

## **2 Thessalonians 2:7-12**

### **The Great Deception: part 2**

#### **1. Picking Up Where We Left off: The Mystery of Lawlessness**

- A. Already At Work
- B. Being Restrained
- C. Jesus Will Kill the Man of Lawlessness 8

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10- Jesus the Righteous Judge

2 Thessalonians 2:3,4- The Man of Lawlessness, the son of destruction

"And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked."  
Isaiah 11:3-4 ESV

#### **2. Satan is Behind the Man of Lawlessness 9**

- A. Satan's Power
- B. False Signs

Exodus 7:14-12:32.

"But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said." -Exodus 7:22 ESV

"For some have already strayed after Satan." -1 Timothy 5:15 ESV

Accuser

"Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him."  
Zechariah 3:1 ESV

False Apostles

"And what I am doing I will continue to do, in order to undermine the claim of those who would like to claim that in their boasted mission they work on the same terms as we do. For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds."  
2 Corinthians 11:12-15 ESV

"For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand." -Mark 13:22-23 ESV

"But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?" -Acts 5:3 ESV

The mission of Satan

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." -John 10:10 ESV

#### **3. Refusing to Love the Truth 10-12**

- A. Remember this is Already at Work 7
- B. Wicked Deception
- C. The Perishing and Why They are

"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up."  
2 Peter 3:9-10 NASB1995

#### **D. They Refused to Love the Truth and Be Saved!**

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse." -Romans 1:18-20 ESV

"But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people." -2 Timothy 3:1-5 ESV

E. A Strong Delusion  
Pharaoh's Hardened heart

"You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall speak to Pharaoh that he let the sons of Israel go out of his land. But I will harden Pharaoh's heart that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. When Pharaoh does not listen to you, then I will lay My hand on Egypt and bring out My hosts, My people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments." -Exodus 7:2-4 NASB1995

"The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers." -1 Peter 4:7 ESV

"So much of what is in confusion today is not so much that people have lost the capacity to hear the Word of God. Long ago this culture quit listening to the Word of God. This actually goes back to the more basic fundamental capacity to hear creation itself. Just because God reveals Himself universally in Creation we should not believe that people will accept that." Tim Tennent "The Word, Our Compass in the Storm" 9/20/2022.

Reflection:

1. What are you doing today to consciously love the truth more?
2. How are you guarding your heart to keep it from being hardened?

***Follow UP in the Word through the Week...***

**Monday:** Exodus 7:22. What is described in the verses around this passage? What was the effect of the false miracle on Pharaoh? How can you see this at work in the world today?

**Tuesday:** Zechariah 3:1-5. What does Satan do in this passage? What does the Lord Himself do for Joshua? How have you experienced the accusing work of Satan compared to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit?

**Wednesday:** John 10:10. Who is the thief? How does He compare to Jesus the Good Shepherd? How does that help you?

**Thursday:** 2 Peter 3:9-10. What is God's attitude towards the ones who are perishing? What is the warning though of verse 10 and how does that help you to live now?

**Friday:** Romans 1:18-20. What is described in these verses? How can Paul's description here help describe the "mysterious lawlessness" at work in the world from 2 Thessalonians 2:7?

**Saturday:** 1 Peter 4:7. What does this simple instruction tell us and how do you apply it to your life?