

TOUGH TIMES, TOUGHER FAITH
II Thessalonians Series #8
October 26th, 2025

TEXT: II Thessalonians 2:9-12

CONSIDER THIS: Christian, you live in a world that is completely saturated with lies. Apart from the grace of God, it is impossible to walk through life and not be contaminated by the lies that find such fertile soil in this world. Do you realize you are being lied to everyday? Furthermore, every one of us has, along the way, told lies. It is very possible that right now your life is being influenced by a lie that you believe.

KEY: The key to rise of the man of lawlessness/Antichrist is that everything about him is built upon lies and he will be received by a world that wants to believe lies, a world that hates God's truth. This phenomenon is not just about the future, it exists now (II Timothy 4:3-4).

I. SATAN IS A LIAR

- A) Remember, the supernatural power behind the man of lawlessness is Satan, and Satan is a liar.
1. In John 8:44 **JESUS CHRIST** proclaims that Satan is the father of lies. This explains so much about the condition our world is in.
 2. Also in John 8:44, Jesus said that Satan was a "murderer from the beginning." What specifically was Jesus referring to? Perhaps the lie in Genesis 3:1-8 that led to the spiritual death of the entire human race.

Christian, every category of sin (deceit, hatred, lust, pride) is terrible, but perhaps we are most like Satan when we lie.

- B) Of all the Satanic characteristics that can be seen in the man of lawlessness/Antichrist, the most prominent one is his claim to be God/Christ (II Thessalonians 2:3-4).
- C) From pre-history, Satan, once the highest of all the angels, sought to be worshipped as God (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:11-17). The Antichrist will be central to this lie (Revelation 13:1-6).

II. THE WORLD HATES GOD'S TRUTH

- A) The man of lawlessness will tell lies (ending up with "the ultimate lie") that appeal to the world. They are ripe for deception because they do not love God's truth (II Thessalonians 2:9-12 and John 3:18-20).

NOTE: Much of false teaching includes elements of God's truth but twists it. Just like Satan's use of scripture when he tempted Jesus in Matthew 4:1-10, the man of lawlessness might quote scripture but only to promote his lies. This already is happening today.

- B) *Therefore, God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false...*
II Thessalonians 2:11

God energizes the delusion in the sense that He "turns the unbelieving world over" to their hatred of truth as in Romans 1:18-25.

III. LIES CHRISTIANS BELIEVE

Christian, one of Satan's most effective weapons he uses against you are the lies he gets you to believe.

- A) In Acts 5:1-11 is the account of Ananias and Sapphira lying to the church to feed their pride of wanting people to be impressed by them. This attitude can be traced back to Satan (v.3)

- B) Many of the lies we believe have to do with our sin (Galatians 6:7)

1. No one will find out (David and Bathsheba)
2. This sin will not hurt me
3. No one else will be hurt by this sin
4. Blameshifting (Genesis 3:12-13)
5. I will do something to make up for my sin (King Saul's sacrifice in I Samuel 15:18-22)
6. It normally is wrong but my case is an exception
7. God won't forgive me for what I have done
8. God's grace is my license to sin, I will ask for forgiveness later (Romans 6:1-2, 15)
9. I'm not saying I'm perfect, but at least I am better than him (minimizing my sin at someone else's expense, see Matthew 7:1-5)
10. I am worthless (no, we are all unworthy but you are far from worthless!)
11. I am hopelessly addicted to sin

- C) **STAND FIRM!** (II Thessalonians 2:13-17) The Thessalonians had a tough faith because it was rooted in God's **truth** (2:13). Paul's extended teaching on the man of lawlessness in 2:1-12 was to expose lies they were believing (2:2-3A). Christian, the way to stand firm is to stand upon the Word of God!

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