

## What Christ said about The End Times

### Paul Talks About the Antichrist

#### **2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 ESV**

*Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2not 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.*

False teachers taught that the "Day of the Lord" had already started. We do not know who these agitators were, possibly some of the people in Acts 17:13. But **believers** were in a panic that the day of the Lord started and Paul was telling them to get a **grip**.

Apparently they, either by a misinterpretation of something Paul said or by receiving a forged **letter** supposedly from him, caused this.

#### **Verses 3-5**

*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, 4who 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. 5Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?*

In verse 3 Paul tells us **four** things regarding the day of the Lord. Paul is saying these things must **happen** and since they have not, they are not in the Day of the Lord.

- 1) **Apostasy**- The word *apostasy* means "revolt or rebellion". This is not referring to a general flow but an identifiable act.
- 2) **Revealed**- Refers to a definite time when this man is **revealed**. It implies that he was known before but an act of apostasy will reveal his true **identity**.
- 3) **Man of lawlessness**- *Lawlessness* means "without law". He will live in defiance of God's law and his evil will be greater and will sweep over the whole world. He is also called "the son of **destruction**"- this means that he is devoted to the destruction of all that relates to God. He also **belongs** to destruction (this word does not mean "annihilation" but "loss of well-being").
  - a) One other man in the Bible carries this distinction- **Judas** (John 17:12). Judas betrayed Christ. The Antichrist will go into the temple and declare himself god- the abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15; Daniel 9:27).
- 4) Paul had told them this when he spent several months with them.
  - a) Sometimes people will say **prophecy** is no big deal and is of no importance but **Paul** thought it was important and taught the believers in Thessalonica about End Times.

## Verses 6-8

*And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8And 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.*

The Thessalonians knew what was **restraining**- "to hold back, to hold down, to suppress"- the supernatural power of Satan that wants to release the Antichrist.

The question arises who is the **restrainer**? Some say it is the church or the government. The problem with these **views** is that they are human powers- and no human power could restrain the power of Satan.

The restrainer must be **God**. The Antichrist will not be revealed on Satan's timetable, but God's **timetable**. Just like the Messiah (Galatians 4:4).

It would appear that the **restrainer** is the Holy Spirit who has fought against evil in the world (Genesis 6:3; Acts 7:51) and has **convicted** the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). It would appear the **Holy Spirit** will continue to restrain until the mid-point of Tribulation.

*Taken out of the way*- does not mean the **Holy Spirit** will be removed from the world, he is omnipresent. He will be active during the Tribulation because many people will be saved (Revelation 7:14). *Taken out of the way* means He will no longer restrain the **Antichrist**. Paul gives a picture of this in Romans 1:24, 26, 28- we see the removal of His restraint.

The **Antichrist** will be destroyed once again on God's **timetable**. He will be at the height of his power, then he will go to his **destruction** (Daniel 7:26; Daniel 11:45; Revelation 17:11, Revelation 19:20).

*Will kill*- this word *kill* **does not** necessarily mean physical death- the root word for kill means "to make an end of" or "to take to lift up or away". That is what it seems to mean because he is thrown alive in the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20).

*The breath of his mouth*- this comes from the **Old Testament** (Isaiah 11:4). Revelation also uses the picture several times (Revelation 1:16, 2:16, 19:15-21).

*And bring to an end by the appearance of his coming*- Jesus will also bring to an end to the Antichrist's **empire**. *Bring to an end* means to "render **inoperative**, to abolish, or to render ineffective".

## **His power (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)**

### **Verse 9**

*The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,*

The Antichrist's power will not be his own but will come from Satan.

*Power, signs, and wonders-* All three of these terms are used in the gospels of miracles performed by Jesus.

- 1) Power- **great ability**
- 2) Signs- are deeds that point beyond the sign to a **greater truth**
- 3) Wonders- are works that inspire **awe**
- 4) False- the miracles that the Antichrist does are not fake but lead to false **conclusions** about who he is.

### **Verse 10**

*and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*

The lawless one will be out to **deceive** and he will be equipped with great power of deception.

Paul, in this verse, switches from the Antichrist to his followers would *perish*. Why? They have the wrong attitude regarding the **truth**. This truth is not a moral quality but rather the truth of **Jesus** (John 14:6; Ephesians 4:21). **Jesus** is the only way of salvation. In other words, this is a decision they made. They did not welcome the truth of Jesus Christ. This is a deliberate action.

*The love of the truth-* this expression in the **original** language is only found here in the Bible and it shows the **attitude** of their heart. They **reject** truth. We who are believers love the truth.

### **Verse 11**

*Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,*

These people chose to believe the **lie**. The lie is Satan's greatest **deception**- which is that the Antichrist is in fact god. They refuse to believe the **truth** and they are then delivered over to the lie.

### **Verse 12**

*in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

The key word is **condemned** which means "judged". In other words, God's action is just in what He did.

These people who reject the truth- they now find pleasure in sin. For them evil has become good.