

## 2 THESSALONIANS

### CHAPTER 2

#### LESSON 6

#### THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY (Verses 1-12)

7 March 2014

**Purpose:** The believers at Thessalonica were somehow led to believe that Jesus Christ had already come and that they had been left behind.

They had been influenced by their own spirit or their own impressions, but they had also been deceived by false spiritual leaders.

This greatly troubled them, so God provides these words to reassure them and comfort them concerning the Second Coming by revealing the signs that will precede it.

**Note:** these signs do not pertain to the rapture (the catching away) of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). The rapture could take place at any time with no signs preceding it.

The “Day of Christ” refers to the day that Christ, the Jewish Messiah, comes to earth to rule and reign in Jerusalem. The signs will be clearly evident.

“**Let NO man deceive you by any means!**” (vs. 3) This is not a suggestion, it’s a command! Every Christian is responsible to do everything necessary to prevent them from being deceived.

Bible reading

Separation from worldly influences and liberal preachers

Christian fellowship

Prayer / communion with God

#### **SIGNS THAT THE DAY OF CHRIST IS AT HAND:**

1. **There will be a great falling away** (vs. 3). This will be evident even to the unsaved person. Today this is not the case. It must be evident, worldwide, that there has been a massive, large scale abandonment of God and His righteousness.

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2. **The man of sin, the son of perdition will be revealed** (vs. 3). The Antichrist will be worshipped by men of every kindred, every tongue, every tribe, every race, every nation, and every religion—when things are so bad that the world looks for a “savior” and puts all their hope in him. Everybody will know who he is. Nobody will say, “I think it’s this guy,” or “I think it’s that guy.” He’ll be revealed.

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3. **He will exalt himself** (vs. 4). He will be very religious, with a form of righteousness, craving to be worshipped, claiming to be God.
  - a. Even today, we give more honor to men than we do to God. Many Christian ministries are all about glorifying a man rather than God. That is the spirit of Antichrist.

- b. Daniel 11:36 prophesies about the Antichrist and reveals his main characteristic. He will be someone who will do what HE wills, and not what God wills.
    - i. Likewise, if the Bible reveals to you that your activities or practices are sinful, and you say, “Yes, but...” you are placing YOUR will above God’s will. That is satanic!
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4. **The Church will be taken out of the way.** Presently the church is “what withholdeth” (vs. 6) the Antichrist from making his appearance too soon. He has “his time,” which will be the Great Tribulation.

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5. **The mystery of iniquity will be worse than it is today** (vs. 7). This is the mystery: that man would rather have Satan on the throne than the Son of God who died for them.

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6. **God will step aside and allow the mystery of iniquity to increase** (vs. 7). God currently “lets” the mystery of iniquity to operate in the hearts of men and women, but He keeps it in check; He hinders it from getting out of control. Before the Great Tribulation, God will get “out of the way” and sin will abound.
- a. God restrains the mystery of iniquity today because His people are still on the earth and He will not pour out His wrath upon His people. So, in that sense, we are “the salt of the earth” (Matt. 5:13), preserving the human race.
  - b. Christians today don’t understand why they have to suffer. It’s because of the mystery of iniquity that exists in the world today. But it’s nothing compared to what it will be once we leave.
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7. **The Lord shall consume [the Antichrist] with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy [him] with the brightness of his coming** (vs. 8). This is a comfort to these people who are troubled.

8. **The Antichrist will deceive people with “power and signs and lying wonders”** (vs. 9). He’ll use religious tactics to attract religious people, in order to keep them from getting to Jesus.

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9. **People will be deceived and will perish because they “received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved** (vs. 10). Believers are glorified (2 Thess. 1:10). Unbelievers will be deceived. Unbelievers will fall for the religious show.

10. **Because people don’t love the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness, they’ll be damned to hell** (vs. 11-12). They will lose their soul for eternity in hell because they didn’t believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.