

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12  
The Presence of the Day of the Lord:  
Why God will bring about the end

Paul has explained how we can know when the end is here (vv1-5). He's also shown us why the end is not here yet (vv6-7). In vv8-12, he's going to tell us why God will bring about the end.

The point of this is to confirm the fact that believers in the Lord Jesus Christ will not be judged with the rest of the world.

- In fact, this is the motive that drives chapter two.
  - Paul is deeply concerned that we don't fall back into fear again.
    - Believers must look for and hasten the coming of the Lord because His arrival means salvation from this fallen world.

So, let's listen in as Paul confirms this fact by telling us why God will bring about the end.  
Read/Pray

V8 starts with "then," which clearly connects it with vv6-7.

- In His appointed time, God is going to remove the one through whom He is restraining lawlessness in the world.
  - You will remember that I said that I believe this restraining entity to be the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - Not the external establishment that is called the church but the spiritual body of Christ.
      - The body that is made up of the individuals that have been baptized into Christ through the new birth.
  - When Christ returns for the church, He is going to raise those who have died
    - Paul says that the rest who are alive will be transformed in the blink of an eye and will be caught up together with the resurrected to meet the Lord in the air.

When that happens, then: **read v8**

Now, in **v9**, Paul begins to describe the coming of the man of lawlessness.  
But notice that his point is not to merely describe him.

He wants to get to **v10-12**, where he explains why this depraved man is coming.

So **v9**: in accord with/ in harmony with/ in agreement with the activity of Satan.

- His coming is going to be in fundamental agreement with Satan.
  - What do we know about Satan?
    - His very name means to oppose, obstruct, or accuse.
      - He opposes everything good.
        - ⇒ The coming of the man of lawlessness will be in harmony with this attribute of Satan.
        - ⇒ He is going to oppose everything good and decent and praiseworthy.
        - ⇒ He will do this by suppressing the truth with his lies.

We see signs of this already. Murder is called good in the name of a woman's right to choice. Homosexual behavior is called virtuous in the name of equal rights. In the name of gender equality, male leadership is being undermined. Marriage and family and civil institutions like the police are being vilified and attacked. Boys are encouraged to identify as girls and girls as boys, all in the name of human autonomy and freedom. Hatred is justified under the banner of racial inequality. What is good is called evil, and evil is being praised as virtuous. These are just the beginning. When the man of lawlessness comes, he will take this to its uttermost.

- Paul says that his coming will be with all power.
  - What kind of power?
    - Signs and false wonders and with all the deception of wickedness.

His power is in his ability to convince/deceive. That's the dangerous nature of anything deceptive. It convinces you of the lie. You can feel the force of his presence with the words Paul uses here. He is going to lead everybody astray, and people will not be able to resist him.

Now, notice for a moment what Paul says in v11, "God will send upon them" this powerful deluding influence.

- We must register this
  - God is sending this man of lawlessness.
    - He is not responsible for who the man of lawlessness is.
      - He is a demonic agent of Satan but, behind all the events that lead to the revelation of the man of lawlessness is the sovereign hand of God, our Father.
        - ⇒ This is why Paul says that God is the one who sends this deluding influence

This may be shocking to some, but it shouldn't be.  
God uses evil and turns it into His rod of judgment

- 2 Sam. 12:11-12, 13, 15-18 God sends bitter Absalom for judgment
- Is. 10:5-6, 15 God sends the violent and idolatrous Assyrians for judgment
- Rom. 1:18-32 God gives people over to their evil desires for judgment
- 1 Kings 22 God sends a deceiving spirit to Ahab for judgment

In the same way, God will send the world the man of lawlessness because v10b-12

Right now, there is a window of opportunity in which God gladly has mercy on all who seek reconciliation with Him through Christ.

- It is, for this reason, He sent His son into the world so that the world may be saved through Him.
  - Saved from what?
    - Saved from the just and terrible wrath of God
      - But for those who refuse to humble themselves, this window will close soon, and the one who now stands inviting will turn and lock the door. Then there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
        - ⇒ 1 Pet. 2:6-8

God will bring about the end by sending the man of lawlessness so that all those who refuse to make peace with Jesus Christ may be consumed with the very thing they hold onto – The lie

So, we see that the man of lawlessness is being sent by God for judgment on those who refuse to believe the truth but take pleasure in wickedness.