

2 Thessalonians 2:6-10 Rise of Antichrist

1

Introduction

A hallmark of false doctrine is its attack on the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout history, mystics, rationalists, legalists, cultists, and other heretics have assaulted Christ's deity, humanity, and the sufficiency of His saving work. Satan had devoted much time creating false systems of religion that teach lies about Jesus. He is disguised as an "angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:14) and his false doctrines deceive billions of people, keeping them from the life-giving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is coming a satanic false religion that will dominate the world like no other in history (cf. Rev. 17). Its object of worship will be the most powerful, evil, deceitful person to ever live: the man of lawlessness, the Antichrist. He will be the culmination of Satan's long war against God. Like Satan he will disguise himself as an "angel of light" and deceive the whole lost world (Rev. 12:9; 13:14).

2

2 Thessalonians 2:6-10

And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

3

His Reveal

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8a

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Last week we looked at the reality that Satan longs to put his man on the throne and be worshipped by the entire world. Satan's efforts are restrained by the work of the Holy Spirit until the appointed time for the Man of Sin to be revealed.

4

His Destruction

2 Thessalonians 2:8b

whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Just as Antichrist will be revealed at God's appointed time, so also is the moment of his destruction divinely ordained. At the height of his power, when he seems invincible, he will meet his end. Daniel 7:26 says, "they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy *it* forever."; Daniel 11:45 notes that "he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.." Revelation 17:11 declares that Antichrist "goes to destruction," and that destruction is graphically described in Revelation 19:20: "Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone."

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His Destruction

2 Thessalonians 2:8b

whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

The most evil and powerful ruler in human history will be effortlessly crushed; **the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth.** The term **consume** does not mean that the Lord will kill Antichrist, since Revelation 19:20 says that he will still be alive when he is cast into the lake of fire.

The breath of His mouth has many connotations. It can refer to the ease of which Antichrist will be overthrown. Breath is also directly tied to the idea of speech. 2 Timothy 3:16 states, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God." The word "inspired" is breathed. When God speaks, it is divine proclamation. God spoke Creation into existence (Genesis 1). Hebrews 1:3 states that Jesus is "upholding all things by the word of His power." That same word of power will bring all the schemes of Satan and Antichrist to their end.

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2 Thessalonians 2:8b

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Paul adds that **the Lord will ... destroy with the brightness of His coming**. The word translated **destroy** means “to bring to an end”, “to render inoperative,” “to abolish,” or “to render ineffective.” Not only will the Lord **consume** Antichrist’s person, He will also bring to an end his empire. Christ will annihilate both the man and his empire **with the brightness of His coming**, a reference to the visible manifestation of Christ at His second coming (Rev. 19:11–21).

Antichrist will proclaim himself to be the Messiah and savior of the world. Notice the proclamations being made by so many politicians and organizations that the world needs saving. However, it is clear that they are not talking about humanity but the planet. When the REAL Messiah, Jesus Christ, appears in the brightness of His glory and in the power of His Deity, the counterfeit will pale in comparison and be revealed for what he is.

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His Power

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10a

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception.

Antichrist’s great power will not be his own but will be **according to the working of Satan. (activity)**, The word “**working**” is *Energeia* and is root of the English word “energy.” the word describes power in action. It usually refers to God’s power (e.g., Eph. 1:19; 3:7; Phil. 3:21; Col. 1:29; 2:12), but here it describes Satan’s power. Antichrist’s **power, signs, and lying wonders** will not only be deceptive tricks, but also actual manifestations of Satan’s supernatural power.

8

His Power

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10a

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Power (miracles; cf. Matt. 7:22; 11:20, 21, 23, etc.) refers to supernatural acts; **signs** point to the one who performs them; **wonders** describes the astonishing results. Antichrist's miracles will reveal his supernatural power and create wonder, shock, and astonishment. **Lying wonders** *Pseudos* (**lying or false**) modifies all three terms; Antichrist's miracles, signs, and wonders are **false** not in the sense that they are fakery but that they lead to false conclusions about who he is. They will cause people to believe the lie that he is a divine being and worship him. John saw that Antichrist's deluded followers "worshipped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?' " (Rev. 13:4; cf. (vv. 12–15). Antichrist will mislead the world **with all** the **unrighteous deception** at its disposal; he will muster all of evil's undiluted, unrestrained, seductive power to tempt the world to give him unprecedented influence over it.

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His Influence

2 Thessalonians 2:10b

with all unrighteous deception among those who perish.

Antichrist's malevolent, deceptive, deadly influence will extend to all **those who perish**. Only God's elect will not be taken in (Matt. 24:24). The unregenerate, being children of the liar Satan (John 8:44), will inevitably fall for the lies of his emissary (cf. 1 Cor. 2:14; 2 Cor. 4:3–4). Through him, Satan will deceive the whole world (Rev. 12:9); all those who "[receive] the mark of the beast and those who [worship] his image" (Rev. 19:20; cf. 2 Cor. 4:4).

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So What ...

There is a day coming where God will allow the Man of Sin to be revealed. He will look like a savior of the world to the point that, if possible, would deceive the elect. I become uncomfortable when I listen to people putting their trust in plans and hopes of the coming election. Let me be clear, The church is NOT going to bring in the Kingdom. Only Jesus is able to stop the evil in the world. However, looking for a leader to save us is the very strategy that will set up for the acceptance of Antichrist.

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So, What Do We Do?

We look to Jesus. He is our source of hope and strength.

We look at ourselves and repent and forsake sin. We are to be holy even as Jesus is holy. After all we are His body!

We reach outward. Not in manipulation or politics, but as the hands and feet of Christ. We share the good news of the Gospel which is able to save people from their sins.

We live each day believing that Jesus could return today.

Are You Ready?

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