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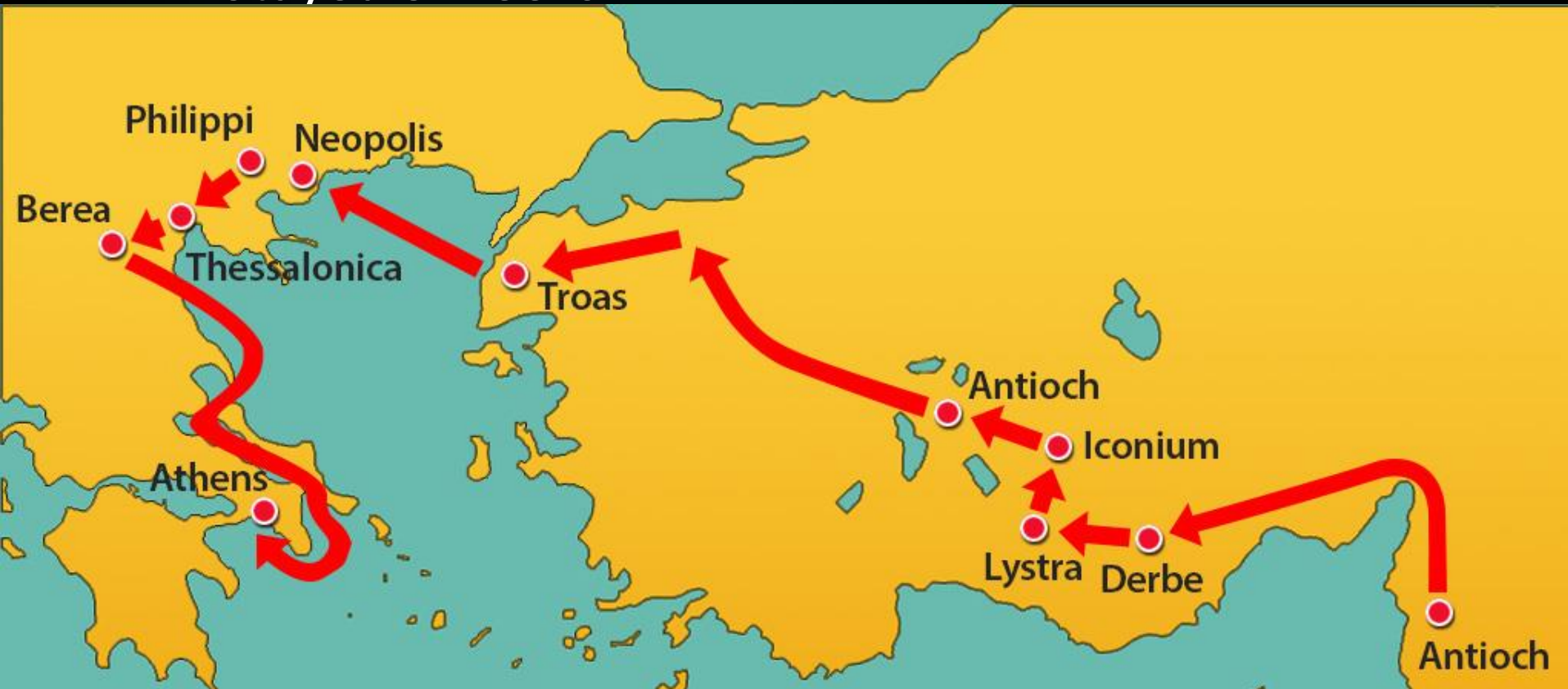
2 Thessalonians

Cover to Cover Series

Scott Drexel

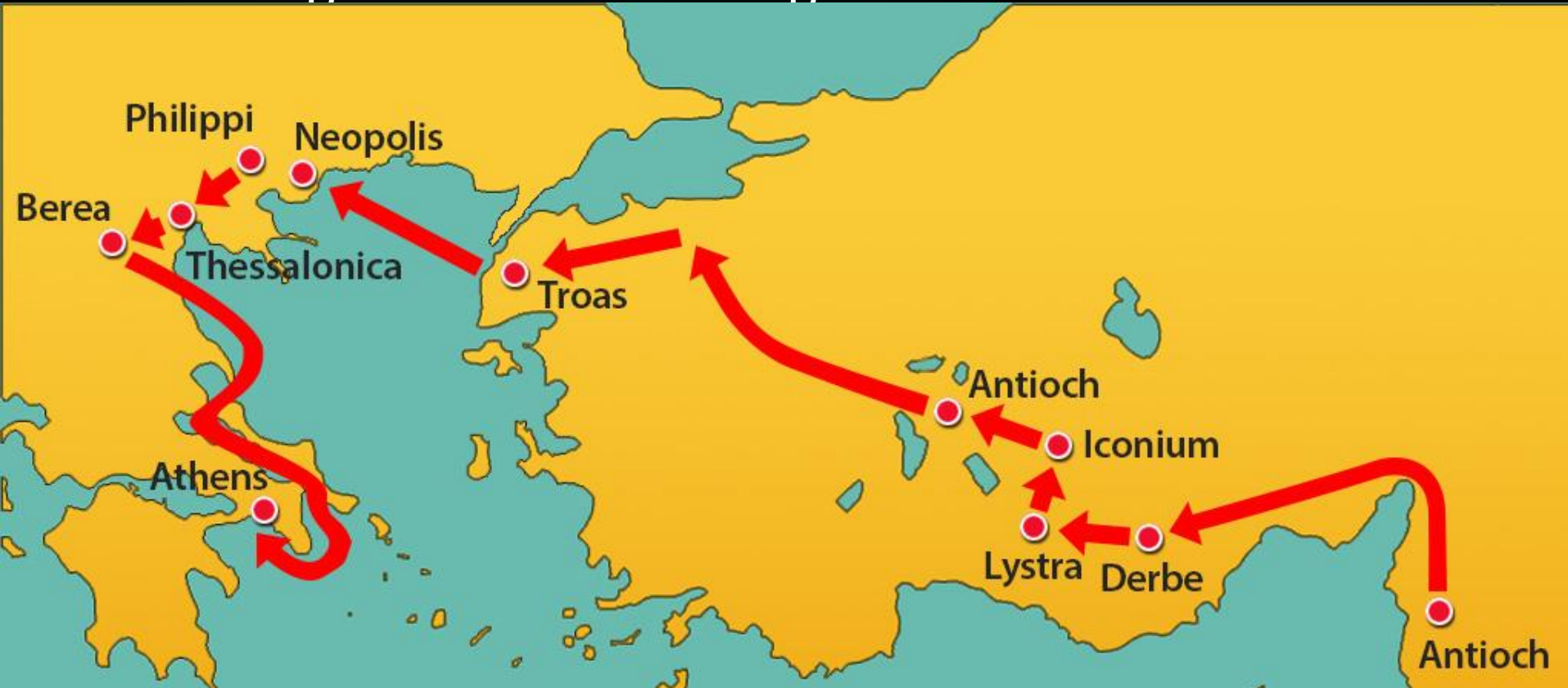
Introduction

- Paul visited Thessalonica: 2nd missionary journey
 - 50 AD
 - Stayed 3 weeks



Introduction

- Paul visited Thessalonica: 2nd missionary journey
 - Ran out of town by local Jews
 - Taught Jesus is true king and Messiah



Introduction

- Paul travelled to Corinth
 - Sent Timothy to check on Thessalonians
 - Was told they were thriving!
- Wrote 1 Thessalonians
 - Encouragement
 - Answer questions

Introduction

- Paul received responses about first letter
- Wrote 2 Thessalonians
 - Clarification
 - Further encouragement
 - 51 AD

Introduction

- 1 Thessalonians → encouragement
 - Hope for believers
- 2 Thessalonians → encouragement
 - Judgement to non-believers
 - Admonish bad behavior

GOOD NEWS



BAD NEWS



Greetings and Commendations (2 Thess 1:1-4)

- 2 Thess 1:1-2 – “Paul, Silas, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - Duplication shows oneness along with equality
 - Importance of God (Father, Son, Spirit)
 - 42 references in 44 verses

Greetings and Commendations (2 Thess 1:1-4)

- 2 Thess 1:3-4 – Paul is thankful that their faith and love is growing even in the face of persecution
 - Keep doing what they're doing
 - We are in a spiritual war



God's Righteous Judgement (2 Thess 1:5-10)

- 2 Thess 1:6 – “God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you”
 - We want justice!
 - We are called to be faithful, not to get revenge



God's Righteous Judgement (2 Thess 1:5-10)

- 2 Thess 1:6 – “God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you”
 - WHEN???!!!
 - HOW???!!!



God's Righteous Judgement (2 Thess 1:5-10)

- 2 Thess 1:7a – God will “give relief to you who are troubled”
- 2 Thess 1:7b – “This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.”



God's Righteous Judgement (2 Thess 1:5-10)

- 2 Thess 1:8-9 – “He [God] will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.”

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 - What is everlasting?
 - Being destroyed
 - or -
 - Destruction

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 - Separation from God is death
 - Being forever separated from God is worse than just physical destruction

God's Righteous Judgement (2 Thess 1:5-10)

- 2 Thess 1:10 – Jesus will be “glorified in His holy people” and “marveled at among all those who have believed.”
 - Justice, mercy, and grace happen Christ's return
 - Those who choose to not follow Christ get justice
 - Destruction and death
 - Followers of Christ get mercy and grace
 - Eternal life with God

God's Righteous Judgement (2 Thess 1:5-10)

- 2 Thess 1:10 – Jesus will be “glorified in His holy people” and “marveled at among all those who have believed.”
 - God's justice is still satisfied through Jesus
 - We are baptized INTO Christ
 - Obtain HIS righteousness
 - Through HIS faithfulness
 - Mercy and grace is freely given to those IN CHRIST
 - High cost of the Son of God's life

A Prayer for the Believers (2 Thess 1:11-12)

- Paul prays that:
 1. God will make them “worthy of His calling”

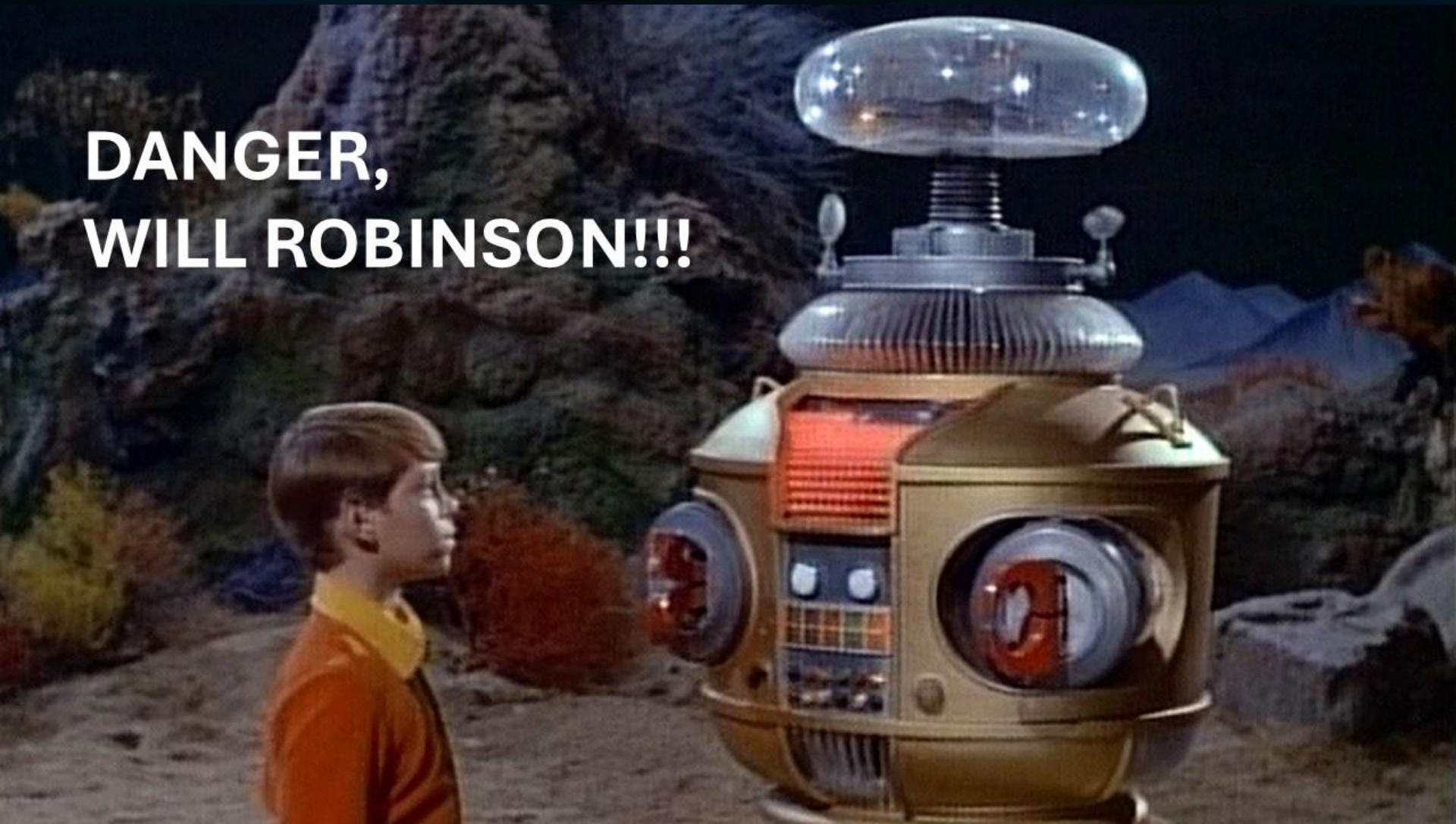


A Prayer for the Believers (2 Thess 1:11-12)

- Paul prays that:
 1. God will make them “worthy of His calling”
 2. Obtain their “every desire for goodness” and “every deed prompted by faith”
 3. Name of the Lord is glorified in them and them in the Lord

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

**DANGER,
WILL ROBINSON!!!**



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- Paul is trying to argue against another letter
- 2 Thess 2:1-2 - “Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.”
 - Scared and confused
 - How could Jesus have already returned?

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Thess 2:3 - “Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.”

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 - Rebellion → Apostasia
 - Willfully rebel; fall away from God’s truth
 - ~~Perseverance of the Saints~~



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- Matthew 24:10-11 – “At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.”
- Acts 20:30 – “Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.”
- 1 Timothy 4:1 – “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.”

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Timothy 4:3-4 – “For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.”
- Hebrews 6:4-6 – “It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance.

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

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The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- The Roman Empire



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- The Roman Empire
- A Specific Roman Emperor



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- The Roman Empire
- A Specific Roman Emperor
- Jewish High Priest



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

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- Roman Catholic Church



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

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- The Papacy



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

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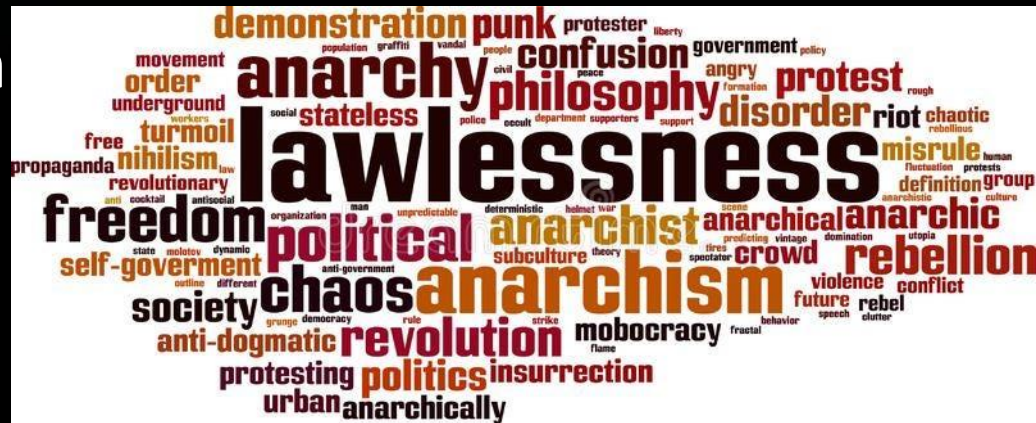
The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- The Roman Empire
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- Jewish High Priest
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- Various Dictators



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- Sinful/Lawless Culture Personified



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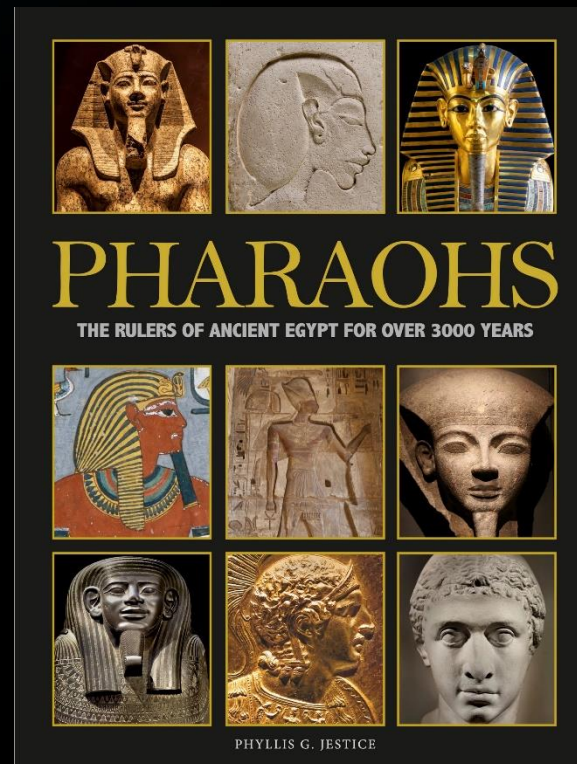
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- Various Dictators
- Sinful/Lawless Culture Personified
- Various U.S Presidents
- A Future Eschatological Figure



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Thess 2:4 - “He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”
- Ancient Pharoahs



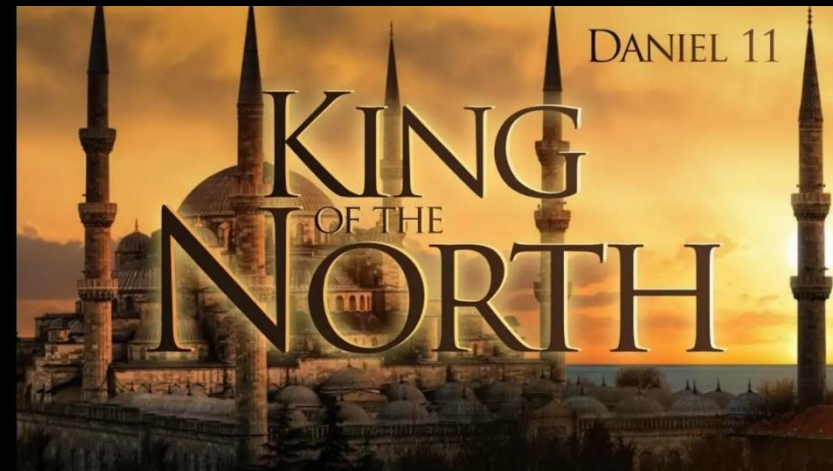
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- Ancient Pharoahs
- Nebuchadnezzar (Isaiah 13-14)



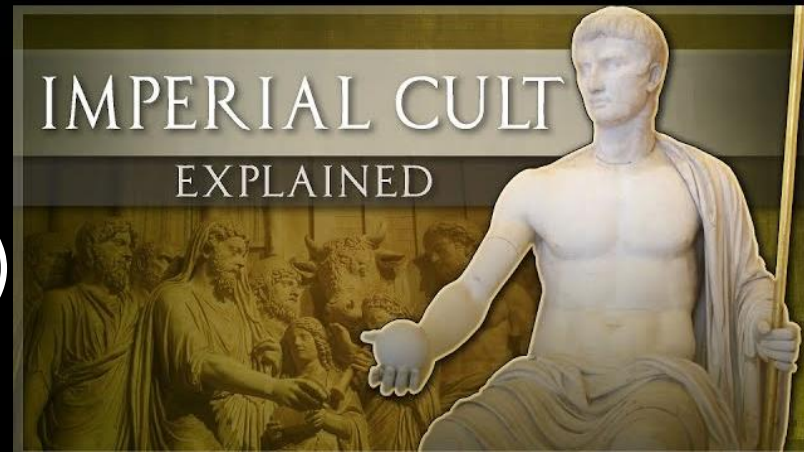
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- Ancient Pharoahs
- Nebuchadnezzar (Isaiah 13-14)
- King of the North (Daniel 11)



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- Ancient Pharoahs
- Nebuchadnezzar (Isaiah 13-14)
- King of the North (Daniel 11)
- Roman Emperors and their associated cult worship



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Thess 2:4 - “He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, **proclaiming himself to be God.**”
- New Age Movement



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Thess 2:4 - “He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”
- New Age Movement
- Postmodernism

POSTMODERNISM

All truth is relative.*

***(Except this statement.)**

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Thess 2:4 - “He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, **proclaiming himself to be God.**”
- New Age Movement
- Postmodernism
- Amy Carlson



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Thess 2:4 - “He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 – “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?”



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 – “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?”
- 2 Corinthians 6:16 – “For we are the temple of the living God.”



The Church

A HOLY TEMPLE TO GOD

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Thess 2:6-7 – “And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.”

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Thess 2:6-7 – “And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.”
 - Man of lawlessness was currently active
 - God is holding back lawless and sinful cultures from disrupting His plan
 - God chooses when each culture is removed from power and influence

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- ~~The Roman Empire~~
- ~~A Specific Roman Emperor~~
- Jewish High Priest
- ~~Roman Catholic Church~~
- ~~The Papacy~~
- ~~A Specific Pope~~
- ~~Various Dictators~~
- Sinful/Lawless Culture Personified
- ~~Various U.S Presidents~~
- A Future Eschatological Figure

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

the antichrist



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- The Antichrist
 - Man of Lawlessness was active in 51 AD
 - SPECIFIC person is not Biblical
 - Anti means against → against Christ

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- The Antichrist

- 1 John 2:18 – “Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.”
- 1 John 2:22 – “Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.”

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- The Antichrist

- 1 John 4:2-3 – “This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”
- 2 John 7 – “I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.”

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- The Antichrist
 - Not a specific person
 - Anyone who doesn't believe:
 - Jesus is the Son of God
 - Incarnation
 - Came from the Father
 - Many antichrists in past, present, and future

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- ~~The Roman Empire~~
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The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Thess 2:8 – “And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.”
 - Revealed at Christ’s second coming
 - Active in 1st century
 - Still be around when Jesus returns

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- ~~The Roman Empire~~
- ~~A Specific Roman Emperor~~
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The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Thess 2:9-10 - “The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use **all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie**, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”
 - Lawless one (sinful culture) works like Satan
 - Source of power
 - Culture uses anything/everything to lead us away from God’s truth
 - Leads to destruction

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- 2 Thess 2:11-12 - “For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.”
 - God will let people choose what to believe
 - God’s truth vs culture’s lie



The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

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 - God will let people choose what to believe
 - God’s truth vs culture’s lie
 - Choose Christ
 - Redemption
 - Choose anything else
 - Punishment

The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thess 2:1-12)

- Christ hasn't returned yet because:
 1. Believers haven't started falling away and rebelling against God
 2. There is still a culture of sin and lawlessness in the world and it hasn't been revealed or shown to be what it really is, a pawn and tool of Satan
- Does sin exist → Jesus hasn't returned

Stand Firm (2 Thess 2:13-17)

- 2 Thess 2:13 – “But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.”
 - Paul is grateful for them being firstfruits
 - On the front lines
 - Taking fire
 - What did God do?

Stand Firm (2 Thess 2:13-17)

- 2 Thess 2:14 – “He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - Why did God do those things?
 - Future inheritance of glory:
 - Experience His majesty
 - Participate in victory over sin and death
 - Receive transformed body
 - Fellowship with His divine presence

Stand Firm (2 Thess 2:13-17)

- 2 Thess 2:15 – “So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.”
 - What should we do as a response?
 - Keep our eyes on the prize!
 - Through persecution
 - Through cultural pressures
 - Stay connected with God
 - Strengthen our relationship

Stand Firm (2 Thess 2:13-17)

- 2 Thess 2:16-17 – “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.”

Paul Requests Prayers (2 Thess 3:1-5)

- Gospel be accepted elsewhere as rapidly as here
- Paul, Timothy, and Silas be delivered from evil people
- God is faithful
- Gives them strength and protection from the evil one
- Confident they will follow his commands for them
- Experience God's love and Christ's perseverance

Warning Against Idleness (2 Thess 3:6-15)

- Situation got worse after writing 1 Thessalonians
- They thought Jesus was returning any minute so they quit working and relied on others for support



Warning Against Idleness (2 Thess 3:6-15)



Warning Against Idleness (2 Thess 3:6-15)

- Being idle often leads to trouble
- 2 Sam 11:2 – “One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace.”



Warning Against Idleness (2 Thess 3:6-15)

- 2 Thess 3:7-8 – “For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.”

Warning Against Idleness (2 Thess 3:6-15)

- 2 Thess 3:9 – “We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate.”
 - Paul had the authority to receive payment
 - Deut 25:4 – “Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.”
 - Luke 10:7 – “the worker deserves his wages”
 - 1 Cor 9:14 – “the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.”

Warning Against Idleness (2 Thess 3:6-15)

- 2 Thess 3:10 – “For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.’”
 - “Unwilling” not “unable”
 - Stop choosing not to work and live off of others
 - Eph 4:28 – “[believers] must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.”

Warning Against Idleness (2 Thess 3:6-15)

- 2 Thess 3:10 – “For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.’
 - Not the governments job to care for the poor
 - If we can work, we should work

Warning Against Idleness (2 Thess 3:6-15)

- 2 Thess 3:10 – “For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.’”



Warning Against Idleness (2 Thess 3:6-15)

- 2 Thess 3:11 – “We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies.”
 - Idleness worsened into disruptive behavior
 - Gossip
 - Meddling

Warning Against Idleness (2 Thess 3:6-15)

- Paul used his authority to shut down bad behavior
 - 2 Thess 3:6 – “we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive”
 - 2 Thess 3:12 – “Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.”
 - 2 Thess 3:14 – “Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed.”

Warning Against Idleness (2 Thess 3:6-15)

- 2 Thess 3:15 – “Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.”
- Goal is restoration

Final Greetings (2 Thess 3:16-18)

- Prayer for peace
- Written “in my own hand”
- Benediction of Christ’s grace to be with them

Conclusion

- Danger in believing culture's lies
- Focus on God's truth and loving others
- God is faithful
- Do everything for the Lord – even work
- Believers shouldn't be idle or disruptive