

*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Thessalonica*



II Thessalonians

"THE FALLING AWAY
& THE MAN OF SIN"

(2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (NKJV)

¹ 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.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (NKJV)

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.

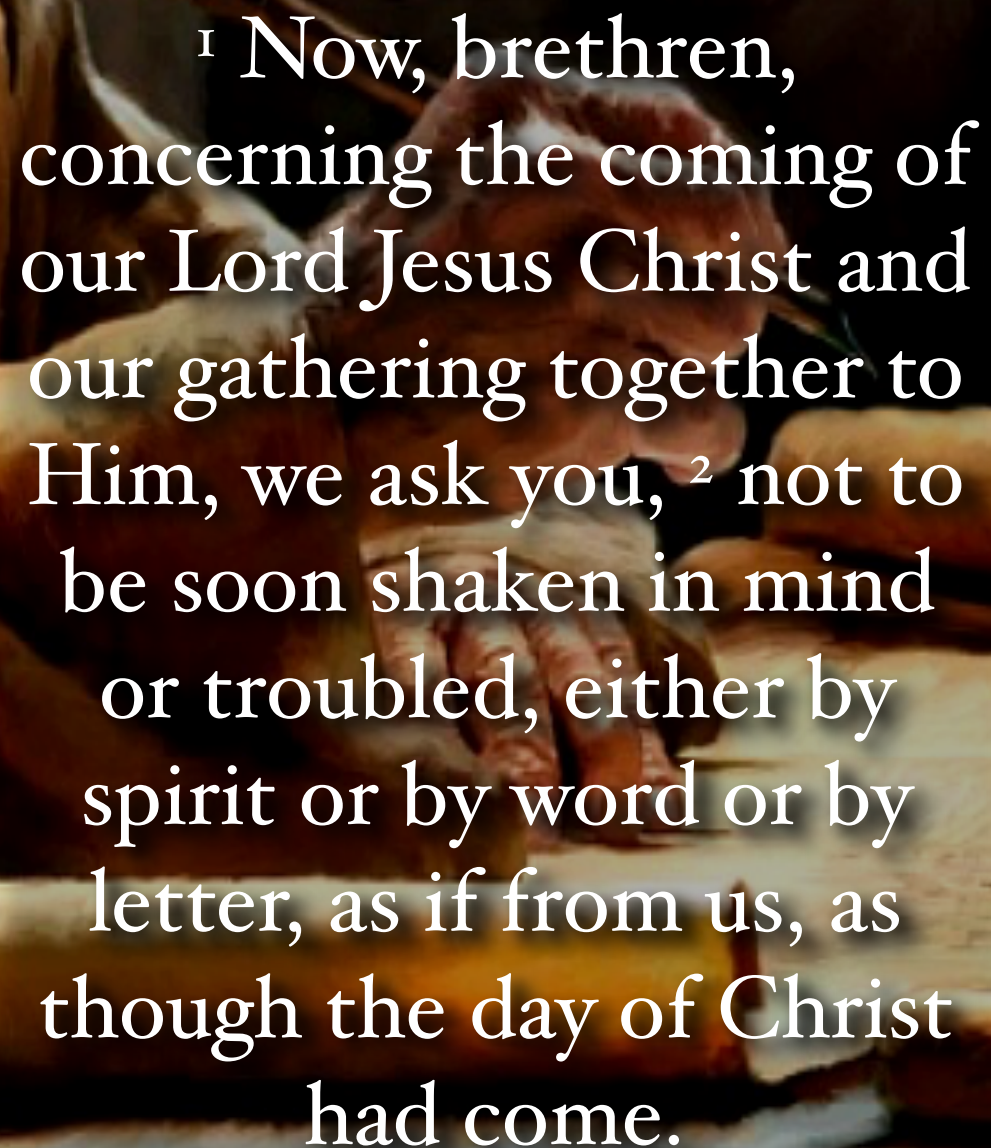
2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (NKJV)

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.

"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

A Falling Away **MUST** Come (2:1-3)

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 (NKJV)



¹ 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.

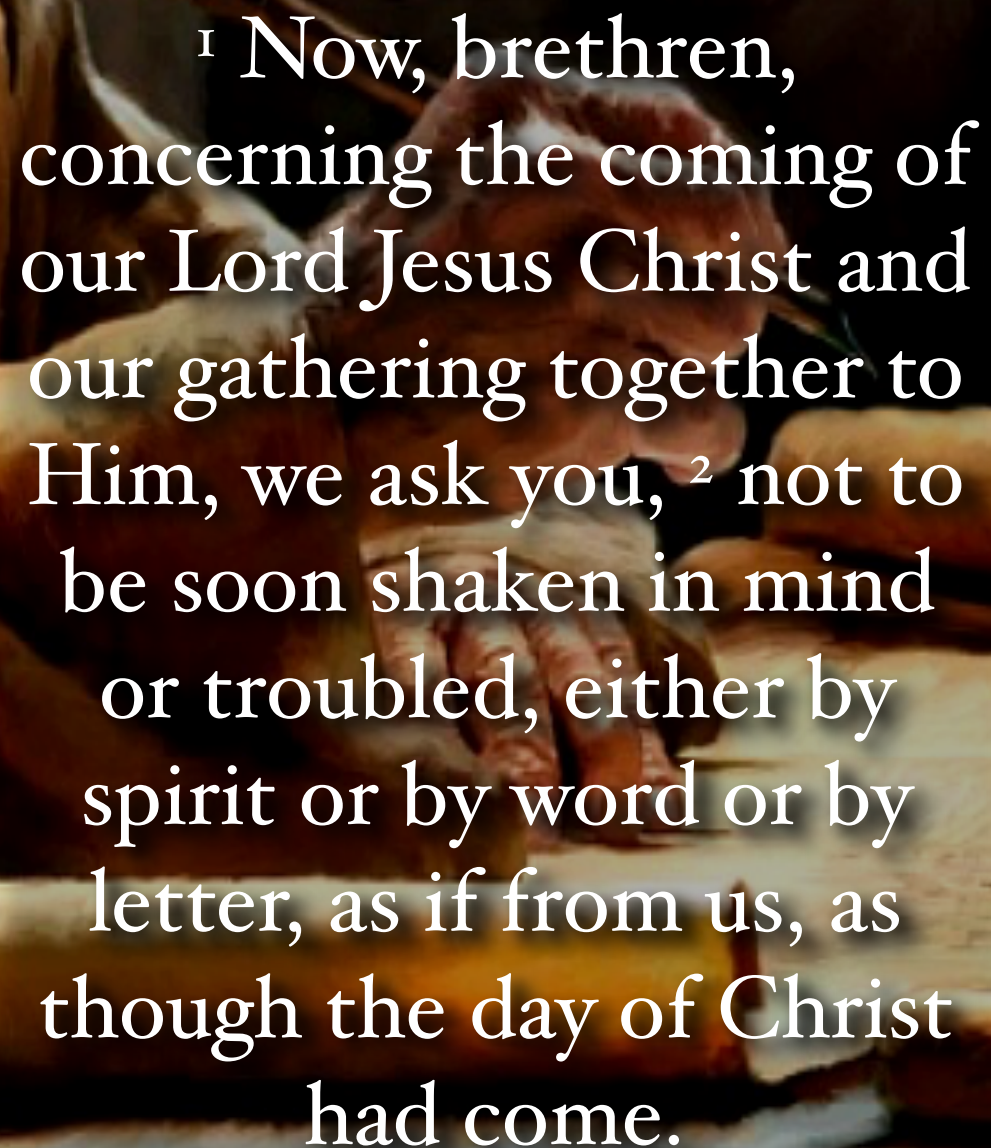
► Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ - vs. 1,2

- ◆ The “*coming of our Lord*” is spoken of as a factual reality — (vs. 1; 1:7-9; 1 Cor 15:21-28; 2 Pet 3:10; 1 Thes 5:2)
- ◆ When Jesus comes again, all Christians will be gathered together to Him — (vs. 1; 1 Thes 4:15-17; 1 Cor. 15:23,24; 50-54)
- ◆ “*Not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled ...*” — vs. 2; 1 Thes 5:2; 2 Pet 3:10; 2 Tim. 2:17,18

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though the day of Christ
had come.

► Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ - vs. 1,2

- ◆ Do not listen to:
 - ◆ ... **spirit** - *professed revelations.*
 - ◆ ... **word** - *words attributed to Paul*
 - ◆ ... **Letter** - *a misunderstanding of actual apostolic epistles or forged ones*
- ◆ “As though the day of Christ had come.” - [**as that the day of the Lord is now present** ... Perfect active indicative of ἐνιστημι — “is imminent” (Lightfoot) — RWP

"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

A Falling Away **MUST** Come (2:1-3)

2 Thessalonians 2:3
(NKJV)

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,

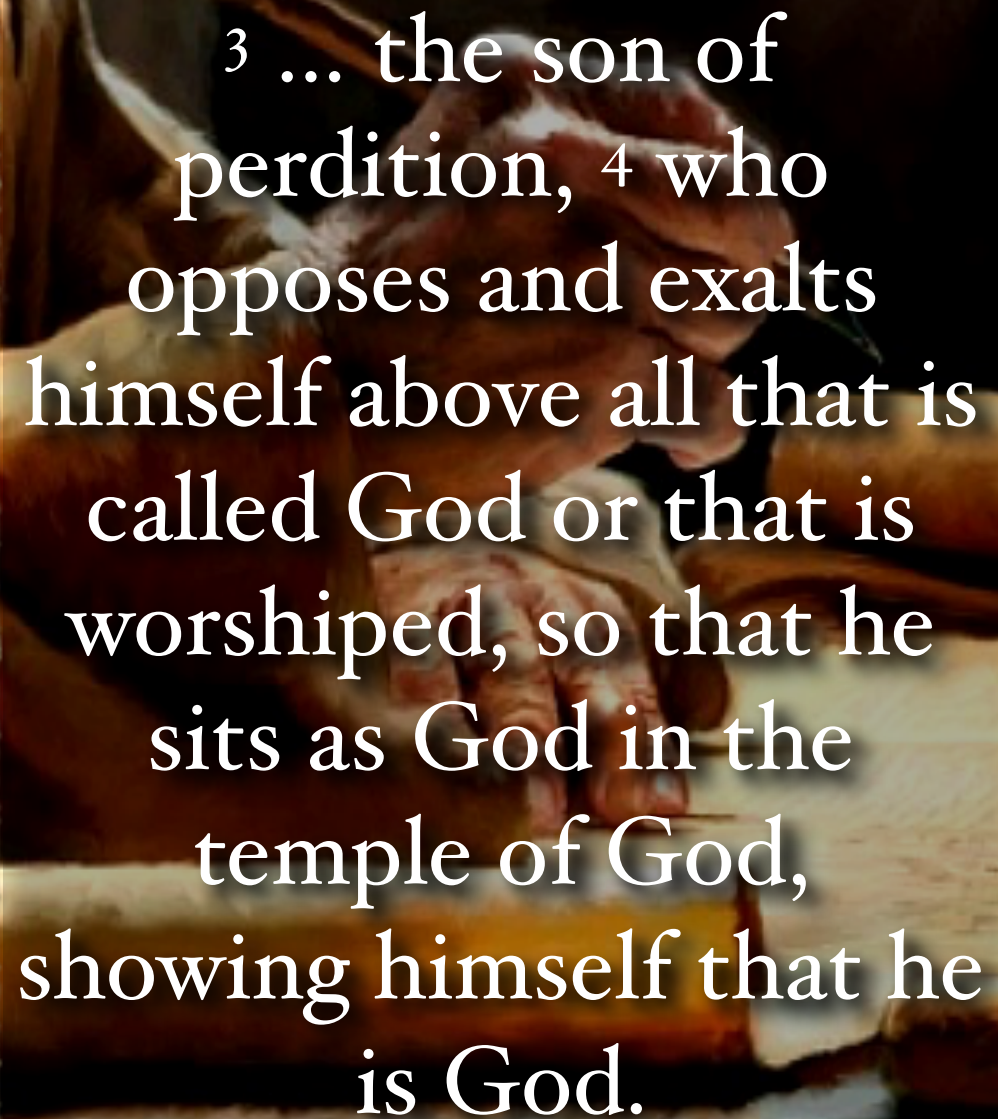
► **That day will not come unless - vs. 3**

- ◆ **"The falling away"** occurs first — Acts 20:28-30; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Pet. 2:1,2; Jude 3-19
- ◆ **"The man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition"** — 1 Jn 2:18,19; speculation as to the identity of this "*man of sin*" is seemingly endless. *The remainder of our study will focus on his identity & revealed characteristics.*

"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

The Character of The Man of Sin (2:3,4)

2 Thessalonians 2:3,4
(NKJV)



³ ... 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.

- ▶ **The man of sin** - sin would be his "*predominating quality*" (Ellicott, p. 118).
- ▶ **The son of perdition** - vs. 3 - because its end is to be perdition, i.e., destruction, by the Lord himself (v. 8).
- ▶ **Opposes God and exalts himself against all that is genuinely sacred (v. 4).** He is contrary to the true gospel, and replaces it with himself - his true character reveals that he is diabolic. His activity actually is according to the working of Satan (v. 9).

"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

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- ▶ **"Sits in the temple of God"** (v. 4). The "*temple*" is not a reference to the Jewish house of worship.
- ▶ The Greek word is *naos*, used by Paul 8 times. Never to the Jewish temple.
- ▶ Used of the Christian's body (*1 Cor. 6:19*) or of the church as God's *spiritual house* (*1 Cor. 3:16, 17; Eph. 2:21*).
- ▶ Paul is implying that this "*man of sin*" as being a "*church*" character, demonstrating "unparalleled arrogance (*Ellicott, pp. 119-120*)." to exact "*divine homage*" from people (*Mason p. 169*).

"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

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▶ **"Showing himself that he is God" (v. 4).**

- ▶ The present participle ("*sets forth continually*") suggests a continual position of supreme arrogance.
- ▶ He represents himself as God:
 - ▶ *by making claims that belong only to deity;*
 - ▶ *by receiving adoration reserved exclusively for God; or,*
 - ▶ *by usurping prerogatives which only God can accomplish.*

"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

The Rise of The Man of Sin (2:5-8)

**2 Thessalonians 2:5-6
(NKJV)**

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.

▶ **"Restrained During Paul's Day" (v. 6).**

- ▶ There was some influence that restrained the budding Man of Sin. (*the neuter form of katechon, "the restraining thing"*) (v. 6).
- ▶ This force is associated with a person/persons "*he who restrains*" (v. 7). (*Likely a broad power, operating under individual rulers*).
- ▶ The early saints knew of this restraining force. "*You know* — Vine, p. 444).

"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

The Rise of The Man of Sin (2:5-8)

2 Thessalonians 2:7
(NKJV)

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.

- ▶ **"Restrained During Paul's Day"** (v. 6).
- ▶ This entity was contemporary with Paul, not a modern one.
- ▶ The rise of this man of sin had already begun. (vs. 7)
- ▶ Restraining Force To Be Removed - **be taken out of the way* -
- ▶ The Man of Sin, in "*his own season*," would be revealed openly (vv. 6, 7).
- ▶ The restraining power will give way to the revelation of the Man of Sin.

"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

The Rise of The Man of Sin (2:5-8)

**2 Thessalonians 2:8
(NKJV)**

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.

- ▶ **“Man of Sin Continues Until Second Coming”** (v. 8).
- ▶ The Man of Sin, though having roots in the world of ancient Christianity (v. 6), would endure, in some form or another, until the end of time, i.e., until the Second Coming of Christ.
- ▶ At that time, he will be destroyed by the Lord’s word of Judgment (v. 8; cf. Rev. 19:15). In view of this, the Man of Sin appears to not be an individual, singular, but a continual established position with ecclesiastical authority

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The Rise of The Man of Sin (2:5-8)

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- ▶ **Proposed Explanations:**
 - ▶ **Satan Himself**
 - ▶ **Principle of Evil**
 - ▶ **Judaism**
 - ▶ **A Roman Ruler**
 - ▶ **The Future Anti-Christ**
- an individual who has yet to appear on the scene.

"COUNTED WORTHY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

The Rise of The Man of Sin (2:5-8)

**2 Thessalonians 2:8
(NKJV)**

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.

- ▶ **Explanation** - *The Papacy / Catholicism:*
 - ▶ The Apostasy - *Catholicism evolved as a defection from the original faith.*
 - ▶ Not Revealed in the 1st Century
 - ▶ Lawless
 - ▶ God-Opposing / Ecclesiastical Usurper of Divine Status
 - ▶ Usurps the Throne of God
 - ▶ Claims of Miracles
 - ▶ Early Stages at Work in Paul's Day
 - ▶ Initially Restrained by Pagan Rome
 - ▶ Flourished After Fall of Rome
 - ▶ To Continue Till Return of Christ

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (NKJV)

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.

1 Timothy 4:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

I Timothy 4:1-5 (NKJV)

³ forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; ⁵ for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.