

The Restrainer

2 Thessalonians 2:6-7

“There are doubtless many people who do not see the need of introducing grammatical points in devotional study of the Bible. Grammar, they would probably say, is tedious and uninteresting. **Cannot we simply read the Bible, and, apart from all grammatical considerations, let its message flow into our hearts to bless us?**”

The answer to questions such as these, however, is that ***the message of the Bible cannot bring blessing to us, unless we first understand what the message of the Bible is.*** And ***to understand*** what the message of the Bible is, **we must study grammar.**

This applies not only to the theologian, but to all who would study the Bible. If we are to understand God’s Holy Word, we must be prepared to work; we must read with care, and we must carefully consider what God has so graciously revealed to us. We must in other words, study just as we studied when we were at school.” Edward J. Young

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

1 **Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (Rapture) and our gathering together to Him,** (another expression for Rapture)

2 **that you not be quickly shaken from your mindset or be disturbed** (in your understanding of eschatology)

either by a spirit/demon or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. (There was no *rapture* and you are now in The Tribulation. Note the role of angels again.)

- 3 **Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it* (The Tribulation) will not come unless the departure comes first,** (this is the departure –*rapture*—of the church and the departure of the Church by means of the *rapture*, the Holy Spirit is also taken off the earth as the Restrainer) **and the man of lawlessness/sin is revealed, the son of destruction,**
- 4 **who opposes** (God and Jesus Christ) **and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God,** (in Jerusalem) displaying himself as being God. (seated in the Holy of Holies)
- 5 **Do you not remember** (one of the worst things that can happen to a believer is to forget pertinent doctrines) **that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?** (For your advantage.)

Now we come to verse 6.

In verse 3 they know that they are not in The Tribulation, and that they did not miss the *Rapture*, because the *Departure of the Church* had not yet occurred. Now in verse 6 Paul gives another reason why they should know they are not in The Tribulation, and that is because of the presence and work of the restrainer.

- 6 **And you know** (Since not remembering is one of the major difficulties in the Christian Life, knowing the World of God is one of the richest virtues of the Christian: [Knowledge of the Word of God], here eschatology)
- The King James correctly inserts an adverb **And now you know** (the conjunction **and** (should be translated emphatically): **In fact** (followed by the adverb:) **now** **In fact now** (after all you have been taught) **you know** (the Greek word here means to be acquainted with what follows.)

This is known only by the teaching of the Holy Spirit through the Pastor Teacher who studies and teaches. This is not something you know by observation. Even the Lawless man does not know what is holding him back, but once the Church is removed he sees that he can do whatever he desires.

The Greek adverb, “now”, occurs at the beginning of verse 6 giving an emphatic focus on the **present**, but verse 8 begins with the adverb

then focusing attention to the **future**—the next epoch in history, *The Tribulation*.

what restrains him now, Attention is **first** focused on the force that restrains and **then** on the one restrained and it is important to remember that behind that *force* is the **Third Person of The Trinity**. Rest assured God is in control.

What restrains *the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction; the one who opposes God and exalts himself?*

restrains to suppress, to restrain – to hold down

1	Who is the restrainer?	God the Holy Spirit
2	How does the Holy Spirit restrain him?	The Holy Spirit indwells in every believer of the Church Age and, therefore, by the presence of the Universal Church, the man of lawlessness is restrained in the Church Age.
3	What is he restrained from doing?	From doing all he plans on doing—like opposing God, and exalting himself, and taking his place in the Temple of Jerusalem to be worshipped as God.
4	It may not seem like it today, but the Holy Spirit in Universal Church is restraining lawlessness...sin.	This should give you some idea of just how horrible things are going to be in The Tribulation.
5	This is why the Church must be removed— <i>raptured</i> , “Gathered Together with JESUS CHRIST in the Air”	so that the Plan of God will continue as it has been prophesied. No one knows when the departure of the Church will occur.

In fact now you know what restrains him, (the NASV places the adverb of time here...)

what restrains him now (and while this is not Biblically incorrect, it is not in line with where the adverb of time is placed in the original manuscript. It is placed on the importance of knowing doctrine and then acting on that Doctrine.)

so that in his time he will be revealed This clarifies the purpose of the restraining ministry of Holy Spirit. “you know what is restraining him in order that he may not be revealed before it is time for him to be revealed”

his time according to the time table of God; his time to be revealed and his time to execute his plans of destruction.

As Wiersbe notes, “Just as there was a fullness of the time for the coming of Christ (Galatians 4:4) so there is a fullness of time for the appearance of the Antichrist and nothing will be off schedule.”

he will be revealed-made known *apokalupto* to remove a veil or covering, exposing what was before hidden; to reveal what was previously unknown.

Another closely related word: ***apokalupsis*** revelation and is one of three words referring to the Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST.

The other two are ***epiphaneia*** appearing; and ***Parousia***—coming; This is now mentioned again in verse 6, connecting it, as we saw with verse 3.

Question:

How is the man of Lawlessness going to be revealed
once the Restrainer is removed?

If we understand ‘restrain’ to mean to hold back or hold down, once this restrain is removed then this Son of Destruction can start carrying out his own destructive plans and by these plans he is

revealed. God permits this to happen in history according to His plan!

But before the revelation of JESUS CHRIST at His Second Advent, we have the revealing of the Anti-Christ.

Where does this man of Lawlessness come? This son of destruction!

Look at Daniel 9:24

24 **"Seventy weeks (490 years) have been decreed (by God) for your People** (this is for the Jews, this is not about the Church) **and your holy city, Jerusalem.**

Picture of the Gospel

The first three deal with the subtraction—by JESUS CHRIST on cross

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- 1 **to finish the transgression**, Rebellion against God
 - 2 **to make an end of sin**, missing the mark of God's +R
(Perfect Righteousness)
 - 3 **to make atonement for iniquity**, Recognize JESUS as Messiah
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Last three deal with the addition by Faith in JESUS CHRIST

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- 4 **to bring in everlasting righteousness**, historically this will occur at the end of the 490 years when JESUS CHRIST comes to earth; In relationship to our Salvation this occurs when one believes in Jesus as Messiah –King and receiving the Imputation of +R. This is the positive part of the Gospel.

Remember the negative part is the forgiveness of sins which everyone receives, but only those who believe in JESUS CHRIST receives the imputation of God's perfect righteousness.

- 5 **to seal up vision and prophecy**, with coming of Jesus, no more prophecy is needed
 - 6 **And to anoint the most holy place.** *The Hebrew actually say not “Place” but “the person” of JESUS CHRIST*
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Daniel 9:25-27

- 25 **“So you are to know and discern that** (from the bible)
from (introduces the beginning of a time span prophesied here; from the close of Babylonian captivity to the Second coming of JESUS CHRIST)
- the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem** (This is the second decree by Artaxerxes Longimanus given in 444 bc)
- until** (introduces the ultimate stage of fulfillment)
- Messiah the Prince** (refers to JESUS CHRIST crucified; this will be 483 years of the 490 years decreed for Israel, leaving 7 years to be fulfilled—Tribulation)
- there will be seven weeks** (49 years) **and sixty-two weeks;** (434 years until coming and rejection of the Messiah.)
- it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.** (Continual attacks from those who took up residence in Israel after they were taken into captivity by the Babylonians)

Remember when counting these years should be calculated by the Lunar calendar of 360 days a year.

- 26 **“Then after** (from, until after –very important to time structure.

This is after, not during the 483 yrs)

the sixty-two weeks (434 yrs. 1st historical event after the 7weeks & 62 weeks unfold—historical event)

1 **The Messiah will be cut off & have nothing:** crucified
then historical event

2 **and the people of the prince who is to come**

The prince to come Be sure you read this carefully—the people who will cut off the Messiah and destroy Jerusalem are descendants of The Prince who is to come;

That will be the DICTATOR of the Revised Roman Empire or the Anti-Christ, or the Man of Lawlessness, the Son of Destruction—(2 Thessalonians 2:3) of The Tribulation and these are his people—Romans or Europeans

will destroy the city and the sanctuary. (Jerusalem, and the temple... the temple that the Jews built after return from Babylonian dispersion—this happened in 70 AD)

And its end will come with a flood; (massive military invasion) **even to the end there will be war;**
desolations are determined. (There has been no place on this earth that has seen so long a period of wars and desolations —by more great empires and armies than Jerusalem—ironic—Jerusalem means *city of peace* – Fought over by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Media Persia, the Greeks, Macedonians ,Egyptians, Selucids, Ptolomies, Romans –Crusaders, Muslims, Turks, Britain. It was Prophesied this would happen right down to the end)

Verse 27—The final 70th week....

- 27 **"And he will make a firm covenant** (The protection of Israel. The coming Prince of the people who will destroy the temple in 70 AD. This will be at the very beginning of The Tribulation.)
with the many (this is a reference to the unbelieving Jews who do not know history prophesied.)
for one week, (that is one 7 years period, Daniel's 70th week)
- but in the middle of the week** (after 3½ years)
he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations (This is the statue of abomination of desolation – a statue of himself to be worshiped in the temple)
will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, (Son of Destruction—2 Thess. 2:3)
one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate." (This is the dragon of Revelation 12, Who empowers the prince of Rome to come.)

Now back to 2 Thessalonians 2:6

- 6 **In fact now you know what (who) restrains him so that in his time he will be revealed**

One more vital point I do not want you to miss in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT**.

In context this refers to the Man of Lawlessness,

BUT WHO IS BEHIND THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS?

Satan!

SO IN EFFECT THE HOLY SPIRIT,

WHO IS INSIDE OF YOU, [if you are a believer in JESUS CHRIST],

RESTRAINS SATAN, HIMSELF.

And for this reason 1 John 4:4 declares:

4

**You are from God, little children,
and have overcome them;**

because greater is He who is in you

(Third member of the Godhead, Holy Spirit)

than he who is in the world.

(Satan)

2 Thessalonians 2:7

7 **For** introduces the explanation of verse 6—
lawlessness is at work all through the Church Age by Satan,
only he is being restrained by the Holy Spirit.

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work;

In verse 3 we had the phrase ***the man of lawlessness*** there
this word was the word for *sin*.

mystery

This is another Greek word that is transliterated from ***musterion***
which refers to something that is a secret, something hidden or not
fully manifested – not known or understood by human reasoning.

1 This Greek word originated in the 5th Century BC by a group of
fraternities started having secret doctrines. Those on the outside did
not know these doctrines; However once inside and initiated into the
organization one would gradually come to know these mysteries.

Several of these in existence in United States today:

- 1 The Bilderberg Group
- 2 Skull and bones
- 3 The Illuminati
- 4 Masons

- 2 Mystery does not mean that which cannot be known, Biblically God is not with holding something we need to know . It is knowledge of hidden things which are unknowable without special communication of them. It requires a special communication or revelation...made by the Holy Spirit.
- An excellent study on this is in the book of Daniel where the Holy Spirit revealed to Daniel the secrets of King Nebuchanezzar.
- 3 The reason these truths are called mystery in the New Testament is that they were not revealed in Old Testament.
 Nowhere in Old Testament is Church Age truth revealed.
 Old Testament was a time of detailed information with regard to many things:
 Birth of JESUS CHRIST,
 Death of JESUS CHRIST,
 Burial and Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST
- 4 In the Church Age unbelievers cannot understand the Plan of God; This demands the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit and a lot of doctrine, human IQ, rationalism, empiricism always obstructs from understanding the mysteries of the Church Age
- 5 There are several mysteries in reference to the Church Age
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| a. mysteries of Christ | Ephesians 3:4 (1-11) |
| a. mystery of Christ and the Church | Ephesians 5:32 (28-32) |
| a. mystery of the Church | Revelation 1:20 |
| a. mystery of the Indwelling of Christ
...mystery among the Gentiles which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. | Colossians 1:26-27 |
| a. mystery of the translation of the Church | 1 Corinthians 15:51 |
| a. mystery of the blindness of Israel | Romans 11:25 (11:1-36) |
| a. mystery of the revelation of JESUS CHRIST | Romans 16:25 |
| a. mystery of the hidden wisdom of God | 1 Corinthians 2:7 |
| a. mystery of the Will of God | Ephesians 1:9 |
| a. mystery of the Gospel...Jesus | Ephesians 6:19 |
| a. mystery of God | Colossians 2:2 |
| a. mystery of Christ | Colossians 4:3 |

- 6 There are two mysteries in opposition to each other: here **mystery of Lawlessness** but there is in opposition: **mystery of Godliness**

1 Timothy 3:16

By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness:

Jude 15 speaks of the **ungodly**—those without God.

He who was revealed in the flesh, (JESUS CHRIST, Son of God to counter the Son of destruction. This is the Christmas story.)

Was vindicated in the Spirit,

Isaiah 42:1 “**Behold, My** (God the Father) **Servant**, (JESUS CHRIST) **whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.**

By the time of the Second Advent the world will be in utter chaos, and lawlessness, but with the coming of JESUS CHRIST... justice will be established.

Seen by angels, At His Birth,

Life,

Resurrection and

Second Advent

Proclaimed among the nations, At His Second Advent

Believed on in the world, As Savior

Taken up in glory. Ascension and Session of JESUS CHRIST

- 7 2 Thessalonians 2:7

The mystery of Lawlessness is already at work (throughout the Church Age. Here *lawlessness* is what is a mystery—the mystery concerning **Lawlessness**—it is a secret to the world why **lawlessness** is so rampant, but it is not a secret to those who come to know JESUS CHRIST.)

The mystery of Lawlessness must be understood in terms of the origin of the Man of Lawlessness. He is a servant of the Serpent of old, who led lawlessness in the Garden of Eden. Lawlessness by Adam was at the instigation of the Serpent of old. And he has been operating in the history of man ever since.

This refers to his relation with Satan and Satan's program of man attempting to provide perfect environment by man's ideals of Utopia. But this plan of Satan has been restrained throughout the Church Age by the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in every believer throughout the world.

Only Do you understand the use here of this adverb? The mystery of Lawlessness is already at work, but this condition will last **only** until He who now restrains him is removed.

he who now restrains Indwelling of the Holy Spirit in everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST. This is the only thing that restrains throughout all the Church Age. There are multitude of believers throughout the middle east, which explains the restraint to destroy Israel by leaders how lust after the destruction of Israel.

only he who now restrains will do so until he (the Restrainer, the Holy Spirit) **is taken out of the way.**

Until This Greek adverb marks the continuance of an action up to the time of another action.

- 1 The man of Lawlessness seeks to bring about world lawlessness of God's Law and bring in a Utopia, apart from God.
- 2 He will not be able to accomplish this due to the presence of the Holy Spirit in every believer.

Points 1 & 2 make up the continuous action ...

- 3 Until...the restrainer, that is until the Holy Spirit is taken out
- 4 The Holy Spirit will be removed by the removal of the Church—that is the removal of every one who believes in JESUS CHRIST
- 5 This removal is called the snatching up of the church, the regathering of all believers or JESUS CHRIST gathering all believers to Himself or *The Rapture*.
- 6 The removal of the Holy Spirit as the Restrainer causes questions by many:
Why no ministry of the Holy Spirit in The Tribulation?
How will people be saved if there is no Holy Spirit?

The Answer is simple:

As the Church is removed He is removed with them.

That is... His ministry as restrainer is removed....***the ministry of lawlessness is already at work*** during the Church Age.

**But the MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
spoken of by JESUS CHRIST in John 16:8**

**THE CONVICTING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
in reference to the gospel of JESUS CHRIST**

WILL ALWAYS BE IN OPERATION ON EARTH.

John 16:8

1 **"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;"**

¹ The Holy Spirit will be removed from Indwelling believers

² He will cease His ministry as a restrainer of sin and lawlessness

³ But the Holy Spirit will always be a partaker in the Salvation of individuals. That is He will always convict of one's relationship with JESUS CHRIST. All through the Old Testament people were saved by the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit, even though He did not Indwell any believers in the Old Testament.

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- ⁴ In full understanding of Salvation, JESUS CHRIST told Nicodemus in John 3 that one *must* be born by the Spirit—Holy Spirit; this has always been true of Salvation and will always be true, in The Tribulation and in the Millennium.
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Dear people, remember that in God's Plan of perfect peace is

Submission of Faith

to JESUS CHRIST, Holy Spirit and the Plan of God,

while the Antichrist seeks to set up a world completely opposite that in a world of Lawlessness.