

- The Rapture will take place in the air.
- The dead in Christ will rise first and those living will be caught up to meet Jesus in the air

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

"16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

- The Rapture is followed by "The Judgement Seat of Christ".
 - Only those raptured will stand at this judgment to receive their rewards for what was done while on earth – good or bad.
 - Therefore we are not to judge one another before time.
- On earth, events will take place beginning with what Paul tells in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

"1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

- **First Paul warns us of prophecies**

- Test them

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

"19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good."

1 John 4:1-3

"1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."

- To deny Christ in the flesh is to deny Christ's victory over the flesh
- It is to say He did not die and crucify the carnal man.

- Our salvation is a 3-fold blessing – spirit, soul and body. We can live after the spirit and not the flesh.

- **Second Paul tells of 2 events that follow after the rapture that takes place on earth**

2 Thessalonians 2:3

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, "

- There will be a falling away – Apostasy

1 Timothy 4:1-2

"1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,"

2 Timothy 3:1-5

"1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"

2 Timothy 4:3-4

"3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

2 Peter 2:1-3, 21 & 22

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

- The spirit of anti-Christ possesses those who reject Christ, to speak and do things that are against Christ and those who believe in Christ.

1 John 4:3 – the spirit of anti-Christ is already in the world.

"and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world."

- There are many antichrists

1 John 2:18

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

- These are men who stood against Christ – God, the Word of God.
- But this one is the anti-Christ, the one predicted to be destroyed when Christ comes.

THE ANTICHRIST IS A PERSON – HE IS EVERYTHING WHAT JESUS CHRIST IS TO GOD

- But the man of sin – the son of perdition is yet to be revealed

2 Thessalonians 2:3 – The man of sin is revealed

"Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,"

- He has many descriptions, he is called:
 - The son of perdition – predicted to be destroyed because he is Satan personified
 - The son of destruction – the devil in him
 - The lawless one – he revolts and rebels against God
 - The man of sin – sin is lawlessness. He disregards God's laws and will lead a rebellion
 - The second person in Satan's trinity
 - The beast in Revelation
- He is "the" anti-Christ because:-
 - He will be Jewish
 - He will be like Christ, he is sent by Satan
 - He will prepare the way for Satan to have a final showdown, when Christ will defeat him once and for all. He will fulfil Satan's dreams on the earth
 - He is the incarnation of Satan and have supernatural power to do evil and wickedness

- He is the second person of the Satanic trinity
 - He is the embodiment of sin [idealize sin] as Christ is the embodiment of righteousness
 - After his success as a world leader and messiah, he will reveal himself and his purpose.
 - The anti-Christ will be the one through whom the people will worship Satan as God.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:4
“who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God”
- Satan will exalt the anti-Christ to the highest pinnacle.
 - The anti-Christ will be an attractive and charismatic figure – a genius and irresistible personality.
 - He will be the answer to the world’s problems, troubles and disasters.
 - He will have the answer to the world’s economic, ethnic and political problems and religious conflicts.
 - He will not face sexual, moral problems as he will have no desire for women
 - This implies that he is either a celibate or a homosexual.
- Daniel 11:37
“He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.”
- He will have a fierce countenance –proud and boastful
 - He will be a political statesman, financial wizard, intellectual giant, religious deceiver, masterful orator and gifted organizer – the world’s false messiah.
 - He will take the place of worship and being a Jew, he will rebuild the temple of Jerusalem, which will please the Jews and they will worship him as their Messiah. Then, he will install the worship of Satan as god.

WHAT IS RESTRAINING HIM?

2 Thessalonians 2: 6-7

“6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

- This is already at work. If then, how much more it is today – sin like leaven – will rise and becomes bigger.
 - Who restrains? – The Holy Spirit
 - How? – Through the Church
- There are 2 identities:-
 - The Church because of the Holy Spirit is restraining him.
 - The Holy Spirit, who works through the Church
- When the Church is taken, the Holy Spirit is lifted and His function will be different on the earth.
- The Holy Spirit will operate like He did in the Old Testament where He anointed individuals to prophesy and testify of God’s purpose and plan for that time.
- Satan and the anti-Christ will be destroyed when Jesus comes the second time with the raptured saints.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

“And then the lawless one [rebellious one] will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.”

- Before divine destruction from the Lord Jesus Christ, there will be Satan’s deception.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

“9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. “

- There will be scriptural perversion, spiritual perversion and social perversion.
- If you cannot hold on to your faith now, when the Church and the Holy Spirit is still here, you will not be able to withstand Satan’s deception and attacks.