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

## **Personal Study of the Bible-57**

### **2 Thessalonians 2: The Antichrist, the Seed of the Serpent**

Every New Testament epistle emphasizes two things: spiritual virtue and a key doctrine. The doctrine that is emphasized in 1-2 Thessalonians is eschatology: the Rapture in 1 Thessalonians and Second Advent in 2 Thessalonians.

We have been noting the Antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12:

Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. 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 that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

The world is headed for a day when the Antichrist will be accepted as the Messiah. It is not difficult to see how our own government is paving the way for him as it increasingly regulates more of every single person's life from the cradle to the grave (cf., Obamanomics, Obama care); —consider what is required before the activity in Revelation 13:16-18 is possible. It is important for every believer to understand that God is in control (concurrentism) and that He prophesied of the coming Antichrist when He first prophesied of the coming of the true Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Read Genesis 3:15. It should be no surprise that the very first messianic prophecy should occur within the context of the Fall. If sin had not entered the world, there would never have been a need for a redeeming Messiah. After the Fall, God curses the serpent who was implicated in the Fall, and He declares enmity between the serpent and womanhood. This enmity is to extend to the Seed of the Woman and the seed of the serpent. The Seed of the Woman refers to Christ, the Messiah, and the seed of the serpent will be the Antichrist.

Genesis 3:15 has commonly been called the *protoevangelium* (the "first gospel") because it was the original proclamation of the promise of God's plan for the whole world. This first messianic prophecy declares that the Messiah's descent or genealogy will be reckoned after a woman, not a man. This runs contrary to the biblical norm. The fact that Moses traced this

genealogy through the woman tells us that there will be something very different about the true Messiah, something that necessitates tracing His ancestry through His mother, not His father. No other explanation is given in Genesis. It was not until the time of Isaiah when we are informed that the Messiah is to be born of a virgin and have no human father (Isa. 7:14).

Genesis 3:15 states that the Messiah will crush the head of the serpent, ultimately this refers to defeating Satan (Rev. 12:9; 20:2). However, in the process Satan will manage to wound the heel of the Messiah, but will be unable to prevent his own defeat. The bruising of the Messiah's heel took place at Jesus' crucifixion—painful, but not fatal in any eternal sense. The crushing of the serpent's head began with Jesus's death and resurrection; read Hebrews 2:14-18; Romans 16:20; 20:10. As well as hinting at the virgin birth, this verse also emphasizes the humanity of the Messiah. Messiah, the Redeemer, will not be angelic nor simply divine, but will be a man. This lays the groundwork for the Messiah to be the God-man—to be one of us 😊

As far as the still-to-come Antichrist, the seed of Serpent, he will be hailed by the world as the greatest person who ever lived. He will exceed, in genius and power, any living man on the earth. The world will look at him in total amazement saying, “\_\_\_ is \_\_\_ the beast and who is \_\_\_ to wage \_\_\_ against him?” (Rev. 13:4, NASB). We are also told that he will suffer a death stroke and experience some sort of miraculous healing, producing wonder in the multitudes of the earth and eliciting their worship; read Revelation 13:3. His “greatness” will be massive human achievement as represented in the number 666, which is the number of man (Rev. 13:18), just short of the perfect number 777 in the Trinity.

The Antichrist will be a great orator and demagogue. He is described as having “a \_\_\_ as the \_\_\_ of a lion” (Rev. 13:2), suggesting the regal authority with which he speaks. His orations will be filled with “\_\_\_ words and \_\_\_” (Rev. 13:5). His oratory genius will reflect vast knowledge over a wide range of subjects, great arrogance, and blasphemy. This blasphemy will consist of the promulgation of anti-biblical and anti-Christian “homilies.” Revelation 13:6 teaches that he will open his mouth to blaspheme against \_\_\_, to blaspheme His \_\_\_ and His \_\_\_, which are believers. The spirit of the Antichrist is already here. The spirit of blasphemy is all around us, as the name of God is regularly blasphemed on TV not only on comedy shows but on many TV shows that many Christians love and even laugh, along with the world, at God, laws of divine establishment, and spirituality. It is not hard to see how the world continues to be primed for acceptance of the coming of the Antichrist. Satan's Zeitgeist is spreading among Christians as they so look forward to watching TV programs that constantly denigrate God and the laws of divine establishment, but never take time to attend Bible class, study their Bible, or listen to Bible doctrine. What is even more frightening is the brainwashing of young children through “children's programs,” filled with blasphemy—children who do not even have the benefit of doctrinal parents to point out the evil. Evil, 666, is spreading not only among the population but among many well-meaning, but very deceived and apostate Christians. The issue for every Christian must be whole truth, total truth. We *all* start out in darkness and deception. The key is to continue advancing, month after month and year after year, out of the darkness of the half-truths and into the bright sunlight of whole truth, total truth. Just consider the light we have discovered of late in regard to God's loving concurrence and the glory and love of God that brilliantly shines throughout the whole theatre of creation—as affirmed by God in Job 38-39, Paul in Romans 1:20, and Jesus in Matthew 6, which we will examine in our next Bible class.

*In 'Ehyeh,*

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