



“Prophetic Prerequisites To Jesus’ Return” (II Thessalonians 2)

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Intro: Why did they believe the day of the Lord had already come?

1. Because of the forgeries and false prophecies. The inspiration of these false messages was the devil himself, and the intent was to get them to give up on God and just live the rest of their lives for this present world.

2. Because of the tough times they were facing. They thought they were in the tribulation period (the time of wrath), and they knew from Paul’s previous teaching that God had not appointed them to suffer wrath (I Thess.5:9). So they thought they had missed The Rapture (I Thess.4:15-18). Some people still today teach that only those who are ready will experience the rapture, while other lukewarm Christians will be left behind to be purged, or left behind because they only thought they were “saved.”

I. TWO SIGNIFICANT PROPHETIC EVENTS PRIOR TO THE DAY OF THE LORD (vv.1-4).

A. The Rebellion Occurs

* 646. apostasia, ap-os-tas-ee'-ah; fem. of the same as G647; defection from truth (prop. the state) ["apostasy"];--falling away, forsake.

* I Tim.4:1; Matt.24:12, This is the increase both of deception, as well as the increase of calamity and distress.

B. The Man Of Lawlessness Revealed

* Lawlessness does not mean there will be no law. Rev.13:16-17 tells us that he (actually the false prophet on his behalf) will have a law that no one can buy or sell without his mark...This lawlessness is one that has no moral foundation...As long as you worship the antichrist, he will let you believe what you want to believe, live like you want to live.

* He is most commonly known as the antichrist. The Greek prefix *anti* has two meanings: *against*, and *instead of*.

* He may be of Jewish descent (Daniel 11:37a; John 5:43).

- Remember that it was a Jew who betrayed Jesus. Jesus said that Judas was a devil from the beginning (John 6:64,70).

* He is possessed and empowered by Satan himself (Rev.13:1-2; 20:2).

* He is a master of intrigue (Daniel 8:23).

- Intrigue: to arouse the curiosity or interest of by unusual, new, or otherwise fascinating or compelling qualities; appeal strongly to; captivate; to draw or capture.

* He is boastful (see Daniel 7:20; Rev.13:5).

* He has no regard for Jesus Christ (Dan.11:37).

* He will lead an extremely powerful ten nation confederation that is militarily superior in the world (Rev.13:4; Daniel 7:17, 19-23; 11:38-39).

* He is a politician and a diplomat ; enters into a covenant with Israel, a covenant that appears to involve restoration of a Jewish temple, and definitely involves his control over worship at this temple (Daniel 9).

* He is part of an unholy trinity (Rev.13:1, the father; 13:3, antichrist the Savior, false resurrection; 13:12 false prophet, the Holy Spirit).

* He is a deceiver and a liar (John 8:44).

* He is doomed to destruction (vv.3, read v.8; Rev.19:19-20; Daniel 7:26-27).

* His ultimate demise comes after he commits the abomination of desolation (Matt.24:15; Daniel 9:27b; 11:36a; Isa.14:12-15; Luke 4:5-8).

C. How Close Are We To “The Day of the Lord?”

1. Is there a falling away from the faith?

- The falling away (apostasy) seems to occur in connection with the Tribulation...

2. Could the man of lawlessness be alive today?

- We live in the church age (Daniel 9:25-27); The church age ends with the beginning of the final week of Daniel's vision, a seven year period known as "The Great Tribulation," or the time of "Jacob's Trouble." The rebirth of Israel as a nation. Over 2,700 years ago, God spoke through Ezekiel 37:1-14. Having been brought to the brink of extinction by The Holocaust, and yet in one day Israel was miraculously reborn as a nation. The preparation and readiness for the building of a temple in Israel. We live in the days of modern warfare; If the events of Rev.6 and 9 were to take place today, half the world would be dead. The ability for the world to view the two slain witnesses of Revelation 11:7-10. The technology for the mark of the beast (Rev.13:16-17); Dan.12: 4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. First time in history clear signs for the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38-39 (Russia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Libya, Turkey, Iran, etc.). In Ezekiel 38:5, the first country named as part of the alliance with Russia against Israel is Persia. Until March 21, 1935, Persia was the official name of the country we today know as Iran. NEVER in the last 2500 years (since these prophecies were given) has Russia and Iran had a military alliance. But they do today.

- Read Luke 21:28