

## ~MAN OF LAWLESSNESS (417)

- .. A Religious Revolt
- .. Foretold
- .. A Composite Man Not An Individual Person
- .. Treason Against God
- .. A Restraint
- .. At Work In Apostles Days
- .. Revealed
- .. Destroyed

- An expression used by the apostle Paul at;
- Not to be quickly shaken from your reason nor to be excited either through an inspired expression or through a verbal message or through a letter as though from us, to the effect that the day of Yehowah is here. (2 Thessalonians 2:2)
- Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction. (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
- In warning of the great anti-Christian apostasy that would develop before, the day of Yehowah. The Greek word for apostasy here used, *a-po-sta-si'a*, denotes more than a mere falling away, an indifferent sliding back. It means a defection, a revolt, a planned, deliberate rebellion. In ancient papyrus documents *a-po-sta-si'a* was used politically of rebels.

### .. A Religious Revolt

- This rebellion, however, is not a political one. It is a religious one, a revolt against Yehowah God and Jesus Christ and therefore against the Christian congregation.

### .. Foretold

- Other forecasts of this apostasy were made by the apostles Paul and Peter both verbally and in writing, and the Lord Jesus Christ himself warned of its coming.

- In his illustration of the wheat and the weeds (**Matthew Chapter 13**), Jesus said that the Devil would sow weeds, imitation Christians, sons of the wicked one, among the wheat, the sons of the kingdom.
- These would exist until the conclusion of the system of things, when they would be identified and burned up.
- Paul warned the Christian overseers of Ephesus that after his going away oppressive wolves would enter in among true Christians and would not treat the flock with tenderness but would try to draw away the disciples after themselves, not just making disciples for themselves, but trying to draw away **the** disciples, Christ's disciples.
- I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness. (**Acts of Apostles 20:29**)
- And from among you yourselves men will rise and speak twisted things to draw away the disciples after themselves. (**Acts of Apostles 20:30**)
- He wrote, at;
- However, the inspired utterance says definitely that in later periods of time some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to misleading inspired utterances and teachings of demons. (**1 Timothy 4:1**)
- By the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, marked in their conscience as with a branding iron. (**1 Timothy 4:2**)
- Forbidding to marry, **commanding** to abstain from foods which God created to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who have faith and accurately know the truth. (**1 Timothy 4:3**)
- However, the inspired utterance says definitely that in later periods of time some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to misleading inspired utterances and teachings of demons. (**1 Timothy 4:1**)
- By the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, marked in their conscience as with a branding iron. (**1 Timothy 4:1**)
- Forbidding to marry, commanding to abstain from foods which

God created to be partaken of with thanksgiving by those who have faith and accurately know the truth. (1 Timothy 4:3)

- Paul later wrote to Timothy that there will be a period of time when they will not put up with the healthful teaching, but, in accord with their own desires, they will accumulate teachers for themselves to have their ears tickled, and they will turn their ears away from the truth.

- For there will be a period of time when they will not put up with the healthful teaching, but, in accord with their own desires, they will accumulate teachers for themselves to have their ears tickled. (2 Timothy 4:3)

- And they will turn their ears away from the truth, whereas they will be turned aside to false stories. (2 Timothy 4:4)

- The apostle Peter drew a parallel between the apostasy from Christianity and that which occurred in the natural house of Israel. He said,

- However, there also came to be false prophets among the people, as there will also be false teachers among you. These very ones will quietly bring in destructive sects and will disown even the owner that bought them, bringing speedy destruction upon themselves. (2 Peter 2:1)

- Furthermore, many will follow their acts of loose conduct, and on account of these the way of the truth will be spoken of abusively. (2 Peter 2:2)

- Also, with covetousness they will exploit you with counterfeit words. But as for them, the judgment from of old is not moving slowly, and the destruction of them is not slumbering. (2 Peter 2:3)

## •• A Composite Man Not An Individual Person

- This composite man,

- However, brothers, respecting the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we request of you (2 Thessalonians 2:1)

- Not to be quickly shaken from your reason nor to be excited either through an inspired expression or through a verbal message or through a letter as though from us, to the effect that the day of Yehowah is here. (2 Thessalonians 2:2)
- Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the **man of lawlessness** gets revealed, the son of destruction. (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
- He is set in opposition and lifts himself up over everyone who is called, god, or an object of reverence, **so that he sits down in the temple of The God, publicly showing himself to be a god.** (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
- Do you not remember that, while I was yet with you, I used to tell you these things? (2 Thessalonians 2:5)
- And so now you know the thing that acts as a restraint, with a view to his being revealed in his own due time. (2 Thessalonians 2:6)
- True, the mystery of this lawlessness is already at work, but only till he who is right now acting as a restraint gets to be out of the way. (2 Thessalonians 2:7)
- Then, indeed, the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will do away with by the spirit of his mouth and bring to nothing by the **manifestation** of his **presence.** (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
- But the lawless ones presence is according to the operation of Satan with every powerful work and lying signs and portents (2 Thessalonians 2:9)
- And with every unrighteous deception for those who are perishing, as a retribution because **they did not accept the love of the truth that they might be saved.** (2 Thessalonians 2:10)
- So that is why God lets an operation of error go to them, that they may get to believing the lie. (2 Thessalonians 2:11)
- In order, that they all may be judged because they did not believe the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:12)

- Is, therefore, not an individual, but a composite **man**, a collective group, as the foregoing scriptures show, and this **man** was to continue after the apostle's death and exist down until the time of the Lord's presence.

## • Treason Against God

- The **lawlessness** that this composite apostate **man** commits is **lawlessness** against Yehowah God the Universal Sovereign. This **man** is guilty of treason. He is called the son of destruction, as was Judas Iscariot, the traitor who betrayed the Lord Jesus Christ and who was instrumental in bringing about his death.

- He, like Judas, is to be annihilated, sent into extinction forever. This **man** is not Babylon the Great, who also fights against God, for she is a woman, a harlot. However, since he carries on a religious rebellion against God, he is evidently a part of mystic Babylon.

- When I was with them I used to watch over them on account of your own name which you have given me, and I have kept them, and not one of them is destroyed except the son of destruction, in order, that the scripture might be fulfilled. (**John 17:12**)

- And he carried me away in the power of the spirit into a wilderness. And I caught sight of a **woman** sitting upon a scarlet-colored wild beast that was full of blasphemous names and that had seven heads and ten horns. (**Revelation 17:3**)

- And upon her forehead was written a name, a mystery; Babylon the Great, the mother of the harlots and of the disgusting things of the earth. (**Revelation 17:5**)

- The **man of lawlessness** sets himself in opposition to God and is therefore a **Satan**, which means **resister**. And, indeed, his presence is according to the operation of Satan.

- But the **lawless ones presence** is according to the operation of **Satan** with every powerful work and lying signs and portents (**2 Thessalonians 2:9**)

- In the days of the apostle Paul, there was mystery, or a religious secret, about the identity of this **man of lawlessness**. To this day

**mystery shrouds his identity in the minds of many persons, because his wickedness is practiced under the guise of godly devotion.**

- **True, the mystery of this lawlessness is already at work, but only till he who is right now acting as a restraint gets to be out of the way. (2 Thessalonians 2:7)**
- **By his lying teachings contrary to or superseding, as it were, the Law of God, the **man of lawlessness** sets himself up over Yehowah God and other gods, mighty ones of the earth, and also against God's holy ones, true spiritual brothers of Jesus Christ.**
- **Especially, however, those who go on after flesh with the desire to defile it and who look down on lordship. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble at glorious ones but speak abusively. (2 Peter 2:10)**
- **Whereas angels, although they are greater in strength and power, do not bring against them an accusation in abusive terms, not doing so out of respect for Yehowah. (2 Peter 2:11)**
- **But these men, like unreasoning animals born naturally to be caught and destroyed, will, in the things of which they are ignorant and speak abusively, even suffer destruction in their own course of destruction. (2 Peter 2:12)**
- **Wronging themselves as a reward for wrongdoing. They consider luxurious living in the daytime a pleasure. They are spots and blemishes, indulging with unrestrained delight in their deceptive teachings while feasting together with you. (2 Peter 2:13)**
- **Since he is a hypocrite, a false teacher claiming to be Christian, he sits down in the temple of The God, that is, what such false teachers claim to be that temple.**
- **He is set in opposition and lifts himself up over everyone who is called, god, or an object of reverence, so that he sits down in the temple of The God, publicly showing himself to be a god. (2 Thessalonians 2:4)**

## **.. A Restraint**

- **Paul speaks of the thing that acts as a restraint.**

- And so now you know the thing that acts as a restraint, with a view to his being revealed in his own due time. (**2 Thessalonians 2:6**)
- It appears that the apostles constituted this restraint. Paul had told the Ephesian overseers that after his going away wolf-like men would enter in.
- I know that after my going away oppressive wolves will enter in among you and will not treat the flock with tenderness. (**Acts of Apostles 20:29**)
- He repeatedly wrote admonitions about such apostasy not only here in Second Thessalonians but in **many** exhortations to Timothy. And he counseled Timothy to commit the things he had heard from Paul to faithful men who would be qualified to teach others.
- He spoke of the congregation of the living God as being, a pillar and support of the truth. He wanted it built up as strongly as possible before the great apostasy blossomed out.
- And the things you heard from me with the support of **many** witnesses, these things commit to faithful men, who, in turn, will be adequately qualified to teach others. (**2 Timothy 2:2**)
- But in case I am delayed, that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in God's household, which is the congregation of the living God, a pillar and support of the truth. (**1 Timothy 3:15**)
- Much later, at the **command** of Christ, the apostle John was told to write, warning against sects, mentioning especially the sect of Nicolaus and speaking of false prophets like Balaam and of the woman Jezebel who called herself a prophetess.
- Still, you do have this, that you hate the deeds of the sect of Nicolaus, which I also hate. (**Revelation 2:6**)
- Nevertheless, I have a few things against you, that you have there those holding fast the teaching of Balaam, who went teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication. (**Revelation 2:14**)

- So you, also, have those holding fast the teaching of the sect of Nicolaus likewise. (**Revelation 2:15**)
- Nevertheless, I do hold this against you, that you tolerate that **woman** Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and misleads my slaves to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols. (**Revelation 2:20**)

### •• At Work In Apostles Days

- The apostle Paul said that the mystery was already at work.
- True, the mystery of this **lawlessness** is already at work, but only till he who is right now acting as a restraint gets to be out of the way. (**2 Thessalonians 2:7**)
- There were those trying to teach false doctrine, some of these even disturbing the Thessalonian congregation, prompting, in part, the writing of his second letter to them. There were **antichrists** when John wrote his letters, and doubtless before that.
- John spoke of the last hour of the apostolic period, and said,
- Young children, it is the last hour, and, just as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now there have come to be **many antichrists**, from which fact we gain the knowledge that it is the last hour. (**1 John 2:18**)
- They went out from us, but they were not of our sort, for if they had been of our sort, they would have remained with us. But they went out that it might be shown up that not all are of our sort. (**1 John 2:19**)

### See Also ANTICHRIST

### •• Revealed

- Following the apostles death, the **man of lawlessness** came out into the open with his religious hypocrisy and false teachings.
- Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the **man of lawlessness** gets revealed, the son of destruction. (**2 Thessalonians 2:3**)



- And so now you know the thing that acts as a restraint, with a view to his being revealed in his own due time. (2 Thessalonians 2:6)
- Then, indeed, the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will do away with by the spirit of his mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of his presence. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
- According to Paul's words, this **man** would gain great power, operating under Satan's control, performing every powerful work and lying signs and portents.
- Persons deceived by the operation of the composite **man of lawlessness** are referred to as those who are perishing, literally, **destroying themselves**, as a retribution because they did **not accept the love of the truth that they might be saved**.
- The apostle shows that they get to believing the lie and they will all be judged because **they did not believe the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness**.
- But the lawless one's presence is according to the operation of Satan with every powerful work and lying signs and portents. (2 Thessalonians 2:9)
- And with every unrighteous deception for those who are perishing, as a retribution because they did not accept the love of the truth that they might be saved. (2 Thessalonians 2:10)
- So that is why God lets an operation of error go to them, that they may get to believing the lie. (2 Thessalonians 2:11)
- In order, that they all may be judged because they did not believe the truth but took pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:12) **See Int**
- The judgment is therefore a condemnatory one.

**See Also RESURRECTION (Sin against the Holy Spirit)**

**.. Destroyed**

- This composite, hypocritical **man of lawlessness** is to be done away with by the Lord Jesus by the spirit of his mouth and brought to nothing, by the **manifestation** of his **presence**.
- The annihilation of this wicked opposer of God will be visible, concrete proof that the Lord Jesus Christ is sitting and acting as Judge. He will not judge according to his own standards, hence the destruction **by the spirit of his mouth** evidently means in expression of **Yehowah's judgment against this wicked class of persons**.
- Then, indeed, the **lawless** one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will do away with by the spirit of his mouth and bring to nothing by the **manifestation** of his **presence**. (**2 Thessalonians 2:8**)
- But the rest were killed off with the long sword of the one seated on the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth. And all the birds were filled from the fleshy parts of them. (**Revelation 19:21**)
- As to the long sword, which sword proceeded out of his mouth.