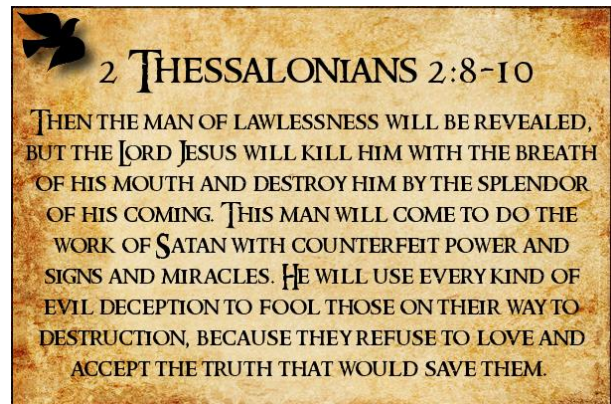
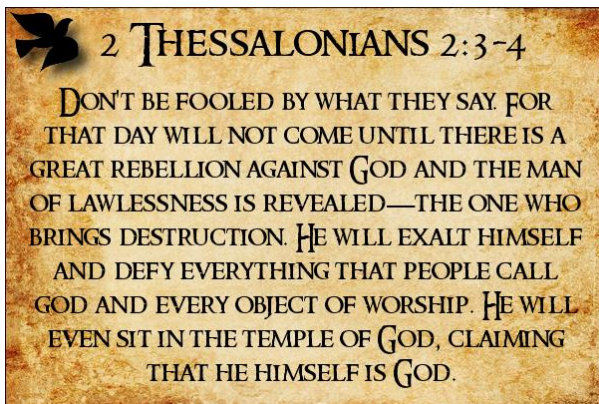




The apostle Paul responds to a false message given to the Thessalonian believers, namely that the Day of the Lord's wrath of God - that is, the Great Tribulation period - has already started. Paul asserts that the Great Tribulation cannot begin until a special apostasy occurs and the man of lawlessness (the Antichrist) is revealed. The Antichrist will not arrive on the scene until the Restrainer no longer holds back his appearance.

## Outline

- Preview ..... Introduction
- The Local Deception ..... 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2
- The Man of Sin ..... 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5
- The Mystery of Sin ..... 2 Thessalonians 2:6-12



## Truths & Principles

- ✓ The man of lawlessness will appear in time, marking the end of history. He will oppose God and all God represents.
- ✓ The antichrist will perform false miracles, signs and wonders to deceive non-believers into worshipping him.
- ✓ Christ will come and destroy Satan's representative by His breath and the splendor of His appearance.

## Applications

- ✓ Knowing that deception remains a lethal tool of Satan, we should pursue intimacy with God and holiness in our lives.
- ✓ We should not succumb to laziness or apathy regarding sin, prayer, self-discipline, and love.
- ✓ We should pray for the unsaved and for one another.



*Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21*

1. What are the “coming” and “gathering together” referring to (2:1)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the “Day of the Lord (Christ)” referring to (2:2)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What must happen before that Day comes (2:3)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who is Paul referring to in this verse (2:4)? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What things is Paul alluding to in this verse (2:5)? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who is restraining (2:6-7)? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the “mystery of lawlessness” (2:7-8)? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who is the source of the lawless one’s power (2:9)? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How does the lawless one work (2:9-10)? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the cause of the perishing in this verse (2:10)? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What happens to those who do not receive the love of the truth (2:11-12)? \_\_\_\_\_

## Study Questions

1. Consider the reason for Paul’s writing to the Thessalonians in VERSES 1-2.
  - ❖ What caused the believers in Thessalonica to have their faith shaken?
  - ❖ What is the major concern of the Thessalonians in this passage?
  - ❖ If Paul had taught the Thessalonians a Mid- or Post-Tribulation view, do you think that they would have been shaken? Or would they be rejoicing?
  - ❖ Can we logically conclude that Paul taught the Thessalonians a Pre-Tribulation view?
2. Reflect on Paul’s presentation of the sequence of events in VERSES 3-12.
  - ❖ Is it better to see the Day of the Lord as a single event or a period of time?
  - ❖ What is the order of Christ’s coming in relation to the revealing of the Antichrist?
  - ❖ What are the things that need to happen before the Great Tribulation (Day of the Lord) arrives?
  - ❖ Do you see a great apostasy in our world today? Do you think this portends that we are getting close to the Rapture?
3. Ponder Paul’s description of the deception of the lawless one in VERSES 9-12.
  - ❖ Who is the “restrainer”? What does removing the restrainer imply?
  - ❖ What makes people so gullible that they believe the Antichrist’s deceptions?
  - ❖ What is the reason that God gives them over to this deception?
  - ❖ Why is a fearless seeking of God’s truth so important to us?
  - ❖ How can a teaching of truth set people free?
  - ❖ How can you guard against deception?