



**The Man of Lawlessness**  
24<sup>th</sup> in the “Thessalonians” Series  
2 Thessalonians 2:3-12  
August 31, 2025  
Pastor Mickey Klink

**Introduction:** In this text, God gives us insights into the events immediately preceding the return of Christ.

This complex description of the events preceding the return of Christ teaches us seven important things:

- 1) The Day of the Lord will not come until two events happen: the Great Rebellion occurs, and the Man of Lawlessness is revealed (v. 3).
- 2) The Great Rebellion is when many Christians will deny Christ and their Christian faith (v. 3b).
  - Matt 24:11-13: <sup>10</sup> *At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,* <sup>11</sup> *and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.* <sup>12</sup> *Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,* <sup>13</sup> *but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.*
  - 1 Tim 4:1: <sup>1</sup> *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*
  - 2 Tim 3:1: <sup>1</sup> *But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.* <sup>2</sup> *People will be lovers of themselves....*
- 3) The Man of Lawlessness will be revealed to the world as a challenger to God (v. 3c-d).
- 4) The Man of Lawlessness will exalt himself as “God” and make himself an object of worship (v. 4).
- 5) The Man of Lawlessness is currently being held back by God’s gracious providence (vv. 5-7).
- 6) The Man of Lawlessness will be defeated overwhelmingly by Jesus Christ at his return (v. 8).
- 7) These events preceding the return of Christ will bring forth the grace of God on all his people and the judgment of God on Satan and all the wicked (vv. 9-12).
  - 2 Peter 3:8-10: <sup>8</sup> *But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.* <sup>9</sup> *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

**Response**

Hope Church, stand firm on the truths the Lord has revealed to us today about our security and victory in Christ.

## **Sunday Text Questions**

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues needing clarification together.

- 1) Do the Bible's details about the end times scare you or strengthen your confidence for what is coming?
- 2) What do you think the Great Rebellion and the global revealing of the Man of Lawlessness will be like, and how obvious will it be to Christians around the world when it happens?
- 3) How do you think Christians and churches will respond when the Great Rebellion happens and the Man of Lawlessness is inviting the world – and many who were formerly in churches – to worship him?
- 4) What do you imagine will make the Man of Lawlessness so attractive that many people, even those who were formerly Christians, will seek and worship him?
- 5) Satan and demonic forces are mentioned several times in this text. How do you think Satan and demonic forces will be (and are now!) working behind the scenes to influence the world and challenge God?
- 6) This text is intended to explain what will happen to Christians so that they can live with confidence and competence. How does this passage give you confidence and competence for the future?
- 7) In what other ways, if any, did this passage speak into your life to teach, rebuke, correct, or train you in righteousness (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)?

**Further study this week:** Passages related to the message of this week's text: Psalm 20:7 (Mon); Psalm 37:3-5 (Tues); Psalm 9:10 (Wed); Psalm 28:7 (Thurs); Jeremiah 29:11 (Fri).