

# The Man of Lawlessness

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

# Review – I Thessalonians

1. Thanksgiving
2. Teaching about the end

# Review – II Thessalonians

1. The Apostasy
2. Revelation of the  
Man of Lawlessness

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

**- II Thessalonians 2:1-2**

Before the “day of the Lord” comes, other significant events must take place first.

Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

**- II Thessalonians 2:3-4**

Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.

**- II Thessalonians 2:5-7**

# Key Terms

1. Apostasy = “...to fall away”

2. Man of lawlessness

- Son of perdition
- Son of destruction

The sin that  
accompanies  
The Apostasy

# Key Terms

3. Restraining influence
4. Mystery of lawlessness
5. Breath of His mouth
6. Appearance of His coming
7. Prophecy

We know **what**.

We know the **sequence**.

We **don't** know the **time frame**.

# Sequence of Events

## **1. The Apostasy – vs. 3a**

Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

-Acts 20:28

I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

- **Acts 20:29-30**

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

**- II Tim. 4:3-4**

# Sequence of Events

1. The Apostasy
2. The Man of Lawlessness Revealed – vs. 3b-7

# “What is he like?”

- One of a kind
- Opposes every god
- Influence manifested before he is

Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

**- II Thessalonians 2:8-10**

For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

**- II Thessalonians 2:11-12**

# “What will he do?”

- Deceive People
- Use False Power
- Lie on Purpose

# “What will he cause to happen?”

- Seduce people to believe the lie
- Completely seduce the deluded
- Cause judgment and punishment

Then that lawless one will be revealed  
whom the Lord will slay with the breath of  
His mouth and bring to an end by the  
appearance of His coming;

**- II Thessalonians 2:8**

“What will happen to him?”

God will destroy him with...

- The Word
- The return of Christ

# Man of Lawlessness – 4 Views

## **1. Roman Empire**

# Man of Lawlessness – 4 Views

1. Roman Empire

**2. Satan**

# Man of Lawlessness – 4 Views

1. Roman Empire

2. Satan

**3. Catholicism**

- Separation of clergy and laity
- Change in church organization
- Change in hierarchy
- Change in doctrine & practice

# Change in Doctrine & Practice

- Infant Baptism – 3<sup>rd</sup> century
- Confessional – 4<sup>th</sup> century
- Transubstantiation – 9<sup>th</sup> century
- Indulgences – 15<sup>th</sup> century
- Infallibility – 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Mary – Co-Redemptor – 20<sup>th</sup> century

# Man of Lawlessness – 4 Views

1. Roman Empire

2. Satan

**3. Catholicism**

– Pope doesn't claim deity

– Promotes belief in Christ

Papacy/R.C. is a result of Apostasy **NOT**  
the actual Man of Lawlessness.

# Man of Lawlessness – 4 Views

1. Roman Empire

2. Satan

3. The Papacy

**4. *A Principle of Lawlessness***

- Present in government movements.
- Present in various philosophies.

# New **Face** every generation

- Materialism
- Humanism
- Post-Modernism
- Religious Fanaticism

Jesus doesn't return until the Man of  
Lawlessness is revealed – to Christians!

The “restraining power” could be the opposing principle of “law & order” in the world.

# Historical Pattern

- God's word produces law & order.
- Principle of evil opposes law & order.
- Apostasy weakens law & order.
- Final surge of evil as Man of Lawlessness is revealed.
- Return of Christ.

# Arguments for 4<sup>th</sup> Theory

1. Emperors of Rome are gone.
2. Satan cannot be divided.
3. The Papacy fails the complete description.
4. The 4<sup>th</sup> theory explains the past, present and future without violating any of the facts about the Man of Lawlessness.

## Responding to the influence of evil:

1. Stay close to the Word
2. Struggle against evil

# The Man of Lawlessness

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