

CHRIST AND THE ANTICHRIST  
II THESS. 2:8-12

Introduction:

- A. The "restraints" or "restrainer" are now working. v7
- B. When the restrainer is taken out then the "lawless" one will be revealed. v8
  - 1. This is the third mention of him.
    - a. v3,6
  - 2. The inhabitants of the earth will be awe-struck, spell-bound by his "revelation."

I. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CHRIST AND ANTICHRIST MEET?

- A. "Whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth."
  - 1. The Lord Jesus is the one who shall destroy antichrist. No long drawn out war.
  - 2. consume = take away, destroy = murder.
  - 3. "with the breath of His mouth."
    - a. One breathed upon by the glorified Jesus will be like a fiery furnace.
- B. "and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming."
  - 1. shall destroy = bring to naught, Kingdom fact
  - 2. with brightness = a shining forth, God's helping.
  - 3. of His coming = presence.

II. THE NATURE OF THE ANTICHRIST.

- A. The antichrist has an Advent.
  - 1. "whose coming."
  - 2. "is according to the working of satan."
    - a. The word "working" used only by Paul in the N.T. means -- "the inward operation of some supernatural power."



- b. Is the only place used of Satan.
  - c. The "lawless one" energized by satan.
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- b. He will operate in the sphere of miracles.
    - 1. "with all power, signs, lying wonders."
      - a. power = the cause of a miracle, the inherent power producing it.
      - b. signs = the significance behind miracles.
      - c. wonders = their abnormal nature and the astonishment they produce.
      - d. lying = all = "every kind of " "pseudous" of falsehoods.
    - 2. The exact same words used to designate the claims of Christ.
      - a. Acts 2:22 "Ye men of Israel, here these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles, and signs, and wonders, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know."
      - b. Hebrews 2:1-4.
      - c. Rev. 16:13-14.
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- C. "and with all deceit of unrighteousness."
    - 1. He will operate in the sphere of deceit.
    - 2. He will use every form of deception.
    - 3. II Cor. 11:12-15.
    - 4. God does not give a man a special message. He has given His message, the Bible.

### III. THE PEOPLE UNDER ANTICHRIST'S POWER. V10b-12

- A. "them that perish."
  - 1. "for those perishing."
  - 2. This is a class of people, the ones who have succumbed to the deception of the lawless one.
  - 3. It is their character.
  - 4. Their conduct shows them as such.

- B. "because" (anth' hon) a classical expression occurring only here in the N.t.

literally = "Over against or corresponding to, these things" -- conveys the idea of just requital.

Their fate is just and deserved punishment for their deliberate rejection of the divine offer of salvation.

- C. "they received not" = looks back to their definite decision not to receive God's salvation.

- D. "the love of the truth."

QUOTATION--

"Their offence was worse than the mere rejection of the truth." Not only did they refuse the truth (not truth abstractly but the saving truth of the gospel, as the added clause makes clear), but manifested a disposition of aversion to the truth, showing no desire to seek and possess the saving truth of God. Their unbelief was not so much a matter of the head as of the heart. They revealed that they loved darkness rather than light (Jn 3:19). It is the love of the truth, or its absence, that is the real test of a man's true character. God sought to awaken in them this love of the truth through the message of the gospel but they willfully rejected it and refused to cooperate with it."

- E. "that they might be saved."

QUOTATION --

"That they might be saved" expresses the divine purpose or intended result for them. God is not a monster who has pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11), for He desires and has provided for their salvation (I Tim. 2:4-6). Having no love for the truth, they remained ignorant of the magnitude of the gift being offered them. They displayed a criminal indifference toward their eternal welfare, recognizing neither their danger nor the way of escape."

- F. "and for this cause"

1. Points back to their distaste and rejection of truth
- G. "God sendeth them strong delusion."
1. God sendeth = divine reprobation, it is God's punishment. God will cause to come on the dupes of antichrist, a believing of falsehoods.
  2. strong delusions = an inward working of delusions.
  3. God does not send upon them error as such, but enlarges their capacity for it.
- H. "that they should believe a lie."
1. They are enlarged so they can accept and give faith and credit to "the lie," the lie par-excellence.
  2. they receive "the lawless one" in the same manner a person receives or believes in Christ.
- I. "that they all might be damned."
1. damned.
    - a. "be judged."
  2. "believed not the truth."
    - a. Never entered into a personal relationship with truth.
  3. "had pleasure in unrighteousness."
    - a. Were very well-pleased with the unrighteousness.

