



For He
MUST
REIGN

An Eschatology of Victory

OUTLINE OF OUR STUDY

- End Times Madness through History
- Clear to Less Clear: Exegetical Basis for an Eschatology of Victory (1 Cor. 15)
- Clear Chronology: Key Prophetic Texts (1): The Olivet Discourse (Mt 24)
- Based on Clear Texts: Key Prophetic Texts (2): Revelation & Daniel
- **The Antichrist "666"**



An Eschatology of Victory

THE OLIVET/ESCHATOLOGICAL DISCOURSE: MT 24

- Matthew 23:36 - “Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon **this** (*houtos, near demonstrative pronoun*) generation (*genea, 26x* = an ordinary generation).
- Matthew 24:34 - “Truly I say to you, **this** [dis] **generation** will not pass away until all these things take place.
- “This generation” JUDGMENT in all Synoptics (Mt 23:36, 24:34; Mark 13:30; Luke 21:32).
- The Book of Revelation is John’s Extended Play Olivet Discourse from a “world” perspective (consistent with John’s Gospel).



5 PROOFS: POSTMILL REVELATION



- 1. Time-Text/Temporal Indications of a Near Fulfillment (1:1, 3, 2:10, 3:10, 22:6) ("shortly take place")
- 2. Internal Clock has Nero as the Roman Emperor ("seven kings, of whom five have fallen, one is living, and the other has not yet come" 17:9-10): Julius, Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula (Gaius), Claudius, **Nero** (54-68 d. 6/9/68) ended the line; then Galba (6 months/68 #yearof4emperors: Galba, Otho, Vitellius, VESPASIAN
- 3. Revelation is John's Olivet Discourse (OD), so the Same Events and Time-frame (Fall of Jerusalem 70 AD): Deception, War, Famine, Earthquake, Tribulation, Martyrs, First-Love, Endurance, Gospel to Oikomene, Witness, Abomination, Great Tribulation, False Prophets, "Coming" of Son of Man, Sun/Moon Eclipse, Stars Fall, Fig Tree, Jesus at the Door, etc.
- 4. Like the OD Jerusalem is the "Great City" in Revelation that Falls: a) "the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified" 11:17); b) parallel of the harlot (unfaithful Jerusalem) with the bride called the "new Jerusalem" (17 v 21-22); c) Fall of Babylon (ch 18) is like the fall of Tyre (Ez. 26) so the sudden destruction of Jerusalem.
- 5. The Temple in the "Holy City" Jerusalem is still standing but will be "tread under foot": Revelation 11:1ff - Get up and measure the temple of God...for it has been given to the nations (*ethnos*); and they will tread (*pateo*) under foot the holy city for forty-two months." Luke 21:24 - Jerusalem will be trampled (*pateo*) under foot by the Gentiles (*ethnos*) until the times of the Gentiles (*ethnos*) are fulfilled.

THE "ANTICHRIST" 4X



English Texts Young's Literal Translation +

Young's Literal Translation Flex antichrist

x Range is Epistles +

0 Verse 1 of 4

x NAS95S x ESVS AA

1John 2:18 Children, ^ait is the last hour; and just as you heard that ^bantichrist is coming, ^ceven now many antichrists have appeared;

1John 2:18 Children, ^ait is the last hour, and as you have heard that ^bantichrist is coming, so now ^cmany antichrists have come. ^dTherefore

THE ANTICHRIST

- 1 John 2:18 - Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.
- 1 John 2:22 - Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.
- 1 John 4:3 - and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.
- 2 John 1:7 - For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.
- 1 John 2:19 - **They went out from us**, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.



William Blake's The number of the beast is 666 (1805-1810), Wikiart

THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS

- 2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it [day of the Lord] will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and **the man of lawlessness** (*anthropos te anomias*) is revealed, **the son of destruction** (of what?), 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in **the temple of God**, displaying himself as being God. 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8 Then that **lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming**; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12 in order that **they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.**



THE ANTICHRIST/MAN OF SIN

- The apostasy is “people turning from God’s truth to worship the Antichrist, who will set himself up in God’s temple and claim to be God (v. 4)...the judgments of the day of the Lord will occur in the second half of the seven-year period preceding Christ’s second coming. Thomas L. Constable, *2 Thessalonians*, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*; ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck; (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1983), 2:718.
- When Antichrist signs the covenant with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation (Dan. 9:27), he will be identified by some for who he is. Charles Caldwell Ryrie, ed., *The Ryrie Study Bible, Expanded*, Accordance electronic ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1995)
- Dr. Vern Poythress wrote, “2 Thessalonians 1 Supports Amillennialism” (JETS 1995).



DIFFICULT PASSAGE

- Augustine: "I confess that I am entirely ignorant of what he means to say."
- Marvin Vincent: "I attempt no interpretation of this passage as a whole, which I do not understand."
- AT Robertson: "in such vague form that we can hardly clear it up."
- Leon Morris: "notoriously difficult passage."
- FF Bruce: "there are few New Testament passages which can boast such a variety of interpretations as this."
- The interpretations of this passage are more diverse than those of most passages in the New Testament. Even the translation is not certain (is the restrainer "taken out of the way" or does the lawless one "come forth from the midst" at the end of v. 7?).
Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary*, 601.



MAN OF LAWLESSNESS

Interpreter	Eschatological View	Temple?	Apostasy?	Restrainer?	Man of Lawlessness?
400 Chrysostom	Amillennial	Church	from the Church	Roman Empire	Antichrist
2006 Kim Riddlebarger	Amillennial	Church	from the Church	Angel, Providence, Gospel	Antichrist Spirit
1980 EBC: Thomas	Futurist-Dispensational	Future Temple	from the Church	Holy Spirit	Future Antichrist/"Prince" of Dan. 9
1970 Charles Ryrie	Futurist-Dispensational	Future Temple	from the Church	Holy Spirit	Future Antichrist/"Prince" of Dan. 9
2000 NBC: DA Carson ed	Historic-Premillennial	Church		Angel/Michael	an antichrist
1980 WBC: F.F. Bruce	Historic-Premillennial	Metaphor of Herods' Temple	from Law/Order	Roman Government	a Roman Emperor
1740 John Wesley	Historicist	Church		Lesser Magistrates	Pope/Papacy
1700 Matthew Henry	Historicist	Church		Roman Empire	Pope/Papacy
1545 John Calvin	Historicist	Church	from the Church	Gospel Advance	Pope/Papacy
2016 Ed Stevens	Preterist (unorthodox)	Herod's Temple	Jewish rebellion	Ananias High Priest	Eleazar Ananias (Jew 70AD) Temple Governor
2000 John Noe/John Brav	Preterist (unorthodox)	Herod's Temple	Jewish rebellion	Ananias High Priest	John of Gischala (Jew 70AD) Faction Leader
1878 J. Stuart Russell	Preterist (unorthodox)	Herod's Temple	Jewish rebellion	Claudius (?)	Nero
1800s Adam Clarke	Preterist-Postmill	Church	Romanism	Roman Emperors	Pope/Papacy
2000 Ken Gentry	Preterist-Postmill	Herod's Temple	Jewish rebellion	Imperial Law/Claudius	Nero
1999 Gary Demar	Preterist-Postmill	Church	Jewish rebellion	Agrippa II/Roman Government	A Jewish High Priest (Jew 70AD)
1990 Greg Bahnsen	Preterist-Postmill	Herod's Temple	from the Church	Jews	Rome/Nero
2000 UBC: David Williams		Figurative		Law and order	Future Antichrist
2000 NIB: Smith		Herod's Temple		magistrate, governor, or emperor	Satanic Forces
1990 Tyndale: Leon Morris		Herod's Temple ("somethina like")		I know not what	Antichrist

PRETERIST PEREMETERS

- The Thessalonian Church had a Jewish base: Acts 17:1ff - Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews...Acts 17:4 - some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks.
- The setting is "the temple of God" - probably the temple in Jerusalem.
- Paul (his own time) addressed this while **I was still with you, I was telling you these things?**
- V6 And **you know** what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed.
- V7 For the mystery of lawlessness is **already** at work; only he who **now** restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.
- V8 the appearance of His **coming**;
- because **they** did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.
- 11 **they** will believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in **wickedness**.



THE ANTICHRIST/MAN OF SIN

- “His seat (place) in the temple of God.” “The temple of God” is used of Jerusalem’s temple (Mt 26:61; Rev 11:1); “a temple of God” is used of individual Christians (1Co 3:16) and of believers (2Co 6:16).
- It’s difficult to see how the Christian churches of the first century could have fulfilled this context; but it is rather easy to see how the monumental destruction of the temple in Jerusalem could be such a setting.
- “You know what restrains him now.” Throughout Acts and as indicated in the epistles, the unbelieving Jews are restrained by Rome’s authority.
- At least 20 verses in Acts explicitly refer to the persecution of believers in Jesus by unbelieving Jews.
- Several major events in Acts show that Rome/magistrates protect apostles: in Philippi after beating (16:38), Gallio (18:12), Roman commander stops the beating of Paul, centurion does not scourge Paul (21), Claudius Lysias (23:26, 24:7), Roman soldier house arrest (28), and release (28:18), appeal to Caesar.



THE ANTICHRIST

- Acts 9:23 - the Jews plotted together to do away with him [Paul]
- Acts 9:29 - the Hellenistic Jews...were attempting to put him to death.
- Acts 11:19 - those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch,
- Acts 12:3 - When he [Herod Agrippa I] saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also.
- Acts 13:45 - when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.



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THE ANTICHRIST

- Acts 13:50 - But the Jews incited ... and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.
- Acts 14:2 - But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren.
- Acts 14:5 - And when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone them,
- Acts 14:19 - But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.
- Acts 17:5 - But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason
- Acts 17:13 - But when the Jews of Thessalonica ... they came there as well, agitating and stirring up the crowds.
- Acts 18:12 - the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat
- Acts 20:3 - when a plot was formed against him [Paul] by the Jews



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THE ANTICHRIST

- Acts 20:19 - with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;
- Acts 21:27 - the Jews from Asia, upon seeing him in the temple, began to stir up all the crowd and laid hands on him,
- Acts 23:12 - the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul.
- Acts 24:9 - The Jews also joined in the attack, asserting that these things were so.
- Acts 25:2 - the chief priests and the leading men of the Jews brought charges against Paul
- 2 Corinthians 11:24 - Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:14 - For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews,



William Blake's The number of the beast is 666 (1800-1810), Wikiart

POSTMILL PEREMETERS

- Concern: This is of Jewish Concern
- Congregation: It is intelligible to the then Congregation(s) of Thessalonica
- Context: This “man of lawlessness” “sits” in the Temple of God
- Coming: The Lord will slay this “man” “with the breath of His mouth and bring **to an end** by the appearance of His coming.”
- This is just a fine tuned look at the Olivet Discourses’ “Abomination of Desolation.”



William Blake's The number of the beast is 666 (1805-1810), Wikiart

POSTMILL PEREMETERS

- Temple: Herod's Temple (Mt. 24:1; 27:40; Jn. 2:19)
- Apostasy: Jewish rebellion
 - Luke 23:28–31 - But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of **Jerusalem**, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 "For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' 30 "Then they will begin TO SAY TO THE MOUNTAINS, 'FALL ON US,' AND TO THE HILLS, 'COVER US.' (Hos. 10:8) 31 "For if they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"
- Restrainer: Roman-Temple Working Agreement (Jn. 11:49ff)
"Prophecy that Jesus die for the nation."
- Man of Sin: Eleazar Ananias (Jew 70AD) Temple Governor

