

“2 Thessalonians 2—Part 2”

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a series about 1 and 2 Thessalonians. The title of the presentation was “2 Thessalonians 2—Part 2.”

Many Bible students believe that 2 Thessalonians was written as a clarification of 1 Thessalonians. If so, the clarification apparently comes into play in chapter 2.

Four foundational ideas

In last week’s article, I mentioned that I see four foundational ideas involving a probable clarification of information in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2.

- Paul wrote about issues concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Paul asked that believers not be shaken in mind—not troubled by spirit, by word or by letter.
- When Paul mentioned not to be troubled by letter, he said: “as if from us.”
- When Paul mentioned not to be troubled, he mentioned: “as though the day of Christ had come.”

Two specific concepts

In last week’s article, I also mentioned two specific concepts found in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4.

- “For that day will not come until the falling away comes first.”
- “For that day will not come until the man of sin (the son of perdition) is revealed.”

So I chose to give two presentations about 2 Thessalonians 2.

- May 27 = Falling away
- June 3 = Antichrist

How many Antichrists?

At the beginning of the presentation, I showed a two-minute clip of comments by Pastor Don Carson that he gave on Sept. 6, 2016. He gave a concise explanation of how the Antichrist should be viewed in two distinct ways.

- An end-time Antichrist
- Many antichrists ever since Jesus Christ came to this world

End-time Antichrist

Notice what 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 says about an end-time Antichrist.

- That Day will not come until the man of sin (the son of perdition) is revealed.
- He opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped.
- He sits as God in the temple of God—showing himself that he is God.

Did you catch all of that?

That is a very powerful prophecy.

How many sons of perdition?

Before we discuss how many times the word *Antichrist* is actually mentioned in the Bible, let's notice how many times the phrase "son of perdition" is mentioned in the Bible.

- The Greek word for perdition is *apoleia*—which refers to destruction, ruin and waste.
- Going into perdition is mentioned only six times in the King James Version—Philippians 1:28; 1 Timothy 6:9; Hebrews 10:39; 2 Peter 3:7; Revelation 17:8; and Revelation 17:11.
- The expression "son of perdition" is used only twice.
- One time is in the previously mentioned 2 Thessalonians 2:3.
- John 17:12—This historical reference of Christ's famous prayer to His Father refers to Judas as a "son of perdition"—remembering that the Greek word *apoleia* refers to destruction, ruin and waste.

And many antichrists

But there is more to the story. Let's look at the scriptures that actually mention the word *Antichrist*.

- 1 John 2:18-19— "Little children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many Antichrists have come (by which you know that it is the last hour). They went out from us, but they were not of us. For, if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out that they might be made manifest that none of them were of us."
- 1 John 2:22—"Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is Antichrist who denies the Father and the Son."
- 1 John 4:1-3—"Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God. Because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God. And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming and is now already in the world."

■ 2 John 1:7—"For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

In Christ's name

Notice words that Jesus Christ spoke during His ministry. Notice words from Matthew 7:21-23.

■ "Not everyone who says 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven--but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

■ Many will ask the following three questions.

■ First—"Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name?"

■ Second—"Lord, have we not cast out demons in Your name?"

■ Third—"Lord, have we not done many wonders in Your name?"

■ "And then I will declare to them: 'I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

(Lawlessness is mentioned in 2 Thessalonians.)

'I am the Christ'

■ Matthew 24:4-5—"Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying 'I am the Christ' and will deceive many."

■ Matthew 24:23—"If anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ! or 'There is the Christ,' do not believe it".

■ Matthew 24:24—"False christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders to deceive (if possible) even the elect."

'Lawless one' will be revealed

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:5—Remember what I told you.

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:6—He will be revealed in his own time.

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:7—"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."

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:8—"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."

Working of Satan

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:9—The working of Satan with all power, signs, lying wonders and unrighteous deception.

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:10—Those who perish did not "receive the love of the truth."

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:11—God will send a strong delusion, that some people will believe the lie.

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:12—Some people did not believe the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Encouraging words

Notice how the end of 2 Thessalonians 2 helps people with encouraging words.

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14—Paul wrote: “God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth—to which He called you by our gospel for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:15—Paul wrote: “Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.”

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17—Paul wrote: “Now, may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father (who loved us and has given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace) comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.”