



**Gleanings from Paul's Epistles**  
**"The Mysterious Man of Sin"**  
**2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

**Setting of the Letter**

DATE: Written around A.D. 52.

CONDITION OF THE CHURCH: See Acts 17:1-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT ESCHATOLOGY:**

- In 1 Thessalonians Paul wrote about the return of Christ and what happens to Christians who die before Jesus returns to earth.
- Not long afterward he received a report that the Thessalonians had been thrown into confusion. False teachers claimed to have a message from Paul that the Day of the Lord had already come! (2 Thessalonians 2:2)
- Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians to comfort the church, correct the confusion, and address some problems with idleness.
- His basic message in 2:1-12 is that the Day of the Lord (Christ's second coming to bring judgment on the earth) will not occur until certain events happen first.

**Events Leading Up to the Day of the Lord**

**1. The restrainer is taken out of the way.**

*Verses 6-7 – "And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way."*

Who or what restrains lawlessness and prevents the man of sin from assuming power?

**2. The man of lawlessness is revealed.**

*Verses 3-4, 9-10 – The Day of the Lord will not come until "the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. [His] coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish..."*

He is a counterfeit Christ...

<b>Jesus</b>	<b>Man of Sin</b>
“Coming” described in v. 8	“Coming” described in v. 9
Relies on power of Holy Spirit	Relies on power of Satan
Performs signs & wonders	Performs signs & wonders
Claims to be God	Claims to be God
Sits on the throne of God	Sits in the temple of God
Speaks truth (v. 10)	Speaks lies (v. 11)

1 John 2:18 – “Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.”

There have been many antichrists throughout history:

- King of Babylon (Isaiah 14:13-14)
- King of Tyre (Ezekiel 28:2)
- Antiochus Epiphanes – 169 BC (Daniel 11:31-36)
- Roman General Titus – AD 70 (Matthew 24:15-16)
- See also 1 John 2:22, 4:3

These are all precursors to the Antichrist.

What is the “temple of God” referred to in verse 4?

### 3. The apostasy comes.

*Verse 3 – “... for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first...”*

What is the apostasy?

### 4. The Lord returns.

*Verse 8 – “Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming...”*

## Conclusion

**A plea for salvation...**

**A caution against dogmatism...**

**An exhortation for godly living...**