

2nd Thessalonians
(Chapter 2:1-12)

This chapter continues with the theme of Jesus' 2nd coming. Obviously, this topic remains a great concern for the Thessalonian church and for Paul.



What was Paul afraid that the church might have believed?

How could they possibly have bought such a lie?

What did Paul say would have to happen first?

What would the traits of the “*man of lawlessness*” be?

What events would surround his appearance?

Who is this man of lawlessness? There is much debate by reputable scholars, and far be it from me to give a definitive answer. Yet, the most popular views are as follows:

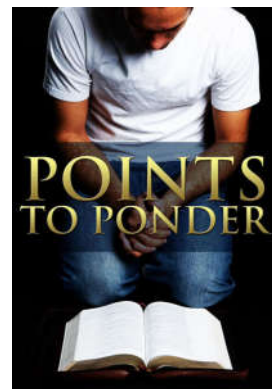
- The Roman emperor(s)
- The Papacy
- Some, yet to come, political figure

Most commentators suggest that “*the man of lawlessness*” corresponds with a single “*antichrist*” that will wreak havoc on the earth before or during a period of tribulation just prior to Jesus’ return in final judgment. However, **2nd Thessalonians 2:7** states that the secret power of lawlessness was already at work and the Thessalonians knew what was keeping it in check at that present time.

This seems to indicate that “*the man of lawlessness*” was someone or something present in the middle of the first century.* This would certainly rule out a single “*Tribulation Antichrist*.” The **Expositor’s Bible Commentary** also observes that this text has enough affinities with “*the beast*” of **Revelation 13** that the two books almost certainly describe the same period.

Why does **verse 10** say those who are deceived will perish?

What was God going to send to the unbelievers - and why?



How important is it for us to identify the man of lawlessness?

What does it mean for someone to “love the truth”- and how is it connected to salvation?

If God cannot lie, why would He - in fact how could He - send delusions?

(Paul For Everyone: Galatians & Thessalonians by Greek scholar N.T. Wright)*