

Edgemont Bible Church
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2 Thessalonians 2:6-10b

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Intro: Every time a false doctrine is introduced, there is always an attack on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Either it is an attack on His deity, Humanity, or the efficacy and sufficiency of His saving work. When the antichrist comes, he will ultimately convince the unbelieving world that he is the savior that they need and for whom they have been waiting. Paul called the Thessalonians to remember what he had taught them, reassuring them that the Day of the Lord had not come. The simplicity of his argument couldn't be argued against. Antichrist had not come and wouldn't until the apostasy. His appearance was a precursor to the Day of the Lord. Now Paul gives 4 more exhortations.

V. How to be ready for the end times – Part 2a: Be Strong and Courageous 2 Th 2:6-10b

A. Do Not Be Ignorant – vs 6-10b - four aspects of the career of antichrist

1. His revelation -

a. And now you know—they had already learn about this subject

b. what is restraining

i. **katecho** - to hold down (fast), to have, hold (fast), possess, retain, seize on, stay, take, withhold.

ii. it is neuter prompting many suggestions as to what is restraining

- the preaching of the gospel, ultimately fully proclaimed in all the world - Mt 24:14

- the nation of Israel

- the binding of Satan by believers

- the Church - Mt 5:13-14

- Human Government - Ro 13:1-4

- the Roman Empire

- Michael the Archangel

iii. The problem with all but one is the concept that human force could restrain evil when we have difficulty enough with our own sinfulness and tendency toward evil - Ro 7; 2 Tim 3:13

iv. Michael the Archangel - though he is known to do battle against Satan - Dan 10:21, possibly even he can only win with the rebuke in the name of the Lord - Jd 9

c. that he may be revealed in his own time.

i. not even the purposes of Satan operate on their individual schedule

ii. But according to God's divine purpose - Job 42:2; Is 46:10

d. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work;

i. **musterion** - a secret or "mystery" and not able to be known unless revealed by God - Ro 16:25

ii. The true character of lawlessness is already at work

- 1 Jo 3:4 sin is lawlessness

- many antichrist have already come into the world - 1 Jo 2:18; 4:3
- evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived - 2Ti 3:13

e. only He who now restrains

- i. the gender of the article is changed to masculine
- ii. In Jo 14:26; 15:26; 16:13, Jesus used the masculine pronoun "He" to describe the neuter "pnuema" or Spirit
- iii. The one that could restrain the evil one is God the Holy Spirit - Gen 6:3; Acts 7:51; Jo 16:8

f. will do so until He is taken out of the way.

- i. cannot mean the Holy Spirit is removed from the world
 - he is omnipresent
 - people get saved during the tribulation - Rev 7:14 cf Jo 3:3-8; Tit 3:5
- ii. A cessation of His restraining work
 - Ro 1:18-25 God Gave them up
 - shows the removal of divine restraint
 - and what happens afterwards
 - Principle of Ps 37:4
 - Principle of Ps 106:14-15

g. And then the lawless one will be revealed,

- i. third time in this passage Paul refers to this which will bring the judgmental wrath of rev 4-19
- ii. His reign will be short lived

2. His Destruction – vs 8b

a. whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth

- i. The certainty of his short reign
 - shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever. - Dan 7:26
 - he shall come to his end, and no one will help him - Dan 11:45
 - "And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. - Re 17:11
 - the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. - Rev 19:20
- ii. Consume - **analisko** - to use up, i.e. destroy:--consume.
 - does not mean slay
 - he will be alive when cast into the lake of fire - Rev 19:20
- iii. The breath of His mouth - Isa 11:4b He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

b. and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

i. **katargeo** - to be (render) inoperative or ineffective, abolish, cease, to bring to an end.

ii. Not only will the Lord slay the person, but He will bring to end his dominion

iii. the brightness of His coming - the 2nd Coming - Rev 19:11-21

iv. Antichrist will rule from the middle of the Tribulation until Christ's return =

- 1260 Days

- or 42 months

- or a times time and a half of time - 3 1/2 years - Dan 9:27

3. His Power – vs 9-10a

a. whose coming is according to the working of Satan

i. **Energieia** - efficiency, "energy," operation, strong, working.

ii. Root word energy

- power in action

- Usually refers to God's power

b. with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

i. the deceptive tricks of the wicked one which include a resurrection

ii. **Pseudos** - a falsehood:--lie, lying.

- Modifies -

-Power - **dunamis** - supernatural acts - Mt 7:22

-Signs - points to the one who did them

-Wonders - describes the astonishing results

- false

-not in the sense that they are fake

-in the sense of the false conclusions about who he is

Rev 13:4 they worshiped the beast

c. with all unrighteous deception - he will deceive the world into complete submission

4. His Influence – vs 10b

a. among those who perish

i. unbelievers are children of the devil - Jo 8:44

ii. They believe their father

- 1 Co 2:14; 2 Co 4:3-4

- Re 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;

iii. Re 19:20 *by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.*

b. only God's elect will not be taken in - Mt 24:24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.– Mk 13:22