

**While I'm Waiting**  
**(Week 16)**  
**2 Thessalonians 2:7-17**  
**"Satan's Final Push"**

**Introduction**

**For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the One now restraining will do so until He is out of the way, and then the lawless one will be revealed. The LORD Jesus will destroy him with the breath of His mouth and will bring him to nothing at the appearance of His coming.** **2 Thessalonians 7-8**

As we discussed previously in our study of the first portion of **Chapter 2**, The Spirit of God has, up to this point, been restraining the antichrist from making his final appearance on the scene. But there will come a day, when "the One Who" is holding him at bay will be taken out of the way. In other words, The Holy Spirit will allow the evil schemes of Satan to run unchecked upon this world. The restraining influence of The Spirit will be lifted so to speak, and the devil will be allowed to do his worst.

We must not confuse this by saying that God's Spirit will not be in the world at all. God is omnipresent, and therefore, by nature there is no place where He is not. God's Spirit will be very much involved with mankind during the tribulation period. This is why the book of *Revelation* tells us that the Nation of Israel as well as a "**multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language**" will be saved during this awful time (**Revelation 7:3-9**). The Holy Spirit will at work to deliver many from the coming destruction of the antichrist and his unholy alliance. But as far as His mission to restrain the coming of the lawless one, He will remove His hand and allow him to finally rise to power and bring about Satan's final push to destroy as many as he can, while he still can.

As we also previously discussed, the Spirit of God has been operating primarily through The Church to restrain the coming of the antichrist. For you see, it is the people of God, who have brought to bear their Godly influence upon the decision makers of this world. It is Christ's followers, led by the Spirit of God, who have had tremendous influence in how things are done by our government. But as many of us are becoming painfully aware, the Christian "voting block" is becoming smaller and smaller.

I read an article just this past week that stated for the very first time in America, church attendance and membership has fallen below fifty percent. Never in our history have so few people felt it necessary to gather and worship a Holy God. And a secular humanistic culture, which believes that man is his own god, is rushing to fill the void. This is, in itself, a fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. For in this very chapter that we are now studying, Paul has said that prior to the coming of the antichrist a "**day of apostasy**" must come (**2 Thessalonians 2:3**). This means that people will be turning away from the faith in droves. Otherwise, they would never fall for the lies of the antichrist. But sadly, the generation that is rising to prominence in this world today know enough about The One True God to be dangerous.

False teaching is literally on every corner now. Every day some new false prophet takes the stage and twists for his own personal gain the teachings of Christ. They pick and choose portions of the scriptures that they think can be used for their own edification, and then discard the rest, replacing it with "feel good" dime-store psychology and other ridiculous nonsense that says much and yet nothing at the same time. And the masses eat it up! These are the teachers that Paul warned Timothy about that would come in the last days (**2 Timothy 4:3**).

Now more than ever, the stage is set for the antichrist to come and deceive the gullible masses who are longing for his kind of message. It is a message that appeals to their own fleshly desires, rather than point them to The Savior and their need of repentance. Who needs repentance when your "spiritual leaders" tell you that you are perfect just the way you are? Welcome to the modern world, my friends, where sin is not only accepted, it is actually celebrated. But thank God this wickedness will not last forever. Paul reminded the Thessalonians that the lawless one would indeed come, but his days would be numbered. So, let us look together at this powerful Scripture that tells of the things that are to come just before the end. It is Satan's final push before The LORD of Glory returns to take back what is rightfully His. Today we will learn of *The Devil's Messiah*, *The Deception of The Masses*, and how they will all be *Destroyed by The Breath of The LORD'S Mouth*.

**The Devil's Messiah (vs. 9)**

**The coming of the lawless one is based on Satan's working, with every kind of miracle, both sign and wonders serving the lie....** **2 Thessalonians 2:9**

Many have incorrectly assumed that the antichrist will be anti-religious. When in fact, quite the opposite is true. He will not only appear to be very "spiritual", but he will usher in his own "brand" of religion. In fact, the book of *Revelation* tells us that as part of his braintrust he will have his very own spiritual guru, a man that *The Bible* calls "the false prophet". The two of them will inundate the world with their own perverse doctrine, and to legitimize this false religion, they will be able to perform miracles by the power of none other than Satan Himself.

Just as God manifests Himself to us in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Devil's "messiah" will likewise belong to a trinity of Evil: Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet. Just as it is the Holy Spirit's mission to point the world to Jesus Christ, the false prophet will go about proclaiming the power of the antichrist. Satan will bring forth a powerful deception, a false imitation of God's work. In fact, the antichrist will even have a death and resurrection. Someone will assassinate him, and he will rise from the dead.

**And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads. On its horns were ten crowns, and on its heads were blasphemous names. The beast I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority. One of its heads appeared to be fatally wounded, but its fatal wound was healed. The whole earth was amazed and followed the beast. They worshiped the dragon because he gave authority to the beast. And they worshiped the beast saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to wage war against it?"**  
**Revelation 13:1-4**

So you see, the antichrist will have a tremendous following, because he will show the people miracles the likes of which they have never seen before. He will use these signs and wonders to persuade the people that he is unstoppable and undefeatable. He will be the object of worship to the masses, and little will they know, that as they worship him, they are worshiping Satan (the dragon) himself. They will be convinced that life in this world will finally be one of peace and prosperity for all, but they will be altogether deceived.

**When they say, 'Peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.** **1 Thessalonians 5:3**

We know, from the study of The Scriptures, what the devil's false messiah will be like; arrogant and proud, speaking blasphemies:

**The beast was given a mouth to utter boasts and blasphemies.** **Revelation 13:5**

We also know that he will pretend to be on the side of the Jewish people, but this will be a deception solely aimed at achieving his own purpose.

**He will make a firm covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and offering. And the abomination of desolation will be on a wing of the temple until the decreed destruction is poured out on the desolator.** **Daniel 9:27**

In simple terms, this means that he will establish a covenant with the nation of Israel and even rebuild their long desired temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. When he completely seizes all

power at the midpoint of the seven year tribulation period (middle of the week or “seven), he will then place an image of himself in this temple and proclaim himself to be God (the abomination of desolation). And then the worst of it all will begin. The last three and a half years of the Tribulation will be Satan’s final push to terrorize all that he can of this world. All who refuse to worship the beast and to take his mark of loyalty will be executed.

**It (the second beast or false prophet) was permitted to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of of the beast could both speak and cause whoever would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. And it makes everyone — small and great, rich and poor, free and slave — to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark: the beast’s name or the number of his name. This calls for wisdom: Let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, because it is the number of a person. Its number is 666.**  
**Revelation 13:15-18**

### **The Deception of The Masses (vs. 10-12)**

**...and with every wicked deception among those who are perishing. They perish because they did not accept the love of the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a strong delusion so that they will believe the lie, so that all will be condemned — those who did not believe the truth but delighted in unrighteousness.**  
**2 Thessalonians 2:10-12**

This verse is intended to be a warning to all of those people who want to hang out around the church crowd but never commit themselves to following Christ. We all know the type. They act like they believe in Jesus, but they live for themselves. Or as Paul would describe them to Timothy:

**Holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people!**  
**2 Timothy 3:5**

These folks know full well what it means to be a follower of Christ. They know what they need to do. But they are unwilling to forsake their own fleshly desires in order to take up their cross and follow Jesus. The message of the antichrist will be so appealing to them, because it will offer them a religion that goes hand in hand with self indulgence. These are the “churchgoing type”, who will be left behind at the rapture. (See the parable of the wheats and tares, **Matthew 13:24-43**). Now, you would think that they would be able to look around them and see what is going on, but they will not be able to. For you see, when you shake your fist at God long enough, there will come a time when He sees to it that you won’t be able to recognize the very truth that had been staring you in the face for so long. In short, God has written them off. He has given them over to their own fleshly lusts, and there is, for them, no longer any hope of redemption.

Although there are many who will be saved during the Tribulation period, these will not be among them. They had their chance, and now it is forever lost. They had been shown the truth, and they rejected it, and now their fate is sealed. So don’t think that you can come week after week and hear the truth of God’s Word, and then put it off for a more convenient time, my friend. For once the antichrist is revealed, you will not be able to come to God. *The Bible* says it plainly.

**Working together with Him, we also appeal to you, ‘Don’t receive the grace of God in vain.’ For he says: At an acceptable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you (Is.49:8). See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation!**  
**2 Corinthians 6:1-2**

Don’t put off getting right with God, when you have been shown the truth. You may never get another chance.

**Destroyed by The Breath of His Mouth (vs. 8b; 13-17)**

**...The LORD Jesus will destroy him with the breath of His mouth and will bring him to nothing at the appearance of His coming. 2 Thessalonians 2:8(b)**

Now, we go back a few verses, and we see the ultimate destruction of the kingdom to the antichrist. When Paul speaks of his “destruction”, he is not referring to his death, but that his reign will be brought to a swift end. The book of *Revelation* actually tells us that when Christ returns at the end of the seven year tribulation period, the antichrist’s reign of terror will be ended with the annihilation of his armies. But the antichrist himself will be arrested and thrown alive into hell. John described this event better than I ever could:

**Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and with justice He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on His head. He had a Name written that no one knows except Himself. He wore a robe dipped in blood, and His Name is called The Word of God. The armies that were in heaven followed Him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. A sharp sword came from His mouth, so that He might strike the nations with it. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty. And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh: King of Kings And LORD of Lords.**

**Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he called out in a loud voice, saying to all the birds flying high overhead, ‘Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of military commanders, the flesh of the mighty, the flesh of horses and of their riders, and the flesh of everyone, both free and slave, small and great.’ Then I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and against His army. But the beast was taken prisoner, and alone with it the false prophet, who had performed the signs in its presence. He deceived those who had accepted the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image with these signs, both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword that came from the mouth of the Rider on the horse, and all the birds ate their fill of their flesh. Revelation 19:11-21**

Did you see that?! When Christ returns, He will completely wipe from the face of this earth the entire kingdom of the antichrist. And He will do it, simply with the sound of His voice! He will literally undo all the Satan has accomplished by just **speaking** it out of existence! They will be destroyed by **“the breath of His mouth”**. This is the almighty power of the One we worship. He is the King of Kings and The LORD of Lords! And you are either for *Him* today, or as John so vividly described it, you are... for *the birds!* So make the right choice. Follow Jesus... or suffer the wrath of God.

In the conclusion of Paul’s thoughts on this matter, He reminds the church at Thessalonica that they have been destined to far better than what awaits those who refuse to believe. They had been chosen by God and delivered from the wrath that is to come. For this, Paul give thanks to God. Because they had believed, they were saved, and therefore, they could stand firm in the faith, knowing that God will do all that He had promised to them. Paul reminded them:

**He (God) called you to this through our gospel, so that you might obtain the glory of our LORD Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold to the traditions you were taught, whether by what we said or what we wrote. May our LORD Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, Who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and good hope by grave, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:14-17**

This same message is true for us as well, if we belong to Christ. So take heart child of God. You have *not* been destined for the wrath that is to come (**1 Thessalonians 5:9**). Better things are in store for those who are in Christ Jesus! So, do not be fearful as you look around and see these prophecies rapidly becoming reality. It is all part of the plan. God is in control. He has assured us that this is necessary. The falling away from the faith (apostasy) has begun. The influence of The Spirit of God upon this world is beginning to fade. The church will soon be called home, and the “restrainer” will withdraw His hand in order for Satan’s final push to begin. When you look around you can you recognize these “signs of the times?” Are you prepared for the return of Christ? Or will you be lulled to sleep like so many around us, who are deceived into thinking that the best of times are just around the corner, if they could only rid the world of those “Christian fanatics”, who are holding back their progress!

Jesus is coming soon. Will you be ready, or will you be deceived? Will you be for Him today, or will you be for the birds? He is the only hope of salvation.

Let those who are anxiously awaiting His return say... TRUTH!!!