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**The
Man of Lawlessness**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Man of Lawlessness.

In the following verses we read of a man of lawlessness:

- **2 Thessalonians 2:1–17:** 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. ³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion (falling away first in KJV) (apostasy in Darby Bible) comes first, and the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) is revealed, the son of destruction (perdition in KJV), 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. 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.

- **Matthew 24:12:** Because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

From these verses we learn: Jesus will not return until a rebellion (falling away first in KJV) (apostasy in Darby Bible) comes first, and the man of lawlessness, (man of sin in KJV) the son of destruction (perdition in KJV) is revealed. (v1-3). The great apostasy refers to the falling away spoken of in (v3).

The mystery of lawlessness: From the time of Paul, the mystery of lawlessness was already at work (v7). Following are two things the mystery of lawlessness can be applied to:

1. Lawlessness that is out of-control, and is not yet full blown as it will be sometime in the future, which means the fulness of such lawlessness is not yet fully revealed, and therefore can be referred to as a mystery.
2. The primary passion of almost everyone living on planet earth, is to raise their family in an environment of safety and peace, yet from the beginning of time, there has been murders, violence and wars, and many married couples who deeply love each other end up in divorce and even worse hating each other. Who of us can fully and clearly comprehend or make sense of the widespread violence, the murders, and the wickedness in the world, especially when it is considered, most of mankind just want to live in peace and raise their families in safety, which is another reason lawlessness can be spoken of as a mystery.

The restraining influence: something was and still is restraining the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV), and will continue to do so until what is restraining him is taken out of his way. (v7). Keep in mind though the word lawlessness in the context of this chapter, embraces all kinds of sin and, iniquity, its primary focus is all that is ungodly, offensive to God, and to His word, and especially against Christ and his faithful followers.

When whatever is restraining the man of lawlessness is taken away, then the man of lawlessness will be revealed (v8), Paul does not specifically identify what or who the restraining force is, there are differing views over the identity of the restrainer, following are the most common:

- Michael the archangel.
- The Roman government.
- The preaching of the Gospel.
- The binding of Satan.
- The Holy Spirit (i.e., the Spirit of God).
- The Jewish state of Israel.
- The faithful church (i.e., the global body of Christ).

The most likely answer and the one most agree with, is that it is God's Holy Spirit is the restrainer, it could rightly be said that, "it is the Holy Spirit working through the faithful New Testament church. (i.e., the worldwide body of Christ)." Supporting this idea is the truth that it is only God's Spirit that has such power (supernatural) to do this restraining, and the church, indwelt by the Spirit of God, has always been part of what holds society back from the swelling tide of lawless living. It could be said, at God's appointed time, the Spirit will "step aside" from restraining, allowing lawlessness to have dominion over mankind. Paul wrote:

- 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. (2 Thess. 2:7).

The he in this verse, most likely applies to the Holy Spirit of God, and by extension the body of Christ, for once the restrainer is removed there will be nothing limiting the power and influence of the man of lawlessness, and having free rein he will deceive the people of the earth until his time to reign is up, and Jesus returns with the redeemed resurrected and destroys him and his empire by the breath of his mouth and, begins to establish God's Kingdom on earth.

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Those who embrace the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV): all who deny Christ (i.e., those who are perishing, loath the truth and love unrighteousness) will embrace the man of lawlessness. (v10), some years ago I remember a minister saying, "he is not surprised that people refuse to believe in Jesus, what surprised him, was what they believed instead." This truly applies here, for a vast portion of the world will fully embrace this man of lawlessness, rather than the man of Peace, who not only showed compassion and kindness to all who came to him, but also laid his life down that they might have life everlasting.

The strong delusion: Those who do not believe the truth, embrace a strong delusion that God sends. (v11-12) the strong delusion, can embrace the following two things:

1. Any deceptive lie, that secular authoritative powerful global leaders, skilled in public speaking proclaim, that appeals and influences a vast portion of the world's population, in such a deceptive way that masses of the world's population embrace the lies they speak.
2. The Vatican with its Roman Papal Church and Popes, for the Gospel they proclaim concerning the Popes, the Virgin Mary, the act of exalting the dead to sainthood, the doctrine of purgatory, the communion bread turning to the literal flesh of Jesus and the wine to his literal blood, the belief the Catholic Church is the Mother of all churches and so much

more that cannot be found in the Bible, yet, their false teachings have been embraced by millions around the world, and almost all heads of nations visit the Vatican and pay homage to the Pope.

Miracles and the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV): the man of lawlessness will come by wicked and cunning deceptions, and false signs and wonders (v9-10), Jesus told his disciples that "false christ's and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect" (Matt. 24:24). The word, "false," shows they are not real miracles, but that they lie about reality, meaning they appear to be real. These signs and wonders may embrace the following two things:

1. Experiences that are perceived to be miraculous, but are not.
2. Healings, that appear as miracles, but are placebo healings.

NOTE: these false miracles led people away from Christ, not toward him.

The character of the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV).

- He is enormously prideful, for he exalts himself in the temple of God proclaiming himself to be God.
- He opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god and object of worship (v4-3), so it is not just Christianity he opposes, but all religions.
- He takes his seat in the temple of God, and proclaims himself to be God. (v4). It is very likely he will embrace a Gospel of humanism, proclaiming that to save mankind religions must be destroyed, because they divide and cause wars, and to live in harmony all must become global citizens, embrace his laws, and do what is best for all mankind.
- He is a man of destruction, for he brings everything to ruin.
- He, at this present time is being restrained by something (v6), the restrainer would firstly embrace God, and secondly the faithful church for it is the only community on earth that is restraining full blown wickedness.

Revealed in his time: verse six states, "he will be revealed in his time," this carries the idea, he will not be revealed until it is God's appointed time for him to be revealed, which also means at this present time we can only suppose who he might be, and that when he is revealed, it will be very clear to all.

The day of the Lord and judgment: according to God's timetable, the Day of the Lord and the accompanying judgment will not begin until the following two things happen:

1. A global rebellion occurs.
 2. The man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV), an antichrist is revealed.
- When the man of lawlessness is revealed, the Lord Jesus Christ by the appearance of his coming will bring his empire to ruin and kill him with the breath of his mouth. (v8).
 - Those who embraced and believed the delusion (i.e., denied the Christ and his word) will be condemned. (v11-12).

In the eyes of the world: the man of lawlessness:

- Will appear as a great man, and speak with charm, authority, and skilful oratory.
- Will appear to have answers that will solve much of the world's problems.
- Will be motivated by the spirit of humanism, meaning the well-being of mankind and the planet, which is not only a good thing, but also fulfils Christ second commandment, "love your neighbour as yourself," but from heavens view his government and empire is an evil system, because it will not only deny God and the Lord Jesus Christ, but will also be hostile toward Israel and those who openly proclaim the Gospel.
- In the eyes of the antichristian world, the final world empire and its head will appear as a saviour, so much so that much of the world's population will adore him and give their heart and mind over to him. It is only from heavens viewpoint that he is spoken of as arising up out of the bottomless pit, because he will be hostile toward God, toward Israel, toward Christ and toward his people and eventually lead the world into ruin and destruction.

Eve and the forbidden fruit: it should always be kept in mind the tree Eve ate of did not appear harmful, corrupted, or poisonous in any way, if it had she would never have eaten of it, but rather when she looked at it, she saw a tree that was good for food, and that was a delight to the eyes, and a tree that was to be desired to make one wise. (Gen. 3:6), likewise the empire of the man of lawlessness will appear to the eyes of the world as something good and to be desired.

SNAPSHOT: the man of lawless causes widespread destruction and is around at Christs return, but will not be revealed until what is restraining him is taken out of the way. Those who embrace the strong delusion and lived a lifestyle of unrighteousness and did not believe the truth will be condemned.

Wisdom, the ten horned beast and the beast with two horns like a lamb.

- Both beasts rise from beneath.
- The first beast, the ten horned beast rises out of the sea, which represents the tumultuous impulses and passions of mankind.
- The second beast (the two-horned beast), rises-up out of the earth, signifying, the more stable portion of humanity, and wisdom, intelligence, and culture.

It should be noted, the wisdom, that guides both beasts, is not wisdom from above which is pure, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere, but wisdom that is from below, which is earthly, sensual, and devilish, that arises from pride and selfish ambition, envying and strife, partiality and hypocrisy. It is wisdom that is unspiritual and false to the truth and causes disorder, chaos and eventually ruin and destruction. (James 3:13-18).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.