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<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

Personal Study of the Bible-55

2 Thessalonians 2: The Antichrist.3

There are three issues in 1-2 Thessalonians: 1) Paul's assessment of the believer's spiritual lives in relation to spiritual virtue; 2) teaching on the doctrine of eschatology (from Greek word meaning "last things") where he focuses in on the Rapture in 1 Thessalonians and the Second Advent in 2 Thessalonians; and 3) exhortation to believers to continue to advance in spiritual virtue.

Presently, we are noting the Antichrist in Second Thessalonians. Read 2:1-12 and fill in the blanks from the following passages (NASB):

1. There was trouble brewing among the Thessalonian believers because of false rumors that Christ had already returned to earth. Paul writes to correct these false reports—to remind them what he taught them while he was “still with t_____” (vs. 5). He had previously taught them certain things must take place before the Second Advent of the Lord.
2. Paul taught the Thessalonians that *before* Christ returns at the Second Advent, the Antichrist must appear. The other thing that must take place before the Lord returns is a _____, which is a repudiation of Christian faith. This is not to be confused with paganism. This a _____ is within the professing church. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9; 4:1-4 on the nature of a _____ in the last days of the church age.
3. This Antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 is called 1) the man of l _____, 2) the son of d _____, 3) who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called g__ or object of w _____, 4) he takes a seat in the t _____ of G __, and 5) displays himself as b _____ G__. The Antichrist will be literally seated in the Temple of Jerusalem during the Tribulation before the Lord returns at the Second Advent. This means that there must be a restoration of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem before the Antichrist can be seated in it and desecrate it before God.
4. Notice two things about the Antichrist from the aforementioned passages that are related to the meaning of prefix “anti” on Antichrist. The prefix “anti” on “Antichrist” has two distinct meanings in the Greek. Usually, the term “anti” means against. However, sometimes this prefix in the Greek means “in place of.” In the first sense the “anti”-Christ would be someone who is opposed to Jesus Christ. In the second sense the “anti”-Christ would someone who subverts or seeks to replace Christ as a false substitute; in other words a supplanter, a false messiah. The passage above and Realism teaches us that one need not choose between the two meanings: anyone who seeks to take over the office of Christ as a false messiah would by the same action be working against Christ. In sum, the Antichrist is one who both works against Christ and tries to become a substitute for Christ by being a false messiah. In the above passage, he both opposes and displays himself as God (supplants).

5. Jesus also taught about the sacrilegious activity of the Antichrist being seated in the Temple of the Jews in Jerusalem. He called this an a_____ of desolation which will take place in the holy place (Matt. 24:15). He, likewise, linked it to His Second Advent. He instructed those who lived in Judea during that time to f_____ to the mountains (Matt. 24:16).
6. Read 1 John 2:18. Apostle John was also well aware of the coming Antichrist. He adds the fact that many a_____ have already come. He describes them in terms of those who have committed the sin of apostasy. Apostasy refers to those who once professed faith in Christ, but then left the Christian faith in repudiation of its doctrines. Any person who professes to believe in the core tenets of Christianity, but later rejects those beliefs is in a state of apostasy.
7. Read 1 John 4:1. Even though the Antichrist will come in the future, the Apostle John tells us that the spirit of the a_____ was already operative in the world in his day (A.D. 90). This demonic spirit was a clear and present danger to the first century church as it is in every generation.
8. Paul, also, in 2 Thessalonians 2:7 also says that the mystery/influence of the Antichrist is a_____ at work in his age.
9. 2 Thessalonians 2:8 teaches us that Jesus Christ will destroy the Antichrist, the l_____ one.
10. 2 Thessalonians 2:9 teaches that the Antichrist will have supernatural powers and be working in concert with S_____. His activity matches up with the beast of Revelation 13:1-18. The Antichrist is the Beast who will demand that mankind receive the number of m____ which is _____ (Rev. 13:8).

*In 'Ehyeh,
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