

## Satan's Last Deception And The Final Judgement

These may be some of the most difficult scriptures to discern because of so much doom & gloom messaging that Christ is coming at any point now in the early 2000's to secretly rapture us out of here. There is a veritable FORTRESS built up of reasonings that all seem to tightly fit together to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Pre-Millennial end-time view is unquestionably THE reality. For some, a major scriptural insight has been received and then taken years to begin to see other possibilities outside that Pre-Millennial view. I pray you will come back to the scriptures here to ponder again and again what God might be showing us in our time. Maybe He truly wants to free us from the many slightly off indoctrinations that have enslaved us all and held us back, no matter what Christian group we have been a part of. He desires us to be unleashed and to be able to fully grow in Him and together with others during the Millennium!

God will make clear where everyone's heart is at the end of the last 1000 years of earth's history. Are they covered by the sacrificial blood of Jesus and one with Him OR do they follow to their version of "righteousness" or "goodness" and thus Satan and their own desires? This last deception will be so great that it would deceive God's chosen elect, if that were possible. [Matthew 24:24](#).

[Revelation 20](#) <sup>3</sup> and he cast him [Satan] into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. <sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. **And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.** *[Right here is where I'd place the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ to bring judgement and rescue his own from the ungodly, along with [2 Thessalonians 1:8 & 2:8](#)]* <sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. [See also [Matthew 25:31-46](#)] <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

While maybe decades before the end of the 1000 years, it may have appeared most were following Jesus, now over a period of months or years the deception Satan brings bears fruit and many are drawn to join each other in attacking either literally Jerusalem or/also those staying true to Jesus world-wide. Just when the diabolic plan seems about to succeed, God stops them short and rains down judgement fire from heaven and ends it all. Thank you, Heavenly Father!

The key verses that parallel this last deception which are often misinterpreted to be pre-millennial are in [2 Thessalonians 2:1-12](#) with [2 Thessalonians 1:6-10](#). Since these verses actually go along with the final deception that occurs just before Jesus' final return at the end of the Millennium, they also go along with [Matthew 24:29-31](#); [Mark 13:24-27](#); [Luke 21:25-28](#); [1 Corinthians 15](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#); [Joel 2:31-32](#), and many more passages.

Let's start with Satan's final deception. Remember that there are no verse and chapter breaks in Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Thessalonians. He starts out by letting them know that their suffering at the hands of the ungodly will result in **all** the ungodly being punished and the believers being glorified with Jesus. When? All on that one Day He returns.

[2 Thessalonians 1:6-10](#) <sup>6</sup>... it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire [*there's that fire again - Rev 20:9*] taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on **those who do not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

So, IF this return of Jesus were Pre-Millennial,

- 1) With all those who do not obey the gospel being punished,
- 2) And all the rest believing, joining Jesus in resurrection bodies forever,
- 3) How many of the ungodly would there be left to go into the Millennium? How many? None, right? All are accounted for. Because of that, this passage of 2 Thessalonians chapter 1 on into chapter 2, **has** to be placed properly at the end of the Millennium.

If there are supposedly two separate comings of Jesus, please show the scriptures that clearly show this to be explicitly true. The above explicitly and clearly show all is heading for that one Day Christ returns. There is no other "secret rapture" of believers. Please show that verse...

What are the options?

1. Jesus return pre-mil on the clouds in great glory seen by all - [Mt 24:30](#). And at the end of the millennium there is not another return, but all are simply removed from the earth.
2. Jesus comes pre-mil (secretly?) and again finally post-mil? Verses?

3. Jesus return only after the Millennium and after Satan has been let out for a short time to deceive the world. (This is my view.)
4. Another option.

Some teacher(s) of Paul's day had brought confusion to the Thessalonians suggesting Jesus had already returned. Paul **continues** in 2 Thessalonians 2 to introduce what will lead up to Christ's return ([2 Th 2:8](#)) just described in chapter 1, and to let them know Jesus had NOT come back yet. Paul let them know what would precipitate Jesus' return he had **just** spoken about in chapter 1. These chapters fit **together**.

Let's take this verse by verse from [2 Thessalonians 2](#):

<sup>1</sup> Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of [\[lawlessness/\]](#) sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup> 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.

This "falling away" correlates with [Revelation 20:8](#) where Satan will "go out to deceive the nations" for the eventual result to "gather them together to battle".

Be aware that each generation has assumptions about what that deception and falling away will look like. This early 2000's generation points a finger at other groups and tends to say "they" have fallen away. In reality, it's likely most will not be able to discern a specific category or group of people have fallen away in the end. Also, since this lawless one comes with great signs and miracles, he will likely be followed as the pinnacle or climax of Christianity or becoming like Christ, having reached our God-given destiny, when in fact it's a false gospel. The only antidote is repentantly joyfully knowing the true crucified in the flesh and risen Savior with His new body, Jesus Christ, our Lord and God.

Will the lawless one go into the temple of God, whatever or wherever that is, in some secret ritual or in the public for all to see? Will it be toward the beginning or culmination of his influence? No one knows. Be careful with end-time view assumptions.

Continuing, it would now be a helpful reading aid to insert 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 here after verse 4 above, before we cover versus 5 to 7:

<sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them a strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they **all** may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

God knows those who are His and will expose those who are not. Notice that all are condemned for their “pleasure in unrighteousness” when following the strong delusion and the lawless one. As Paul explained before, these **all** go to their destruction at Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> and Final Coming, though likely they believe they’ve reached the climax of “true” “Christ-likeness”. (This 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming only after the end of the millennium and final deception does away with the pre-millennial coming.)

Now, going to 2 Thessalonians 2:5-7:

<sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

<sup>6</sup> And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

<sup>7A</sup> **For** the mystery of lawlessness is already at work;

<sup>7B</sup> only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way.

Notice that a what is restraining in verse 6; while in verse 7b a who is restraining. How can there be a what and a who? First, what is the “what”? The answer is right there in verses 6-7: <sup>6</sup>“you know what is restraining... **FOR** the mystery of lawlessness is already at work...”. The connecting word “For” shows us that the “mystery of lawlessness” IS the “what” that is restraining. The “who” will be shown shortly.

Though Babylon falls as the last 1000 years start, it seems that this mystery of lawlessness will continue to work a deception in the hearts of people even during the Millennium, and then come fully to completion when Satan is let out. Some of those who embrace the deception may have previously appeared to have God’s Spirit within and be following Jesus, but in reality they did not. This sets them up for the final deception and “falling away”. It is the mystery of lawlessness which works as a seductress working a long-term plot and is ready at just the right moment the victim(s) are finally and fully prepared to fall. The trap can’t be sprung too quickly or it will be recognized in time to escape it. The time for the trap to be sprung, i.e. the revealing of the lawless one, has to be restrained as it must not happen until just the right conditions are present for the fully prepared world to receive this man of lawlessness appearing with incredible power and signs.

(Side Note: The [Apocalypse of Elijah](#), if kept intact enough and truly from Elijah, may have some vital details when it records that eventually the man of lawlessness is discerned and battled against by true believers for 2 reasons:

- 1) While he does all kinds of miracles, he cannot give life by raising the dead, and
- 2) He attacks true lovers of God even killing a few who outright oppose him. As all believers know and will discern in the last times, Jesus never directly killed those who opposed him, thus this incredible man will be discerned to be the predicted final man of lawlessness!)

Let’s examine the last part of 2 Thessalonians 2:7b very carefully: (Link to [blueletterbible.org](#) or [biblehub.org](#)). Braced words are added below to clarify the Greek text in English.

**7b only the one [who is] restraining now [will do so] until out of the midst he comes to be.** <sup>8</sup>  
And then [at that time] the lawless one will be revealed...

only <b>μόνον</b> monon G3440 [adverb]	the [one] <b>ὁ</b> ho G3588 [article]	is restraining <b>κατέχων</b> katechōn G3588 [Pres-Active-Participle]	at present <b>ἄρτι</b> arti G737 [adverb]	until <b>ἕως</b> eōs G2193 [conj]	out of <b>ἐκ</b> ek G1537 [prep]	the <u>midst</u> <b>μέσου</b> mesou G3319 [adjective]	he comes to <u>be</u> <b>γένηται</b> genētai G1096 [2 <sup>nd</sup> Aorist Middle Despondent Subj]
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Let's first examine that word "midst". The most common translation/usage of **μέσου** is in the midst or among, and the only exceptions could also totally keep with that concept. Of the 61 usages of the 6 forms of this word, in the midst or among is the most simple yet accurate idea. To translate this midst/among as "out of the way", as in Jesus removing His people in some secret rapture, seems to more fit a particular end-time view than carefully translating it to the most common usage.

The lawless one will appear and be revealed out of the midst of the people he has been among.

For **γένηται**, [here](#) is a brief outline of the biblical meaning/usage:

- I. to become, i.e. to come into existence, begin to be, receive being
- II. to become, i.e. to come to pass, happen -> A. of events
- III. to arise, appear in history, come upon the stage -> A. of men appearing in public
- IV. to be made, finished -> A. of miracles, to be performed, wrought
- V. to become, be made

That usage fits the way it is translated in the box/table above.

Also, how does this specific verb **γένηται** also very well fit the lawless one's appearing?

Key Verb Details:

Deponent = **Active** in meaning though only found in the middle and passive.

Middle = In the case of the verb "comes" (**γίνομαι**) and unlike some verbs, the **ομαι** have no active form because they are best understood in middle form as most simply "**the subject is acting alone, of its own accord, or for it's own benefit**" <sup>?, 1, 2</sup>.

Ex: Tim comes to class. Time acts AND benefits from the action.

So the simplest translation and interpretation is that the lawless one, operating under Satan's manipulation, like the betrayer of old ([Lk 22:3](#) / Judas), "is acting... of his own accord" to finally reveal himself to the world at just the right time when multitudes will accept him; fulfilling Jesus' words to the religious, "if another comes in his own name, him you will receive." [John 5:43](#) So, the "who" restraining in verse 7b, is Satan operating in the lawless one who also restrained himself till the right moment to appear.

Does all that make sense? It makes more sense to me hermeneutically than the pre-millennial rapture taking Christians and/or the Holy Spirit out of the world, who had been restraining the coming of the Man of Lawlessness. Ponder that for some time and may the Lord give you wisdom.

What is the exact timing of all this? Remember the concept of a relay race where one passes the baton to another and for a short transitional time they are both holding the baton? In the same

way, no one will know for sure when God starts counting the last 1000 years, [because of a transitional period into the Millennium](#) (<- See the video link), similarly no one will know for sure when it ends. And after it ends, how long is a “short” time or “little while” [Rev 20:4](#) that Satan is let out? Is it 5 years or 50? Is it 7 years or 70? No one will know. Thus, as Peter said in [2 Peter 3:3-5](#), and especially toward the end, “<sup>3</sup> ... scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”

During or toward the end of this “short” time [Rev 20:3](#), as Paul the apostle has been laying out in 2 Thessalonians, the lawless one will finally appear.

So, [2 Thessalonians 2:7b](#): (my translation) “only the one [who] is restraining now [will do so] until he arises out of the midst [of the world’s population].”

[2 Thessalonians 2:8](#) <sup>8</sup> **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.**

Yes! Jesus will come back at the very end in fire and power and great glory to resurrect the dead in Christ, to destroy the lawless one, and to bring all before His final judgement throne. Verse 8’s “And then the lawless one will be revealed” is simply clarifying final result of the lawless one’s crafty plan to appear out of the vast population of the earth as God on earth and deceptively as Christ finally entering the earth in greatness. Satan always want to twist the NATURE of... For instance, twisting our nature, as in the garden saying, “you will be as God...”. Besides deceptively twisting our nature via words of the lawless one, he will also twist God and Jesus’ Nature, in such a way that will be hard for even believers to discern what is truly being said and what is happening at that time. (See [2 Pet 1:16](#); [Col 1:15-18](#), and many more...)

After the lawless one has fully completed his luring deception, which itself is an assault on true believers’ faith in the true Jesus, then....

[Luke 21](#) - <sup>25</sup> “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; <sup>26</sup> men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

[Matthew 24](#) - <sup>29</sup> “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup> Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup> And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

[Revelation 1:7](#) - <sup>7</sup> Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

[1 Thessalonians 4](#) - <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are [\[dead\]](#) asleep. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

[1 John 3:2](#) - Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

And as [1 Corinthians 15](#) points out, like Jesus, we will have a different and new type of resurrection body.

Since John referred to a 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection in [Rev 20:5](#), there must be a second; otherwise, there is no reason to say a first. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection in [Rev 20:13](#), for believers, would be the same as in [Mt 24:31](#).

[Revelations 20:11-15](#) - <sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Here is the way I understand that Judgment in its most basic aspects.

Before His throne, everyone will acknowledge Jesus is Lord ([Philippians 2:9-11](#)), Creator of all seen and unseen ([Colossians 1:15-18](#)), defying all the unbiblical deceptions about Him that people held to so as not to face the real sorrow [2Cor 7:10](#) & conviction of sin by the Real Jesus who loved them and died for them.

All will kneel before him! Those in Jesus will cry out: “**Only in the LORD**, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength.” [Isaiah 45:24](#) with [Philippians 2:12-13](#)

**Those who have their name in the Book of Life** will have everything in their life that wasn't in harmony with God's character and nature be burned up like chaff, as God is a consuming fire, and we'll be so happy it's completely gone and covered by the life sacrifice and blood of Jesus, never to be remembered again. Also then, whatever we did by God's Spirit, desiring to reflect Him in His love and truth, will be GREATLY rewarded. ([1 Corinthians 3:12-15](#); [Matthew 25](#).)

**Those who do NOT have their name in the Book of Life** because they did not come to truly know Jesus and thus follow him, will receive punishment appropriate to the disobedience, whether knowing or “unknowing” ([Luke 12:46-48](#)). That punishment will be suffered in the lake of fire, the 2<sup>nd</sup> death. ([Revelation 20:15](#))

At Last - [Revelation 21](#) & [22](#) – We Enter The New Heaven and Earth with Jesus Forever!!!

Isaiah 25:6-9

<sup>6</sup> And in this mountain

The Lord of hosts will make for all people

A feast of choice pieces, A feast of wines on the lees,

Of fat things full of marrow, Of well-refined wines on the lees.

<sup>7</sup> And He will destroy on this mountain

The surface of the covering cast over all people,

And the veil that is spread over all nations.

<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever,

And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces;

The rebuke of His people

He will take away from all the earth;

For the Lord has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> And it will be said in that day:

“Behold, this is our God;

We have waited for Him, and He will save us.

This is the Lord; We have waited for Him;

We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.”