

# **Man of Lawlessness (Antichrist)**

5-7-23

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (ESV)

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.

**Before we jump into the revelation of the Man of Lawlessness, let us put some context to understand why this subject even comes up. In the first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul had explained the Rapture of believers which ushers in the destruction of the Day of the LORD. Now in the second letter, we see Jesus as the one bringing this destruction on the unbelievers.**

2 Thessalonians 1:7–9 (ESV) NO/OH

<sup>7</sup>The Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels <sup>8</sup>in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup>They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction.

**This is new information for the Thessalonians and there are still questions and confusion about Jesus' return.**

2 Thessalonians 2:1–2 (ESV) NO/OH

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being **gathered together**\* to him, we ask you, brothers, <sup>2</sup>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. \*(Take note of gathered.)

These believers were being misled by false teachers that the Rapture has already occurred, and the Day of the Lord is already here. Paul tells them not to be afraid because this is not true! Therefore, Paul explains to them what things will occur during the Day of the LORD.

2 Thessalonians 2:3–12 (ESV)

Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come unless:

#1 V.3 (unless) the rebellion comes first,

#2 V.3 and (unless) the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

#3 V.4 (this man) opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the (rebuilt) temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

#5 V.6 And “you know” what is restraining him now! *The one restraining this evil has supernatural power to hold back a supernatural enemy. The Holy Spirit is the power of God on earth to restrain this evil. The presence of the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer, the church, is restraining the Man of Lawlessness from being revealed.* Although restrained, Satan and lawlessness are actively at work today.

- V.7a For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work.

**The Holy Spirit is restraining Satan's work.**

- **V.7b Only HE (the Holy Spirit) who now restrains it will do so until HE (the Holy Spirit) is out of the way.**

*The Holy Spirit will be taken up with the believers at the rapture. Once the body of Christ has been caught away to heaven, the Holy Spirit's function of restraining evil through the body of Christ will cease. At that point the reins will be removed from lawlessness and the Satanically inspired rebellion will begin. After Rapture of the church, the rebellion will break out.*

**#6 V.8 "And then" (after the Rapture) 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.**

**\*This word "appearance" identifying the return of Jesus differs from the word "gathering" used in verse 1. Gathering or Rapture begins the Tribulation and this "appearance" for Judgement concludes the Tribulation.**

**#7 V.9 The coming of the lawless one is the activity of Satan with all power and signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception.**

**The Lawless one is Satan incarnate. A superhuman person who will utilize the supernatural means of "miracles, signs and wonders." These remarkable phenomena, which was used in laying a foundation for the church will be redirected for purposes of deceit.**

**The Lawless one cannot be humanly defeated. Verse 8 clearly says, “The Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth!”**

**The remaining deceived unbelievers on earth will attribute deity to this Man Of Lawlessness and blindly follow him.**

**#8 V.11 The deceived are those who refused to love the truth. Therefore, God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false.**

**Their blindness will be self-imposed because of their refusal to “love the truth.” Because they deliberately reject God and HIS truth, God HIMSELF will send “them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.” God gives them the desire of their dark heart.**

**Rejoice Always! Praise Jesus we will not experience this evil deception. We have nothing to fear!**

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

**Rejoice Always because we have the message hope for all mankind.**

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.