

What Do You Know?

2 Thes. 2

- Young converts were being tested by false reports concerning Lord's coming
 - Common fallacy: thinking we can set a time for the return of Christ
 - 1-3: Paul discussed subject while with them. They knew *who* and *what* (6)
 - Paul does not repeat details; principles are plain. We must be reserved in drawing conclusions

2 Thes. 2

We know no more about time of His return than we know when thief will come (1 Th.5:2)

I. The Text

1: subject

- *Coming of Lord and our gathering together to Him*
 - Gathering together = Hb.10:25
- His coming will be noisy (1 Th.4) but unannounced (1 Th.5). We will not miss it

2-3: purpose of the exhortation: do not be...

- Soon [quickly, easily, hastily] . . .
- Shaken in mind [unsettled, distressed].
A tossing, as of ship shaken loose from moorings. 2 Tim.2:26
- Troubled. Startled. Don't move away from settled convictions, or be weakened by . . .
 - Spirit: false predictions. 1 Th.5:19-21;
1 Jn.4:1; 2:19-20. [Ac.8 / 13]
 - Word: oral message (*as if by Paul?*) v.15
 - Letter: (forgery: *as if from us*) ... as if day of Christ has come...

3: purpose of the exhortation: do not be...

- Deceived (3). [BOLO] 1 Th.5:2
 - Day will not come (v.2) unless apostasy comes first (2 Tim.4:2-4)
- Man of sin (lawlessness) . . . 3, 7, 8, 9 . . .
- Son of perdition (only elsewhere of Judas, Jn.17:12)
 - May be Hebrew idiom, as “man of sorrows...”
 - “Man of sin”: owned by sin?

3: purpose of the exhortation: do not be...

- ‘The Man so possessed by sin that he seems unable to exist without it, the man utterly given up to sin, 2 Th.2:3. In this sense ... as a power exercising dominion over men (sin as a principle and power) is rhetorically represented as an imperial personage’ – Thayer

Note:

man of lawlessness (3) ...

now restrained, as Paul wrote (6) ...

already at work (7) ...

destroyed when Lord comes (8) ...

Cannot describe one person

Can describe persistent apostasy

“Whether we speak of the ‘man of sin’ or the ‘antichrist,’ we refer to a principle or spirit of lawlessness contrary to the truths revealed in His Majesty’s Word” – G. Music

4a:

- Opposes: as satan, 1 Tim.5:14-15
- Exalts himself (2 Co.12:7) above all

4b:

- Temple of God...he is God
 - takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God (ESV)
 - ...displaying himself as God (NASB)
 - Herod, Ac.12:21-23
 - Satan, Mt.4:9

5:

- Paul does not elaborate here because he had already informed them about these things
- Had they remembered his teaching they would not have been disturbed by these alarms

6:

- Now you know what is restraining...
– (*we do not know*)
- One thing is clear: God is in control
- Jesus comes in His own time; so does the man of sin ... and not before. 1 Th.5:1

7a:

- **Mystery of lawlessness** (cf. 1 Tim.3:16)
 1. Sin is lawlessness, 1 Jn.3⁴ ‘whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness’
 2. Man of lawlessness (3) ...
 - mystery of lawlessness (7) ...
 - lawless one (8-9)
 3. Practice of lawlessness, Mt.7:23

7b:

- **Something (-one) was restraining.** ‘He’ / ‘he’ (cf. v.6)

8:

- Lawless one revealed
- Lord will consume... with His breath . . .

Is.11:4

1. Paul's purpose: NOT to satisfy their curiosity about dates...
2. Paul assures them that God is over all – do not fall for lying delusions

9:

- Coming of lawless one mimics coming of Christ
 1. According to working of satan (empowered by satan to do his work; acts like him)
 2. Power, signs, wonders...all done in spirit of falsehood (11)
 - Jn.8:44, methods of satan

10:

- Wicked deception attacks the perishing
- Why? They don't love truth
 - Opposite of 1 Th.2:13 –not welcome.
Slam door in face of God

11:

- Strong delusion. God gives everyone what he wants
- Common figure of speech: God is said to do what He allows (free will)
 - God hardened Pharaoh's heart, Ex.4:21...
 - Pharaoh hardened his heart, Ex.7:10-13
 - Mt.6:13, lead us not...?? Ja.1:13
 - Without God: no basis for morals or truth

12:

- How serious is it to doubt truth?
 1. Become pleased with unrighteousness
 2. Condemned
- Ro.1²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a **debased** mind, to do those things which are not fitting
 - **Debased**: worthless, base. The mind that deems God worthless is a worthless mind

I. The Text

II. The Teaching

1. We do not know the time of the Lord's coming, 1-2

- 1 Th.5:2

1. Some said AD 180s / 202 / 500 / 1000 / 1186 / 1420 / 1844 / 1874 / 1988 [88 reasons!] / 1994 / 2011
2. Our job: obey what we know (1:8)

2. Paul does not repeat all he said to the Thessalonians, 3-6

We can know enough to avoid error

When the Day comes, we will know

1. Discussed only here...not fully
2. Paul had warned them in detail; this is a short reminder
3. Great apostasy would occur before Lord comes

[Ac.20:28-31; 1 Tim.4:1; 2 Tim.4:2-4, et al.]

3. Satan wants you

- Lk.22:3, Judas; 31, Peter
- 1 Co.10:12-13
- 2 Co.2:11
- Ep.6:10-17
 - Satan can tempt, but he cannot force
 - 1 Pt.5:8-9

4. Why do some miss the truth and avoid salvation? (9-11)

- 9: lying wonders – false signs. Ex.7
- 10: unrighteous deception (2 Co.11:3)
- 10: no love for truth
 - 1 Th.2:13; 2 Th.2:13; 1 Pt.1:22
- 11: strong delusion
 - 1 K.20:...34
 - 1 K.21:...13
 - 1 K.22:...19-23

5. God sends strong delusion to 'them' (11) [10, do not love truth]

- They want error; get their wish – more lies
- Sin is punished with sin
- Without love of truth, we fall for anything
 - Working of error – deluding influence (NASB); working of error (ASV)
 - Sin and error steal the heart

6. Pleasure in unrighteousness

- 10, 12 = Jn.3:19
 - Hate light because it exposes their works
- 2 Jn.7, every error attacks either the traits or the teaching of Jesus

Many embrace lies thinking
that's the end of it