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**2 Thessalonians 2**  
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By Dan Maines

## **2 Thessalonians 2**

### **2 Thessalonians 2:1-2**

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 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.

† Paul writes to calm fears that the day of the Lord had already occurred.

† False messages and forged letters were troubling the Thessalonians.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 3.27) noted the circulation of false writings that disturbed early believers.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:3**

No one is to deceive you in any way! For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.

† Paul identifies two signs: apostasy and the revealing of the man of lawlessness.

† The man of lawlessness represents a persecuting power in their generation.

† Josephus (Wars 6.2.1) described lawless men leading Jerusalem into destruction.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:4**

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.

† This recalls Roman emperors who demanded worship and desecrated the temple.

† Nero and later Vespasian and Titus fulfilled this by exalting themselves as divine.

† Suetonius (Life of Vespasian 5) records Vespasian claiming divine honors.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:5**

Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

† Paul had previously warned them, showing consistency in his teaching.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:6-7**

And you know what restrains him now, so that he will be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until he is removed.

† The mystery of lawlessness was already active in Paul's day.

† The restrainer likely referred to Roman authority that temporarily held back Jerusalem's rebellion until the final judgment.

† Tacitus (Histories 5.12) described the tension and unrest in Judea before the outbreak of war.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:8**

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.

† Christ's coming in judgment would destroy the lawless one.

† This was fulfilled in the fall of Jerusalem and the end of temple-centered rebellion.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:9-10**

That is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders, 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.

† False wonders and deception marked the rebellion against God.

† Josephus (Wars 6.5.2) describes false prophets deceiving people with lying signs in Jerusalem before its fall.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:11-12**

For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in

wickedness.

† God's judgment included allowing the rebellious to be deceived.

† Their refusal of truth led to destruction.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14**

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

† In contrast, the faithful Thessalonians were chosen for salvation.

† Their calling assured them of glory in Christ.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:15**

So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold on to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

† Paul commands them to hold firmly to apostolic tradition.

† The true tradition was oral and written teaching, not innovations.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.2.2) defended the necessity of holding to apostolic tradition.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

† Paul closes this section with a blessing of comfort and strength.

† Their hope was secure in God's grace.

### **How it applies to us today**

† 2 Thessalonians 2 reminds us that deception and apostasy marked the last days of the old covenant, but the faithful were preserved.

† The man of lawlessness and the rebellion found fulfillment in the events of the first century.

† Today, we rest in the fulfilled kingdom, standing firm in the truth handed down by Christ and His apostles.

### **† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

#### **Source Index**

† Josephus, Wars 6.2.1 - lawless men in Jerusalem

† Josephus, Wars 6.5.2 - false prophets deceiving the people

† Suetonius, Life of Vespasian 5 - Roman emperors claiming divine honors

† Tacitus, Histories 5.12 - unrest in Judea before the war

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.27 - false writings disturbing believers

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.2.2 - importance of apostolic tradition

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