

**NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**SERMON – The Promise of His Coming Again Part 7**  
**The Antichrist Is No Joke**  
**Scripture: 2 Thess 2:1-12**  
**05/28/2006**

**2 Thess 2:1-12 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.**

In Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, he tells them of the rapture and the swiftness of it coming. The people assumed that Christ coming was eminent. Some took the attitude to sit and wait, not even to work. They were looking for the glorious return of Christ. This caused Paul to write to them that if a man does not work, he should not eat. (*2 Thess. 3;10*)

There are Christians today the feel that Christ is coming soon so I'll just continues on doing what I am doing looking for His coming. Wrong, we are to do the work of Christ until He comes.

No one knows the day or the hour of His coming; therefore, we must work so that when He comes, He will find us doing so.

**3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, (referring to the rapture *1 Thess 4:17*) and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,**

*1 John 2:18-23 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. ... 22 Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.. NKJV*

We discussed that there have been many antichrist (**The Antichrist – Against Christ.**) down through history. But That Day (the day that the antichrist will be revealed) will not occur until after the rapture.

He is called the “man of sin” and the “son of perdition.” Sin will rule, sin will abound and be at its fullest lead by the “man of sin” the “Lawless one” (v9).

Truly this will be the last days. If you look at Matt 24

*Matt 24:36-37 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. 37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be NKJV*

Right before God poured out His wrath on the earth in the time of Noah man was doing his own thing as if nothing was going to happen. One of the telling characteristics of that day was the sinfulness and lawlessness, for God said:

*Gen 6:11-12 11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth NKJV*

*Matthew 24:37 (NKJV) <sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

The other time we looked at was when His wrath was poured out on Sodom and Gomorrah. God had this to say about them.

*Gen 13:12-13 13 But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD. NKJV*

So shall the time be of the antichrist.

He is called the “son of perdition” = son of destruction. There is only one other person that was referred to as the “son of perdition” That is found in

*John 17:12 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, **but the son of perdition**; that the scripture might be fulfilled. KJV*

**Judas.**

Referring to Judas. And what does the Bible say about Judas, an antichrist?

*Luke 22:3 3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. NKJV*

The antichrist represents and is controlled by Satan. Nearly of all the people we reviewed last week had this in common, they considered themselves gods at the very least assumed or sought power.

Do you remember what was the chief motivation of Satan we talked about last week?

*Isa 14:14 “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High.***

**4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

**Antiochus IV Epiphanes** (The Shining One") (c. 215–163 BC, reigned 175–163 BC), was a ruler of the Hellenistic Seleucid Empire, who around 170 BC commanded Jews to sacrifice pigs on the altar, four times a year on the Sabbath, in tribute to him as the supreme god of the Seleucids

When he came to power, Antiochus IV soon proved himself to be no friend of the Jews. He mounted an effort to destroy them and all worship of the true God. He had any Jew who would not worship the Greek idols put to death. Praying to God, or observing the Sabbath according to the Fourth of The Ten Commandments were also capital offenses. Mothers found with circumcised infants, according to Jewish law, were killed along with the child. He had many scrolls of the Holy Scriptures burned, although many were very likely saved by being hidden out in the wilderness in a manner similar to the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The greatest outrage committed by Antiochus IV occurred in 167 B.C. when he entered the temple and erected an altar to the pagan god Zeus, and sacrificed a pig on it. That desecration, dated as the 25th of Kislev according to the Bible Calendar, triggered the Maccabean Revolt by the Hasmonians (see The Maccabees). Their eventual victory and cleansing of the Temple is still commemorated by Jews today by the annual Festival of Hanukkah.

Paul goes on to say

**5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.**

What is restraining this or any other antichrist? It is the Holy Spirit.

When the believers are taken away at the rapture the Holy Spirit goes with them for it is the Holy Spirit that dwells within the believers. It is the Holy Spirit that restrains Satan and all the other Antichrist.

**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.**

In the NKJV “He” is capitalized not so in other versions. I agree with the translators here for the Holy Spirit is capitalized as a noun or a pronoun. I like the way the NLT paraphrases this verse.

*7 For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. NLT*

Satan nor his demons have no power over God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit. As long as the Holy Spirit is in the world the demonic world is in check.

**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.**

The antichrist will have free reign for a time but his destruction is already determined.

NT:337 – Consume - to take away (violently)

Jesus will do so with the breath of His mouth. This doesn't mean Jesus will have bad breath, or that He will just blow on him.

Let me take you to the future and show you what the verse means.

*Rev 1:16 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. NKJV*

*Eph 6:17 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; NKJV*

*Heb 4:12 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, NKJV*

The weapon of choice for Jesus is the Word of God. The first earthy meeting between Jesus and Satan found Satan defeated by the “Word” of God.

*Revelation 19:13 (NKJV) 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*

We do not stand the slightest chance to stand against evil, (*Eph 6:12*) unless we have and use the Word of God.

**9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,**

*Rev 13:13-15 13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. 14 And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs*

which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. 15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. NKJV

Satan can perform what we call miracles.

**Miracle:** an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs

**2:** an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment

For that matter men we call magicians, illusionists can do things that the unknowing would call a miracle.

A biblical example of a satanic miracle is recorded in the book of Exodus.

*Exd 7:9-14* Arons rod turned into a serpent and the

*Ex 7:11-12 11 But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. 12 For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. NKJV*

If you go through life always looking for a sign you are setting yourself up to be deceived.

You will not find Jesus in an image on a pizza, on a rock, or on a shroud. These things are not to be worshipped. But you can see now how easy it will be for the antichrist to deceive so many.

**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.**

*Mark 13:22 22 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. NKJV*

**Deceive:** to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid

Another word is Counterfeit. Satan is a master deceiver and counterfeiter. You can only be deceived if you do not know the real thing.

I heard it told that in banking the tellers are trained extensively on what real money looks like not so much time on what counterfeit money looks like. It is more important for them to know what's real than what is false.

We don't need to spend a lot of time studying false religions, but spend our time studying the true religion. I don't need to know all there is about other gods, I want to spend my time learning about the one true God.

V10 nets out why so many will be deceived and it holds true for those that are deceived today. They did not receive the love of the truth. Hearing the truth is the first step but the truth must be received and if you truly receive it you will love it.

Who loves a lie?

**11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie. NKJV**

*Rom 1:21-23 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible **God into an image made like corruptible man — and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.** NKJV*

Here again we see deceived man worshipping an image. How many times has this been repeated through out history? This is in direct disobedience to the second commandment.

We reviewed in *Rev 13: 15* that the antichrist made an image come alive and forced the people to worship it,

*Rom 1:28 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; NKJV*

We close our message today with an appeal to any that do not truly believe. Verse 12 says those that do not believe will be condemned.

**12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness**

It is the brief pleasure of unrighteousness that causes many to not believe the truth. I am not talking about believing in Jesus Christ for the demons believe in Jesus. Those that choose not to believe and receive Jesus Christ as their savior have no place with Him. Those that love unrighteousness may have a false/counterfeit belief that they are saved. You cannot love Christ and the world also. For the world is enmity with Christ.

Don't keep delaying your commitment to Christ in favor of earthly or worldly pleasures for God just might turn you over to those pleasures and blind you to the pathway back.

*Romans 1:28 (NKJV) 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;*

This world is full of antichrist, some who don't even know that they are. If doubt is Satan's first Dart, then deception is his second.

Don't be deceived God is not mocked.

**Message Scriptures:** **2 Thess 2:1-12**, *2 Thess. 3:10, Thess 4:17, 1 John 2:18-23, Matt 24:36-37, Gen 6:11-12, Gen 13:12-13, John 17:12, Luke 22:3, Isa 14:14, 2 Thess 2:7, Rev 1:16, Eph 6:17, Heb 4:12, Rev 13:13-15, Exd 7:9-14, Mark 13:22, Rom 1:21-23, Rom 1:28, Romans 1:28.*

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