



Digital Bulletin

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 | The Anti-Christ Pretends to be GOD | 2.8.26

Big Idea: False teachers and cults are *not* anything new; in fact, it's alarming how many people are deceived. What lies ahead in the person of the Anti-Christ is a serious problem that's twofold: he presents himself as GOD, and billions embrace his claim.

Re: *Revelation 13*

ONE-DAY MISSIONS EXPERIENCE @ GBC 2.28.26 | 8:30-3:30

God's mission didn't start with us, and it won't end until the whole world hears the gospel. On Saturday, February 28th, GBC will host a One-Day Missions Experience, an immersive day designed to help our church understand God's global mission and take the next step in obeying the Great Commission.

Join us! Teens and children are welcome to attend - childcare is provided! Lunch catered by Chick-fil-A.

This is a free event, but please sign up so we have an accurate count for lunch. Register with QR Code.



Estimated dates of the following books: **Daniel** 530BC | **2 Thessalonians** 51AD | **Matthew** 56AD | **Revelation** 96AD

Three things must occur prior to Christ's Return:

1. The apostasy (falling away)
2. The revealing of the anti-Christ.
 - Identified in the text as *the man of sin, the son of perdition, the lawless one*.
3. The restrainer of evil ceases from his work

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away (Gr: *apostasia* – *not harpazo*) comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, **so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.** ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

- Apostasy is the departure from and denial of the faith. Re: **1 Timothy 4, 2 Timothy 4**

"Falling away" The Greek *apostasia*, translated as apostasy, means a departure and denial of the faith. It can also mean **physical departure**, which has led some to conclude *apostasia* means the physical departure of the church or **the Rapture**. However, if Paul meant **Rapture**, he could have easily used *harpazo*, "caught up," the word he used in **1 Thessalonians 4** regarding the Rapture.

The **WHAT** (neuter) and **WHO** (masculine) of **verse 6** both reference the **Holy Spirit**. John MacArthur points out that in **John 14, 15, 16** Jesus used the neuter noun and masculine pronoun together to reference the Holy Spirit. Charles Ryrie wrote "Who is powerful enough to hold back Satan? The obvious and only answer is GOD; the third person of the Godhead is the restrainer – **the Holy Spirit.**" Re: **Romans 1:18-32**

- Once the Holy Spirit ceases to restrain evil, spiritual rebels will get what they want, zero **influence** from GOD re: **Romans 1:18-2:6**

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness

Romans 1:24-26 Therefore **God also gave them** up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ **who exchange the truth** of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶ For this reason **God gave them up** to vile passions.

Romans 1:28 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. Re: **Romans 2:4-5**

How is the wrath of GOD revealed as stated in **Romans 1:18**? GOD gave them over.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason **God** will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness

1. It's very dangerous to revise or reject GOD's truth.
2. GOD does *not* condemn truth seekers; He judges those who reject truth.

Why would anyone worship the antichrist?

2 Thessalonians 2:5 so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Matthew 24:15-16 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation (destruction),' spoken of by **Daniel** the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶ "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

- **Jesus taught** that you need to study Daniel to understand the end times.
- **In other words**, you will misread the teachings of Jesus and other New Testament teachings if you do not understand what Daniel wrote!
- **Homework assignment:** Prayerfully read **Daniel 2, 7-12**; take notes in obedience to our Lord's teaching in Matthew 24 and to prepare your mind and heart for next Sunday.

Resources:

Digging for truth – Daniel, Prophet or Pretender (26-minute video)

See gotquestions.org – Daniel's 70 weeks and The Apostasy and Restraint of **2 Thess. 2**

John Lennox – *God, AI and The End of History*