. 3:13
 * This is not being a pessimist, but a realist!
2. Think about the evil that will take hold in the future times, if in our day evil is so unchecked already?
 * Jesus said, “Unless those days were shortened, no one would be saved.” Mk. 13:20
3. Take a warning from the Antichrist, he will not escape his rebellion and live forever in his life of power and self-will, nor will you, but cast into the Lake of Fire.

* The Lake of Fire is the end for all rebels! Rev. 20:11-15
 * You only have a set number of years, use them wisely, serve God!

Paul disclosed the devastation regarding the man of lawlessness!

Conclusion

Paul has given the Thessalonians three vital facts about the Antichrist, the principle person during the period known as the “Day of The Lord”.

- I. Paul described his evil character!
- II. Paul declared that there is a restrainer hindering his appearance!
- III. Paul disclosed his devastation of the man of Lawlessness!