

## **The Man of Sin or The man of Lawlessness & The Great falling away:**

**Today we are going to study mainly II Thessalonians 2 but first lets be reminded of our last few weeks lessons and what we have already learned about the Second Coming of Christ.**

**Hebrews 9:27-28 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

**John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

**Matthew 25:31-36 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [*his*] sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.**

**I Thessalonians 4:13-18 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [*and*] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive [*and*] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words**

**I Corinthians 15:24 Then [*cometh*] the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all**

authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy [*that*] shall be destroyed [*is*] death.

I Corinthians 15:50-55 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [*mus*] put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where [*is*] thy sting? O grave, where [*is*] thy victory?

Now lets look at II Thessalonians chapter 2

This chapter is written to remove all the misapprehensions about the Lord's Second coming. The Chapter teaches that the second coming should not be expected until certain events have taken place. These are: (1) A falling away, or apostasy; (2) The removal of some power which hindered the manifestation of the man of sin; (3) The manifestation of the man of sin, and following this, the coming of the Lord. He had told them of these things while with them (verse 5), but now writes to them to more fully explain his previous oral teaching. He does not seek to show all of the events which will precede Christ's coming, but just some of them.

II Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [*by*] our gathering together unto him,

II Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

“That ye be not soon shaken in mind ...” Be not agitated, in distress or troubled.

“... Neither by spirit ...” By someone who says he has a revelation of the Spirit.

“... Nor by word ...” Nor by one who claims to quote a word or letter from us.

It is thought that maybe a forged letter had been circulated to which Paul alludes. In the close of this Epistle he shows how his letters may be known to be genuine.

**II Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [*that day shall not come*], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**

**“... except there come a falling away first ...” A great falling away and apostasy will precede the Second Coming of Christ. That is, there shall be a general falling away from the purity of the faith outlined in the New Testament. No apostasy of any such magnitude occurred in the history of the church for centuries, which could answer to Paul's description.**

**But there was then as there is today a gradual change movement. This change movement is accompanied by corruption, and a departure from the ancient faith. This change movement took several hundred years to develop fully into the man of sin or lawlessness. The first change in the Church was a change in the office of Elder or Bishop.**

**I Timothy 3:1-5 This [*is*] a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)**

**Show me a Roman bishop who meets these qualifications.**

**Further more King James insisted that the translators keep the ecclesiastical words like “bishop” for the sake of the Church of England and its catholic doctrines that the intended to hold on to ... bishop comes from epis-ko-pos and it is an interesting study to see how the translators translated episkopos when it is used and not talking about a “bishop or elder”. Every time they translated the word “visit” how can a Roman Catholic Bishop visit everyone in his dioceses?**

**Luke 1:68 Blessed [*be*] the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,**

**Matthew 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.**

**Matthew 25: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.**

**James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, [*and*] to keep himself unspotted from the world**

**Prove it again preacher? Ok before in Timothy only the qualifications for “bishops” are given in these verses bishop and elder are used interchangeably, with the qualification “must be” – not should be or should outa be but must be: “the husband of one wife, having faithful children”**

**Titus 1: 5-9 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.**

**II Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**

**II Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [*that day shall not come*], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**

**This has always been spoken of by such reformers as Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Clarke and other Protestant church historians as “the apostasy of the papacy”. Indeed learned brethren from the back to the Bible restoration movement all agree from John Wycliffe, Thomas & Alexander Campbell, Mc.Garvey, B.W. Johnson and Burton Coffman all agree this passage is speaking of the dark ages of Christianity began by the papacy. There is no good reason for doubting that this is what the apostle Paul refers to in this passage.**

**II Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [*that day shall not come*], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**

**“... And that man of sin be revealed ...” He shall be revealed and be connected to the future coming great “falling away” or apostasy and will obviously head it up. He will be the chief architect of the “falling away”. The word “sin” can also be**

**translated lawlessness. Consider the fact that it takes just as much power to change a law as it takes to make the law in the first place ... Therefore he who changes God's laws can be called "a man of lawlessness or sin" example cf:**

**Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

**So it takes just as much power as Jesus and the Holy Spirit has to change that to say "he sprinkled and saved as an infant shall believe when he grows up ..." or "he that believeth and is poured shall be saved ..." as some Pro-test-ants say ... or to change any other ordinance of New Testament teaching.**

**"... The son of perdition ..." This expression occurs once elsewhere, and is there applied to Judas, an apostate. Here it evidently has a similar application.**

**Some power, once Christian, falls away and becomes opposed to the truth of New Testament Christianity.**

**II Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

**"Who opposeth and exalteth himself ..." there is only one power that exhibits all the marks of the beast given by Paul. Observe that "The man of sin" "exalts himself above God." Or claims to be vicar of God upon the earth.**

**"... so that he as God sitteth" God is pictured metaphorically as being seated upon His throne, where Christ is seated at His own right hand ( cf: Hebrews 1:3ff) Here in this verse this person sits upon his throne or high chair in a temple or church building ... can you think of anyone who is carried upon a high chair on something like the Jewish ark of the covenant was carried upon? ... or someone other than the Bishop of Rome who sits upon a throne in a Church building?**

**"in the temple of God ..." in the temple, that is, in the church, for that is always the sense in which Paul uses the term.**

**Ephesians 2:20-22 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**

**He is a church power. He claims powers that only belong to the divinity. Like a magician he shows off signs and lying wonders (verse 9 ); or, in other words, lays a claim to miraculous powers. Every one of these marks applies to the papacy:**

**The Roman papacy development was simultaneous with that of the apostasy.**

**Its development was let old English word meaning hindered until the pagan Roman empire fell, but there was a rapid rise of the bishop of Rome after the imperial Roman Empire began to cooperate and was taken out of the way verse 7.**

**The papacy has set aside divine laws and has made other spiritual laws to bind men, and has claimed divine prerogatives. A newly-elected Pope is adored and styled "Lord God, the Pope."**

**It is in the temple of God, that is, it arose in the church, and still claims to be the "Holy Catholic Church."**

**The claim of Infallibility is "sitting as God in the temple." And binding new laws like celibacy upon the priesthood the Apostle Paul calls: "doctrines of devils".**

**I Timothy 4:1-3 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 Forbidding to marry, [*and commanding*] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.**

**The papacy has always claimed miraculous powers.**

**No fact is better established than that the hierarchy of the Roman church have often deceived by slight of hand, magic, relics such as "the bones of apostles and saints, splinters of the true cross, fake nails" from the cross are venerated all over Europe today. These superstitions of people to produce false miracles by spellbinders and charlatans.**

**Today much to do is made of some great anti-christ is coming at the end of time and he will rule for 7 years of great tribulation following some fanciful pre-trib rapture ... Such notions are designed to get our eyes off the fact that there are many anti-christs and they have been here all along for 2,000 years.**

**If the Pope, Billy Graham or Kelly is substituted for Christ then he becomes anti-christ cf:**

**Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [*things*] he might have the preeminence.**

**The Greek prefix anti means instead of or in place of and carries the idea of substitution. Anything instead of Christ, in place of Christ or substituted for Christ is anti-Christ.**

**Anti-christ has been here all along cf:**

**I John 2:18-19 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [*no doubt*] have continued with us: but [*they went out*], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.**

**I John 4:1-3 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [*spirit*] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.**

**II John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**

**Rome sold indulgences for premeditated sins and built St Peter's Basilica making merchandise of people's sins and accepting money claiming to have the power to forgive wanton sins and high handed transgressions cf:**

**II Peter 2:1-3 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they**

**with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.**

**II Thessalonians 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?**

**II Thessalonians 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.**

**“... Ye know now what withholdeth ...” They knew because Paul had told them when he was with them. We have not that advantage, but he obviously told them that this development could not take place until pagan imperial Rome fell. We know that it was imperial Rome before Constantine that withheld, or prevent the rise of any ecclesiastical church power along with the papacy.**

**II Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [*will let*], until he be taken out of the way.**

**“ For the mystery of iniquity ...” This revelation of the man of sin. It was a mystery, that is, something yet hidden.**

**“... doth already work ...” the causes are beginning to work which will lead to it. “... only he who now letteth ...” He that hindereth which was imperial Rome must first be taken out of the way. There was no room for an arrogant spiritual power in Rome as long as imperial Rome continued to persecute the church. A persecuted church cannot be a haughty church. Two things were needful before the papal power could be developed; viz., the overthrow of paganism, and the removal of the capital of the Empire from Rome. When these things were done, it was free to seize the old Roman scepter.**

**II Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:**

**“... then shall that Wicked be revealed ...” After the hindering power is removed.**

**“... whom the Lord shall consume ...” The Wicked power will be destroyed by the Lord's coming, and will continue to exist until He Comes again.**

**II Thessalonians 2:9 [*Even him*], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,**

**“... whose coming ...” That of the Wicked power.**

**“... Is after the working of Satan ...” That is, it will deceive men as Satan does.**

**“... Lying wonders ...” False miracles, false relics and superstitious acts that amaze men and make them wonder by their spell binding tricks.**

**II Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

**“... deceivableness of unrighteousness ...” Unrighteous delusions which will be accepted by stooges,**

**“... them that perish ...” Those that perish, receive not the love of the truth. They have a inclination to receive stupidity instead of the light of the truth.**

**II Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:**

**“... for this cause God shall send them strong delusion ...” Because they do not receive the truth. He who refuses to receive the truth will rush to believe the biggest lies. This is a law of human nature.**

**II Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**

**“... Be damned ...” Because "they had pleasure in unrighteousness."**

**II Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:**

**Roman Catholic 606AD Boniface III took the title of Pope (*pappas*) or Universal Bishop of Roman Catholic Church.**

**Col. 1:18**

**Matt.16:16-18**

**II Tim 2:15**

**Matt. 23:9**

**Eph. 2:8**

**Matt 6:7**

**Shortly Rome made laws & many truths of God were changed into the teaching of men: cf:**

**Matt. 15:9**

**Latin to be only language of scriptures. Call no man Father cf:**

**Matt 23:9**

**Saved by grace not works cf:**

**Eph. 2:8**

**Mary not mediator between God & man cf:**

**I Tim 2:5**

**Ask in Jesus' name not Mary's cf:**

**John 16:23-26. "Our Father" & "Hail Mary" vain repetitions cf:**

**Matt 6:7. Hell has no halfway house called Purgatory cf:**

**Luke 16:19-31.**

**No such thing as separate priesthood, all Christians are priests cf:**

**I Pet 2:5. Bishops must be the husband of one wife cf:**

**I Tim 3:1-7**

**Tit 1:5-8**

**Celibacy is a doctrine of devils cf:**

**I Tim 4:1-3**

**Sources: KJV Bible, B.W. Johnson's Peoples New Testament Commentary, Clarkes Commentary and Coffman's Commentary**