

THE ANTICHRIST

BIBLE TEXT : II Thessalonians 2:1-12; Revelation 13:1-18; 14:9-11

LESSON 413 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life” (Revelation 13:8).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not

Bible References:

Notes:

A Wicked Ruler

A time of great and terrible trouble, known as “The Great Tribulation,” is coming upon the world. During that time, which is believed to be a seven-year period, a person will come into power known as the antichrist, which means one opposed to Christ. Other names given this person are: “man of sin,” “beast,” “prince of this world,” “that Wicked,” and the “son of perdition.”

The Rapture of the Church will take place before or near the beginning of the Tribulation, as we studied in a previous lesson. We do not know exactly how far the “Bride” will go into the tribulation, but we know that the overcomers will be taken out of this world before the antichrist is revealed. Someone is hindering that “man of sin” from being revealed (II Thessalonians 2:6-8). He will not be made known until **after** the Rapture. So if you are putting off the coming of the Lord, thinking that He shall not come until after the antichrist is known, you are wrong, for the Bible teaches us that Jesus will come before the antichrist is revealed. However, he is probably living upon the earth today.

The Spirit of God

Do you know who is holding back the powers of the antichrist? Do you know why the powers of the enemy have not already taken complete control of the world? Because the Bride of Christ and the Spirit of God are still in the earth. The full overcomers, the saints of God, who are filled with the Spirit and walking in all the light, are responsible for holding back this force of evil. They are praying that others will be saved before Jesus comes; they are working to bring that “lost sheep” back to the Fold before it is too late. Are you ready? Are you watching for the Lord’s return? Is your lamp burning brightly? Is that “extra supply” of oil in your vessel?

Unbelief

“For that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first.” Falling away from what? From the doctrines and teachings of the Word of God. Many people today are denying that Jesus is the Christ, or denying that He was born of the virgin Mary, or that he has power to perform miracles. But the Word teaches us that He is the divine Son of God and has power to forgive sins. “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18).

Many other portions of the Bible are disbelieved today. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8). When He was upon the earth He healed the sick, and He still heals those who go to Him in faith. But how few today really believe and trust God!

Some boys and girls say that it is not necessary to obey the ministers or to mind their parents these days. They say it is not important to dress modestly and to shun the appearance of evil. Surely, the “falling away” has come and we can see it even in young people. A warning is given to keep in our hearts a love for the truth of God’s Word, or we may be deceived.

“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work.” Just to think

the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Revelation 13:1-18

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months.

6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

that this was written 20 centuries ago, and if it was working then, how much more today. Someone has said that if the devil ever worked an eight-hour shift, he is now on a 24-hour shift, 365 days in the year!

Satanic Power

The antichrist will be a king in the temple at Jerusalem, "shewing himself that he is God." He will deceive the world with signs and wonders which he and the false prophets will have power to do, even to bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. All that live upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the Book of Life (Revelation 13:8).

At first the antichrist will come into power by peaceful means, but will change his methods and become a most cruel and wicked ruler and monster. His fury will be against any Christians who are on the earth and who were not raptured with the Bride of Christ, and against the Jews. The Christians living in that terrible period will be martyred for their stand against the powers of Satan (Revelation 13:6-8).

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:16, 17).

He will have complete control with the power of life and death over his subjects. Those who refuse to obey his orders will be slain (Revelation 13:1-18; Daniel 8:23-25). And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. 25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify *himself* in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.).

No Escape

Those who sit under the light of the Gospel now and fail to make preparation for the Rapture, will not have the strength to stand against the powers of the antichrist. Those who do not have the spiritual hunger in their heart in this dispensation, when the Holy Spirit is outpoured upon the sincere seekers, cannot expect to stand against the forces of evil in that day when the Holy Spirit is taken out of the world.

Those who take the mark of the beast will seal their own doom. To take his mark will be to accept him in the place of God and Christ; to refuse to take it will mean death (Revelation 13:1-11; Revelation 14:9-11)

Divine Judgement

The Lord will pour out His judgement upon the world during the last half of this period, and it will be the most terrible time this world has ever known. Daniel pronounces it as that, and Jesus also said this (Daniel 12:1). 1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. Matthew 24:21 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.).

Some of these awful things are hailstorms, with single stones weighing about 56 kilograms; a rain of fire mingled with blood; locusts will come forth out of the bottomless pit. These will have

9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six.

Revelation 14:9-11

power to torture for five months those who have taken the mark of the beast. These locusts will be shaped as horses, completely equipped for battle (**Revelation 8:1-13**)

1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, *which came* with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast *it* into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. 6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. 7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. 8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. 10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; 11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. 12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. 13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Revelation 9:1-12 1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment *was* as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. 6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. 7 And the shapes of the locusts *were* like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads *were* as it were crowns like gold, and their faces *were* as the faces of men. 8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as *the teeth* of lions. 9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings *was* as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. 10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power *was* to hurt men five months. 11 And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon. 12 One woe is past; *and*, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. **Revelation 16:17-21**

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. 18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and* so great. 19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great).

As if that were not enough, an army of 200,000,000 mounted on horses will be loosed upon the earth to destroy the third of all men living, by fire, smoke and brimstone that belches forth out of the horses' mouths. Earth will become a hell, because of the wickedness and plagues that torment the people (Revelation 9:13-19). The sea will become as blood; the sun will have great heat to scorch men who will gnaw their tongues in pain, but still they will not repent.

Wickedness Increasing

God's Word has been and will be fulfilled. The "mystery of iniquity" is working today. Jesus said that "iniquity shall abound" (Matthew 24:12). To "abound" means to rise in waves, or to be in great plenty. Today waves of crime are sweeping through the world. Juvenile delinquents are ever increasing. In many parts of the world about 12 per cent of all boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 17 have appeared before a juvenile court at least once, according to reports. They steal automobiles, damage property, commit traffic violations, engage in gang activities, vandalism, and resort to cigarettes, alcohol and drugs. Gangs are the "most important new type of juvenile delinquency, found in nearly all parts of the world," according to the United Nations report.

A juvenile judge from Denver who long time ago visited Portland forecasted then that, juvenile delinquency would "double in the next ten years" and warned: "We'll have delinquency as long as we have people who do not care, sloppy homes, people who excuse wrongdoing, poorly trained teachers, filthy magazines and violent television programs."

When God says, "It is enough," the Son will come, with the shout of the Archangel and the trump of God, to take away those who are waiting for Him (**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** 13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words). Then the powers of evil will be free to take over. The Holy Spirit in His people, so far as we know, is the only force to prevent Satan from taking full control today.

Protection or Destruction

In the days of Noah, God destroyed the world with a flood, but He spared His people by providing the ark for their safety. When God was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, His messengers told Lot, "Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither" (Genesis 19:22). Not until Lot was out of the city did the Lord rain brimstone and fire out of heaven upon the cities.

In the time of Moses, God sent plagues upon Egypt. The first three were: blood, frogs, and lice. Then before the next plague was sent, God said, "I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in

which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; . . . And I will put a division between my people and thy people." And He did. There followed a number of other plagues, but none of these affected God's people.

Just so we believe God has provided a means by which He will "put a division" between His own people and the sinners. The Bride of Christ will not need to go through the worst part of the Tribulation but will be raptured out of this world before that time comes. "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast" (Isaiah 26:20).

The only means of escape is through the Blood of Jesus. Those who are not saved should seek God **now**. Those who are saved should press in, seek the Lord for sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost in order to be ready to escape the horrible things that are coming to pass. Jesus may come even while you are reading these lines. We know not when, but we do know that the day is at hand. "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:33).

QUESTIONS

1. By what other names is the antichrist called?
2. What will happen before he is revealed?
3. What is meant by "falling away"?
4. What great wonder will the antichrist have power to do?
5. What is meant by the mark of the beast?
6. Who will worship the antichrist?
7. Who is withholding the forces of Satan from taking full control?
8. Why is it important to have a love for the truth in our heart?
9. What are some of the things that will happen during the Great Tribulation?
10. What Scriptures teach us that the Bride of Christ shall escape these things?