

TEXT SUMMARY

In our text, <u>2 Thessalonians 2:7-12</u>, Paul explains more about the Man of Lawlessness and, more crucially, explains what sort of person is most likely to be deceived by him.

SERMON POWERPOINTS

Two questions:

- 1. What about the Man of Lawlessness? (v. 3-8)
- 2. Why will he be able to deceive so easily? (v. 9-12)

Three things we can know for sure about the Man of Lawlessness:

- 1. He will be a human.
- 2. He will possess supernatural power sourced in Satan, by which he deceives many.
- 3. He will ultimately be destroyed by the power of God's Word.

Chronology:

- 1. Time of restraint
- 2. Time of revelation and rebellion
- 3. Time of retribution

Deuteronomy 29:29

Recognizing these God-ordained gaps in our knowledge should amplify our humility, not our speculation. We can approach this text confident that what we do know from 2 Thessalonians provides the information we need to grow in understanding and holiness. In our study we must resist frenzied attempts to solve a puzzle and instead cultivate confidence in God's Word and prepare ourselves to live as those who belong to the day. – Kelsey Hency

The Man of Lawlessness will be able to deceive because of...

- 1. People's misaligned affections
- 2. People's rebellious choices
- 3. God's ultimate rejection

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INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. Taking all that we can see in 2 Thess 2:3-9, what are some of the specific things are we told about the "man of lawlessness"?
- 2. What are we told about the <u>loves</u> of those who are deceived by the man of lawlessness (v. 10, 12)?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

There are several knotty interpretive problems in this text, particularly concerning the "restraining" force or person (v. 6-7) and the "mystery of lawlessness" (v. 7), not to mention the whole cluster of questions surrounding the "man of lawlessness" (presumably the same one described elsewhere as the "Anti-Christ" or "the Beast").

The sermon points to Deut 29:29 as a good way to handle texts that are difficult to understand.

- What adjective does Moses use to describe the things that "belong to the Lord"?
- How should we handle matters that fall into that category?
- What should we do with the other things, the things He has revealed?

SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

The Man of will so easily deceive because of three things:

- 1. People's misaligned affections incline them in the wrong direction. They don't love the truth (particularly the truth of the Gospel), and they love pleasure instead.
- 2. People eventually refuse to love the truth. Here, they go beyond inclination to a committed stance against God.
- 3. God eventually turns them over to their own devices.

How can we discern our own affections? What do our **fears** and our **ambitions** reveal about what we **really love**?