

v1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, v2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. v3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for (that day will not come) until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. v4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. v5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? v6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. v7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. v8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming. v9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, v10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. v11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie v12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN.

I. **ANTICHRIST WILL INCREASE – v3** - *Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for (that day will not come) until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.*

1. **THIS IS NOT REFERING TO ANY SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL - v3**

The key to understanding this passage is the description of the “man of lawlessness” also being “the man doomed to destruction”. The description “the man doomed to destruction” is only used in one other place in Scripture, and that is when it is referring to JUDAS in John 17:12.

We know that JUDAS is NOT the ANTI-CHRIST, however he was used by Satan to be anti(against)-Christ.

2. **THERE WILL BE A WHOLESale REJECTION OF CHRIST IN A GRAND SCALE – v4** *He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.*

Humans will become the centre of their own worlds. People will no longer depend on God; they will become more and more self-centred. You only need to look at the growth of the Fashion, Beauty and Fitness industry. Don't get me wrong, in themselves they are not negative, however, when they become our total focus, something has gone wrong.

Even the church will be filled with preaching that is all about “WHAT GOD CAN DO FOR YOU” or “HOW GOD CAN HELP YOU REACH YOUR FULL POTENTIAL”.

3. **EVIL WILL PROSPER BY THINGS DONE IN SECRET – v7** *For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work;*

I think we all know the danger of keeping quiet. Evil prospers behind closed doors and when people don't speak up about problems. Even in our own country, evil prospered when the Broederbond was the controlling force behind the Apartheid government.

4. **THERE WILL BE MUCH THAT WILL APPEAR TO BE GOOD BUT WILL ACTUALLY DRAW PEOPLE AWAY FROM GOD –**

v9 *The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders.*

Let me use one example. WORK. We all need to work. It is such and integral part of our lives. HOWEVER, for many they have moved from

Working in order to live
TO
Living in order to work.

You could substitute many different things in place of WORK.
LEASURE, FAMILY, HOMES

5. **PEOPLE WILL RATHER BELIEVE A LIE THAN THE TRUTH –**

v11 *For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie*

Compare EVOLUTION vs CREATION.

More and more Scientists are providing evidence that you need as much FAITH to believe in Evolution as you do in Creationism, YET, people still choose to reject the biblical account of Creation.

The same is true for the Resurrection. Either the Resurrection is a historical fact, or you cannot believe half the history of the world. There is more evidence proving the Resurrection than any other historical character in history. There is a lot written about Julius Ceaser, yet the earliest manuscript was written 900 years after he lived. The earliest manuscript about Jesus is about 85 years after he lived.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN JESUS COMES AGAIN.

II. JESUS WINS **v1** *Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*

1. **THE ONLY THING WE CAN BE SURE ABOUT IS THE COMING OF JESUS** – **v1** *Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, **we ask you, brothers,***

The NIV totally messes up the word order of verse one. The original Greek with, WE BEG, DEMAND, IMPLORE (BESEECH) you brothers.

Paul is saying, CATCH A WAKE UP, BROTHERS, Jesus is coming again.

2. **WHEN JESUS COMES, YOU WILL KNOW** – **v2** *Do not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.*

We waste far too much time worrying about how Jesus will return, instead of focusing on the reality of his return. This last week we watched the news about the fires in LA. When the Firemen came to evacuate those in the path of the fire, do you think they debated about how the fire would burn their houses down. They simply said GET OUT OR DIE!

3. **SATAN AND HIS EVIL FORCES DON'T STAND A CHANCE** –
v8 *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendour of his coming.*

Satan will be DESTROYED by two things.

THE BREATH OF HIS MOUTH – The Spoken WORD of his truth

THE BRILLIANCE OF HIS COMING – The Glorious HOLINESS of his persona

WHAT SOULD WE DO TILL JESUS COMES AGAIN.

III. WARN THE UNBELIEVERS THAT THEIR DAY OF RECONING IN COMING

*v9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, v10 and in every sort of evil **that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. v11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie v12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.***

IV. REST IN THE SOVEREIGN PLANS OF GOD –

RELAX - *v2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed*

BE ALERT - *v3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way,*

GOD HAS NOT LOST CONTROL - *v7 but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.*