

## The Fourth Teaching on the Return of Jesus: Why Do I Need to Know This?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; 15 / December 31, 2022

### Introduction:

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4, ESV)

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12, ESV)

### PURPOSE To strengthen them in the midst of their hysteria that Jesus had already come

Now we ask you, brothers, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to him,  
that you not be easily shaken from your composure,  
nor be troubled either  
by a spirit or by a message or by a letter alleged to be from us,  
to the effect that the **day of the Lord** has arrived.

### TEACHING Jesus will return only after the coming of the rebellion and the man of lawlessness

Do not let anyone deceive you in any way, for *that day* will not come unless  
the rebellion comes first, and  
the man of lawlessness is revealed,

#### Three Examples of Rebellion and Lawlessness Preceding Jesus' Returns

##### 1) Judgment from Eight Old Testament Prophets Preceded the First Coming of Jesus (Birth)

Isaiah:	Judah	(2:1-22)	Joel:	Judah	(1:2-2:11)
	Babylon	(13:1-22)		Nations	(3:1-16)
Jeremiah:	Egypt	(46:1-26)	Obadiah:	Edom	(1-21)
Ezekiel:	Egypt	(30:1-26)	Zephaniah:	Judah	(1:2-18)
Amos:	Israel	(5:1-27)	Malachi:	Nations	(4:1-6)

##### 2) Apostasy and Destruction Preceded the Second Coming of Jesus (Resurrection) Matthew

Judas betrays Jesus	26:47-55	Pilate crucifies Jesus	27:24-26
Disciples abandon Jesus	26:56	Soldiers mock Jesus	27:27-31
Peter denies Jesus	26:69-75	Jesus crucified for six hours	Jn 19:16-18
Judas hangs himself	27:3-10	Darkness comes over the land	27:45-46
Priests/elders crucify Jesus	27:15-54	Earthquakes open the tombs	27:51-54

3) Jesus Teaches a Rebellion and Destruction will Precede the Third Coming of Jesus

And Jesus answered them,

1. "See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.
2. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and
3. there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.
4. "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.
5. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.
6. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.
7. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.  
But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:4-14, ESV)

the man of lawlessness is revealed,

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|---|-------------------|
| 1. the <u>man</u>   | HE IS HUMAN       |
| 2. of <u>lawlessness</u>  | HE IS REBELLIOUS  |
| 3. is <u>revealed</u> ,   | HE IS HIDDENED    |
| 4. the son of <u>destruction</u> ,  | HE IS DESTRUCTIVE |
| 5. who <u>opposes</u> and who <u>exalts</u> himself over every so-called god<br>or object of worship, so that he <u>sits down</u> in the temple of<br>God, <u>proclaiming</u> that he himself is God. | HE IS BLASPHEMOUS |

Do you not remember that while we were still with you, we were saying these things to you?

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| 6. And you know that which <u>restrains</u> him now,   | HE IS RESTRAINED |
| 7. so that he <u>will be revealed</u> in his own time.<br>(6) For the <i>mystery of lawlessness</i> is at work already;<br>only the one who now <u>restrains</u> will do so until he is out of the way,<br>(7) and then the <i>lawless one</i> <u>will be revealed</u> , | HE IS COMING     |
| 8. whom the Lord Jesus <u>will slay</u> with the breath of his mouth,<br>and <u>wipe out</u> by the appearance of his coming,  | HE IS CONDEMNED  |
| 9. whose coming is in accordance with the <u>working of Satan</u> ,  | HE IS SATANIC    |
| 10. with all power and signs and <u>lying</u> wonders, and with every<br>unrighteous <u>deception</u> against those who are perishing,   | HE IS DECEPTIVE  |

Why Does the Man of Lawlessness Come?

in place of which **they did not accept the love of the truth**, so that they would be saved.

And because of this, God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie, in order that all may be condemned who **did not believe the truth**, but **delighted in unrighteousness**.

RESPONSE: **To pray and encourage them to remain strong in doing good works of faith.**

So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. (2 Thessalonians 2:15, ESV)