

Spirit of Truth Part 2

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, **2** not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. **3** Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. **4** He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

- The church of Thessalonica had received a false word from what they thought was Paul...
- They were told the Lord had already come, gathered his church and they missed it...
- The church was concerned fearing first that they had missed the coming of the Lord and the second possible concern being, that they were now entering the tribulation period...
- The Apostle Paul reassures them, that is not the case...
- He says “***Don't let anyone deceive you***”
- He continues, “*for that day will not come until the rebellion (**falling away, great apostasy**) occurs and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, **the man doomed to destruction**”*

Vs. 3-4

and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. **4** He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

- *some* traditional beliefs of this **man of lawlessness** believe this not to be an individual, but a system or an office.
- However, from the obvious reading of the text it is understood that this man of lawlessness will be an individual...
- The early church fathers understood this to be the Antichrist...
- And he will be a unifier and will be supported by governments and systems...
- **The Devil copies what God does...**
- **Before Jesus there was John who preached, “Make straight the way of the Lord...”**
- **The Antichrist will also have a demonic prophetic ushering in...**

Vs. 7-9

7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; **but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.** **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. **He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, 10 and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.** They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Vs.7

For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; **but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.**

- Paul says to the church in 49-51AD - “the secret power of lawlessness is already at work”

- How much more today?

“but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.”

**God is in control of the sequence and timing of end time events...
The Devil is not in control...**

The Holy Spirit is holding back the power of lawlessness and revealing of the antichrist...

- **The Holy Spirit is still doing a work...**
- **The Holy Spirit is still revealing Jesus...**
- **The Holy Spirit is still revealing truth...**
- **The Holy Spirit is still reaping a harvest...**
- **The Holy Spirit is holding back the power of lawlessness and it's revealing...**
- **And he will continue until the time comes when he is taken out of the way...**

Vs. 9-10

9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. **He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, 10 and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing.** They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

- **When John was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”**

Matthew 11

4 Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: **5** The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

Because the Devil copies God, he will use all sorts of displays through signs and wonders to serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives...

Video: Pastor Interviewed

Matthew 24

24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Titus 3

3 At one time we too were **foolish, disobedient, deceived** and **enslaved** by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of **rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit**, **6** whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.

Closing Song:

Matthew 24

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.

Revelation 20

10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.