

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 **Rapture tied to revelation of Antichrist**

Rapture and the Antichrist

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.

Removal of the Restrainer

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.

Antichrist described

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. 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.

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Facts Revealed:

Rapture and the Antichrist [2 Thessalonians 2:1-4]

- ✚ The concept of the Lord Jesus Christ coming and gathering the Saints to Himself in the air was first introduced by Jesus as He described one taken and the other left. [Matthew 24:40-41, Luke 17:34-36] Paul described the event by informing us that the dead in Christ will rise first and we who remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18] This news was a comfort for those who lost loved ones in death.
- ✚ Since many had been told that the Lord had come and they were left behind, Paul now gives the information of events that will mark the time of the catching up of the Saints. [2 Thessalonians 2:1-2]
- ✧ The catching up of the Saints is tied to end-time events because it is included in the signs of the end-time as we saw in: [Matthew 24:31, 40-42, Mark 13:5-6, 27, Luke 17:34-36, 21:7-8, 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 3:13, 2 Peter 3:17]
- ✧ The catching up of the Saints will come after there has been a great falling away. [2 Thessalonians 2:3, Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 48-50, 2 Timothy 3:1-9, 4:3-4, 2 Peter 3:3-4, Jude 1:17-19]
- ✧ The catching up of the Saints will be in the time frame of the **revelation** of the Antichrist. [2 Thessalonians 2:3, Revelation 13:1-18]
- ✧ The Antichrist is identified as the man of sin, the son of perdition who exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, presenting himself that he is God. [2 Thessalonians 2:3-12, Revelation 13:1-18, Matthew 24:15-27, Mark 13:12-23, John 5:43, Daniel 7:8, 11, 24-25, 8:9-12, 23-25, 9:27, 11:21-45, 12:5-7, Zechariah 11:27, Revelation 19:19-20]

Removal of the Restrainer [2 Thessalonians 2:5-7]

- ✚ Paul had taught the Thessalonians about the Antichrist verbally while he was still with them, and now reminds them of the teachings.

- ✧ The spirit of the antichrist has always been at work from the very beginning, but has been restrained until the time of the End, when the restraining force is taken away he will have free access to deceive the people of the world. [2 Thessalonians 2:7, 1 John 2:18-22, 4:3, 2 John 1:7]
- ✧ God has been working through the influence of believers to restrain evil in the world since the beginning of the Church until now, but when the Church is caught up to be with the Lord, their influence to restrain evil will end, and evil will go wild fully unrestrained.
- ✧ Wickedness in the world today is poised for just such an event.

Antichrist described [2 Thessalonians 2:8-12]

- ✧ The Antichrist will be destroyed at the coming of the Lord. [2 Thessalonians 2:8, Revelation 19:19-20, 20:10]
- ✧ The Antichrist will come on the scene by the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders. [2 Thessalonians 2:9, Matthew 24:24, Mark 13:22, Revelation 13:1-18]
- ✧ The Antichrist will embody all unrighteousness and deception among those who perish and the world will worship him as directed by the false prophet. [Revelation 13:1-18, 14:9-11]
- ✧ The deceived will perish because they did not receive the love of the truth to be saved. [2 Thessalonians 2:10]
- ✧ If they had believed the truth they would have been saved. [2 Thessalonians 2:10]
- ✧ Because they did not receive the truth, God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie. [2 Thessalonians 2:11]
- ✧ All who do not believe the truth will be condemned because they took pleasure in unrighteousness. [2 Thessalonians 2:12]