

Introduction: Welcome, Teaching Practice.

>>> A. Topic Of Chapter 2: End-Time Events. (Eschatology, Eschatological.)

- Related To Chapter 1: Severe Persecution. Coming Judgment. Jesus Revealed In Flaming Fire. Divine Relief Of Suffering.

>>> B. Prerequisites To Teaching End-Time Events:

- First Prerequisite: Humility. Acknowledge Fogginess And Uncertainty.

Driving In Fog Ill. Mailbox? Walking Dog? Reality = Tree. Clearer As We Become Closer.

- Second Prerequisite: Unity. Not Divided Over Differences With Other Christians. Don't Make Our End-Time Theology A Test Of Orthodoxy.

- **Third Prerequisite: Simplicity. Not A Shallow Teaching, But Not Too Much Information Either. Complexity Hinders More Than Helps.**

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2. Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

>>> A. Introduces Subject: “The Coming Of Our Lord Jesus Christ And Our Being Gathered Together To Him.”

- Two Different Events Or One Event Described In Two Different Ways?

Haiti Wedding And Reception Ill. Expected Two Events, One Follows Another.
Experienced One Simultaneous Event.

- Some Say The Same Is True With End-Time Events Of Rapture, Second Coming, Appearing.

>>> B. My Biased Opinion = Two Distinct Events.

- “Gathered Together To Him” = Earlier Rapture: Jesus Coming For His People. Prior To The Entire Tribulation.
- Seem Unbelievable? Disappearances Easily Explained Due To Catastrophes.
- “Coming Of Our Lord” = Parousia. Jesus’ Public Appearing. Worldwide. All Eyes Will See Him. Set Up His Kingdom. Jesus Coming With His People.

>>> **C. Reasoning For Belief In Two Different, But Related Events:**

- Biblical Differences In Descriptions: Sometimes Teaches Unexpectedness, Unknown Time, “Like A Thief In The Night.” Sometimes Teaches Clear Preceding Events Before Jesus’ Second Coming. “For” Or “With”
- Biblical Examples Of Rescue: Example Of Lot Leaving City Of Sodom, Noah Entering Safety Of Ark Before Judgment.
- Biblical Precedent: Teachings Of The Messiah’s Coming In The Old Testament. Intermingled, But Spoke Of Two Different Events Separated In Time.

Main Point #1: The Teaching Of A Pre-Tribulation Rapture Can Be Biblically Supported But So Can Other Positions.

- Contrary To Claims Of Recent, Biblically Unsupported Doctrine.
- There Is Fogginess To Some Degree.

>>> D. Verse 2 Presents Paul's Main Concern For These Christians. “ ...the day of the Lord has come.”

- Convinced They Are Currently Experiencing The “Day Of The Lord.”

>>> E. “Day Of The Lord” Used Hundreds Of Times In The Bible.

- Not Referring Necessarily To A Single Day, But A Period Of Time.
- It Refers To A Time In Which God Acts Remarkably To Bring About Judgment And Redemption, Especially The Ultimate World-Wide Judgment And Promised Kingdom (New World Order.)

>>> F. Current Experiences Of These Christians Make Them Ripe For This Misunderstanding:

- Severe Persecution. Political Upheaval. Major Catastrophes. Growing Immorality.

>>> G. False Teaching Making End-Time Claims: Explain “By A Spirit” = Prophecy. “Spoken Word” = Rational Teaching. Counterfeit Letter (Identity Theft.)

>>> H. “Quickly Shaken In Mind Or Alarmed.” Agitated. Greek Word Can Often Negative (Worried, Fearful) But Can Be Positive (Anticipating.)

Anticipated Favor Singer At Concert III. “This Is It!” Just Roadies Tuning Instrument.

>>> I. Problem = All Worked Up About End-Time Events.

- We Should Be Interested. We Should Be Excited. We Should Be Studious.
- We Should Not Become Overly Responsive To World Events That Are Typical And Not Necessarily Indicative Of The Soon Return Of Jesus.

Mark 13:7. And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet.

Main Point #2: Christians Should Not Overreact To Life Events Or Spiritual Teachings Regarding End-Time Events.

- Another Best-Selling Book Proclaimed As Biblical And Irrefutable.
- Another Major Event Seen As Absolute Proof.

Husband Rushing To Pack And Get Pregnant Wife, Who Is Moaning In Pain, To The Hospital For Baby III. Overreacting To Stubbed Toe. No Extended Belly. No Labor Pains. Only 1 Month Pregnant. Preliminary Events To Expect!

>>> J. Next Few Verses Paul Proves The Error Of Those Who Claiming To Be In The End-Times, Known As A Day Of The Lord.

- Some Clear Events Have Not Happened Yet. They Are Prerequisites. They Must Happen First Before The Day Of The Lord.

1 Thessalonians 2:3-4. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

>>> A. “Let No One Deceive You In Any Way...”

- Personally Responsible For Being Careful, Diligent. Sincerity Isn't Enough.

Call From IRS Or Social Security Ill. Don't Be Duped. Stay Alert Despite Claim Of Authority.

>>> B. Two Events Precede This Final Period Called “The Day Of The Lord” Or “Great Tribulation.”

- These Events Do Not Necessarily Precede The Rapture, Which Could Happen At Any Moment.

>>> C. Event #1: “That Day Will Not Come, Unless The Rebellion Comes First...”

>>> D. “The Rebellion” Not “A” Rebellion. Very Specific Event. Note Previous Oral Teaching.

- Greek Word “Rebellion” Is Apostasia. English Word Apostasy.
- Defined As: Abandoning Or Moving Away From A Position Formally Held.

>>> E. Two Primary Ways This Greek Word Was Used:

- Primary Way: Spiritual And Moral Rebellion (Apostasy.)
- Reject Fundamental Teachings Of The Christian Faith: Jesus’ Deity. Inspiration Of The Bible. Salvation By Grace. Exclusivity Of Christ. Moral Autonomy (“Everyone Did What Was Right In Own Eyes.)

2 Timothy 3:5. (In the last days people will be) having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

- Primary Way: Spiritual And Moral Rebellion (Apostasy.)
- Secondary Way: Political Rebellion. Rejecting Normal Governing Authorities. Anarchy. (Reject Legitimate Spiritual And Governing Authorities.)

>>> **F. These Two Types Rebellion Are Regularly Occurring. Sign Seems Unhelpful, Too General.**

Sign Of Approaching Hurricane Ill. Wind Is Blowing. Need Something More Unique.

>>> **G. “The” Rebellion Is Identifiable Because It Is Connected To A Unique, Coinciding Event.**

>>> **H. Event #2: Vs. 3. “The Man Of Lawlessness Is Revealed.” He Will Be Easily Identifiable:**

- Claims To Be God.
- Worldwide Recognition.
- Demands And Receives Supreme Worship.

- Submission To His Authority By Rulers, Leaders Of The Whole World.
- Total Rejection Of Biblical, Moral Standard.
- Satanic Power To Do Miraculous Signs And Wonders That Are Believed.

Main Point #3: The Specific Rebellion That Precedes The Day Of The Lord's Judgment Is The Worldwide Rejection Of Jesus In Order To Worship, Submit To, And Follow A Miracle-Working Man Who Claims To Be Christ And God.

- I Believe That The Church Will Not Be Here On Earth When This Event Occurs, But If We Happen To Witness Such An Event, Then You Can Get Worked Up.

>>> I. This Person's Nature And Activities Are Described In Verses 3-4.

>>> J. "Man Of Lawlessness." Zero Respect For Adherence To God's Law. Encourages Rejection And Rebellion.

Main Point #4: The Title "Man Of Lawlessness" Indicates That This End-Time Leader Will Radically Disregard And Disrespect God's Moral Standards.

- Moral Trajectory In America Makes The Rise Of Such A Leader More Believable.

>>> K. Widespread, Open, Proud, Promoted Lawlessness: Political Leaders, Social Influencers, Business Leaders, And Church Leaders.

- Abortion (Proud, Shout, Standing Ovation In New York For Full Term, Any Reason Abortion.)
- Sexual Sin (Protestant Church Leadership, Television/Movies, Businesses And Commercials Celebrating Perversion, Abominations.)
- Idol Moloch Being Displayed In Roman Colosseum With Approval Of Vatican. Very Place Faithful Christians Died As Martyrs.)

Show Picture Of Moloch.

>>> L. The Downward Moral Trajectory In World Makes The Rise Of Such A Leader Known For Being “Lawless” Very Believable.

Main Point #4: The Title “Man Of Lawlessness” Indicates That This End-Time Leader Will Radically Disregard And Disrespect God's Moral Standards.

>>> M. Verse 3. “Will Be Revealed.” Apocalypto.

- Same Word Used Of Jesus In 2 Thessalonians 1:7.
- Other Similarities: Coming Or Parousia In Verse 9. Miracles And Signs And Wonders In Verse 9.

>>> N. My Point: This Man Of Lawlessness Will Present Himself As The Christ, Messiah. Purposeful Counterfeiting Of True Savior And King.

Mat. 24:4-5. And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. ^s For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.

>>> O. Called “Man Of Sin.” “Beast.” Most Commonly Called “The Antichrist.”

- Anti: Against And In Place Of.

Main Point # 5: The “Man Of Lawlessness” Will Claim To Be The Christ And Most Will Accept His Claim.

>>> P. Why Such Willing Acceptance?

- Built In Expectations Of A Messiah In Various World Religions.
- Remarkable Supernatural Activities.
- Most Importantly Divine Judicial Consequences.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-11. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,

>>> Q. Verse 3. “Son Of Destruction.” Same As Judas. Refers To His Activity And Destiny. “He Is Doomed.”

- Same Title Indicate Some Similar Pattern? Someone Who Appears To Be A True Disciple Of Christ, Friendly To Christianity Actually Betrays Christ?

>>> R. Verse 4 Explains The Claims Of This Man Of Lawlessness.

- That Claim And The Following Verses Will Be Covered Next Week.

1: The Teaching Of A Pre-Tribulation Rapture Can Be Biblically Supported But So Can Other Positions.

2: Christians Should Not Overreact To Life Events Or Spiritual Teachings Regarding End-Time Events. (Two Preceding Events.)

3: The Specific Rebellion That Precedes The Day Of The Lord's Judgment Is The Worldwide Rejection Of Jesus In Order To Worship, Submit To, And Follow A Miracle-Working Man Who Claims To Be Christ And God.

4: The Title “Man Of Lawlessness” Indicates That This End-Time Leader Will Radically Disregard And Disrespect God's Moral Standards.

5: The “Man Of Lawlessness” Will Claim To Be The Christ And Most Will Accept His Claim.