

**The Day of the Lord Project—Lesson 7**  
**Pertinent Notes on 2 Thessalonians 2, Part 2**

**2 Thessalonians**

- 2 Thessalonians 2:4—Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.
  - The man of sin is Daniel’s abomination that maketh desolate (Dan. 9:27).
  - Recall that the “Lord alone” shall be exalted in the DOTL (Isa. 2:11, 2:17).
  - Thus, the tribulation on earth cannot be part of the DOTL because the son of perdition is exalting himself.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:5—Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
  - When Paul was with the Thessalonians, he had instructed them in all of the information covered in the previous verses.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:6—And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.
  - Now, Paul is revealing to the Thessalonians new information that he had not shared with them when he was in Thessalonica.
  - There is apparently something that withholds the revelation of the man of sin.
  - The man of sin will be revealed in “his time.” Again, the tribulation is not the Lord’s day (i.e., the DOTL), but the time of the son of perdition’s exaltation.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:7—For the mystery of iniquity doth already work:
  - Notice that the mystery of iniquity was already working in Paul’s day. Satan is preparing the world stage for the deception that will take place during the tribulation.
  - Ephesians 2:1-3—the world is following the course that Satan has charted. The completion of Satan’s program culminates in the son of perdition.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:7—only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way.
  - The “what withholdeth” in v. 6 is the same as the “he who letteth” in v. 7. These phrases are based on the same underlying Greek word, “katekho.”
  - This person will continue to “let” until he be taken out of the way. Once the restrainer is removed, the mystery of iniquity is given free course and the man of sin will be revealed.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:7—What is it that withholdeth?
  - There are at least three common suggestions as to “what withholdeth.”

- 1. The Holy Spirit
  - However, the Holy Spirit is clearly active on earth during the tribulation (Rev. 2:7, 5:6).
- 2. The son of perdition himself
  - The son of perdition withholding himself is contrary to the natural sense of the passage.
  - The letting takes place “even now” in v. 7 and yet the man of sin has not yet been revealed.
  - Note that Scripture does not follow a strict approach of pronoun continuity. In 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9, the pronouns “his” and “him” change from referring to the Lord Jesus Christ to referring to the son of perdition without any advance warning.
- 3. The body of Christ / dispensation of grace
  - The most obvious candidate for that which withholds is the body of Christ / dispensation of grace, since it is the body of Christ / dispensation of grace that put the prophetic program on hold after Acts 7:55-56 (Acts 2:34-35, Col. 3:1).
  - It also makes sense to refer to the BOC as “he” who letteth since the BOC is the one new man (Eph. 2:15).
- 2 Thessalonians 2:7—“taken out of the way”
  - Paul says there is going to be a time when the restraining force will be “taken out of the way.”
  - Job 24:24—taken out of the way = cut off
  - Romans 11:22—Gentiles will be “cut off” for failing to stand by faith. The body of Christ / the dispensation of grace will be taken out of the way at the time of the Catching.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:8—And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
  - The Wicked shall be revealed after the dispensation of grace is taken out of the way. Thus, the son of perdition will not be revealed until that time.
  - Therefore, trying to identify the son of perdition today is a waste of time. He hasn't even been revealed yet.
- 2 Thessalonians 2 thus gives the following chronology of events:
  - The falling away of the Gentiles
  - Gentiles being cut off
  - The body of Christ taken out of the way/end of the dispensation of grace
  - Revelation of the man of sin
  - Revelation of the son of perdition

- Day of Christ comes to earth in the form of the DOTL at the Second Coming.