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2 Thessalonians 2.

(2013)

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2 Thessalonians 2.

Topics.

- Do not think that the day of the Lord Jesus Christ has come.
- The rebellion, the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction.
- Restraining the 'man of sin and lawlessness.
- The mystery of lawlessness is already at work.
- He who now restrains until he is taken out of the way.
- The lawless one will be revealed.
- God sends a strong delusion.
- A brief overview of the return of Christ.

The Previous Chapter: in the previous chapter Paul spoke of the Thessalonians great faith; of the church being Christ's body the fullness of him who fills all in all; of God's Spirit and Christ's Spirit dwelling in a global church without buildings and of the Lord Jesus Christ being revealed from heaven with his mighty angels; of God's wrath and of Christ being revealed in the faithful when he returns.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Do not think that the Day of the Lord Jesus Christ has Come.

2 Thess. 2:1-2 ----- ¹Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ²not 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 (is at hand in KJV).

Gathered: from Strong's Concordance means a complete collection, to collect at the same place, an assembling or gathering together especially a Christian meeting (for worship).

Hand: from Strong's Concordance means to place on or at hand, be imminent, draw near, come closer, approach, be instant or present.

The Thessalonians had been influenced by false religious teachers that the return of the Lord Jesus Christ would be very soon (2 Thess. 2:3) this is the reason Paul tells them not to think that Christ's return is close or nearby. Paul seems to be unsure of where the influence came from so he says do not take any notice of it even if it came by, "A spirit" (v2) referring to a word of prophecy which could have been a spoken word from a religious teacher with influence who was teaching that Christ had returned or was to soon return or a letter that those in the church at Thessalonica thought was from Paul Silvanus or Timothy.

It is possible that because of the extreme persecution and suffering of the Thessalonian brothers and sisters that they thought Christ would be return soon because Paul in his previous letter had told them that: -

- God would repay those who afflict them and grant them relief from their afflictions when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire and inflict vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thess. 1:6-8).

Maybe this false religious teacher was telling them that the Lord would soon return and deliver them from their extreme persecution and suffering.

The Rebellion, the Man of Lawlessness, the Son of Destruction.

2 Thess. 2:3-4 -----³Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion (falling away in KJV) comes first, and the man of lawlessness (of sin in KJV) is revealed, the son of destruction ⁴who 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.

Rebellion: (apostasia) (falling away in KJV) means defection from truth (apostasy) a falling away or forsaking what is true.

That day: the expression, “that day” (v3) refers to the day the Lord returns and those who have believed in him are gathered together to be with him in eternal glory.

Paul tells the Thessalonians “that day” cannot come until some kind of rebellion, apostasy or falling away from the truth comes first and the man of lawlessness (the son of destruction) has been revealed. The general thought of most religious teaching is that this apostasy began to happen through false religious leaders who have had enormous influences over multitudes of people in the churches since the time of Christ and is slowly accumulating to an ultimate time when the apostasy will come to a head in one man and one great event that leads to awesome and horrific destruction. This idea is supported by Paul’s words in verse seven: -

- For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work (2 Thess. 2:7) and John tells us that the spirit of the antichrist is in the world already (1 John 4:3).

The Man of Sin and Lawlessness.

The man of sin and lawlessness will oppose and exalt himself against every so-called god or object of worship, take his seat in the temple of God and proclaims himself to be God. Throughout history there have been various men who many religious teachers have claimed to be this man of sin and lawlessness but the most common two are: -

1. Constantine because he had an enormous influence over Christianity during his reign and not only did he claim to be God's priest on earth he also mixed much pagan teaching with the teachings of Christian faith, but proclaiming him to be the man of sin and lawlessness is flawed since he did not oppose every so-called god or object of worship in fact he embraced them and stopped Rome's horrific and torturous persecution of those who proclaimed Christ.

Added to this he did not sit in the temple and proclaim himself to be God in fact he expanded the Christian faith (howbeit it mixed with much pagan practises) so he does not fit Paul's description of the man of sin and lawlessness nevertheless he could certainly be seen as one who began the falling away from the truth, but not as the final prophetic man of sin and lawlessness.

2. Some say the Pope is the man of sin and lawlessness because the Catholic faith is full of teachings, doctrines and religious rites, ceremonies and traditions that are devoid of biblical teaching, added to this the Pope claims to be God's priest on earth, but to claim him as the man of sin and lawlessness is also flawed since he does not oppose every so-called god or object of worship nor does he exalt himself above God, but only claims to be his represented on earth and he does not sit in the temple of God.

Though some may consider the Vatican the temple of God because of its excessive and extreme opulence, but from God's perspective it is certainly not what the Bible refers to as God's temple. Nevertheless though the popes do not fit Paul's description of the man of sin and lawlessness they can certainly be seen as ones who pave the way for the man of sin and lawlessness to appear since much of traditional religion has been heavily influenced by much of their false teaching.

NOTE: some believe that the final pope will be the man of sin and lawlessness but this idea is flawed for the simple reason he does not oppose all religions nor could the popes be referred to as men who are lawless, added to this God uses the man of sin and lawlessness and his armies to destroy false religion (Rev 17:16-18).

From Paul's words: -

- For that day will not come, unless the man of lawlessness is revealed (v2).

It appears that the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ will not be long after the revealing of the man of sin and lawlessness. I suspect that the man of sin and lawlessness will be a world political leader that denies all religions and exalts himself as the saviour of the world, (perhaps the final world leader of the United Nations) who gathers together the armies of many nations to destroy all forms of religion especially the Moslem and Christian faith.

Considering that most wars, terrorism and many divisions in governments are done in the name of religion it is easy to see how the secular world will one-day see religion as hindering the path of global peace and be willing to accept a leader skilled in oratory who stands against all religions and claims the only way to peace is to exalt mankind and destroy religion.

Even when I who love the Lord Jesus Christ and his heavenly Father look at what is done today in the name of God (actually it's for wealth, power, greed and control) it is very easy to understand why a secular world would think this way and side with the man of sin and lawlessness especially if the world has experienced gross terrorism and are crying out for peace when the man of sin and lawlessness with great speech, great power and great influence rises up with a message that proclaims, "To have global peace we must destroy religion and become one world and one people on planet earth."

Restraining the Man of Sin.

2 Thess. 2:5-6 ----- ⁵Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶And you know what is restraining (withholdeth in KJV) him now so that he may be revealed in his time.

When Paul was with the Thessalonians he told them about the return of Christ and the events leading up to it and now tells them that there is something that is stopping the man of sin and lawlessness from being revealed.

Restraining: (withholdeth in KJV) from Strong's Concordance means to retain and hold down fast.

Paul tells the Thessalonians they should now know what it is that is restraining the man of sin and lawlessness from being revealed so the thing restraining him must be something Paul has just told the Thessalonians and the thing that Paul has just told them is that there will be a great apostasy before Christ returns therefore the thing that is restraining man of sin and lawlessness from appearing is the fact that the great apostasy has not yet taken place. This apostasy causes a falling away and opens the door for the man of sin and lawlessness to appear.

Until this great apostasy comes the man of sin and lawlessness cannot appear this is most likely because until there is a global resistance to religion the secular world would not be willing to receive the man of sin and lawlessness for the populations the world to accept this man the collective mind of the world has to be changed from believing in God to believing in mankind as the saviour of the world.

The two major reasons (there are many more) that a great apostasy could come is firstly, because of the number of wars and global acts of terrorism that are done in the name of God (really it's for power, control and wealth) and secondly, because of the teaching of evolution as absolute truth not only in our schools but almost on every nature program shown on Television. The global world has embraced this doctrine of man which completely does away with the need of God as the creator. Generations are being raised that have absolutely no concept of God, today children believe evolution created all things and man is evolving upward so there is no need for God to even exist.

Added to this these same children see religious fanatics bombing and killing innocent civilians and world leaders and nations confessing to know God declare war on others and kill thousands of innocent people with their modern weapons of war all in the name of God.

Paul says that: -

- The man of sin and lawlessness is being restrained so that he will be revealed in his time (v6)

This means there is an appointed time for this man to have his moment of power and glory on earth.

The Mystery of Lawlessness is Already at Work.

2 Thess. 2:7 ----- 7 For the mystery of lawlessness (iniquity in KJV) is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

He: most likely refers to the Holy Spirit and by extension the faithful church.

It: refers to rampant lawlessness.

Mystery: in ancient times and during the era of the early church carried the idea of silence imposed by initiation into religious rites it referred to something unknown, but only unknown by those who are not initiated like the Masons they have all sorts of mysteries, the initiated know them but those outside the sect don't. Based on this meaning of the word mystery we can conclude that the phrase, "The mystery of lawlessness" in this context is only a mystery to those who do not understand the nature of sin so it is not a mystery to those who know the Lord Jesus Christ since they by the Holy Spirit working in them clearly understand that sin is not only working in their body, but throughout the entire world.

Added to this Paul tells us: -

- That sin came into the world through one man and so death spread to all men because all sinned (Rom 5:12)

And James says: -

- Each person is tempted when they are lured and enticed by their own desire which gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death (James 1:14-15)

This means that the working of sin is no mystery to those who know the Lord. They understand that sin works through the flesh (i.e., self, ego, pride and greed etc.), and that it is these that influence the mind of man.

The phrase: -

- The mystery of lawlessness is already at work (v7).

Simply means that wrongdoing is already worldwide and that sin does not need the man of sin and lawlessness to appear for lawlessness to be unrestrained, widespread and corrupting all nations.

The mystery of sin; refers to that desire in human nature that leans toward wrongdoing it is that proneness in mankind that causes us to do-wrong and that nature that refuses to go God's way or even believe in him, it refers to that desire to follow self, ego and pride rather than be humble before God. It is referred to as a mystery because it does not make sense that anyone would chose to rebel against God who created them and not only deny His very existence, but aggressively set about spending billions of dollars to prove he does not exist.

This is like a child rebelling against their father who only desires the best for them it simply does not make sense thus the reason it is called the mystery of sin. Why would a person who is destined for death rebel against a God who only desired their good and has the power to give them eternal life, it doesn't make sense, yet

this is the very nature of mankind that has been working through the mind and heart from the beginning of time and sadly will continue to escalate until it reaches its climax when the man of sin and lawlessness appears and goes to war with his armies against the King of kings and Lord of lords and is defeated (Rev. 17:14)

The Lord Jesus Christ's Return.

The Lord will return in spectacular and awesome power and glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy city Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

He Who Now Restrains.

The words, "Only he who now restrains it, will do so until he is out of the way" (v7) tells us the following two things: -

1. That someone or something is stopping lawlessness from reaching its full potential.

2. When this someone or something is removed lawlessness will, multiply worldwide at a level this world has never before seen since there will be nothing to hinder it from reaching its full potential.

Until he is taken out of the way: (v7) these words immediately take the mind to the following words of Paul: -

- The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Paul tells the Thessalonians and by extension all who trust in the Lord that when the Christ returns those who belong to him will be gathered together to be with him therefore it seems that the one who is restraining the apostasy and the man of sin and lawlessness and that is taken out of the way is the faithful church and the Holy Spirit. Once God's Spirit and influence is removed from the earth there will be no resistance toward the man of sin and lawlessness when he at the end of his short lived reign by articulate oratory entices the armies of the world to gather together against the Lord Jesus Christ.

The final battle: will not be false religion against true religion, but false religion will open the door and prepare the way for the final battle to take place which will be the kingdom of man coming against the Kingdom of God when the man of sin and lawlessness goes to war with his armies against the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 17:14). Here is another good reason sin is referred to as a mystery, who in their right mind would ever think they can win a battle against CHRIST it just does not make sense thus another reason sin is referred to the mystery of sin. This battle is spoken about in great detail in the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation, but it is far too big a topic to go into detail in this chapter.

For further information see: -

- Daniel chapter two, seven and nine.
- In Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Lawless One will be Revealed.

2 Thess. 2:8-10 ----- ⁸And 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. ⁹The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan (Satanas the accuser) with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved

When the great apostasy has taken place and the man of sin and lawlessness is revealed the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords and King of kings will destroy him and whatever he tried to achieve (Rev. 17:14). The words: -

- The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, with all wicked deception (v9-10)

Refer to any activity that is opposed to the work of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. This man of sin and lawlessness will by far surpass the brilliance of any king or president this world has seen, not only will he be highly skilled with oratory speech that seems to present answers to the world's enormous problems, but will also have tremendous authority and power (weapons of war) and some type of false signs and wonders that deceive the populations of the world.

NOTE: this man though he is given the title by God as the man of sin and lawlessness will not appear to the world as an evil man, but rather as one who has the answers to the problems of the world and as one who is able to bring peace. Much like Adolf Hitler who when he first rose to power appeared to the people of Germany to be a man who could solve their nations problems.

No-doubt he believed he could, but once he obtained the approval of the nation and extreme power he by his skilful, persuasiveness speech-making led those who followed him into a world war which ended in total destruction of the nation he had promised victory to. It is certain that the path of the man of sin and lawlessness will unfold in a very similar manner, but only this time instead of just deceiving a nation he will deceived the majority of the world and just as Adolf Hitler did he will lead them to destruction.

God sends a Strong Delusion.

2 Thess. 2:11-12 ---- ¹¹Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹²in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The words, "Therefore God sends them a strong delusion" (v11) refers to those who refused to love the truth and so be saved (v10). This strong delusion refers to the man of sin and lawlessness he will appear to the world as a great man who most likely will have a genius mind and certainly be brilliant at public speaking, he will no-doubt have tremendous confidence, authority and power as well as some kind of wonder that gives him credibility to those that deny the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is interesting to notice that Paul credits God with sending this delusion, God invites sinners into his Kingdom through his Son the Lord Jesus Christ he will never force or manipulate anyone into His Kingdom (nor should we), but should they deny God he will give them their hearts desire which in this case is a man to honour as their king and uphold as the saviour of the world rather than acknowledge God and accept Christ as their King.

A brief Overview of the Return of Christ is at the End of the Chapter.

2 Thess. 2:13-15 ----- ¹³But 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. ¹⁴To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

The firstfruits to be saved: (v13) does not mean that no-one has been saved prior to this since that would mean Abraham, Job and David etc., were not saved, rather it means that those after Christ's resurrection were the first to be saved under the New Covenant and grace in contrast to being saved under the Old Covenant and Moses Law.

Saved through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth: (v13) means they were made holy and righteous by faith through believing in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as opposed to trusting in their own self-righteousness (i.e., attempting to attain to righteousness by self-effort and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions).

He called you through our Gospel: (v14) means that God calls people through the Good News of the Gospel, but it does not mean that he influences their response they remain free to choose to accept or reject the call. Paul was able to tell the Thessalonians that God had called them through the Gospel because they obviously responded to it with a resounding "yes" even though because of their acceptance of the Lord they suffered extreme persecution.

That you may obtain the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ: (v14) the glory of the Lord refers to the life of love, compassion, kindness, mercy, forgiveness and grace that he showed toward others and to his resurrection to eternal life and everlasting glory.

Hold to the traditions that you were taught by us: (v15) the word traditions in the scriptural sense means things delivered over from one to another either written or oral it carries the idea of delivering or handing over a message received from someone else.

The apostle Paul speaks of: -

- Traditions that were taught and spoken either by their spoken word or written in their letters (1 Thess. 2:15)

Clearly showing that when the apostles use the word traditions it refers to doctrines and precepts they had taught and not traditions that had come down from ancient times or any Jewish religious traditions of the church since there is no evidence that any of these types of religious traditions were given by the apostles. Paul only speaks of what had been delivered by himself and the apostles, whether orally or by letter, thus the word traditions' refers to anything delivered in the way of teaching by the apostles whether in their preaching, private conversation, or by their letters.

The traditions that Paul and the apostles taught refer to doctrines and rules such as respecting the good order and the government of the church, the Lord's supper; water baptism, proper conduct of the women and godly behaviour, not being lazy, but working to support ourselves when able, helping the poor, showing honour to those who faithfully labour for Christ and such like things these are the kind of traditions that Paul and the apostles had in mind when they used the word traditions' and not ceremonial rites and religious customs.

NOTE: the apostles' use of the word traditions cannot be used to support traditions the Church of Rome holds or any other similar traditions since they are not taught in the New Testament or by Paul and the apostles.

May the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father Comfort your Hearts.

2 Thess. 2:16-17 ----- ¹⁶Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

Since doing-good is in our power it is interesting to notice that Paul prays that, "God would comfort the Thessalonians hearts and establish them in doing what is right and good" (v17) this shows us the following two things: -

1. Biblical faith goes far beyond simply being intellectual head knowledge.
2. Christian life is about an individual spiritual relationship of love with God the Father and his Son the Lord Jesus Christ. It is about a brother or sister in Christ reaching upward toward God and God by His Spirit reaching down to them, and about us doing what we can for God and God strengthening and comforting our hearts by His Spirit.

A Brief Overview of the Return of Christ.

At the end of our present age and the return of Christ the kingdom of man makes war against the Kingdom of God, at this time there will be the following two powerful, but separate entities.

The first Power: is the world's false religious leader the false prophet and his religious empires named in the Bible as, "Babylon the Great" and the "Prostitute Woman" as spoken of in the book of Daniel and Revelation.

The second Power: is the world's final ungodly, but powerful political leader gifted in speech and given the title, "the man of sin and lawlessness" (2 Thess. 2:1-12) and his ten-horned beast nations (also spoken of in the book of Daniel and Revelation).

Jesus returns to earth: and saves Jerusalem from destruction and conquers the surrounding enemies of Israel in the Middle East, he then rules as King of kings and Lord of lords (with those who have been gathered to him) from Jerusalem over the entire Middle East.

Christ brings peace and prosperity to the Middle East and then begins to spread God's Kingdom to the world by introducing an entirely new system of government, trade and banking which is fair to all people in contrast to favouring the rich. He will oppose the false religious systems of the world and especially Europe (resurrected Rome). The poor and the oppressed will probably love him while the rich and powerful are plotting ways to destroy him (as they did when he first came).

The world's false religious system: fears losing their control and power (as they did when Christ first appeared), so by deception they seduce the man of sin and lawlessness the leader of the final ten horned beast nations and entice him to send his armies against Christ in Israel to kill him (as the false religious leaders did in the days of the Pharisees). The armies of the world surround Jerusalem, but they are defeated, this results in the leader of the final and powerful nations the man of sin and lawlessness turning against the world's false religious leader the false prophet and destroying his empire (Rev. 17:16-18).

The remaining final nations with their leader the man of sin and lawlessness then have power over the world's populations, but Christ has the greater power as he has control of all the oil and wealth of the Middle East, because of this the world leader of Europe (resurrected Rome) the man of sin and lawlessness begins to plan how he can get rid of Christ and gain all power to himself. This political world leader the man of sin and lawlessness is a great speaker and by his persuasiveness and skillful speech-making he deceives many nations by telling them they can make war against the Lord and defeat him (Revelation 17:14).

Great speeches: our schools and almost on every nature program shown on television teach evolution as absolute truth this doctrine of man completely does away with the need of God as the creator and because of this generations are being raised that have absolutely no concept of God, today children believe evolution created all things and man is evolving upward so there is no need for God to even exist.

Perhaps the man of sin and lawlessness will take the theory of evolution one step further and proclaim that humans are an energy being and energy cannot be destroyed it simply takes another form therefore humans are spiritually eternal, so no one needs religion or God to attain to eternal life (even today hundreds of millions of people around the world already believe this message). Though this sounds foolish to those who know God it makes sense to those who deny God and believe that evolution is the creator.

The underlying message of the man of sin and lawlessness will more than likely be a secular self-esteem; humanistic self-exaltation kind of self-gospel with speeches full of appealing political messages mixed with biblical Scripture and new age spiritual teachings. It is certain he will proclaim that everyone is equal and must accept everyone as such and that he has all the answers to the world's problems and can bring peace, but to do it the global world must become one people and one nation otherwise there can never be peace therefore religion must be destroyed.

If the world has experienced extreme acts of global terrorism and religious wars in the Middle East this will be a very appealing message, especially since most secular people already believe the majority of wars are a result of religion (though in reality they are a result of man's lust for power, control and wealth). Whatever the speeches of the man of sin and lawlessness contain they will be extremely enticing and deceptive to the natural mind and especially to those who deny God.

Ultimately this final world leader the man of sin and lawlessness becomes so powerful that his pride is lifted up to such an extreme extent he believes he can destroy Christ's Kingdom in the Middle East so he gathers the armies of the nations and they go against Jerusalem to destroy God's appointed King who they see as a religious dictator King who is a threat to their wealth and their power.

At this time God looks down from heaven and as quoted in Psalm two he laughs at their futile plots against the King he has set up on His holy hill in his Holy city Jerusalem. God then destroys the armies that are gathered against Christ by sending massive hailstones upon them.

The sheep and goat judgment: takes place with the remaining nations of the world, those that are judged worthy and choose to accept the rule and authority of Christ the King are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. Christ grows stronger in power and influence over the nations of the earth, but never fully gains total acceptance of all the nations or people of the world.

At the end of Christ millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords those who have been born during this age, but resist his rule gather together against Christ to destroy his government and his Kingdom at Jerusalem, but God sends fire from heaven and destroys them.

After this God himself descends on a Great White Throne, death, hades and the sea give up the dead and multitudes stand before God, those that are judged worthy inherit some place in God's eternal Kingdom, but those who are judged unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire and destroyed forever (the Lake of Fire is a symbolic image of total extinction). Finally God plan is achieved all the earth is filled with God's glory and he is all in all.

For further information see the titles: -

- Resurrection (Second or White Throne Judgment).
- In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Daniel chapter two, seven and nine.
- In Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Parallel between Christ's first Appearing and his Second Coming.

The prophetic messages of the Bible predict that though the kingdoms of Rome have diminished in power they will once again rise with affiliated nations as the final world kingdom. When the Lord returns the scenario will be very similar to when he first came. When Christ first appeared the religious system of his era saw that they were losing their power and control of the people to Christ, so they enticed Rome to have him crucified.

When Jesus returns the false religious system of the world titled in the book of Revelation, "Babylon the Great" and the "Prostitute Woman" will entice the world's political leader and the ten horned beast nations, (being Rome resurrected), to send their armies against Lord at Jerusalem, but the difference this time is that Christ is returning as the King of kings and Lord of lords and not as the Lamb of God to be slain. Christ will defeat the ten horned beast nations and establish God's Kingdom or righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth during this millennial period.

FOOTNOTE: no-one needs to understand any of this to be saved to eternal life. It is interesting to notice that prior to the death and resurrection of Christ the focus of biblical writers in the New Testament is upon the Kingdom of God, but after his resurrection the focus is on the King of the Kingdom and on resurrection to eternal glory.

This is because Jesus is the royal path to salvation whereas the Kingdom is the inheritance of those who belong to the King. The New Testament gives very little detail of where eternal glory will be except to say that we will be give an immortal body and be eternally with the Lord and for those who know the love of Christ this is enough.

Almost all the detail of Christ's millennial rule as King of kings and Lord of lords comes from the Old Testament.