

Destiny of the Beast

2 Thessalonians 2:8

“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. This is what a good Bible teacher does)
- 6 **And now you know what restrains him, so that in his time he will be revealed.**

7 **For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains** (Holy Spirit) **will do so until he is taken out of the way.** (By *The Rapture* or departure of the Church)

So there are **three excellent reasons** why
The Tribulation had not yet commenced in history
at the time of the Thessalonians
or in our day:

- 1 The great Departure of the Church has not yet occurred.
- 2 The man of sin has not yet been revealed and
- 3 The Holy Spirit has not yet been taken away as He came on the Day of Pentecost...indwelling every believer.
So any time you come across someone who wants to tell you that we are in The Tribulation rest assured that even though things may look bad, The Tribulation has not yet begun.

8 **Then** adverb of time;
contextually this goes back to verse 6, **now** in the present, ...

but...**then** after the Departure of the church and with that departure the removal of the Restrainer, the Holy Spirit; and it is emphatic:

therefore, **then at that time,**
that lawless one the Son of Destruction,
the Antichrist,
the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire.

There are many lists that compile the names or designations of the one we are studying:

The Seed of Satan	Genesis 3:15
The Little Horn	Daniel 7:8
The Insolent King	Daniel 8:3
The Prince that shall come	Daniel 9:26
The One who causes horror	Daniel 9:27
The Willful King	Daniel 11:36
The Man of sin	2 Thessalonians 2:3
The Son of Destruction	2 Thessalonians 2:3
The Lawless One	2 Thessalonians 2:8
The Antichrist	1 John 2:22
The Beast	Revelation 11:7

**Now at that time,
that lawless one will be revealed**

the passive voice, receives being revealed throughout the world;

Question:

Who will do the Revealing of the Lawless one?

- 1 **By God the Father**
- 2 **By JESUS CHRIST**
- 3 **By Satan as his agent**
- 4 **Or by himself ?**

Answer:

***It is God who caused him to be hidden,
Or concealed, therefore,
it will be God who will set in motion
all the parts of his being revealed.***

Now, Paul abruptly tells of the destiny of this Son of Destruction who opposes Him and JESUS CHRIST **whom the Lord** (JESUS CHRIST) **will slay** (this is a compound word in the Greek made up of a prefix meaning) **away** (plus the verb meaning) **to take** (therefore) **whom the Lord will take away** (take out of existence on planet earth.)

And, now, Paul tells how the Lord will take him away:
with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end
of him and all his evil doing;
this future tense goes along with beginning of verse 8...

then; He will be revealed then taken out by our Lord JESUS CHRIST .
Nearly every passage
that deals with this Man of Lawlessness,
includes his destruction.

by the appearance of His coming;
(Second Advent of JESUS CHRIST.)

by the appearance
(this is the noun ***epiphaneia*** to appear, or appearance.)

There are several words used for the coming of JESUS CHRIST.
I want to start where few see all that is going on;
Matthew 11:1

1 **When Jesus had finished giving instructions to His twelve disciples, He departed from there to teach and preach in their cities.**

- 2 **Now when John,** (John the Baptist, the forerunner of JESUS CHRIST) **while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples**
- 3 **and said to Him, “Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?”**

...behold He is coming (referring to His First Advent.)

To confirm this as a title of the expectant coming Messiah, at His Triumphal entrance into Jerusalem also referred to this title to JESUS CHRIST:

Matthew 21:9

- 9 **The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, “Hosanna (save and prosperous now) to the Son of David; BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Hosanna in the highest!”**

And to complete the picture of this word, first it is used in reference to His First Coming, but it also used of His Second Coming:

Hebrews 10:37 written to believers in the Church Age.

- 37 **FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE,**
(already some 2000 years, but in God’s timing, very little while)
HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.
- 38 **BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.**

There are a multitude of passages that use this word for the **Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST,**

such as: 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; 2 John 7; Jude 14 and Revelation 1:7 and three times in the closing book of the Bible.

Revelation 22:7

7 **“And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”**

Revelation 22:12

22 **“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.**

And the second to last verse in the Bible:

Revelation 22:20-21

20 **He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

21 **The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.**

Katabino to come or go down,
to descend from a higher place to a lower place.

In John 6:38 this word is used of the First Coming of JESUS CHRIST

38 **“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. (JESUS CHRIST speaking of GOD THE FATHER)**

But this word is also used in referring to the **Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST** as we have already noted in 1 Thessalonians 4:16

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Heko another word used of both Father first, and Second coming of JESUS CHRIST. The word means to come or to have come or to be here; it's emphasis is on the result of His Coming...He has arrived! JESUS CHRIST Himself uses this word of His First Advent:

John 8:42

42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come

(First Advent, result of His Coming, He is here)

from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

But JESUS CHRIST Himself will use this same word speaking of His **Second Advent or His Coming** again: Revelation 3:3

3 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

apokalupsis to reveal, revelation, uncovering, unveiling or disclosure.

We saw this one used to describe the Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST in 2 Thessalonians 1:7

7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

fire This is the word used in describing the **Second Coming** of our Lord in 1 Corinthians 1:7 and 1 Peter 1:7 and 13.

The Revealing of JESUS CHRIST at His Second Coming directly effects us as believers, especially if we live by the Holy Spirit.



Dr. Spiros Zodhiates (MARCH 13, 1922-OCTOBER 10, 2009) WAS A GREEK-AMERICAN BIBLE SCHOLAR, AUTHOR, AND MINISTRY INNOVATOR. HE WAS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS WORK IN DEVELOPING AMG (ADVANCING THE MINISTRIES OF THE GOSPEL) INTERNATIONAL, A CHRISTIAN MISSIONS AND RELIEF AGENCY WITH OPERATIONS IN OVER 40 COUNTRIES, AND FOR PUBLISHING THE HEBREW-GREEK KEYWORD STUDY BIBLE WHICH INDEXES KEY TERMS IN THE ENGLISH BIBLE WITH THE WORDS THEY WERE TRANSLATED FROM IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGES.

Zodhiates states this clearly in The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary of New Testament under his discussion of this word:

“The true worth of the believers as they experience suffering is not made manifest now, but it will be when the Lord comes again and the glory of each believer will be proportionate to his suffering and sacrifice for Christ.”

Our word is also used in Revelation 1:1

1 **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**

Another word used for the coming of JESUS CHRIST is ***epiphaneia*** to appear; to bring to light, or make full visual appearance.

This word is used only by Paul for the **Second Advent of JESUS CHRIST** as in our passage in 2 Thessalonians 2:8 also 1 Timothy 6:14 and 2 Timothy 4:1 and 8 Titus 2:13,

But it is also used of our Lord's first appearing on earth in 2 Timothy 1:9

- 9 **who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,**
- 10 **but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,**

Why would we ever be ashamed
to tell anyone of the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST?

Another word: ***Parousia*** arrival or presence which we saw in 2 Thessalonians 2:1

1 **Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,**

(reference to *The Rapture* of the Church which we also saw in 1 Thessalonians 2:19 and 3:13; and 4:15 and 5:23;)

Another beautiful word used of both His First and Second Advent:

horao which means to see with the eyes—

Used by JESUS CHRIST of His first Advent: John 6:36

36 **“But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe.**

But also used in reference to the Second Advent:

Hebrews 9:28

28 **so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, (First Advent) will appear a second time (Second Advent) for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.**

Back to 2 Thessalonians 2:8

8 **Then, at that time that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay/take out with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;**

The King James translates this:

of the brightness or radiance of His coming.

(referring to shining or the glorious presence of His Coming that will be seen the world over,) which fits perfectly with what we saw in Matthew 24:27

27 **“For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.**

Question:

**How will the Lord take him out by the breath of His mouth?
To what is this referring?**

First the literal understanding of this phrase; **by the breath of His mouth** (is in keeping with His fierce power of His breath in such passages as the parting of the Red Sea) in Exodus 15:8

8 **“At the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up, The flowing waters stood up like a heap; The deeps were congealed in the heart of the sea.**

In Psalm 33 describes creation of heavens and earth by the breath of His mouth: Psalm 33:6

6 **By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth all their host.**

In 2 Samuel 22:16 David describes how he is rescued by the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

Also Job 4:9 speaks of God demonstrating the wrath of His breath.

This certain future event is graphically described in Revelation 19:11-21

11 **And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it (JESUS CHRIST) *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.**

Yes He is love, and His love is received at the cross, and if you reject His love, you will receive His wrath in Righteousness

12 **His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself.**

13 ***He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.**

14 **And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses.**

Verse 15 now describes 2 Thessalonians 2:8

15 **From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, Almighty.**

16 **And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."**

17 **Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God,**

18 **so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."**

19 **And I saw the beast** (man of Lawlessness) **and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him** (JESUS CHRIST) **who sat on the horse and against His army.** (This is the battle of Armageddon)

Doom of the Beast and False Prophet

20 **And the beast** (man of sin, Son of destruction) **was seized, and with him the false prophet** (of Israel) **who performed the signs in his** (man of Lawlessness) **presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image;** (set up in the Temple in Jerusalem) **these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.**

21 **And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.**

Please be sure you understand that even though the beast, the Man of Lawlessness, is cut off and thrown into the Lake of Fire, he does not cease to exist, for example he is present in Revelation 20:10

10 **And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

9 **that is, the one whose coming** (The Man of sin, the Son of Destruction) **whose coming**—(well, guess what, this is the same word we have studied for the coming of JESUS CHRIST in 2:1 **Parousia.**)

Get ready we are going to learn more about Satan.

The appearance of this man of Lawlessness is called an **apokalupsis** in Revelation three times here in verses 3, 6 and 8, which is the same word used of Christ coming in 1:7.

What is Satan doing?

He is trying to imitate — counterfeit — the coming of JESUS CHRIST with the coming of his own servant. He does this to deceive the many.

The original manuscript: **of whom is the coming** the subject. **Whom**, of course, refers to the Son of Destruction.

But what is interesting is the present tense of the word **is** this is what is known as a prophetic present tense.

This goes along with **for the mystery of lawlessness is already at work** (verse 7) and his coming is in the entire prophetic picture of all that is going on in the Church Age and in The Tribulation.

is in accord (This is a prepositional phrase) **according to the working** (being at work) **with** (accompanying – he will come accompanied by these deceiving powers) **the activity of Satan:**

The use of the Greek word for **working** is most interesting here. It's use in the New Testament is reserved by *supernatural activity*.

In most occurrences it applies to God....; **and only here in the New Testament is it applied to Satan, his supernatural power working these activities.**

with all power *dunamis*

This refers to the inherent power of Satan that God created him with at his creation; these are the things that caused Satan to become arrogant and rebel against God.

Satan will give this power to this beast Revelation 13:1-10

and signs (supernatural signs) **and false wonders,** (miracles – false, deceptive lying wonders.)

Revelation 13:2

2 **And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like *those* of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon (Satan) gave him (the beast, the man of lawlessness) his power and his throne and great authority.**

What is meant by **false wonders?**

The signs and wonders are real, but they are presented by being from the True God, in that sense they are false...and deceive the unbelieving world.

Satan desires to be like God (Isaiah 14).

Walvoord points out that

“the deity of Jesus as the Christ was proved by the many miracles He performed, so this lawless one will be Satan’s man even as Christ is God’s man.”

He will be so successful in his deceptive powers that the world will ask
Who is like the beast (Revelation 13:4)

Verse 10 is a warning to us even in the Church Age

10 **and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.**