



Revelation 13

The Dragon and Two Beasts:

The Beast from the Sea

The Beast from the Earth

UNHOLY TRINITY

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

¹Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. (2nd letter, 2nd chapter)

- Something happened to upset believers in Thessalonika (*perhaps intensified persecution*). Word has reached them that the “**Day of the Lord**” has already happened. (“*Day of Christ*” is same “*Day of the LORD*” in OT)
- Paul writing to reassure them. Someone was twisting Paul’s teaching.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2



Something happened to cause these believers to fear they had missed the great event, the “catching away” to be with Jesus. They believed they were already experiencing the “day of the Lord” – the day of wrath and judgment (beginning with Tribulation) and that His second coming for judgment was around the corner.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- Paul talks about two different events in opening section of ch 2, **critical to know the difference.**
 1. *“the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him...”* (**catching away**)
 2. *“...as though the day of Christ [the LORD, Yahweh] had come...”* (**coming in judgment**)

2 Events

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Rapture Passages	Second Coming Passages
John 14:1-3 Romans 8:19 1 Corinthians 1:7-8 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 1 Corinthians 16:22 Philippians 3:20 Philippians 4:5 Colossians 3:4 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 1 Thessalonians 5:19 2 Thessalonians 2:1 1 Timothy 6:14 2 Timothy 4:1, 8 Titus 2:13 Hebrews 9:28 1 Peter 1:7, 13; 5:4 Revelation 2:25; 3:10	Daniel 2:44-45 Daniel 7:9-14 Daniel 12:1-3 Zechariah 12:10 Zechariah 14:1-15 Matthew 13:41 Matthew 24:15-31 Matthew 26:64 Mark 13: 14-27 Mark 14:62, 23 Luke 21:25-28 Acts 1:9-11 Acts 3:19-21 1 Thessalonians 3:13 Jude 14, 15 Revelation 1:7 Revelation 19:11-20:6 Revelation 22:7, 12, 20

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“CATCHING AWAY” (Rapture)

- **Can come at any moment**
- **A “mystery”**
- **Earth not judged**
- **We don’t know the time**
- **Messiah comes FOR His own**
- **Only seen by and comes for believers**

SECOND COMING (“Glorious Appearing”)

- **Must follow timed events**
- **Foretold many times in OT**
- **Earth is judged**
- **Can follow events, 3 ½ yrs after “abomination of desolation”**
- **Jesus comes WITH His own**
- **Coming impacts entire earth**

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“CATCHING AWAY” (Rapture)

- **He comes in the air**
- **Purpose is removal of believers**
- **Before day of wrath**
- **Only His own see Him**
- **Saved delivered from wrath**
- **Saints go to heaven**

SECOND COMING (“Glorious Appearing”)

- **He comes to the earth**
- **Purpose manifestation and glory of Jesus**
- **Concludes day of wrath**
- **Every eye shall see Him**
- **Unsaved experience wrath**
- **Saints come to earth with Messiah**

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“CATCHING AWAY” (Rapture)

SECOND COMING (“Glorious Appearing”)

- **No signs precede this event**

- **Signs precede second coming**

- **Enemy not mentioned**

- **Enemy bound**

- **World is deceived**

- **Satan is bound**

- **Tribulation begins**

- **Millennial Kingdom begins**

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ONE MORE NOTE...

John is told to write down the things which he has seen, the things that are, and the things which will take place after this. These instructions provide a good outline of this entire book, and also give us **solid reason** (though there are PLENTY more!) **to believe the EKKLESIA** (“called out ones”) are **NOT present during this Tribulation time**, and have **already been “removed” in the “gathering together”** (a separate event from the RETURN of the MESSIAH [2nd Coming])...

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Believers Outline of Revelation

#	Revelation	Content
1	1:9-18	Things John has seen
2	2:1-3:22	The things that ARE, letters to 7 churches (Church Age)
3	4:1-22:21	Things that take place AFTER (<i>“meta tauta”</i> –after these things, after church age)
4	4:1-5:14	Church worshipping in heaven
5	6:1-18:24	Tribulation, church not on earth
6	19:1-21	Marriage of Bride, 2nd coming with His Bride (Church)
7	20:1-5	Millennial Kingdom (co-regents)
8	21:-22:21	New Earth, all believers together with Father and Son

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- So, we go forward understanding that the “Day of the LORD” (or day of the Messiah) is NOT the same day as the removal of the saints.
- Paul spoke at length about the 2nd Coming in 1st chapter of 2 Thessalonians. Continues with that day in ch 2, with detour to comfort believers....
- He does not want believers to be troubled about missing something. Feared “Day of the LORD” (*sometimes translated “Day of the Anointed One”*) had happened, and THEY HAD NOT BEEN CAUGHT UP (RAPTURED) TO BE WITH THE LORD! (*Would indeed be frightening thought!*)

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- Continuing into the 2nd chapter, there is obviously a different day in focus. Paul opened the 2nd letter with information about the **Day of the Lord**, the coming of Jesus in judgment. ***This is not the catching up to be with Him.*** The words to describe these events are polar opposite.
- When Paul speaks of the “day of the Lord [Christ]” he is not speaking of the gathering together. He is speaking of the return of Yeshua in glory and judgment, precisely what he spoke of just a few verses earlier.

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- Paul trying to set their minds at ease, giving sequence of events that must happen **before the Day of the Lord**, when the Messiah comes in judgment.
- Since those things have not happened yet, the Day of the Lord is not at hand.
- Apparently Thessalonians being taught the gathering together with Jesus had already occurred, and they weren't part of it. They were still there, experiencing horrible persecution.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- Would have caused great depression, fear, shock and disconsolation. Despite this shock, however, these people were still clinging to their faith. *(a lesson!)*
- Paul got word of false teaching, now going to set them straight. He did not know how they got this teaching. Refers to “spirit, word or letter.” Could be someone teaching false things, gossip/word of mouth, or phony letter supposedly from Paul.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- Paul taught believers would **not take part in “wrath of God”** during Tribulation, and that the “catching away” to be with the Lord would happen sometime before Tribulation.
- Because of trials they were experiencing, and false teaching, Thessalonians **believed Tribulation started and they missed rapture.**
- Paul emphatically denies that Day of the Lord had already started.

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- In comforting these believers, Paul provides us some critical information in understanding nature and behavior of final world ruler.
- All of what he states here is supported by Old Testament prophecies.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 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 the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

In 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 Paul details the order and sequence of events that must occur **BEFORE the Day of the Lord will come.**

The ORDER of events:

1. THE falling away happens first
2. The man of sin, the son of perdition is revealed
3. This man of sin will exalt himself above all that is called God, he is worshipped and sits in the temple of God to indicate he IS God. *(Paul says he already told them these things, and they need to be steadfast in the truth, in the Word of God, and in the truth Paul delivered to them)*

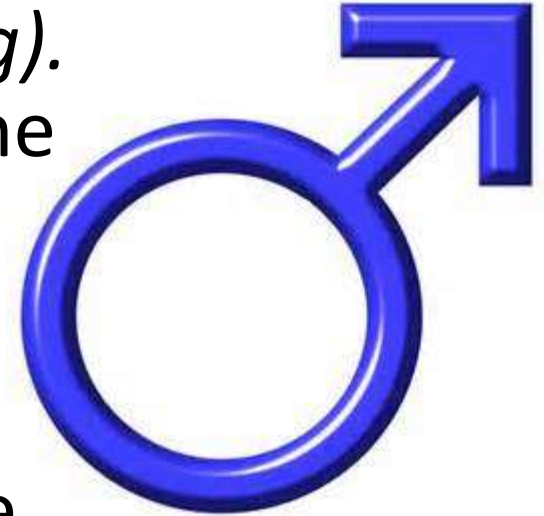
Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

BUT...wait, hold everything!

- Something (someone?) restraining these events (*Thessalonians apparently know what or who this is, but Paul does not tell us here*).
- “Man of sin” will be revealed in God’s time. *That’s why there is something restraining until God decides it’s time.*
- “**Mystery of lawlessness**” already at work (*the opposition to God, His Word, and His Son in the world*) is very present, even at the time of the writing of this letter, and still is.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- **“Restrainer” is a “he.”** (*Greek construction makes this male entity, not a thing*). He will stay in place, restraining the revelation of man of sin, until God determines the time and removes “him” (the restrainer).
- Only after this will the lawless one (the man of sin) be revealed.
- Eventually **Jesus will terminate the evil** activities of this man of sin, merely by the breath of His mouth. He speaks, it is done. Evil cannot stand in His presence.



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- The enemy will “fuel” the man of sin, and will give him miraculous powers to deceive.
- Those who *perish* (because they would not receive God or His Son and free gift of eternal life with Him) will be deceived.
- Because of choice to reject Him, God will send *those who perish* a “**strong delusion**” so they believe man of sin’s deception and lies. They loved lust and evil instead of God.
- Paul thankful for Thessalonians chosen (*with all mankind*) by God to have the gift of salvation and sanctification, and accepted God’s offer.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- By accepting God's offer, these people (and all believers) will also obtain the glory of the Son.
- Paul encourages his brothers and sisters in Jesus to stand fast and hold onto what they know is truth, not be swayed by error.
- He blesses and prays for them so God will comfort them, and enable them to continue working and talking for Him.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

IN A NUTSHELL

1. “Restrainer” must be moved aside, removed, taken away. Will only happen in God’s predetermined time table.
2. “Falling away” occurs.
3. “Man of sin” is revealed.
4. Man of sin exalts himself as God.
5. Man of sin will deceive unbelievers.
6. God sends “error” (delusion, fraud, error)
7. Man of sin “destroyed” by Jesus’ breath and brightness.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

TO CORRECTLY UNDERSTAND, WE NEED TO IDENTIFY THE EVENTS, AND THE PLAYERS

- What, exactly is the “falling away?”
- Who, exactly is the “man of sin?”
- What, or who, exactly is the “Restrainer?”
- What is meant by the Temple of God?
- What is the “abomination of desolation?”
- *And other things mentioned in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2...*

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, (v. 3)

- Paul address the **“Day of the Lord”** here.
- **“...the falling away...”** *Apostasia*: defection from truth (properly the state) ["apostasy"]: - falling away, forsake. *Apostasion*: (root) something separative, i.e. (special) divorce. Implies a divorce, falling away, forsaking.
- A forsaking, departure, divorce, **from God, and from faith in Him**. It is a grand and huge departure from truth (“wholesale”).


Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- Word has a definite article in front, meaning not just a general or any falling away, but a major event, a widespread departure.
- Actually implies almost a **“revolt” or rebellion.**
- May be specific event, not just gradual falling away. Maybe “church” forsakes God and truth completely. *(Can show up as a singular event, or a major falling away.)* In other words, “faith” no longer rooted in Truth.
- Regardless, now “church” will worship “man of sin,” and persecute any who stay true to God.

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- Some speculate the prior removal of the church (rapture) will **cause this widespread apostasy**. When true believers are removed, only error remains.
- Most likely speaks of **“organized church”** not local bodies of true believers after removal of the Body of Messiah. WILL BE a remnant of true believers (during Trib, coming to faith after “catching away”). Called “Tribulation Saints.”
- The organized church will become the **worldwide religion of man**, which will eventually worship the dragon and the beast.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

A photograph showing the aftermath of a disaster, likely a hurricane or earthquake. The central focus is a white church building with a large, dark cross on its facade. The roof is severely damaged, with many wooden beams exposed and broken. The ground is covered in a thick layer of rubble, including twisted metal, wood, and other debris. The surrounding area shows other buildings that have also been damaged, with some windows missing and structural elements exposed. The overall scene is one of significant destruction and desolation.

Whatever it is, the “falling away” will be a wholesale abandonment of the truth.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

...and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

A few other things must happen before “Day of the Lord” can “be at hand.” Paul spells these out clearly.



- After the “falling away” this **“man of sin” must be revealed.**
- 3 titles given this evil person here...

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- 1 • “...**the man of sin...**” literal translation of *anthropos hamartia* – **man of sin**. Who he is and what he does. He is full of sin, in complete opposition to God. Sin defines him.
- 2 • “...**the son of perdition...**” is *huios apoleia* – literally **son of eternal damnation, ruin and loss**. Why he does what he does. Under power of dragon, HaSatan. Desires to ruin mankind, send them all to same fate (lake of fire). Desires to take from God what God loves most – His people. Hates God, wants to hurt Him.
- Accuser’s agenda.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- **3** “...*the lawless one...*” *anomos*. Translated as “Wicked” (with a Capital W) in KJV. Literally means lawless, or *not subject to Jewish law*. Could indicate a Gentile, or Jew choosing not to be part of God’s covenanted people.
- Also means a **sinner, transgressor, unlawful and wicked**. One person, so evil, will be called **THE** Wicked or Evil one, embodiment of all evil.
- Yeshua embodiment (incarnation) of all good, this person incarnation of all evil.
- **REMEMBER ENEMY’S ABILITY TO COUNTERFEIT!!...**

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- This “lawless one” will be a man initially, but many think he will be indwelt by the Accuser in last part of Trib (***“Great Tribulation”***)
- Gives rise to some interesting speculation. **If this person is Jewish and renounces the “faith of his fathers,”** could be supported by verse in Daniel 11:37 – *“He shall regard neither the God [or gods] of his fathers ...nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.”* (more on these verses later.)

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- Complete Jewish Bible portrays this person as one who has **“separated himself from Torah.”** This implies willful rebellion, renouncing of Hebrew faith and covenants. This verse (2:3) is translated in the CJB as follows: *“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way. For the Day will not come until after the Apostasy has come and the man who separates himself from Torah has been revealed, the one destined for doom.”*
- The Day of the Lord will not begin until the Man of Sin, the “lawless one,” **(the one separated from Torah)** is revealed.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- **COMMENTARY:** *This is the event that begins that awful day of judgment. It is not his existence that is significant; it is his being revealed for what he is, that is, the Lawless One, which is the signal for the commencement of the events of that Day. (Ryrie)*
- Term “**son of perdition**” also used of Judas Iscariot: *“...Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.” (John 17:12)* Indicates both are destined for destruction.
Does NOT mean Judas is reincarnated as final world ruler! *(as some think)*

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- “Falling away” and revealing of “man of lawlessness” spoken of in same frame of thought. Some speculate this may indicate final world ruler will do something to promote the “falling away” (apostasy).
- Backed by **Antiochus Epiphanes** (a TYPE for AC), whose actions in Jerusalem against ***Jews caused major apostasy*** in 2nd century BC.
- While the falling away from true faith already underway, possible AC will do something to cause final and permanent falling away, the Apostasy. ***Next verse might apply...***

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Self
exaltation

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- The **final world ruler will do several things** according to this verse:
 1. He will oppose God
 2. He will exalt himself above God (*or anything else worshiped*)
 3. He will “sit” (as God would sit) in His temple
 4. He will demonstrate (*or deceive others to believe*) that he is god.
- **Revelation 17**, this beast from the sea will support false religion, temporarily, but plan is to forbid worship of anything/anyone except him.

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- Brings **Isaiah 14** to mind:

*¹² “How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!*

*How you are cut down to the ground,
You who weakened the nations!*

¹³ For you have said in your heart:

‘I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.’

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- Some speculate not a literal sitting in physical Temple (rebuilt), or on the “throne” of God which would be inside actual Holy of Holies.
- **Temple of Holy Spirit today is human heart, believer’s heart.** So, speculation this verse means AC will actually cause former believers to fall away, as he “sits on the throne” of their hearts, the former residence of the Holy Spirit (*in other words, they will be deceived*).
- Huge falling away happening today. Big question is, were these people really the temple of the Holy Spirit, *or just wearing a label?* WE are not the judge.

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

- However, remember, literal interpretation is safest. Allegorical or forced spiritual interpretation is too dangerous, too vague, too open to personal interpretation.
- Still best to think of this is a **literal sense**, with AC actually sitting in a physical Temple, just as Antiochus Epiphanes did. A complete and final fulfillment of the ultimate abomination that causes desolation.

These thoughts were apparently not new to the Thessalonians...

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

- Paul indicates he already taught them these things. Apparently not something new to Thessalonians, but something they should have remembered. He had obviously spoken with them about the sequence and types of events that would happen regarding the return of the Messiah, both for His church, and for judgment.
- One of reasons Paul wrote this follow-up letter to Thessalonians, **to clarify what had been previously taught to them.**

Revelation 13 + 2 Thessalonians 2

COMMENTARY: *[one commentator used a personal experience to make a point about “reading the instructions” – he says], “We simply did not think it was that important to read the instructions about how to dispose of the rags, and a major fire almost occurred. It is the same with the Christian and God's directions in Scripture. If we assume we know what we need to know to live as Christians without habitually consulting God's word, we may be headed for catastrophe. We must continually read the instructions of God's scriptural handbook to avoid catastrophes such as the spreading fires of false teaching.” (Beale)*