

THE WORK OF THE ANTICHRIST (VV. 6-12)

2 THESSALONIANS 2:6 – BLUE

- See session 19

2 THESSALONIANS 2:7 – BLUE

- Paul shifts from the restraint of the Man of Sin (v. 6) to the present activity of iniquity.
- The apparent tension:
 - If the Man of Sin is restrained, how can evil already be operating so powerfully?
 - John notes that “many antichrists” are already at work (**1 John 2:18**), showing satanic activity precedes the final Antichrist.
- “The mystery of iniquity”:
 - Not the existence of evil, but its active operation prior to the revelation of the Man of Sin.
 - Evil is rampant even though its ultimate embodiment is withheld.
- Grammatical key to Paul’s explanation:
 - v. 6 uses **τὸ κατέχον** (neuter): “the thing restraining.”
 - v. 7 uses **ὁ κατέχων** (masculine): “the one restraining.”
 - The shift is intentional and demands two distinct aspects of restraint.
- Shared verb, different functions:
 - **κατέχω** = to hold, restrain, suppress, control.
 - Neuter (v. 6):
 - An impersonal restraint holding back the Man of Sin.
 - Masculine (v. 7):
 - A personal agent exercising control while iniquity operates.
- Two realities coexist:
 - The Man of Sin is restrained.
 - Iniquity is actively working.
 - Evil itself is not restrained; one particular figure is.
- “Until he be taken out of the way”:
 - Passive construction indicates forced removal, not voluntary withdrawal.
 - Idiom means “removed from the midst,” implying loss of position or access.
- Identity of the masculine restrainer:
 - Not the church (feminine).
 - Not the Holy Spirit (neuter).
 - Unlikely the body of Christ (no authority to “let” iniquity).
 - Best contextual and grammatical fit: Satan.
- Timing of removal:
 - A general post-apostolic “silence” does not fit Paul’s language.
 - A specific removal event aligns with **Revelation 12:7–8**, where Satan is expelled from heaven.
 - Immediately afterward the Beast appears (**Revelation 13:1**).
- Translation note:
 - The NKJV’s capitalization of “He” is interpretive.
 - Paul’s grammar distinguishes the neuter restrainer (v. 6) from the masculine restrainer (v. 7).
 - These distinctions belong to interpretation, not translation.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:8 – BLUE

- The sequence is explicit:
 - First, the one who “lets” is taken out of the way.
 - Then, and only then, “that Wicked” is revealed.

- The revelation of the Wicked one:
 - Is not gradual or independent.
 - Directly follows a prior removal event.
- Alignment with Revelation:
 - Satan is removed from his place in **Revelation 12**.
 - The Beast emerges immediately in **Revelation 13**.
- Identification:
 - If the restrainer in v. 7 is Satan, the Wicked cannot be Satan.
 - Confirmed in v. 9, where the Wicked comes “after the working of Satan.”
 - The Wicked is the Antichrist.
- His destruction:
 - Accomplished by the Lord’s word and appearing.
 - Fulfilled in **Revelation 19:20–21**.
- Capitalization of “Wicked” (KJV):
 - Not a proper name or deity title.
 - Signals a specific individual, not wickedness in general.
 - Other translations clarify by insertion (“one,” “man”).
 - KJV preserves clarity through capitalization rather than added words.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:9 – BLUE

- The Antichrist’s coming is “after the working of Satan.”
 - Describes source and empowerment, not chronology.
 - “Working” is **energeia**, operative energy.
- Satan energizes:
 - The Antichrist’s appearing.
 - His authority.
 - His effectiveness.
- Why Satan works through another:
 - Scripture does not say.
 - Possible considerations:
 - Satan is not human.
 - Mimicry of messianic patterns (**Genesis 3:15**).
 - Earthly dominion given to man, not angels.
 - Paul offers no speculation, only the fact of satanic empowerment.
- Nature of the Antichrist’s activity:
 - **Power (DUNAMIS)**: real capability.
 - **Signs (SĒMEIA)**: acts conveying meaning and authority.
 - **Lying wonders (TERAS with PSEUDO)**:
 - Astonishing and impressive.
 - Deceptive in purpose and significance.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:10 – BLUE

- “Deceivableness of unrighteousness”:
 - Emphasis is on deceivability, not merely deceit.
 - Describes a condition of openness to deception.
- Role of unrighteousness:
 - Produces moral and mental vulnerability.
 - Makes deception effective and persuasive.
- Scope:
 - This deceivableness is “in them that perish.”
 - Not universal, but limited to a specific group.
- The Antichrist’s method:
 - Fully exploits this deceivableness.
 - Operates as a manipulator and predator.

- Success depends on the condition of people, not just his power.
- Cause of perishing:
 - “Because they received not the love of the truth.”
 - Grammatically explains why they perish, not why they are deceivable.
- Nature of the rejection:
 - Not ignorance or lack of access.
 - A refusal to love the truth.
 - A moral and volitional failure.
- Timing considerations:
 - Most naturally prior to the rapture.
 - Possibly post-rapture but pre-midpoint.
 - In any case, it precedes divine delusion (v. 11).
- Practical warning:
 - Though not describing believers, it warns of losing love for truth.
 - Cynicism, fear, false worldviews, and pseudo-intellectualism can erode that love.
 - Truth may remain available while love for it disappears.