

Truth, Lies and the Man of Sin 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Truth, Lies and the Man of Sin

- Whatever happened to the truth?
- **Naturalism:** Science gives us facts; religion is a subjective realm of morality and faith.
- **Post-Modernism:** In a post-modern world the very idea of truth is subjective.
- **Religious Pluralism:** All religions are equally true, you just need to be sincere.
- **False Teaching within the church:** Whose Christianity is the real one?

Truth, Lies and the Man of Sin

- A spiritual battle for the truth is what we should expect in the last days as the stage is set for the coming of the Man of Sin prior to the Second Coming of Christ.
- As lies prevail we have to be willing to stand firm in our faith.
- This means more than abstract beliefs, but a life of integrity that agrees with and reveals to others what we believe.

- Read **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**, taking note of:
 - the emphasis on truth and falsehood.
 - This may be the primary controversy that will characterize the last days.
 - Remember that truth pertains to reality.
 - **Reality is what you crash into when what you believe is actually wrong.**

The Man of Sin: His Titles

- The Seed of the Serpent Genesis 3:15
- The Little Horn Daniel 7:8
- The Prince Who Is to Come Daniel 9:26
- A Vile Person Daniel 11:21
- A Foolish Shepherd Zechariah 11:15-16

- The Man of Sin 2 Thessalonians 2:3
- The Son of Perdition 2 Thessalonians 2:3
- The Lawless One 2 Thessalonians 2:8
- Antichrist 1 John 2:18
- The Beast Revelation 13:1-2

Prophetic Insight into His Life and Character

- He will come in the last days. (Daniel 8:19,23)
- He will speak pompous or boastful words. (Daniel 7:8, 20)
- His great power will not be his own. (Daniel 8:24)
- He will be broken without human means. (Daniel 8:25)

- He will make and then break a seven-year covenant with the people of Israel. (Daniel 9:27)
- He will be of the people of the Roman Empire.
 - [Note: The armies of Rome destroyed “the city”, meaning Jerusalem, and “the sanctuary”, or temple, in 70 A.D.] (Daniel 9:26)

- He will come in his own name. (John 5:43)
- He will not rise to power until “He who now restrains” is taken out of the way. (2 Thessalonians 2:6-8)
- He will exalt himself above all else that is worshiped. (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
- He will seat himself in a future temple of God, presenting himself as God. (2 Thessalonians 2:4)

- The Lord will destroy him with the “breath of His mouth” and the “brightness of His coming”, or “personal presence”. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
- His deceptive miraculous powers will actually be satanic. (2 Thessalonians 2:9)
- He will make war with the saints and overcome them. (Revelation 13:7; Daniel 7:21, 25)

- His authority will continue for “42 months” or three and a half years. (Revelation 13:5)
- The world will marvel at him, follow him and worship him. (Revelation 13:3-4)
- He will rule over all the people of the world. (Revelation 13:7)
- Those who worship him will not be saved. (Revelation 13:8)

- He will receive a deadly wound and yet live. (Revelation 13:3, 14)
- With the assistance of the False Prophet, he will control the global financial system using a mark on the right hand or the forehead. (Revelation 13:16-18)

- He will receive authority to rule on earth from a group of ten international leaders, three of which will fall, or be removed, before him. (Revelation 17:12-13, 17; Daniel 7:8, 20)
- At the Second Coming of Christ, he will try to make war against the Lord, together with the kings of the earth and their armies. (Revelation 19:19)

- Along with the False Prophet, he will be cast into the Lake of Fire, where he will be tormented forever and ever. (Revelation 19:20, 20:10)
- Remember what we said previously:
- **Reality is what you crash into when what you believe is actually wrong.**
- Those who follow the Man of Sin will meet a tragic end along with him.

A Note on the Identity of the Man of Sin

- If the Pre-Tribulation Rapture position is true, we, the church, will never be around to see him. He will not be revealed until the Holy Spirit's presence in the church is removed.
- Regardless of one's beliefs about the Rapture, Scripture tells us so much about him that his identity will be easily verified when he finally appears on the scene. Speculation is pointless at best, harmful at worst.

Setting the Stage for the Man of Sin

- There are presently at least four things that make a literal fulfillment of these prophecies more realistic than ever before:
- The existence of Israel as a nation-state.
- Readiness to build a Third Temple in Jerusalem.
- The European Union as a model for international government and a central currency.
- The potential for a global identification system.

Conclusion: Loving and Believing the Truth

- **Naturalism:** Science gives us facts; religion is a subjective realm of morality and faith.
- **Response:** It's true that science cannot equip us morally since technology always moves more quickly than ethics. Still, the Christian faith deals in facts. Either God exists or He doesn't. Jesus died on a cross or He didn't. We either have eternal life or we don't. It's either right to do certain things or it's wrong.
- **Post-Modernism:** In a post-modern world the very idea of truth is subjective.
- **Response:** No one really believes this when they are accused unjustly for a crime they didn't commit. Truth is real. The Christian faith pushes this need to recognize reality into history, morality, the spiritual realm, and even future events. Our ability to create our own reality is severely limited.
- **Religious Pluralism:** All religions are equally true, you just need to be sincere.
- **Response:** Religions can be wrong, e.g., those with child sacrifice. Also, consider *sati* – widows burning themselves alive on their husbands' funeral pyres. Outlawed in India in only 1829, it is still occasionally practiced. Beliefs and practices can and should be examined for their coherence and integrity.

- **False Teaching within the church:** Whose Christianity is the real one?
- **Response:** The basic doctrines and practices of the Christian faith are not hidden. We have our Bibles. We have the historic teaching of the church. We have the Holy Spirit to keep our relationship with Jesus real and alive. He will gladly help us to cultivate a heart that loves and a mind that believes the truth.

- **Making it real:**
- Get to know your Bible better.
- Expose yourself regularly to solid biblical teaching.
- Engage others in conversations about your faith.
- Cultivate a deeper spiritual life through personal times of worship and prayer about real issues.
- Take concrete steps to turn from sin and cultivate Christian virtues.