

The Signs of the Times



2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

- The purpose of Bible prophecy is not for us to make a calendar, but to build character.
- Someone had deceived the believers into thinking they were already living in the day of the Lord.
- To calm their hearts and stabilize their faith, Paul explained that they were not in the day of the Lord.
- Paul appealed to them to “calm down” on the basis of the truth he had taught them in his first letter (1 Thes. 4:13-18).

The Signs of the Antichrist Coming - 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

- According to the Bible, the Antichrist (1 John 2:18) is coming, the one who engineers the final onslaught of Satan against Christ and the saints.
 - Unlike the rapture, the coming of the Antichrist will not be without warning.
1. The “mystery of iniquity,” the behind-the-scenes activity of evil powers evidenced throughout the world (v. 7).
 - Because of a prevailing spirit of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold (Matt. 24:10-12).
 - The “mystery of iniquity” is a secret of evil powers throughout the course of human history, preparing the way for the apostasy and the “man of sin.”
 - A. It is an insidious process that entraps unbelievers and prepares many within the church to turn from the true faith.
 - B. This spirit will be especially prevalent in the world and in Christianity toward the end of the age.
 2. The “apostasy”, literally meaning “departure,” “falling away” (2 Thes 2:3), or “abandonment and rebellion.”
 - A. Both the apostle Paul and Christ give a dismal picture of the condition of much of the visible church – morally, spiritually, and doctrinally (Matt. 24:5, 10-13, 24; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 4:3-4).
 - B. This “falling away” within the church will have two dimensions.

(1) Theological apostasy is the departure from and rejection of a part or all of the original teaching of Christ and the apostles.

(2) Moral apostasy is the severing of one's saving relationship with Christ and returning to sin and immorality.

3. "He who now letteth" must be removed (2:7).

A. "He who now letteth (restraints)" may best be understood as referring to the Holy Spirit, who alone has the power to hold back iniquity.

B. At the beginning of the final seven years of tribulation, the Holy Spirit will be "taken out of the way" (2 Thes. 2:7).

C. The Holy Spirit being taken out of the way enables the man of sin to come on the scene.