



**The Man of
Lawlessness
II Thess. 2:1-12**

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12



The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

The Anti-Christ?

- **Someone who passes themselves off as righteous but then reveal their true nature, v.4. He will sit in a future temple in Jerusalem. Jesus cannot return until the Anti-Christ is revealed in the world, with the Lord providing the final victory at His Coming. Something unknown is currently restraining the Anti-Christ from being revealed.**

The Man of Lawlessness II Thess. 2:1-12

The Anti-Christ?

- **Issues:**
 - This is not supported anywhere in Scripture; “anti-Christ” was denying Jesus was the Messiah/He came in the flesh
 - We are warned that the coming of the Day of the Lord will be as a thief in the night. No warnings, no signs.
 - How does this harmonize with **v.7?**

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12



The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

The Pope?

- **The Pope; the Catholic church; generally, the corruption of the NT church. A falling away, apostasy, from the truth of the Gospel, which had already begun, but would find its fulfillment in the organization of the Catholic church and the Pope, v.4, and later through the many denominations. That which restrained (v.7) this formation was the Roman Empire until 312 AD (Constantine I).**

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

The Pope?

- **Issues:**
 - **The Lord will not return until the Catholic church, or this corruption, is dismantled? v.7-8.**
 - **Some suggest that the Reformation is the fulfillment of v.8, but why is it not “destroyed”?**
 - **Again, we are warned that the coming of the Day of the Lord will be as a thief in the night. No warnings, no signs.**

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

The Pope?

- **Issues:**
 - **False teaching is false teaching. While the impact of Catholic teaching would be widespread and long-lived, apostasy had been happening all through the 1st Century. It must be assumed that Paul is referring to mass apostasy.**
 - **If the Day of the Lord would not be happening until AT LEAST this “mass apostasy”, then why warn the current generation about the coming of the Day of the Lord, and to be ready and watchful?**

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

The Pope?

- **This, with some variation (such as in combination with an Ultimate Super-Pope), is the predominate belief of most protestant churches, including many members of the church of Christ, as well as every single commentary I read (9 of them).**
- **In the words of Marvin Vincent (Word Studies in the New Testament, Volume 4), *“I attempt no interpretation of this passage as a whole, which I do not understand. The varieties of exposition are bewildering.”***

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- **My thoughts:**
- **The issue of concern was that the Day of the Lord had already taken place. They had been told that it was already past, v.2, (connection to the resurrection being past, or no bodily resurrection of the dead?). Paul sets out to reassure the brethren they haven't missed anything, v.3, 5, 15, 3:17.**

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- The Day of the Lord was a particular focus of Paul to these brethren: I Thess. 1:9-10, 2:19, 3:12-13, 4:13-18, 5:1-4, 10-11, 23-24; II Thess. 1:4-10

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- **Main points:**
 - **Revealed**: Same revealing is being discussed **v.3, v.6, v.8** all of which take place at the coming of the Lord
 - **Restraining**: What is being restrained or held back? The gathering of the saints to the Lord, **v.6-7, v.1**
 - **Falling away**: lit. *leaving from previous standing*, connected to the same event as the revealing of the man of sin **v.3**: the Lord's Second Coming

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- **What if Paul is simply describing the Judgment Day, which must take place before the saints (alive and dead) can be gathered together to the Lord and dwell Heaven?**
- **Consider:**

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- **2:1** Now, brethren, concerning the [*second*] coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,
- **2:2** not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come [*or is already here*].

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- **2:3** Let no one deceive you by any means; *for that Day will not come* until the falling away [*a leaving, from a previous state or standing; the “falling away” of the physical body*] comes first, and the man of sin [*transgressor of the law*] is revealed, the son of perdition [*ruin, destruction*],

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- 2:4 who opposes and exalts *himself* above all that is called God or that is worshiped [*the nature of lawlessness*], so that he sits [*dwells*] as God in the temple of God, [*church OR the spirit of lawlessness in the heart of an individual; see Eph. 1:21-22 vs. I Cor. 3:16-17, 6:19-20, II Cor. 6:14-16*] showing [*presenting*] himself that he is [*as if he is*] God [*ignores God's authority for his own*].

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- 2:5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?
- 2:6 And now you know [*have known, understand*] what is restraining [*holding back; the gathering of all the saints to the Lord*], that he [*spirit of lawlessness*] may be revealed in his own time [*at the time determined by God*].

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- **2:7** For the mystery of lawlessness [*that which is without law*] is already at work; only *He who* now restrains [*that which is currently being restrained; the gathering of all the saints to the Lord*] will do so [*continue*] until *he* [*man of sin, lawlessness*] is taken out of the way [*lit. out of our midst; wheat vs. chaff*].

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- 2:8 And then [*at that time*] the lawless *one* will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.
- 2:9 The coming *of the lawless one* [*the presence of lawlessness, the spirit of lawlessness*] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- **2:10** and with all unrighteous deception among [*within*] those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
- **2:11** And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,
- **2:12** that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- Consider the words of Peter, **II Peter 3:7-13, 14-16:**
 - We're told the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night – no signs.
 - We're told to look for and hasten the coming of the day of God.
 - We're told that the Lord is waiting, not for the Anti-Christ, but because of longsuffering.

The Man of Lawlessness

II Thess. 2:1-12

- **Conclusion:**

–Again, in the words of Marvin Vincent:
“About the only valuable thing that can be fairly extracted from the passage is Paul's firm assurance that God's hand is ever on the work of evil, and that in whatever form or with whatever power it may reveal itself, it will inevitably be subdued and crushed by the power of Christ.”

The Anti-Christ

**Are you
ready?**

Armageddon

**The man of
Lawlessness**