



## **Get Ready...Jesus is Coming Back!**

### **The Apostasy and the Man of Lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)**

#### **I. Exposition of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**

(2:1) Now we ask you, brothers *and sisters*, regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers *and sisters*, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as indeed the rest of *mankind do*, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose *from the dead*, so also God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For we say this to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to

meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

(2:2-3a) <sup>2</sup> that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit, or a message, or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. <sup>3</sup> No one is to deceive you in any way!

## **2 Peter 3:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! <sup>13</sup> But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

(2:3b) For *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

(2:4) <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

(2:5-7) <sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? <sup>6</sup> And you know what restrains *him* now, so that he will be revealed in his time. <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is removed.

(2:8) <sup>8</sup> Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

(2:9-10) <sup>9</sup> *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved.

### **Revelation 13:4-15**

<sup>4</sup> they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?" <sup>5</sup> There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him. <sup>6</sup> And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, *that is*, those who dwell in heaven.

<sup>7</sup> It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. <sup>8</sup> All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. <sup>9</sup> If anyone has an ear, let him hear. <sup>10</sup> If anyone *is destined* for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints.

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. <sup>12</sup> He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. <sup>13</sup> He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. <sup>14</sup> And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who *\*had* the wound of the sword and has come to life. <sup>15</sup> And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the

beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

(2:11-12)<sup>11</sup> For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, <sup>12</sup>in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

## **II. Principles for Application**

### **1. Hold fast to the truth and don't be swayed by any so called message from God**

#### **Jeremiah 23:16-29**

Thus says the LORD of hosts,  
“Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you.  
They are leading you into futility;  
They speak a vision of their own imagination,  
Not from the mouth of the LORD.

<sup>17</sup> “They keep saying to those who despise Me,  
‘The LORD has said, “You will have peace”’;  
And as for everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart,  
They say, ‘Calamity will not come upon you.’

<sup>18</sup> “But who has stood in the council of the LORD,  
That he should see and hear His word?

Who has given heed to His word and listened?

<sup>19</sup> “Behold, the storm of the LORD has gone forth in wrath,  
Even a whirling tempest;

It will swirl down on the head of the wicked.

<sup>20</sup> “The anger of the LORD will not turn back  
Until He has performed and carried out the purposes of His heart;  
In the last days you will clearly understand it.

<sup>21</sup> “I did not send *these* prophets,  
But they ran.

I did not speak to them,  
But they prophesied.

<sup>22</sup> “But if they had stood in My council,  
Then they would have announced My words to My people,  
And would have turned them back from their evil way  
And from the evil of their deeds...

<sup>25</sup> “I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, ‘I had a dream, I had a dream!’ <sup>26</sup> How long? Is there *anything* in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even *these* prophets of the deception of their own heart, <sup>27</sup> who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they relate to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal? <sup>28</sup> The prophet who has a dream may relate *his* dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have *in common* with grain?” declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup> “Is not My word like fire?” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?”

**2. God is in control of history and He is advancing His kingdom**

**3. God desires the lost to be saved but will judge those who reject the truth**