

## Signs for the Second Coming of Christ, Pt. 2:

### The Apostasy and the Man of Sin—2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (NKJV)

**2** Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

<sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? <sup>6</sup> And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> And then 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. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan,

with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

## **Introduction:**

One of the most important events in the near future for the Church is the Rapture. This is the event at the coming of Christ, when he snatches away His people from this planet, in preparation of the Judgment that is coming. He will remove his own before He pours out his wrath, like he did in Noah's Day and in Lot's day when He physically removed them and protected them from the Judgement God brought on the earth in the flood and on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is the event spoken of by Apostle Paul in

### **1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will

rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Paul again referred to this event in  
**1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (NKJV)**

<sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Also I believe our Lord referred to this in Matthew in the Sermon he gave on the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 24:40–42 (NKJV)

<sup>40</sup> Then two *men* will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two *women* will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. <sup>42</sup> Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

There is little debate of the fact that Christ will return and will snatch or rapture his people away. It is hard to argue with the very clear terms Paul gives in I Thess. 4:16-17 where he specifically says,

“ And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”

But the debate comes as to the reason for the Rapture and timing of the Rapture.

Some believe that the Rapture is no more significance than the going out to meet the King as he arrives to earth. They look at the word...

“to **meet** the Lord”

**ἀπάντησις**, εως, ἡ, *the action of going out to meet* an arrival, esp. as a mark of honour, S

Liddell, H. G., Scott, R., Jones, H. S., & McKenzie, R. (1996). In [A Greek-English lexicon](#) (p. 178). Clarendon Press.

Matthew 25:1 (NKJV)

**25** “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Acts 28:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as Appii Forum and

Three Inns. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

This word referred to practice of going out to meet an important leader, king or conquerer or dignitary and escorting Him back

Moulton (I 14:3), who notes BGU, 362 (πρὸς ἀπάντησιν τοῦ ἡγέμονο; for πρό, cf. 3 Mac. 5:2), thinks the special idea of the word is the “official welcome of a newly arrived dignitary  
 Frame, J. E. (1912). [\*A critical and exegetical commentary on the Epistles of St. Paul to the Thessalonians\*](#) (p. 177). C. Scribner’s Sons.

Others, like myself see the Rapture as the primary means of God removing his people from this planet before the Monumental Day of the Lord’s Wrath.

And within this understanding come the whole debate on the timing of the Rapture, which is understood in relation to the often referred to 7 year Tribulation or the Day of the Lord that are not necessary one and the same, depending on your view.

There are now 4 views of the Rapture

1. **Pre-Tribulation Rapture**: This view maintains the rapture occurs when Jesus comes secretly to gather the church prior a seven-year Great Tribulation that precedes the return of Christ to earth.

2. **Mid-Tribulation Rapture:** This is similar to the pre-tribulation view except that it locates the rapture after the first three-and-half years at the point when the Anti-Christ assumes power.
3. **Pre-Wrath Rapture:** This position argues that the rapture will occur toward the end of the tribulation by AntiChrist somewhere during the last 3 1/2 year period of the 7 year period of the Tribulation, and at the event of the parousia before the outpouring of God's wrath...
4. **Post-Tribulation:** This view sees the rapture as occurring simultaneous to the return of Christ at the end of the Tribulation. Adapted from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-rapture-question/>

No doubt, at least for North America, the most commonly believed and well know views of the Rapture is the Pre- Tribulational Rapture, which teaches that the very next thing to happen in God's Calendar regarding His coming is the Rapture.

If you grew up or primarily attended a Baptist church or a nondenominational church or charismatic or Pentecostal church, this is most likely the view that you heard.

Along with a growing number of preachers like John Nelson Darby and the Plymouth brethren, churches began embracing the view of Pre-

tribulationism and then came one of the first reference study Bibles in the early 1900s known as the Scofield Reference Bible, known for his promotion of the gap theory in Genesis and a rigid dispensational approach to hermeneutics. He along with others like Darby and Moody, held to a distinct separation of the Church and Israel and promoted a Pre-tribulational view of the Rapture. He believed that the 7 year Tribulation was uniquely for Israel and that the church would have to be removed before God could resume his work with his his people Israel. The Scofield reference Bible became so popular that it was common to hear the jiggle...

“My hope is built on nothing less that Scofield’s notes and Moody Press.”

Later men like J. Vernon Magee, Chuck Smith, Chuck Swindol Dwight Pentecost, Tim LeHaye, Hal Lindsey, David Jeremiah,,Wayne Grudem, Erwin Lutzer, Charles L. Feinberg, John Walvoord, Charles Ryrie, and John MacArthur

Add to this, some major Bible colleges and Seminaries are doctrinally Pre-Tribulational such as Moody Bible Institute, and Dallas Theological Seminary and the Masters Seminary in California. I say all of this to let you know, that it is believed by some heavy weights and well known Bible scholars and preachers.

One of the major tenets of the Pretribulational Rapture, other than its Dispensational Premillennial view that the church has to be removed before God can deal with Israel is the idea of “imminency”

It is believed that the only way that one can believe in “imminency” is to believe in a Pre-tribulational view of the Rapture.

This is the idea that Jesus can come back at any moment and there are no preceding signs. No precursors or events that need to happen before the Lord Returns.

This is a Cardinal doctrine of the Pre-tribulational view.

Those who hold this view, will often talk of our Blessed Hope is not in looking for the AntiChrist but rather Christ in the Sky.

Matthew 24:42 (NKJV)

<sup>42</sup> Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Matthew 24:44 (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.



Matthew 25:13 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Mark 13:33 (NKJV)

<sup>33</sup> Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

Luke 21:36 (NKJV)

<sup>36</sup> Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

1 Thessalonians 5:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

Revelation 16:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

So the idea is that the very next event to happen is the Rapture of the church before the Tribulation and the coming of the Antichrist.

The Rapture is Imminent !!

The picture that has often been given is that at any moment, the church will disappear. Planes will crash and cars will run off the roads. Cemeteries will be disturbed as graves will burst open and the dead and Christ rise to meet Him in the air. Conversations will end instantly as one disappears. Husbands will wonder where their wives have gone and wives will wonder what happened to their husbands. All the babies in the world will instantly disappear leaving the wailing of mothers everywhere.

According to the Pre-tribulational view, this is the next event.

There is no concern for tribulation, no concern for persecution of AntiChrist, no worries of experiencing the horrors of the evils of the man of sin, only the rapture.

This view says that we need not concern ourselves with looking for the Man of Sin, or the AntiChrist because we will be removed before any of this takes place.

So is the Rapture the next event? Is that what we are to expect? Is the coming of Christ Imminent and can it happen at any moment and is the coming of Christ in Rapture signless? Is it true that there is nothing we should look for or expect to happen before the Rapture? Is it true that we don't need to worry or concern ourselves with this matter?

I believe that our passage in 2 Thess. 2 answers all of these questions with a resounding "NO"

## **2 Thessalonians 2:1–4 (NKJV)**

**2** Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless* the falling away comes **first**, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in

the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

It is very clear from this text that the next event to occur is not the Rapture and the coming of Christ. According to this text, the next events are the Apostasy and the Man of Sin will be revealed.

There is not other way to read this text.

So the Coming of Christ and the Rapture of the church is not imminent, right now.

We are waiting on some signs, some very clear signs to occur and then and only then will we know that we are in the season of His Return.

Matthew 24:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Matthew 13:39–40 (NKJV)

<sup>39</sup> The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. <sup>40</sup> Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.

**Matthew 13:49–50 (NKJV)**

<sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, <sup>50</sup> and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

**Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

So, he begins to answer the 3 questions

**Matthew 24:5–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. <sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will

be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. <sup>8</sup> All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake. <sup>10</sup> And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

<sup>11</sup> Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

### **Matthew 24:14–21 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

<sup>15</sup> “Therefore when you see the *‘abomination of desolation,’* spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), <sup>16</sup> “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. <sup>18</sup> And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. <sup>19</sup> But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>20</sup> And

pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

**Matthew 24:23–24 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here *is* the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe *it*. <sup>24</sup> For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

**Matthew 24:29–31 (NKJV)**

<sup>29</sup> “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

So what are we to make of all the verses that talk of watching as if the coming of the Lord is imminent...

Matthew 24:42 (NKJV)

<sup>42</sup> Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Matthew 24:44 (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 25:13 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

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Luke 21:36 (NKJV)

<sup>36</sup> Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”



## 1 Thessalonians 5:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

## 1 Peter 4:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

## Revelation 16:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> **“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”**

Well, it is not exactly imminency that is being taught...rather it is expectancy.. We are to watch and be ready, because we expect His return. We expect the signs of his return and we are to be looking for the Signs of his soon return.

But it is important to note that it isn't that imminency does not ever play a role in the return of Christ. There will come a time when we are in the season of His return, and as a believer, you will know you are in that season because, you will be witness to the

The Apostasy

The Revelation of the Man of Sin, AntiChrist.

and you will know then that the coming of the Lord is Imminent.... We are expecting it now, and waiting on the Signs to occur and when the signs occur we will know that His coming is Imminent.

### **Matthew 24:42–44 (NKJV)**

<sup>42</sup> Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

### **Matthew 24:36 (NKJV)**

<sup>36</sup> “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1–5 (NKJV)**

<sup>5</sup> But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup> But

you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

### **Matthew 24:32–33 (NKJV)**

<sup>32</sup> “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. <sup>33</sup> So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!

So Jesus taught us to be expecting the Return of Christ in a season that signs were taking place.

Our text talks about 2 of those most prominent signs.

The Apostasy and the AntiChrist.

Review.

In our last study I attempted to make it clear that these events here in 2 Thess 2 refer to a future event that is specifically associated with the Bodily Return of Jesus Christ.

Some have attempted to say that this event of the apostasy and the revelation of Man of Sin was Nero and that all of this has already been full-filled.

But as I showed you the Context and the Coming of Christ of chapter one lead up right into the the discussion of chapter 2 which Paul continues his discussion on the Second Coming and the Confusion that some had said that it had already occurred in the Past. Paul tells us that the Man of Sin or Lawlessness will be consumed with the Brightness of His coming.

**2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> And then 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.

The words in this verse clearly and exclusively refer to the physical bodily future return of Christ.

So this Apostasy and Man of Sin are future events, not past.

Also, I stated that these events are large enough and profound enough to get the attention of the universal church so much that they are a sign that we are in the Season of His Return.

The Apostasy is religious in nature. It is the falling away from the true faith.

It is interesting that one of the verses that specifically and graphically describes apostasy is the only author in the Bible that specifically uses the word

“AntiChrist”

1 John 2:18–19 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> 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 we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup> 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 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> 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 4:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> 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 7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> 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.

All of these verses refer to what an Apostasy looks like. It is someone who once confessed Jesus as the Christ but then, walks away and denies it.

But this apostasy is not just local or isolated to a small area. It is large enough and major enough and wide scale enough to get the attention of the church and to be a universal sign for the Church of the coming of Christ

I told you last time that we would find out what could cause such a thing when we returned to the text.

The last 20 years or so have seen a significant decline in the doctrinal standard and commitments in the local churches and the denominations.

This has led to the downgrade of the church that has filled her walls with large numbers of false converts. Many churches that used to be sound and committed to their doctrinal distinctives are no longer

so and churches that dumb down and down play the importance of Doctrine are filled with entertained saints. This has led to a church ripe for apostasy. We are in one of the most dangerous places the church has been in decades.

But what is significant about this apostasy in 2 Thess 2 is that Paul sees it as very unique. So much that he calls it “the apostasy”

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless **the falling away** comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

Also, it is important to note that most likely Paul sees the Apostasy and the revelation of the Man of Sin as related.

Either the Apostasy leads to the revelation of the Man of Sin or the revelation of the Man of Sin causes the Apostasy.

So since the Apostasy is tied to the revelation of Man of Sin. We need to know more about this Man and who he is and what he does.

I believe in doing so, it will shed light on how he is linked to the Apostasy.

- I. His Description
- II. His Deseccration
- III. His Deception

## I. His Description

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the **man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,**

2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> And then **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.

**the man of sin. KJV manuscripts**

**others Lawlessness**

1 John 3:4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.



**ἁμαρτάνω; ἁμαρτία<sup>a</sup>, ας f:** to act contrary to the will and law of God—‘to sin, to engage in wrongdoing, sin.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 772). United Bible Societies.

**88.139 ἄνομία, ας f:** to behave with complete disregard for the laws or regulations of a society—‘to live lawlessly, lawlessness, lawless living

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). In [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 757). United Bible Societies.

Paul characterizes this person as someone who is without law and whose character is therefore the personification of sin. In fact, in v. 8 the person is simply called “the lawless one.” This ascription (*anomias*) could mean “without [the] law” or “against [the] law,

Green, G. L. (2002). [The letters to the Thessalonians](#) (p. 308). W.B. Eerdmans Pub.; Apollos.

Among the Jewish people, the “lawless ones” is a title ascribed to the Gentiles (Wis. 17:2; 1 Macc. 2:44),

Green, G. L. (2002). [The letters to the Thessalonians](#) (p. 308). W.B. Eerdmans Pub.; Apollos.

He is opposed to all moral, religious, and civil law. Just as Christ embodied righteousness, so the “man of lawlessness” will embody lawlessness and rebellion (see Dan 11:36

Hoehner, H. W., Comfort, P. W., & Davids, P. H. (2008). [Cornerstone biblical commentary: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, Philemon](#). (Vol. 16, p. 390). Tyndale House Publishers.

**Daniel 11:36–37 (NKJV)**

<sup>36</sup> “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. <sup>37</sup> He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above *them* all.

Matthew 4:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “**Away with you, Satan!** **For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’**”

The sin of man will culminate in the Man of Sin

Pink, A. W. (2005). [The antichrist](#) (p. 63). Logos Bible Software.

“Man of Sin” signifies that he will be sin itself personified. “Man of Sin” denotes there will be no lengths of wickedness to which he will not go, no forms of evil to which he will be a stranger, no depths of corruption that he will not bottom.

Pink, A. W. (2005). [The antichrist](#) (p. 63). Logos Bible Software.

**the son of perdition,**

“Son of Perdition” denotes that he will be the culmination and consummation of satanic craft and

power. All the evil, malignity, cunning, and power of the Serpent will be embodied in this terrible monster.

Pink, A. W. (2005). [The antichrist](#) (p. 63). Logos Bible Software.

**ἀπώλεια**, ἡ, *destruction*, 2. *perdition*, Ep. Rom. 9.22, 2Ep. Thess. 2.3.

3. *thing lost*, LxxLe. 6.3 (5.22)

Liddell, H. G., Scott, R., Jones, H. S., & McKenzie, R. (1996). In [A Greek-English lexicon](#) (p. 232). Clarendon Press.

This is the very title that Judas received in John 17:12

Green, G. L. (2002). [The letters to the Thessalonians](#) (p. 308). W.B. Eerdmans Pub.; Apollos.

John 17:12 (NKJV)

**12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.**

The term *destruction* (*apōleias*) may carry either a transitive sense (“the one who causes destruction” —

Matt. 26:8; Mark 14:4) or an intransitive one (“destruction that one experiences” or “annihilation” — 1 Tim. 6:9; 2 Pet. 3:16). In

the NT the term commonly has to do with the destruction of those who oppose God and his purposes (Matt. 7:13; Rom. 9:22; Phil. 1:28; 3:19; Heb. 10:39; 2 Pet. 3:7; Rev. 17:8, 11). This

passage in 2 Thessalonians emphasizes the destruction of this *man of lawlessness* (v. 8)

Green, G. L. (2002). [The letters to the Thessalonians](#) (pp. 308–309). W.B. Eerdmans Pub.; Apollos.

**2 Thessalonians 2:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> And then 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.

The expression **“son of”** was a common Semitism that indicated that which was characteristic of a person

Green, G. L. (2002). [The letters to the Thessalonians](#) (p. 308). W.B. Eerdmans Pub.; Apollos.

1 Thessalonians 5:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

An old writer has said the name Devil is most suggestive of his character. If “d” is taken away *evil* is left. If “e” is taken away *vile* is left. If “v” is taken away *ill* is left. And if “i” is taken away and the next letter be aspirated, it tells of *hell*.

It is equally true of the Antichrist: his names reveal his character, expose his vileness, and forecast his career and doom.

Pink, A. W. (2005). [The antichrist](#) (p. 61). Logos Bible Software.

**Let me close with this today.**

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin **is revealed**, the son of perdition,

## 2 Thessalonians 1:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus **is revealed** from heaven with His mighty angels,

**ἀπο-κάλυπτω**, f. ψω, *to uncover*, τὴν κεφαλὴν Hdt., etc.

**2.** *to disclose, reveal*, Plat.:—Med. *to reveal ones whole mind*, Plut., N.T.:—**Aorist Pass. to be disclosed, made known**, N.T. Hence ἀποκάλυψις

Liddell, H. G. (1996). In [A lexicon: Abridged from Liddell and Scott's Greek-English lexicon](#) (p. 99). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Paul used a tense for the verb **is revealed** which indicates that this revelation will be a decisive act that will take place at a definite moment in history (cf.

vv. 6, 8

Constable, T. L. (1985). [2 Thessalonians](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 718). Victor Books.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:6–8 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> And now you know what is restraining, that he may be **revealed** in his own time. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> And then 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.

This unveiling, or revealing, and apocalypse of the Man of sin, the AntiChrist, is a divinely controlled and sovereignly timed event.

Just as much as the timing of the Revealing of Jesus Christ from Heaven is a divinely ordained day. So this event of the revelation of the most evil man that has walked on this planet is controlled by God and is precisely timed by God. It cannot and will not happen a day sooner than it has been appointed.

### Revelation 13:1–8 (NKJV)

**13** Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

<sup>2</sup> Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of* a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. <sup>3</sup> And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

<sup>4</sup> So they worshiped the **dragon who gave authority to the beast;** and they worshiped the

beast, saying, “Who *is* like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

<sup>5</sup> And **he was given a mouth** speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup> Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup> **It was granted to him** to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. <sup>8</sup> All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Daniel 11:36 (NKJV)

<sup>36</sup> “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done.”

Daniel 11:40–12:2 (NKJV)

<sup>40</sup> “**At the time of the end** the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall

come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm *them*, and pass through. <sup>41</sup> He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many *countries* shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. <sup>42</sup> He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. <sup>43</sup> He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians *shall follow* at his heels. <sup>44</sup> But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many. <sup>45</sup> And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

**12** “At that time Michael shall stand up,  
 The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons  
 of your people;  
 And there shall be a time of trouble,  
 Such as never was since there was a nation,  
*Even* to that time.  
And at that time your people shall be delivered,  
 Every one who is found written in the book.



2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,  
 Some to everlasting life,  
 Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

There is no doubt, who controls History and there is no doubt who controls the future.

There is no evil that has not been part of the plan of God. The worst evil that has ever been committed by man was committed against the Son of God when they Crucified Him.

This was not a surprise to God, but was the plan of God to use there worst forms of evil that come natural to the fallen man to kill His Son.

Acts 4:25–28 (NKJV)

25 .....

*‘Why did the nations rage,  
 And the people plot vain things?*

26 *The kings of the earth took their stand,  
 And the rulers were gathered together  
 Against the Lord and against His Christ.’*

27 “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were

gathered together <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

There have been a number of Evil men throughout History that have embodied the horrors of the

AntiChrist. Men like

Antiochus Epiphanes IV

Pompey the Great

Caligula

Nero

But the one that is the closest to the characteristic of the AntiChrist in Recent history is Hitler. There is no man that I can think of the embodies a Man of Lawlessness A man of Sin , a man destined for destruction and ruin more than Hitler!!!

**In Erwin Luther book Hitlers Cross, it is written,**

Years ago I experienced a defining moment on a bone-chilling day in the concentration camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau. The physical discomfort of the elements paled to insignificance when I walked through the rooms of this human hell that had witnessed spectacle after spectacle of the depths to which the human mind can descend once the conscience dies. *I stood (mine)* Speechless, I stared

at the pictures of children hurt and humiliated by experimentations performed on them.

Hitler himself said it all: “I want to raise a generation of young people devoid of a conscience—imperious, relentless, and cruel.” Lutzer, Erwin W.. Hitler's Cross SAMPLER: How the Cross was Used to Promote the Nazi Agenda . Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

Rudolf Hess, the son of a German wholesale merchant and student at the University of Munich, wrote a prize-winning essay answering the question: “What Kind of a Man Will Lead Germany Back to Her Previous Heights?” When he met Hitler in 1920, he was struck by the parallels between what he had written and the man who was now in his presence. Hitler was stirred by the essay and impressed with the man who had such uncanny insight. Little wonder they became close friends.

First and foremost, said Hess, this individual had to be a man of the people, a man whose roots were deeply embedded in the masses so that he would know how to treat them psychologically. Only such a man could gain the trust of the people; that, however, was only to be his public image.

Second, in reality such a man should have nothing in common with the masses; for when the need arose, he should not shrink from bloodshed.... The

public image must be kept separate from the actual performance.

Third, he had to be a man who was willing to trample on his closest friends to achieve his goals. He must be a man of terrible hardness; as the needs arise, he must crush people with the boots of a grenadier.<sup>1</sup> Hitler vowed he would be that man. He would give the appearance of being one of the masses, but in reality he would be quite another. When brutality was called for, he could act with force and decisiveness. He would do what the individuals among the masses could not. He would not shrink from cruelty.

Privately Hitler prepared for war; publicly he gave speeches about his desire for peace. Privately he enjoyed pornography; publicly he insisted on right conduct, no swearing, no off-color jokes in his presence. At times he could be charming and forgiving; most other times he was monstrously cruel, as when he insisted that those who conspired against him be “hung on a meat hook and slowly strangled to death with piano wire, the pressure being periodically released to intensify the death agonies.”

Privately (and sometimes publicly) he prided himself in his honesty, yet often he reveled in his ability to

deceive. He was a cauldron of contradictions. During his days in Vienna he saved dried bread to feed squirrels and birds and just months after coming to power signed three pieces of legislation to protect animals; yet he worked himself into a frenzy of delight over the pictures of great capitals in Europe in flames. He was especially ecstatic at the bombing of Warsaw and London and angry with the commandant of Paris for not setting that city on fire.

He could weep with tenderness when talking to children and (then) rejoice over the completion of another concentration camp. Compassionate and even generous with family and friends, he would become filled with vindictive rage at anyone—including close friends—who stood in the way of his agenda. He could be charming or brutal, generous or savage. “He who spoke the words of Jesus, hated all mankind.” said Robert Waite. Hitler holds a fascination for us because his dictatorship enjoyed such wide support of the people. Perhaps never in history was a dictator so well liked. He had the rare gift of motivating a nation to want to follow him.

Communist leaders such as Lenin or Mao Tse-tung arose to power through revolutions that cost millions of lives; consequently, they were hated by the masses. Hitler attracted not only the support of the

middle class but also of university students and professors. ‘

... Hitler arose in Germany at a time when the nation was a democracy. He attained his power legitimately, if unfairly. The nation was waiting for him, eager to accept a demagogue who appeared to have the talent needed to lead her out of the abyss. The people yearned for a leader who would do for them what democracy could not.

Lutzer, Erwin W.. Hitler's Cross SAMPLER: How the Cross was Used to Promote the Nazi Agenda . Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

Hitler said on one occasion, “I felt the pressure of destiny....I was summoned by providence to do the will of providence to go into politics. He believed his life was a series miracles and indeed it was only the supernatural power was not God but the Devil himself.