

# Sovereign Over ALL

## 2 Thessalonians 2:4-8

Job 1:1-12

2 Timothy 3:1-5



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### God Exists (Isaiah 45:5, 14, 18, 21, 22; Acts 17:24-25)

- The God **REVEALED** in the Bible exists and there is NO OTHER.
- ONLY THIS GOD CAN SAVE YOU. (Isaiah 45:22)
- A god of your opinion will NOT save you.
- God has revealed Himself, His attributes, and His ways in HIS WORD.
- God created the “universe” - the heavens, the earth, and **all time**. (Heb 1:3)
- God owns EVERYTHING in His universe. (Genesis 1:1; Deut 10:14; Psalm 50:12; 89:11; 1 Chronicles 29:11-14; Job 41:11)
- Everything includes everything including every human, angel, demon, Satan, time and history.
- God is the ALMIGHTY and ALL creatures get their power from the Almighty.
- God, because He owns everything, is SOVEREIGN over everything.
- God, because He is ALL WISE does ALL things with ALL of His Creature according to **HIS WILL**. (Ephesians 1:13; Isaiah 46:9-11; Daniel 4:35; Psalm 115:3; 135:6)
- God, because He is ALL WISE, is PERFECT, JUST, and RIGHTEOUS in ALL that He does. (Deuteronomy 32:4)

### Reminding Ourselves

- The church at Thessalonica was a CHURCH. The EVIDENCE that they were a CHURCH were:
  - ✓ Their FAITH was not just words but WORKS showing that their faith was genuine and not counterfeit. (James 2:14-26)
  - ✓ Their FAITH grew exceedingly.
  - ✓ Their LOVE for each other was a LABORING and GROWING love for each other. (1 John 3:16-18)
  - ✓ They ENDURED in DOING their faith in the midst of GREAT tribulations and persecutions.
  - ✓ They obeyed (lived) the Word of God.
  - ✓ They **followed** Christ. (John 10:27-29)
  - ✓ The Holy Spirit was **evident** in their lives.

- ✓ They has a love for the lost and they did something about it. The Word went out from them!
  - ✓ Others SAW their faith.
  - ✓ They became examples for others to follow.
  - ✓ They looked eagerly for the second coming of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- How do we measure up to such a church? Are we a church?

### This Church Was Shaken (2 Thessalonians 2:2)

- Trouble and tribulations did not shake this Church. They persevered a kept going forward, upward and outward!
- Severe persecution did not shake this Church. They remain FAITHFUL to their Lord.
- Counterfeit letters shook this Church. Letters that ROBBED them and CHEATED them out of their HOPE.
- They could persevere with the hope that their Lord was going to return and take them to a BETTER place. (See Hebrews 11:13-16)
- They were seduced and deceived by “letters” from Paul saying the the day of the Lord had already come.
- There will be/are scoffers! (2 Peter 3:3-4)

### The Day of the LORD

- The Day of the LORD is NOT one day but a period of time.
- It is a day of doom, destruction, trouble, deception, and horror.
- It is a day that the world has never experienced and never will again. (Matt. 24:21)
- A day that is CLOSE at hand. (Revelation 1:1)

### First . . . (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

- Paul taught the second coming in just the few months he was with them. (v. 5)
- Paul tells the saints at Thessalonika that there must first be a “falling away.”
  - Paul did not mention earthquakes, rumors of war, war, nations rising up against nations, famines, pestilences, etc. (Matthew 24:6-7)
  - “falling away” is ἀποστασία (apostasia) - it is a defection; rebellion; revolt against God.
- We are living in a period of great “falling away” - 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Matthew 13:20-21; 2 Peter 3:3-4
  - SEE Romans 1:18-32 - especially vv. 18, 21-22, **24, 26, 28**.
  - READ Psalm 2.
- This is a “falling away” from the TRUTH. Churches and religion will still be around but they will reject TRUTH and DOCTRINE (which are the same thing). 2 Timothy 4:3-4

- Jesus (as well as the NT writers) warned us that there will be much deception during our times. (Matt. 24:4, 5, 11; 7:15; 2 Cor. 11:13-15; Acts 20:29-32; Colossians 2:8; 2 Timothy 3:13; 1 John 4:1)
- Why will many “fall away”? (Matthew 13:20-22; 1 Timothy 4:1)
  - ✗ NO ROOTS – they never really received the word and abided in it.
  - ✗ Tribulations
  - ✗ Persecutions
  - ✗ **Cares of the world**
  - ✗ **Deceitfulness of riches**
  - ✗ **False teachings**

## Second . . . (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

- Paul warns the Thessalonians of the Antichrist. (See 1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7)
- “Anti” means “against” or “in place of.”
- This is the man that Jesus said that the Jews would accept as their coming Messiah – see John 5:43.
- This man is known as:
  - “the little horn” (Daniel 7:8)
  - “the prince that shall come” (Daniel 9:26)
  - “the wilful king” (Daniel 11:36)
  - “the beast out of the sea” (Revelation 13:1-10)
  - “abomination of desolation” (Matthew 24:15)
- Paul says that before the “Day of the LORD” this man must be revealed.
  - This suggests that this man will be present but not known and then at a given time “unveiled” or “brought to light.”
- Most likely this man will be a politician and international diplomat.
- The world and Israel will be made ready to accept this man and when all is set then God will allow this person to be revealed.

## The AntiChrist Described (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

- “the man of lawlessness” or “the man of sin” (Lawlessness is sin. - 1 John 3:4)
  - He will be a man!
  - He will be opposed to all of God's order (for example government, family, church, marriage).
- “the son of destruction” or “the son of perdition”
  - The man is destined (and destiny belongs to God) for destruction.
  - Judas was also called “the son of perdition.” (John 17:12)
    - ✓ Satan entered into and used Judas. (John 13:27)
    - ✓ Jesus chose Judas in order that Scripture might be fulfilled. (John 6:70-71; 13:18) **MEDITATE ON THIS.**

- Proclaims Himself God. (v. 4)
  - He opposes God and exalts himself over everything that is related to God.
  - He will attempt to live out Satan “5 ‘I wills” dream. (Isaiah 14:12-14)

## The Sovereignty and Power of God (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8)

- (v. 6) There is a RESTRAINER.
- The “lawlessness one” cannot reveal himself as long as he is being restrained.
- The “lawlessness one” cannot do whatever he wishes. He is restrained by and controlled by the SOVEREIGN will of God. (See Job 1-2; Luke 22:31)
- Who is the “restraining One”?
  - Paul uses the NEUTER form of the verb (“the thing that restrains”) in v. 6 and the masculine form in v. 7 (“the one who restrains”).
  - The RESTRAINER must be:
    - ① Something or someone who can satisfy the NEUTER and MASCULINE forms of this verb. (Consider John. 15:26; 16:13-14; Eph. 1:13-14 – “Spirit” is neuter.
    - ② Powerful enough to restrain Satan.
    - ③ Willing to restrain Satan.
  - The answer can only be GOD, the Holy Spirit.
- **LOOK** how easily Christ destroys this “lawlessness one” – with the “breath of His mouth” and the “brightness of His coming.”

## We Are Living in Apostate Times! (2 Thessalonians 2:7)

- There is a great falling away from the TRUTH and DOCTRINE today. Many are being deceived by COUNTERFEIT truths.
- The Holy Spirit's restrained is being taken away gradually. (Read Romans 1:24-32; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:1-3)
- We are WARNED of APOSTASY. Who commits apostasy?
  - Nations (Psalm 2)
  - Churches (Revelation 3:14-22)
  - Individuals (2 Timothy 4:10)
  - Those who “say” they are “born-again” but do not do the will of God. (Matthew 7:21-23, 24-29; 13:20-22; 1 John 2:17)
- Genuine believers are “overcomers” against the evil of the times. (1 John 5:4, 5; **2:14**; Romans 8:35-37; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21)
- We must be comforted and encouraged knowing that God is in control and sovereign. Satan will have “his day” but it will not last long!