

THE MAN OF SIN **(2 Thessalonians 2:3-12)**

I. His titles.

- A. He is called the man of sin.
 - 1. This indicates he is predominantly wicked.
 - 2. All that he does is based on wickedness, there is no room for righteousness in him.
- B. He is called the son of perdition.
 - 1. Perdition means destruction.
 - 2. This was the title given to Judas by Jesus (John 17:12).
- C. This last title can mean two things.
 - 1. He is the cause of ruin or destruction for others.
 - 2. It can also mean that he is destined for destruction.
- D. Both of these statements are true in this instance.
 - 1. By following him, many are going to lose their souls.
 - 2. Paul makes sure to let them know the Lord will consume this man of sin (vs. 8).
- E. He is called that wicked (KJV) or lawless one in verse 8.
 - 1. He is wicked because he is prone to sin and hates God.
 - 2. Lawless indicates a breaker of God's law and one who will not follow it no matter what.
 - 3. This reminds us of what Daniel wrote about the little horn in 7:25.

II. His traits.

- A. Several traits of this man are listed in these verses.
- B. He opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God (vs. 4).
 - 1. This man appears to be religious but opposes true religion.
 - 2. The reason for this is that he is after the working of Satan, or under the power of Satan.
 - 3. He stands against everything that has to do with God.
- C. He will be able to perform lying wonders.
 - 1. Powered by Satan he will be able to do things that appear miraculous.
 - 2. Wayne Jackson wrote, because of this statement that, "identifying the Man of Sin...must thus look for a post-apostolic movement that claims its authenticity by miracles."
- D. He is deceptive and unrighteous (vs. 10).
 - 1. The things he does are for his own benefit and by lying.
 - 2. He presents himself to be something that he is not.
 - 3. There is no righteousness present in him, but is completely unrighteous.

- E. He can be suppressed.
 - 1. At the time of Paul's writing, this idea was at work (vs. 7).
 - 2. However, there was something suppressing it that would one day be put out of the way.
 - 3. It seems that ancient Rome was able to suppress this person or entity from gaining any power because of the predominance of idolatry.
 - 4. People were not interested in God because they had many gods to know and learn about in that time.
 - 5. However, as ancient Rome began to crumble more and more people turned from idolatry to Christianity.
 - 6. Thus, for a time it was suppressed.
- F. He will be destroyed.
 - 1. One day, the Lord will return and destroy this entity, whatever it may be (vs. 8).
 - 2. When Jesus appears to judge the world by His word, this man of sin will be shown as a fraud and sinner.

III. His territory.

- A. One thing that many of those who have differing ideas seem to neglect when trying to determine the man of sin is the territory in which he operates.
- B. Verse four tells us that he sits in the temple of God.
- C. The temple of God is the church, thus this individual or entity had to come out of the church that belongs to our Lord.
- D. To me, this removes many of the ones people believe may be the man of sin.
 - 1. It can't be the Roman government because this did not come out of the church.
 - 2. It can't be Judas Iscariot because he was dead before the church began.
 - 3. It can't be the beasts of Revelation because they were not part of the church.
 - 4. It can't simply be a principle or teaching.
- E. Whoever this man of sin is, it is one who was a part of the Lord's church and had a part in the great apostasy discussed in the first three verses of the chapter.

A good deal of this material came from an article by Wayne Jackson found on the website: christiancourier.com