



2 Thessalonians Chapter 2 part 1

Apostasy/Man of Sin

Compilation of prophetic commentaries by Gaetan

The apostle Paul's express purpose for this epistle was to caution the Thessalonians that the Lord's coming was not immediately at hand; that it would not happen till after the Apostasy and arrival of the "*son of perdition*".

2TH.2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2TH.2:2 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.

Now, notice that verse. When Jesus comes, what's going to happen? We're going to be gathered together to Him. He says, "*We beseech you by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him.*" He certainly cannot possibly be talking about anything else but the coming of the Lord, can he? "*When we are gathered together unto Him*". The Rapture! Isn't that the Rapture? Plain as day.

*"That ye **be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word**--there are plenty of false spirits around to misguide believers --"nor by letter as from us." In other words, a forged letter.*

1Jn.4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Mar.13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

He says, "Don't get all shook up, thinking that the Lord is just about to come!" A lot of people were probably saying, "The Lord's going to come any moment! Any moment!" This is exactly what many Christians are preaching today. The Evangelicals, Fundamentalists etc. are preaching the "any moment" doctrine that Christ could come at any moment! No, He can't, because He won't! --Because all the prophecies haven't been fulfilled yet. The World hasn't gotten bad enough yet, its cup of iniquity is not filled. You think it's bad now? Wait till the Antichrist comes! You think conditions are bad? Wait till the Tribulation! Conditions are not yet ripe.



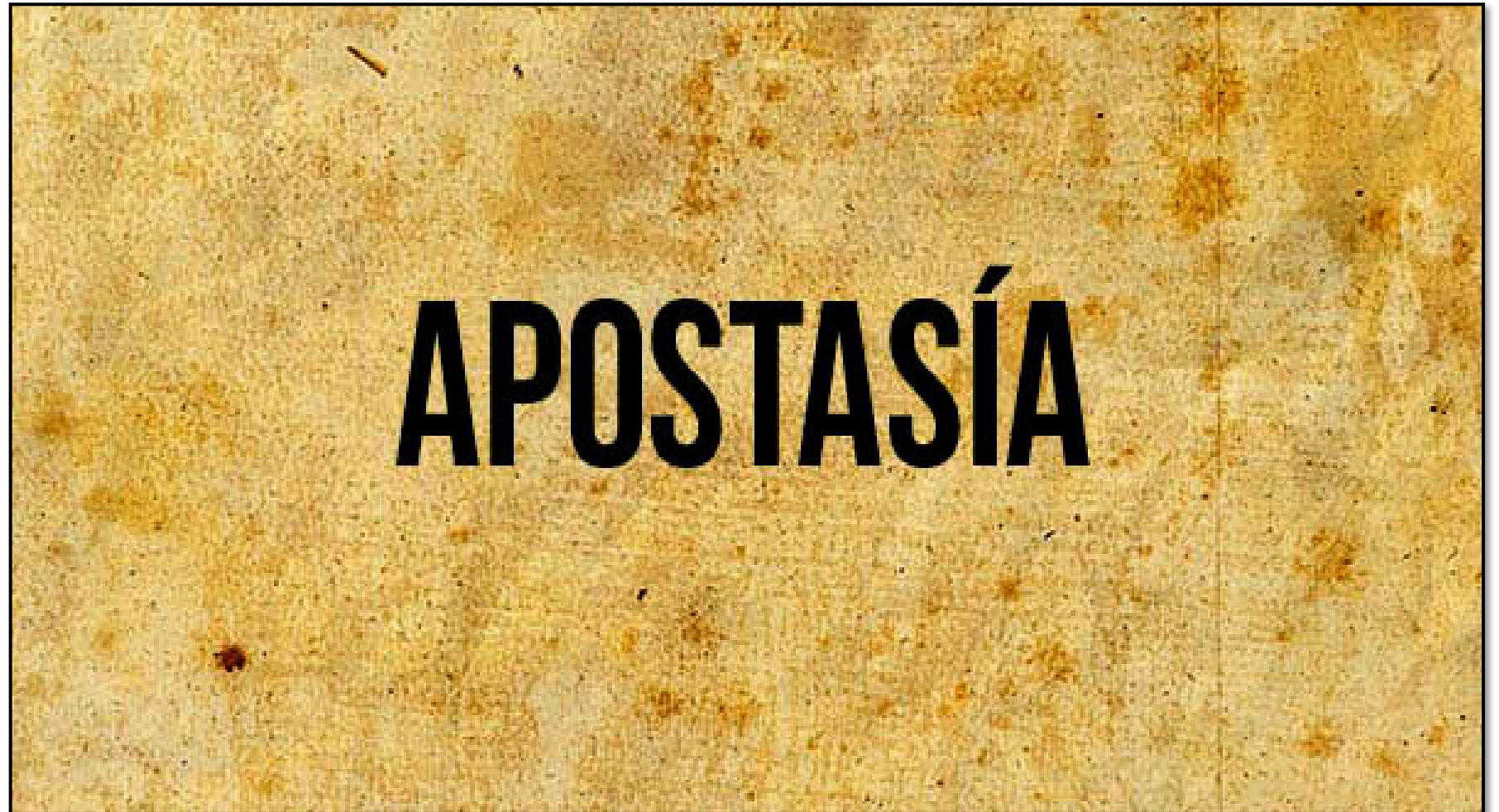
2TH.2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: **for that day shall not come, except there comes a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.**

In other words, before the Return of Christ, two events must first take place:

1) The falling away, which in the Greek means "*apostasy*" or departing from the faith. This has been happening throughout all church history, but in these last days it will become, and is becoming, greater.

2) The "*man of sin*" has to be revealed. This man is often referred to as the Antichrist, the leader of the world's final empire.

Paul said, "*Don't let anybody deceive you! Jesus is not coming right now. He can't come right now!*" He is saying there are some other things that have got to happen before He comes, and so he goes on to say what they are:



"For that day shall not come"—what day? The day of Christ's Second Coming! The day of our gathering together to Him! He says, "That day shall not come except there come a falling away first." In other words, a loss of faith, a cooling off of the Churches and believers. --



-- Worldliness has entered into the Church and amongst Christians; Church attendance is plummeting, along with belief and faith in God. A great falling away is taking place throughout the world because of unbelief and "pseudo-science" of evolution, loss of faith in God, in His Creation, loss of faith in the Bible. When has there ever existed among Christian nations and cultures so much scepticism, agnosticism, unbelief, and aggressive atheism? Christian culture is experiencing a great falling away! - an age of scepticism, unlike anything that has come along in the 2,000 years since Christ's First Coming!

As he steps onto the world stage, then his true character and nature and what he's really up to will become obvious to the world. That Scripture seems to point to his conquest of Jerusalem when he can broadcast the image of himself sitting in the Temple as if he were God. "Then shall that man of sin be revealed"--the Antichrist!

We think the Christians and God's people, students of Bible prophecy, are going to recognize him before that! Only then will he reveal himself to the World so that they too will see who he really is and what he is up to: promoting himself and his image as their god, to be worshipped, etc. You understand? But we, Christians, should recognize him long before that.

EPH.5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words...



2TH.2:4 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.

This verse gives us a glimpse of that person's nature. Something of his character was revealed 2,000 years ago, so that those who live at the time of his appearing will recognize who it is.

What's going to happen before Jesus comes? Paul is telling us here very plainly! He said, *"For that day shall not come except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition."* **The son of Hell! The son of the Devil! The man of sin!** *"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God."*

Daniel also received prophetic revelation about that *"man of sin"*. (Coming soon, the Daniel classes on this channel)

Dan.7:25 And he shall speak **great words against** the most High.

Dan.8:11 Yea, **he magnified himself** even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

Dan.11:36 And the king shall do according to his will; and **he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods...**

The passage states clearly that the Antichrist will exalt himself above all gods and tell the World to worship him. And John tells us the same thing in the Revelation, 13th Chapter, that the False Prophet causes everybody to worship him; and whoever refuses to worship him is to be killed. –*"So that he as God"* sits in this new rebuilt Temple of the Jews in Jerusalem.



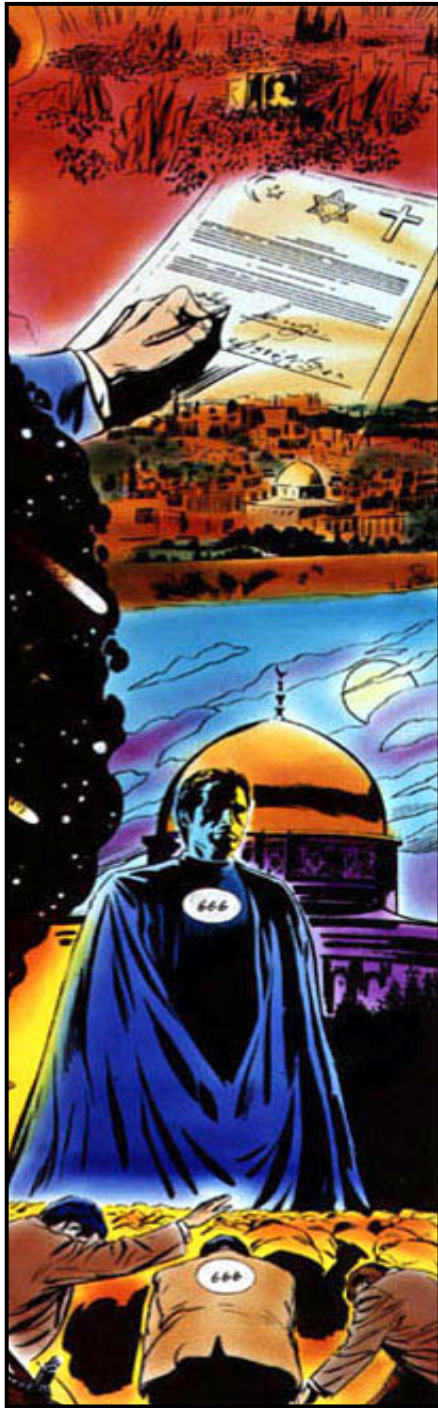
REV.13:5-6, 8 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And all that dwell upon 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.

REV.13:15 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.



“So that he as God sitteth in the temple of God” Now obviously that can't happen until the temple is rebuilt, and it is not rebuilt yet! But the Jews have got all the materials there stored in warehouses to rebuild the Temple. That's common knowledge, it's been in the newspaper many times. It is said they could rebuild it within a few months, once they get the clearance and are sure it will be safe to do so. But right now they've got a little problem: the Mosque of Omar is sitting there on the same hill a few yards away from the original Temple site. Also known as the Dome of the Rock, it covers the altar which was out in front of the Temple. So, a lot has to happen before he can do what it says here, he's going to do!





The Jews will figure it is safe to rebuild the temple when the Antichrist (whom they will mistakenly believe, in the beginning, is their Messiah) tells them it's safe. He will have internationalized and made Jerusalem an open city for all religions and all peoples. Then about three years later, he'll declare himself as God, and the False Prophet will cause the world to worship him with the help of his broadcasting image.

REV.13:14-15 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...***

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.***

He himself will go into that rebuilt temple of the Jews, their most holy place in the whole World, and sit on his throne in the Temple of God, proclaiming himself as **God**! "***So that he as God sitteth in the Temple of God, showing himself that he is God!***" There it is, right here in the Bible! That's what's going to happen **first**, **before** Jesus comes!

In the second part of this study of 2nd Thessalonians chapter 2, we will go through verses 5 to 12. The apostle Paul gives many more details about the man of sin, the antichrist, and how to recognize him.