

Series: 2 Thessalonians 2024
Title: The Antichrist Revealed
Text: 2 Thess 2: 1-12
Date: Aug 4, 2024
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2 Thessalonians 2: 1: Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2: That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Our Savior is so faithful and true. He said men shall come saying

Matthew 24: 23...Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not. 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

We have seen men try to predict the time of Christ's return but Christ told us this would come to pass. It had already begun in Paul's day. Our Savior is faithful. His word is true. He said men would do this.

2 Thessalonians 2: 3: Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

The Spirit of God says before Christ returns there will come a "*falling away first*"--apostacy. To fall away they have to first appear faithful. Men and women who once appeared faithful will be deceived and leave Christ, leave the church. It does not say they will become vile, obvious sinners like the sodomites of the world. They will be very religious but it is a vain religion of touch not, taste not, handle not.

1 Timothy 4: 1: Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2: Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3: Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Men and women who once appeared faithful will still have Christ on their lips, grace on their lips, faith on their lips. But it will be a doctrine of man's commandments of man's works.

2 Timothy 3: 1: This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2: For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3: Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4: Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5: Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

They have a form of godliness but deny Christ who is the power of godliness. These at least partly think they made themselves godly by their own strength. They do not give Christ alone the glory of making his people godly.

2 Timothy 3: 6: For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7: Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth [resist Christ the Truth, resist Christ being all in salvation]: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. 9: But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was.

When Christ said you shall know them by their fruits, he was speaking of Pharisees who preach a mixture of law and grace. Christ said, "How can you being evil SPEAK good things" (Mt 12: 34). He gives his saints discernment to recognize a false message of lies. But for those who fall away,

2 Timothy 4: 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But this is under God's sovereign rule. Revelation 20 shows us the Lord has Satan on a chain. Satan can deceive the nations no more while this gospel age continues.

Revelation 20: 3:...and after that he must be loosed a little season....7:...Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8: And shall go out to deceive the nations...

2 Thess 2: 3...there [shall] come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

The man of sin--antichrist--shall be revealed. Not to the world. He will be revealed to God's saints. Christ said "*if it were possible the very elect would be deceived*"--but by the grace of our sovereign Savior it is not possible.

Subject: The Antichrist Revealed

Proposition: The antichrist--the son of perdition--the man of sin--is not one man but one body made up of all antichrists.

NOT ONE PARTICULAR MAN

Antichrist, the son of perdition, the man of sin, is not one particular man. He is described as one man like the church is described as one new man.

Christ declared the church is his body. He is the Head. We are the members of his body. Together we make up one new man, the fulness of Christ.

Ephesians 2:15: Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;

Christ will send the gospel until every member, every chosen, redeemed child is called in and his body is complete

Ephesians 4:13: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

So it is with the "man of sin" the "son of perdition." Satan is the head of their body and all antichrist men and women are members of that one body. They make up one man of sin.

There may be a man who arises to deceive the nations. Without a doubt the pope is antichrist. The whole succession of popes and the whole church of Rome is antichrist. But not Catholicism alone. The apostle John said already in his time there were many antichrists gone out into the world. (1 Jn 2: 18). But that man of sin was revealed to John, as well as to the saints in the early church by the Spirit of the Lord. John said they were manifest in that they fell away.

1 John 2:19: They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

So the son of perdition is not one man but all men and women who are anti-christ are members that make up this one man over which the devil is head.

THE MESSAGE OF ANTICHRIST

2 Thessalonians 2: 4: Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Every anti-christ opposes and *exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped*. We know these are natural, unregenerate, reprobate sinners because what does the gospel do in those Christ regenerates?

2 Corinthians 10: 4: (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

The way up with God is first down. The Son of God first descended into the lower parts of the earth. Christ came down. He accomplished our redemption by making himself the least. The Son of God came down and submitted himself to God his Father.

God's elect are proud, self-exalting sinners by our first birth in sin. But through the gospel Christ brings his elect down. He casts down our imaginations. The gospel casts down our self-exalting thoughts which were against God. He gives us faith and brings into captivity all our thoughts to rest in Christ's obedience as our only righteousness before God.

But every antichrist go on in spirit opposing and exalting himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped. Men who exalt man's worth are antichrist. Those who exalt man's will are antichrist. If they exalt man's works then they are antichrist. Men who make salvation dependent upon man in any way are antichrist. They oppose God and exalt self above all that is called God or that is worshipped.

They are very religious. Zealously religious. But in exalting self against God, *he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God*. God's whole creation is his temple. Irreligious men do this everywhere in the earth. But the religious enter into what is supposed to be the house of God and do this.

The mark of the beast is the number of man, 666. Three digits. There are three persons in the Godhead. But antichrists exalt themselves above each person in the Godhead claiming to do what only each person in the Godhead is able to do.

God the Father elected whom he would in Christ in eternity by his grace but antichrist opposes and exalts himself above God our Father, showing that he is god. Either he claims he chose god or he believes god chose him because of something good in him.

Christ our Lord is the Substitute who accomplished atonement and eternal redemption of his elect. Antichrists take that glory to themselves. Each antichrist sits in the temple of God showing himself to be god by claiming he made himself righteous or he sanctified himself and made himself holy by his works.

The Holy Spirit makes us be born-again, sanctifies and preserves us. God's elect are dead in trespasses and in sins. We must be born-again of God the Holy Spirit through the water of the word. But antichrist look back to when they were in a freewill, works church and made their decision for Jesus. They try to alter the truth that God saves through the preaching of the gospel in order to protect that false refuge. They try to say God could have saved me by reading the word while I was in vain religion. Then God would have brought you out right then and you would have renounced it all publicly in baptism. If God saves merely by reading, apart from the preaching of the gospel, then we would simply drop bibles out of airplanes so men could read the word without sending preachers. But instead of renouncing their own vain refuge, antichrist opposes God and exalts self above God by trying to change the word of God so they can say God saved me even though the preacher was lying on god.

Our triune God in Christ preserves his people and shall lose none. Antichrist exalts himself above God claiming he is keeping himself. But doesn't John say God's saint keeps himself and the wicked one touches him not? But until the Spirit of God reveals Christ in a man he has not idea what that means. By the Holy Spirit, Peter said we resist the devil stedfastly in the faith. The Spirit of God makes us cast all our care on Christ. It is Christ who keeps us. Christ intercedes for us that our faith fail not. That is how the wicked one touches us not.

2 Thessalonians 2: 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

Christ is the Way. Men are taken out of Christ the Way and turn to following man's ways.

Proverbs 16:25: There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

JUST JUDGMENT OF GOD

2 Thessalonians 2: 9...all power and signs and lying wonders, 10: And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11: And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Christ looses satan for a little season who comes with *all power and signs and lying wonders*. Sinners are made to do some great things. But what is satan doing to them? *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish*. Satan deceives them that their unrighteous works are righteous and holy.

But God did it! Christ loosed satan to deceive men, why? *Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved*. God is love. But God's love is manifest in God giving Christ, the propitiation for the sins of his people. Christ alone is the sin-expiating, atoning, mercy seat for the sins of God's elect. CHRIST IS THE TRUTH. HE SAID THAT PLAINLY! Those begotten again of God are filled with the love of God, filled with the Truth, so that we receive the love of the Truth, that Christ alone might save us.

But antichrist *receives not the love of the truth that they might be saved*. They speak of grace, righteousness, faith but boast of fruits they produced and condemn others, rejecting the gospel of Christ and departing from it. From the beginning I have said it no telling how many times that the first step to total apostacy is to depart from the preaching of the gospel that gives Christ all the glory in salvation and man none.

But God is just to turn men over to reprobation, *for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness*. The unrighteousness they have pleasure in is not immoral sin. It is their own works of righteousness. Like Cain, they reject Christ and boast in the fruits they produce.

Proverbs 1:31: Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

God is righteous in all his works. He gives his elect eternal life because Christ's works made us righteous and holy! But God sends delusion to men because they reject Christ and have pleasure in their own works which God says are unrighteous. You are not going to convince such men that they are deluded because God sent them strong delusion that they should believe a lie.

It appears we are in the "little season." Worse than the sins of sodomy and all the evil that the world is embracing is that more people than ever claim to believe the sovereign grace of God but ever so carefully mix in their own works. Sodomy and rank free-willism is obvious. But those who claim to believe grace while mixing their works are the ones who if it were possible would deceive the very elect.

CHRIST WINS

2 Thessalonians 2: 8: And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

When Christ returns, the Lord shall consume the Wicked with the spirit of his mouth and shall destroy him with the brightness of his coming. Nothing is out of control of our sovereign Savior! He is bringing it all to pass according to his purpose. here is why not one of his saints shall ever perish.

2 Thessalonians 2: 13: But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Amen!