



Clanking Chains: The Failure of Lucifer's Global Conspiracy: The Restraining Ministry of the Holy Spirit, 2 Thess 2:1-8

11- The “restraining ministry” of the Holy Spirit is revealed in:

2 Thessalonians 2:1 - Moreover, believers, with reference to the Second Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together [ἐπισυναγωγή, *episunagōgē*: the exit resurrection, or the rapture] to Him, we urgently request

2 Thessalonians 2:2 - that you be not easily shaken in mind or disturbed, neither by a personality [a false teacher], nor by a policy [false doctrine], nor by a forged epistle [false corrigendum] as if from us, alleging that the Tribulation is now present.

Radmacher, Earl D. *The Nelson Study Bible*. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997), 2033:

After writing 1 Thessalonians, Paul had received word that the believers in Thessalonica were being misled by false teachers who were confusing the believers with erroneous ideas about the Second Coming. Paul's second letter was his attempt to correct these misunderstandings. The Greek word translated gathering together [ἐπισυναγωγή, *episunagōgē*] ... refers to the ... congregation of the whole church. This will be the first time the whole church, including every believer, will be gathered before the Lord to worship Him. The phrase seems to refer to the event described in 1 Thess. 4:17, where Paul speaks of meeting the Lord in the air. The false teaching was that of the day of the Lord [ἡ ἡμέρα τοῦ κυρίου, *hē hēmera tou kuriou*, refers to the Tribulation but it is translated in the King James version as the “day of Christ” which would read: ἡ ἡμέρα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, *hē hēmera tou Christou*, a term that refers to the Rapture of the Church] had already come, bringing with it the tribulations they were experiencing.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 - Do not let anyone deceive you in any way since the Tribulation cannot come unless the Rapture has come first, and then the man who is lawless—the one doomed to destruction [the Roman dictator of the Tribulation]—shall be revealed.

v. 4 - He opposes the Lord Jesus Christ and he exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship so that he is installed in the temple of God proclaiming himself to be God.

v.5 - Do you not remember that when I was still face-to-face with you I constantly taught you these doctrines?

NOTE: Paul has now reviewed several doctrines for the believers at Thessalonica: (1) the rapture or exit resurrection of Church Age believers; (2) dispensational theology with emphasis on the Church Age and the Tribulation, (3) the pre-tribulational timing of the Rapture, (4) the impossibility of the Roman dictator to appear in history until after the Rapture occurs, (5) the establishment of a global religious clique, and (6) the anti-Christ policy of the Roman dictator. He also reminds them he had previously taught them these doctrines.

2 Thessalonians 2:6 - And so now you know the One who restrains [the presence of the Holy Spirit in every believer during the Church Age] so that the Roman dictator may be revealed in his own dispensation.



v. 7 - For the mystery of lawlessness is already operational [the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict in the Church Age]. Only He who now restrains will continue that ministry of restraint until He is taken out of the way [the Rapture brings to an end the Holy Spirit's indwelling ministry among believers].

NOTE: Satan's cosmic system of deception is unrestrained in the Tribulation. However, it is already operational in the Church Age. Nevertheless, it is prevented from achieving its objective of global domination by the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit. By functioning through the Pivot of each generation's client nation, the Holy Spirit continues His ministry of restraint until the conclusion of the Church Age which occurs at the Rapture.

This passage documents the importance of the believer learning doctrine in an organized and ongoing manner. The Holy Spirit can take the doctrine that you know and enable you to apply it to your daily life thus providing that measure of restraint against the forces of the Evil One. This restraining influence is magnified when it is functional among a group of believers who are either advancing toward maturity or have already achieved that objective. Globalists, multiculturalists, judicial activists, revisionists, positivists, and even terrorists will make every effort to destroy Christianity, divine viewpoint, the divine institutions, and the Bible itself, but they do not have the ability or the power to do so. The Holy Spirit's ministry of restraint will continue to withhold them until the Rapture. If you want to leave something for your children let it be the legacy of blessing by association achieved by your advance to spiritual adulthood and membership in this generation's Pivot.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 - At that time [following the Rapture], the lawless one shall be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus shall destroy with the breath of His mouth, in fact He shall neutralize him by the appearance of His coming [the Second Advent].

NOTE: This statement is designed to comfort the Thessalonians by assuring them of the certain demise of the Roman dictator. Paul speaks of the Second Advent of Christ and His defeat of the dictator. However, the lawless one will become an international figure but not until after all Church Age believers have been removed from the earth by means of the Rapture.

- 12- However, some Thessalonian believers thought the Rapture had passed them by. Paul stresses that they were not to believe such teachings. He reminds them of his previous instruction on the subject and in doing so emphasizes the importance of the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit.