

## **2 Thessalonians 2 New American Standard Bible**

### **Man of Lawlessness**

Now we ask you, brothers *and sisters*, regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, <sup>2</sup> that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit, or a message, or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. <sup>3</sup> No one is to deceive you in any way! For *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. <sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? <sup>6</sup> And you know what restrains *him* now, so that he will be revealed in his time. <sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is removed. <sup>8</sup> Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; <sup>9</sup> *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved. <sup>11</sup> For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, <sup>12</sup> in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

### **Stand Firm**

<sup>13</sup> But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers *and sisters* beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. <sup>14</sup> It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>15</sup> So then, brothers *and sisters*, stand firm and hold on to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us. <sup>16</sup> Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, <sup>17</sup> comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

### **Paul's Comments and questions**

1. What is it for Paul to make a request on behalf of the leadership?
2. It is to invite the Thessalonian church to consider something.
3. When we have an issue with someone, it is good practice to invite them to consider, as it presents you to them in humility.
4. Paul wants this church to reflect on their perspective regarding the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Why is Jesus Christ coming again?

6. The gathering together with Him is when the saints who were saints, and the saints who are saints are bought together to begin the reality of what is to come at the start of the new age.
7. What is it for a church body to be quickly shaken from the perspective they hold?
8. What is it to lose your composure? And why would this happen?
9. This will happen when you question what you know is true.
10. To be distracted is to lose your peace in a matter you were once at peace in.
11. Paul says no matter how the information comes and no matter where the information comes from.
12. It would seem someone in the church was saying Jesus Christ has already come back a second time, and, by implication this church had missed the coming.
13. Not true – says the apostle Paul, certain things need to take place before Jesus Christ comes again.
14. To start with the apostacy, the man of lawlessness will come first, this anti-christ figure who sets up a rule and reign on the earth that is in conflict with God's ways.
15. He will self elevate above all other god's, he will be the son of destruction, unlike the Son of God who came to restore. This one will sit in the elite of the religious as if god.
16. Paul wants them to bring to mind, it is very important to remember what you have known is true when you are in a place of uncertainty.
17. God in His mercy restrains this lawless one now, but there will come a time when God restrains him no more.
18. It is in that time that God will destroy this lawless one with the breath of His mouth.
19. Paul says 'at the appearance of His coming' it means at once.
20. Be under no illusion, evil has power to do great things, but it is always for the purpose of deception.
21. It is the wicked who refuse to receive the love of the truth – the gospel.
22. They, taking this position, rejected there invitation of salvation, even though it was on offer to them.
23. God will send a deluding influence.
24. Why would God want them to believe what is not true?
25. So they would be judged for not believing. It is as if God does not want them to escape the judgement. Why?
26. Because the wicked take pleasure in doing evil, not only do they do evil, but they enjoy doing evil.
27. Paul says give thanks to God for Christians, it will unite and strengthen you in your love for them.

28. Did God choose some for salvation and some for judgement? No, but God knew in the beginning who would turn to Him and who would reject Him. God knew who would respond to the message.
29. Paul is saying God knows because God knew.
30. Salvation comes through faith via sanctification by the Holy Spirit, so that is faith in the gospel and change by the Spirit revelation.
31. The truth the Spirit teaches your spirit.
32. Paul says, you and us are called to receive the glory of the Lord who is in you, as you are in Him.
33. Paul says, stand firm in the truth you know, don't be deceived or persuaded from that truth.
34. Paul wants God's comfort to be in them, when we are comforted we will be able to comfort others.