

PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE
THESSALONIANS

Chapter 2

[1] Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, [2] not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

[7] ... when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels [8] in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. [9] They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, (2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9)

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[3] Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, [4] who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. [5] Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? [6] And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. [7] For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. [8] And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

- 51 AD, 2 Thessalonians is written (current emperor is Claudius)
- 54 AD, Nero becomes emperor
- 63 AD, Roman general Pompey captures Jerusalem
- 66 AD, First Jewish Revolt (after oppressive taxation and unwanted imperialism)... “the rebellion comes first”? (2 Thess. 2:3)
- Jewish forces expel Romans from Jerusalem
- In response, Nero sends General Vespasian to fight
- 68 AD, Nero commits suicide (which is followed by brief Roman civil war)

- 69 AD, “Year of the Four Emperors” (Galba, Otho, Vitellius, & Vespasian)
- 69 AD, Vespasian becomes emperor... leaves his son Titus in charge of ending Jewish rebellion
- Titus surrounds Jerusalem with 3 legions on the west side and 1 on the east
“the abomination of desolation” (Matt. 24:15)?
- April 14, 70 AD, the siege begins
- August, 70 AD, the temple is captured and destroyed
- Titus enters holy of holies, takes lampstand and table of show bread, wraps them up in the curtain, takes them back to Rome
- 81 AD, Arch of Titus is constructed to commemorate the fall of Jerusalem and deification of Titus (“apotheosis”)

“the man of lawlessness” Titus Caesar Vespasianus?

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[9] The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, [10] and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. [11] Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, [12] in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

[13] But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. [14] To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. [15] So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

[16] Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, [17] comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.