

“THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS” (2 THESSALONIANS 2)

WHO IS HE?

FOUR VIEWS: “MAN OF LAWLESSNESS”

HISTORICAL	<p>A first-century political or religious leader. <i>The Emperor Nero (AD 54-68)?</i> <i>John of Giscala (Jewish Zealot)</i></p>
CATHOLIC	<p>An end-time man of evil who seeks to destroy the Roman Catholic Church.</p>
PROTESTANT	<p>The Roman Catholic Church (Reformation view) or an end-time religious or political leader who deludes many.</p>
DISPENSATIONAL	<p>An end-time Antichrist (a.k.a. Beast 666) who rebuilds the Jewish temple and then takes ownership of it.</p>

FOUR VIEWS:

HISTORICAL	This "Coming of Christ" is a past event connected to the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem (AD 70).
CATHOLIC	This "Coming of Christ" is still in the future.
PROTESTANT	
DISPENSATIONAL	

DON'T LET ANYONE DECEIVE YOU IN ANY WAY, FOR THAT DAY WILL NOT COME UNTIL THE REBELLION OCCURS AND THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS IS REVEALED. (2 THESSALONIANS 2:3)

FOUR VIEWS:

HISTORICAL	Jesus' 2nd Coming is connected to the Jewish rebellion against Rome (AD 66-70)
CATHOLIC	
PROTESTANT	Jesus' 2nd Coming is connected to a "great tribulation that is to happen yet in our future.
DISPENSATIONAL	

HE WILL OPPOSE AND WILL EXALT HIMSELF OVER EVERYTHING THAT IS CALLED GOD...HE SETS HIMSELF UP IN GOD'S TEMPLE, PROCLAIMING HIMSELF TO BE GOD... (2 THESSALONIANS 2:4)

FOUR VIEWS:

HISTORICAL	John of Giscal was a charismatic Jewish zealot who overthrew the Jewish provisional government (AD 68) and used the temple as his base of operations. Pronounced himself a ruler.
CATHOLIC	An end-time movement, philosophy or person. The "temple" is more figurative and symbolic, likely "the Church" itself (as God's people are his temple).
PROTESTANT	
DISPENSATIONAL	An end-time Antichrist who will make a treaty with Israel, rebuild their temple and restore sacrifices...then break the treaty, enter the temple and announce his divinity.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER THAT WHEN I WAS WITH YOU I USED TO TELL YOU THESE THINGS? AND NOW YOU KNOW WHAT IS HOLDING HIM BACK...(2 THESSALONIANS 2:5-6)

FOUR VIEWS:

HISTORICAL	An intentional, specific teaching to the Thessalonians to prepare them for the arrival of this "lawless one."
CATHOLIC	May have meant something to the Thessalonians but really intended for the last generation prior to Jesus' Coming (still in the future).
PROTESTANT	
DISPENSATIONAL	

FOR THE SECRET POWER OF LAWLESSNESS IS ALREADY AT WORK; BUT THE ONE WHO NOW HOLDS IT BACK WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO TILL HE IS TAKEN OUT OF THE WAY...(2 THESSALONIANS 2:7)

FOUR VIEWS:

HISTORICAL	The "rebellion" (Jewish revolt) is already happening but someone is keeping the peace ("holding it back") between Rome and the Jews. King Agrippa II? He is deposed in AD 66 when Jews revolted inside Jerusalem.
CATHOLIC	The "Restrainer" is an end-time political system that keeps the power.
PROTESTANT	The "Restrainer" is the Protestant church or Holy Spirit.
DISPENSATIONAL	The "Restrainer" is some force—possibly political or spiritual—that keeps the "man of lawlessness" or Antichrist from emerging to rule the world

AND THEN THE LAWLESS ONE WILL BE REVEALED, WHOM THE LORD JESUS WILL OVERTHROW WITH THE BREATH OF HIS MOUTH AND DESTROY BY THE SPLENDOR OF HIS COMING....(2 THESSALONIANS 2:8)

FOUR VIEWS:

HISTORICAL	In AD 70, Jesus “came in power and glory” to end the Old Covenant and initiate His Spiritual Kingdom on earth. John of Giscal was taken captive, taken to Rome and imprisoned for life.
CATHOLIC	At the end of time, the Holy Roman (Church) Empire is restored.
PROTESTANT	Jesus overthrows all evil “antichrist” forces—papal, atheist, new age, occult, false religion—and we all go to heaven.
DISPENSATIONAL	The Antichrist (Beast 666) reveals his true identity in the middle of the last 7 years of history. Jesus comes and destroys him forever.

THE COMING OF THE LAWLESS ONE WILL [SHOW] HOW SATAN WORKS. HE WILL USE ALL SORTS OF DISPLAYS OF POWER THROUGH SIGNS AND WONDERS THAT SERVE THE LIE...(2 THESSALONIANS 2:8)

FOUR VIEWS:

HISTORICAL	In AD 68, after John of Giscal made a miraculous escape from his home town (Giscal), he came to Jerusalem and lied to the Jews that Rome was weak. Then he overthrew the provisional government with heroic and stellar leadership.
CATHOLIC	This evil person will do miracles and perform signs to prove himself.
PROTESTANT	The Catholic Church's use of "miracles" to confirm "saints" and testify to truth. Also many false religions and cults use "signs and wonders."
DISPENSATIONAL	The Antichrist (Beast 666) will perform miracles to persuade and delude the masses.

FOR THIS REASON GOD SENDS THEM A POWERFUL DELUSION SO THAT THEY WILL BELIEVE THE LIE.
AND SO THAT ALL WILL BE CONDEMNED...(2 THESSALONIANS 2:8)

FOUR VIEWS:

HISTORICAL	Between AD 66-70, inside the city of Jerusalem, the influence of the zealot John of Giscal persuade many to believe they were safe from the Romans. But that wasn't true. And most died.
CATHOLIC	God will allow the "last generation" to come under an anti-Catholic and anti-Christian spell that will cost many (particularly lapse Catholics) their very soul.
PROTESTANT	God will allow the "last generation" to be deluded by false religion.
DISPENSATIONAL	The Antichrist (Beast 666) will delude the whole world.

Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. **It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.** It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and **made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast,** whose fatal wound had been healed. And it **performed great signs,** even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, **it deceived the inhabitants of the earth.** It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

REVELATION 13:11-14

THE BEAST 666

The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed. It also **forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads**, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.

This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is **the number of a man**. That number is **666**.

REVELATION 13:15-18

THE BEAST 666

The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

REVELATION 13:5-8

THE SEA BEAST

THIS CALLS FOR WISDOM. LET THE PERSON WHO HAS INSIGHT CALCULATE THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST, FOR IT IS THE NUMBER OF A MAN. THAT NUMBER IS 666...(REVELATION 13:18)

THREE VIEWS:

PRETERIST (PAST FULFILLED)	The number 666 (in some manuscripts its "616") all add up to "Nero Caesar." The "sea beast" is Roman government and it gave the "earth beast" (Nero) his authority to persecute God's people... which he did throughout his rule (AD 54-68).
FUTURIST (YET TO BE FULFILLED)	"666" is the number of the future Antichrist or "man of lawlessness" who will emerge at the end of time to delude the world (some say through a "one world government"). He will force people to physically wear his mark on their foreheads or hands to live.
IDEALIST (SYMBOLIC)	"666" is a number of human imperfection and evil that leads to idol worship. "6" is MAN. "3" is GOD. It could also be any religion or philosophical idea the professes that "man is God."

Dear children, **this is the last hour**; and as **you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come**. This is **how we know** it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

Who is the liar? It is **whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist**—denying the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

1 JOHN 2:18-19, 22-23

THE ANTICHRIST