

The Mystery of Iniquity

© B. Keith Chadwell, February, 2009

This is the third of a series of studies on **2nd Thessalonians 2:**

As the studies are posted on www.thekingdomisathand.net they will be indexed, archived and may be accessed from the **teachings page**. It is important that you study part 1 and 2 before starting part 3, below.

Let's go on with our series of studies in 2nd Thessalonians 2:

By direct reference we can associate "**that wicked**" in verse 8 with "**that man of sin**" in verse 3.

*2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and **that man of sin** be **revealed**, (as) the son of perdition; G684*

G684 Perdition

From a presumed derivative of G622; ruin or loss (physical, spiritual or eternal): - damnable (-nation), destruction, die, perdition, X perish, pernicious ways, waste.

Of course, "**the son of perdition**" is identified in 2 Thes. 2:3 as; "**that man of sin**", and is used as a base support scripture for some traditional teachings on the **anti-Christ** being a **Literal** man who is to; (V3) "**be revealed**", (v8) "**consumed by the Spirit of His mouth**"; "**destroyed by the brightness of His coming**" and purported by some traditions to be (v9) "**coming**".

Ok... so now we might ask; how can "**that (literal) man of sin**", "**that Wicked (literal man)**" literally, "*sit in the temple of God showing himself that he is God?*" (2nd Thes. 2:3)

*2Th 2:7 For **the mystery of iniquity** doth already work:....*

Anything the bible calls a "**mystery**" will certainly require the attention of Christians with ears to hear in order for it to be revealed. Strictly **Literal** interpretations should immediately raise some red flags.

In 2Th 2:7 we are given a heads up by the bible itself, of the “**mystery**” content.

“**That man of sin**”, sitting in a **literal** temple of God?...**not likely**, since we have already been told; this is a spiritual **mystery**. What then?

Here is a clue:

Rev 2:9 *I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of **them which say they are Jews**, and are not, but **are** the synagogue of Satan.*

If (flesh and blood) men are referenced by Jesus as a “**synagogue**” of Satan...as above, then by direct contrast; **Other men** (flesh and blood men) could be referenced as; “**a temple of God**” and they are:

1Co 6:19 *What? know ye not that your body is the **temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you**, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

Remember; the Kings-dominion is **within you**. Do not look for it here or there (Luke 17:21). By extension, that should place **His** throne or place where **He** sits; **within you** also, but obviously **not literally**.

I can't help but think about; where **my flesh** would like to **sit** (as it were) in this scheme of things. Any bets?

2Th 2:4 *“Who **opposeth** and **exalteth** himself above all that is called God...”*

Would I (**my flesh**) **exalt** myself and **oppose** God's rule? I can speak from past experience..... **I (my flesh)** would love to exalt myself and would love **not** to be ruled by God or anything else.

Ok, so who is the “*he who now **letteth***” that is the **obstacle** and just what is the **obstacle**?

Letteth; From **G2596** and **G2192**; to *hold down (fast)*, in various applications (literally or figuratively): - have, hold (fast), keep (in memory), let, X make toward, possess, retain, seize on, stay, take, withhold.

2Th 2:7 For **the mystery of iniquity** doth already work: only he who now **letteth** will let, **until he** be taken out of the way.

Peshitta text: 2Th 2:7 “For the **mystery of iniquity is already at work: until **he** who now is the **obstacle** is taken out of the way.”**

What happens when the obstacle is removed?
Verse 7 indicates; that would be the end of the Mystery of iniquity.
And, by extension, the removal of the obstacle would seem to facilitate the revelation of this “**mystery of iniquity**”.

Could God be a part of setting up or authorizing this **obstacle** in the first place?

“He who now is the **obstacle**” or “He who now **letteth**” ...is said to be ...“**TAKEN out of the way.**” By extension, if he is to be “**TAKEN out...**” we might wonder if the one who will “**take him out...**” might have been the same one to “**SEND**” **him in**, in the first place?

2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth,** that they might be saved.

2Th 2:11 And for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:**

2Th 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

In Verse 7:, was the; “**he who is now the obstacle**” **sent**, by God, as described in verse 11, above?

Again, in verse 7, we see that “**he who is now the obstacle**”, will be removed to facilitate the revelation of “**the mystery of iniquity**”.

Could it be that a **messenger** of Satan, was **sent by God with a strong dilusion** and is in fact the; “**he who is now the obstacle**”?

Did not God **send** or authorize the “**strong delusion**” to make those that received not the love of the truth so that they should believe a lie (V11 above)?

A strong **delusion** could also legitimately be called an **obstacle** to the truth for sure, because the antonym for **delusion** is **reality** or **truth**. (delusion vs truth)

There is biblical basis for God sending a “**messenger of Satan**” to serve His purposes in 2Corinthians 12:7-10.

Look again at 2nd Th 2:7:

V7 (**Peshitta text**: “**For the mystery of iniquity is already at work: until he who now is the obstacle is taken out of the way.**”)

So, if “**he who now is the obstacle**” was a messenger of Satan sent by God with a strong delusion, or obstacle to the truth how was it to be applied or perpetrated, in fact?

Here from Galatians 5:7-9 is a clue;

Ye did run well; **who did hinder you** that ye should not obey the truth?

This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.

A **little leaven** leaveneth the whole lump.

In this case it was not God that sent the hindrance or obstacle but perhaps some false teacher for which they had ample warning beforehand.

Jesus said to his followers; Mat 16:6 “**Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**”...

Mat 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the **doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.** (review part 1 or this study for context & continuity)

Or, in other words; **any doctrine** which proposes literal or carnal minded, fleshly interpretations for things purposed by God to be hidden which can only be revealed by and through His Holy Spirit. The carnal mind always wants to interpret spiritual mysteries literally. It is a war.....**Flesh vs Spirit.**

The obstacle in 2Thes. 2: 7, could be a spirit of deception, sent by God (V11) working through people who will not accept the truth in order that they would believe a lie.

And, would not this spirit of deception even work through **Christians** who **have not taken heed** to Jesus warning to his followers regarding “*the leaven* (or doctrine) *of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees*”?

Carnal flesh, trying to solve “*the mystery’s of God*”...?
How presumptuous we are. Do we think like God? Are not His ways higher than ours? Let God be God... when he hides something, be assured, it will remain hidden until He chooses to reveal it. And then, it will be revealed only in His time and only to whom He chooses to reveal it and only to serve His purposes at HIS good pleasure.

Let Him who hath an ear hear

Journey on.....narrow is the way.

#

This is the 3rd of a series of studies on **2nd Thessalonians 2:**

Part I: ***The Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees***

Part II: ***The brightness of His coming***

Part III: ***The mystery of Iniquity***

Part III: *The mystery of Godliness*

As the studies are posted on www.thekingdomisathand.net They will be indexed, archived and may be accessed from the **teachings page**.

Reference only:

- 2Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,
- 2Th 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
- 2Th 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
- 2Th 2:4 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.
- 2Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
- 2Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.
- 2Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*,
V7 (***Peshitta text:***)“***For the mystery of iniquity is already at work: until he who now is the obstacle is taken out of the way.***”)
- 2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
- 2Th 2:9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
- 2Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
- 2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
- 2Th 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
- 2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:
- 2Th 2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2Th 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.
- 2Th 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,
- 2Th 2:17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

##