

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

**“Now we beseech you** (*make an appeal to you*), **brethren, by** (*on behalf or because of*) **the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him** (*the appeal was to correct the error regarding the timing of the Rapture and to confirm the truth about a pretribulation Rapture of the Church*).

**“That ye be not soon shaken** (*stirred up*) **in mind** (*do not experience mental agitation, which effects your emotional thinking and mental moorings, but continue to have clear and stable understanding of the truth regarding a pretribulation Rapture*), **or be troubled** (*disturbed, frightened and alarmed*), **neither by spirit** (*a prophetic utterance allegedly from the Holy Spirit but is actually from a false spirit – 1 John 4:1*), **word** (*a false report from a false preacher*) **nor by letter as from us** (*a false letter with Paul’s forged signature and confirmed by Silas and Timothy, Paul’s partners*), **as that the day of Christ is at hand**” (*is now present, hath arrived, hath set in, or has come*).

**“Let no man deceive you by any means** (*that you are living in the Day of the Lord or Tribulation Period*): **for that day shall not come** (*cannot be present on the earth*), **except there come** (*except these events are now present, have set in, or have arrived on earth, as some falsely claimed, signaling the Day of the Lord has begun, is present, and underway as indicated in verse 2 – “at hand”*), **a (the) falling away first** (**THE RELIGIOUS APOSTASY OF THE TRIBULATION PERIOD**), **and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition** (**THE REVELATION OF ANTICHRIST WHO IS THE INSTIGATOR OF THE APOSTASY**) – *the revelation occurring in conjunction with the apostasy as explained next*);

**“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God** (**THE REPULSIVE CHARACTER OF THE APOSTASY**). **Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you**

these things? **“And now ye know what withholdeth** (*Greek – “katecho” – to hold back, detain, retain, suppress*) **that he** (*the Antichrist*) **might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity** (*lawlessness*) **doth already work: only he** (*a reference to the Holy Spirit*) **who now letteth** (*restrains wickedness, sin, and apostasy*) **will let** (*hold back or suppress*), **until he** (*a reference to the Holy Spirit*) **be taken out of the way** (**THE REMOVAL OF THE RESTRAINER WHICH RESULTS IN THE APOSTASY** - *a specific reference to the removal of the Holy Spirit’s restraining influence upon the earth as a result of the Rapture of the Church; the Holy Spirit is not spatially removed but His functionality of suppressing sin is removed*). **And then** (*during the Tribulation Period, when the Holy Spirit’s restraining influence is removed on earth*) **shall that Wicked** (*a personal reference to the Antichrist – “the lawless one” who is the epitome of human darkness and spiritual lawlessness*) **be revealed** (*disclosed*), **whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming”** (*the Second Coming of Christ to earth and the destruction of Antichrist - Rev. 19:20*).