

WHO IS THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS?

II Thessalonians 2

I. WHEN will Jesus come? (v1-3)

2 signs must precede His Coming:

A. The R _____: the politico-religious climate

B. The R _____: the man who will lead the Rebellion

Q: does that not contradict "signless immanence" (i.e. without warning and maybe today)?

A: see v5, cf. I Thess 5:1-5:

1. Christians have inside info on the climax of history
2. Nothing prevents Him from coming today, in 2000

II. WHO is this Rebel? Same as Antichrist (I Jn 2:18, 22; 4:3; II Jn 7) and the Beast of Rev 13?

(Compare also the Beast of Daniel 7 & 8)

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>ANTICHRIST</u>	<u>BEAST</u>	<u>REBEL</u>
1. Invincible		x	x
2. Nature of his power both political & religious	x		x
3. Deceiver	x	x	x
4. Counterfeit miracles		x	x
5. Persecutes the Church		x	x
6. Blasphemer	x		x
7. Demands worship (x)		x	x
8. Destroyed by Jesus Himself at His Coming		x	x
9. Already at work (I Jn 2:18)		(after Rev 12)	(2:7)

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III. WHAT additional information given here?

A. Regarding the Rebel

1. Sets himself up in the Temple of God (v4)
Implies he within the Christian Church!
2. Something is holding him back until it is removed (v7-8a)

B. Regarding the Rebellion

1. Will be the culmination (v3) of a principle already at work (v7)
2. The principle of willing self-deception (v9-12)

Q: what will the fulfillment look like?
are we seeing it today?

IV. How are we to prepare to respond? (v13-17)

A. Confidence & _____(v13-14)

1. His calling
2. His Spirit
3. His Truth, the Gospel

B. Command to “_____”!

1. Stand against deception
2. Hold onto Truth

C. Climaxed with _____

What encouragement amidst a foreboding future!

Are you grounded enough to withstand the Rebellion and the Rebel?

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