The Anti-Christ - Part 4

When Will He Be Revealed

This lesson is not to instruct you to live your life looking for the Antichrist because as believers we are instructed to walk in a continuous state of prayer and watching for the return of Christ. The purpose here is simply to make you aware of his presence and his deceitful power!

According to scripture there are some particular things that must occur before the Anti-Christ is revealed.

1st Thing To Occur - The Great Falling Away

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

- 1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,
- 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
- 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: ***for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first,*** and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

Verse 1-3

The Antichrist will not be revealed until there is a great falling away. The great falling away here is a major spiritual rebellion and departure from the Christian faith that happens before Jesus returns.

- The word Paul used here for falling away is **Apostasia** meaning to stand apart, revolt, or turn away from a previously held position or truth.
- Christian principles and traditions will come under great attack!
- Those who fall away will be professed Christians

2nd Thing To Occur - Antichrist Takes His Position

2 Thessalonians 2:4

- 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Verse 4

Paul reveals that he will not be revealed until he takes his position that mimics the position of Christ in the church!

Christ was not just a prophet, priest or a preacher but He was Lord and Head of the Church. When the Anti-Christ takes his position as the head of his church he will be revealed.

The word Paul uses for temple here is ***Naos*** is the inner sanctuary, the sacred dwelling place, or the holy of holies itself, rather than the entire temple grounds. If Paul was speaking of the entire temple campus he would have used the word ***Hieron*** which means the entire temple complex (including the outer courtyards and surrounding buildings). He used ***Naos*** because it represents the place where the presence of God resides!

3rd Thing To Occur - The Unseen Force Will Be Removed

2 Thessalonians 2:5-8

- 5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
- 6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.
- 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.
- 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Verses 5 & 6

These verses share that there will be a powerful unseen force that will keep the Anti-Christ from gaining power that will be removed.

- The Holy Ghost
  - Many Theologians believe the restrainer is the Holy Spirit, often working through believers or the Church, who will be "taken out of the way" during the end times
- Human Government or Law
  - Some historical scholars suggest it refers to the Roman Empire or the legal order that kept total lawlessness and anarchy from taking over the ancient world
- The Archangel Michael
  - A few traditions point to Michael the archangel, who holds back spiritual forces of evil

We are sure that the person in which these scriptures speak of in reference to when he will be revealed is not Satan but the Anti-Christ by the following verses:

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

- 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
- 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
- 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
- 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.