

**April 19, 2026**  
**II Thessalonians 2:1-5**  
**“Antichrist, The Man Of Lawlessness”**

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

Paul is writing to correct an error. Some of the truths here are revealed no where else in the Bible, so hold on! This information is key to understanding future events and is the central theme of this entire epistle. Paul has already dealt with some error in the church. In chapter two, he speaks to theological error. Gleaned from *Thomas Constable*

Paul has preached to them in person concerning the coming day of judgment called the day of the Lord. In **I Thessalonians 5:2** Paul taught them that this day would come like a thief in the night. With all the persecution they were experiencing some felt that the rapture had happened and this horrible period of time had already begun. Like everything else in God's plan there is an order of events. To veer away from the teachings of Scripture is to veer into error.

Don't let anyone deceive you although they may seem credible, claim to have authority from God Himself, or from other truly godly men. New and undisciplined believers are gullible in such cases. They are ungrounded, therefore can be swayed. Impressive personalities have misled many a Christian. The antidote to poisonous heresy is strong preaching of truth from the Word. Notice in **v 1**, the “coming” of Jesus is still future at this point.

The falling away is a revolt, a departure, an abandoning of a position once held. This rebellion will take place within the professing church, will be a departure from the truth that God has revealed in His Word. True, apostasy has characterized the church almost from its inception, but Paul referred to a specific distinguishable apostasy that will come in the future. There is a huge difference between professing and genuinely possessing salvation. So this is not people losing their salvation. This is about a time coming when the wheat will be separated from the tares, see **Matthew 13:24-30**.

There will be a man of lawlessness revealed, this will take place at the halfway point of the tribulation, see **Daniel 9:27**.

As bad as Hitler was, the antichrist he will be worse. **Zechariah 13:8** teaches that he will kill two-thirds of the Jewish population. The Thessalonians were already jittery, now with this false preaching/teaching, and pseudo writing being passed around they were a hot mess. Correct doctrine is essential to a healthy church.

The man of lawlessness is not Satan, he is distinguished from the devil in **v 9**. He is identified as a man though, and therefore the final antichrist. He will lead the world astray into destruction for the most part. He will commit blasphemy. Satan will energize his batteries to be able to demand that all people worship him. He will take his seat in the temple and claim to be God, NOT! Clearly all of this had not, has not happened so far. Paul writes, guys, remember what I taught you back when you first believed?

False revelations, teachings, and false letters were bombarding the church. Constant discernment of the church was/is necessary. Apostasy means to desert one's faith. Those who do never were genuinely saved. This apostasy can be described as a worldwide anti-God movement. As this comes into focus so will an individual who is opposed to God. He could be alive today for all we know. He's a man of lawlessness.

**Application:**

The man of lawlessness is a man, not an idea or a force. He along with Satan and the false prophet will be the first cast into the lake of fire, see [Revelation 20:7-10](#).

Satan is the temporary ruler of this world with power over it as far as God who is sovereign over this world allows him to be. Consider the following: [John 12:31](#), "Now is the judgement of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out." Jesus was tempted by Satan for 40 days. When Satan said that he would give various things, see [Luke 4:1-13](#), Jesus did not say that Satan was lying. Jesus did not take Satan up on his offer but the coming antichrist will.

[John 14:30](#), "I will not talk with you much longer, because the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over Me." Jesus clearly states that Satan has this temporary power and that Satan has no power over Him.

[John 16:11](#), "and about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been judged." Jesus gives Satan this title of ruler of the world but it cannot be overlooked that this temporary ruler has already, past tense, been judged. So why would anyone want to follow him? Yet the masses choose not to believe.

[I John 2:18-22](#), "Children, it is the last hour. And as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. By this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I have not written to you because you don't know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar, if not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This one is the antichrist; the one who denies the Father and the Son." The antichrist or "the man of lawlessness," is not Satan, but an agent of Satan. To avoid spiritual confusion read your Bible daily.