

Correcting False Ideas

EXEGESIS OF VERSES 1 & 2:

VERSE ONE

“Now we request of you brethren regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him”.

Ἐρωτῶμεν δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, ὑπὲρ τῆς παρουσίας τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ ἡμῶν ἐπισυναγωγῆς ἐπ’ αὐτὸν

(verb-pres.act.ind.2nd.pl ἔρωτάω/erotao **"we request"** + conj. δὲ/de **"now"** + pron-2nd-a-c-pl σύ/su **"you"** + noun-v-m-pl ἀδελφός/adelfhos **"brethren"** + prep-gen. ὑπέρ/huper **"concerning"** + noun-g-f-s w/ d.a. παρουσία/parousia **"the appearance"** + noun-g-m-s w/ d.a. κύριος/kurios **"of the lord"** + pron-1st-g-c-pl ἐγώ/ego **"of us"** + proper noun-g-m-s Ἰησοῦς/Iesous **"Jesus"** + noun-g-n-s χριστός/christos **"Christ"** + conj. καὶ/kai **"and"** + pron-1st-g-c-pl ἐγώ/ego **"our"** + noun-g-f-s ἐπισυναγωγή/episunagoge **"gathering together"** + prep-acc. εἰς/eis **"unto"** + pron-3rd-a-m-s αὐτός/autos **"him"**).

VERSE TWO

“That you not be hastily shaken in your thinking and not be troubled neither through a spirit nor through a word nor through a letter as though it were from us, that the day of the Lord has already come”.

εἰς τὸ μὴ ταχέως σαλευθῆναι ὑμᾶς ἀπὸ τοῦ νοῦς μηδὲ θροεῖσθαι, μήτε διὰ πνεύματος μήτε διὰ λόγου μήτε δι’ ἐπιστολῆς ὡς δι’ ἡμῶν, ὡς ὅτι ἐνέστηκεν ἡ ἡμέρα τοῦ κυρίου·

(prep-acc. εἰς/eis **"into"** + d.a.-a-n-s ὁ/ho **"the..."** + neg. adv. μή/me **"not"** + adv. ταχέως/tacheos **"quickly/hastily"** + verb-aor.pas.inf. σαλεύω/saleuo **"to be shaken"** + pron-2nd-a-c-pl σύ/su **"you"** + prep-abl. ἀπό/apo **"from"** + noun-ab-m-s w/ d.a. νοῦς/nous **"the understanding/reason"** + neg. adv. μηδὲ/mede **"not"** + verb-pres.pas.inf. θροέω/throeo **"to be troubled"** + neg. adv. μήτε/mete **"neither"** + prep-acc. διὰ/dia **"through"** + noun-g-n-s πνεῦμα/pneuma **"a spirit"** + neg. adv. μήτε/mete **"nor"** + prep-gen. διὰ/dia **"through"** + noun-g-m-s λόγος/logos **"a word"** + neg. adv. μήτε/mete **"nor"** + prep-gen. διὰ/dia **"through"** + noun-g-f-s ἐπιστολή/epistole **"a letter"** + adv.. ὡς/hos **"as"** + prep-gen. διὰ/dia **"through"** + pron-1st-g-c-pl ἐγώ/ego **"us"** + conj. ὡς/hos **"so"** + conj. ὅτι/oti **"that"** + verb-perf.act.ind.3rd.s ἐνίστημι/enistehmi **"it has come"** + noun-n-f-s w/ d.a. ἡμέρα/hemera **"the day"** + noun-g-m-s w/ d.a. κύριος/kurios **"of the lord"**).

ANALYSIS OF VERSES 1 & 2:

1. Paul continues with his teaching on the End Times in verse one, where the instruction takes a bit of a turn as we shall soon see.

2. He states in verse one, **“Now we request of you brethren regarding the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him”**.
3. Our word for “request” is the present, active, indicative verb, ἐρωτάω/erotao, to make a request, ask, inquire”
4. The fact that he does not phrase this in the form of an imperative or exhortation does not weaken the language per say. He is merely appealing to them to follow through with his request for them regarding their outlook on the Rapture.
5. He makes reference to the Rapture Doctrine as the παρουσία/parousia, “coming/appearance” and makes reference to “our being gathered to Him”.
6. Such is a reference to the Church, both those who have died and those still alive, who will be caught up in the air to meet the Lord as Paul has already instructed them (I Thess. 4:17).
7. We see specifically what Paul is referring to in verse two where he states, **“That you not be hastily shaken in your thinking and not be troubled neither through a spirit nor through a word nor through a letter as though it were from us, that the day of the Lord has already come”**.
8. We will take the phrase, “the Day of the Lord” as referring to that time period beginning with the Rapture and extending through the Tribulation and Millennial Kingdom.
9. Our word for “thinking” is the ablative, masculine singular noun, νοῦς/nous “mind, thinking, thought, reason, understanding, intellect” (translated as ‘composure’ in the NASB).
10. It is Paul’s concern that these believers have been shaken up on what they thought and believed regarding the End Times.
11. The text is shocking to say the least. First of all, it is evident that Paul is concerned that they are upset due to a potential message from someone posing as an apostle.
12. Secondly, it is shocking that the Thessalonians could be duped into thinking that they had somehow missed out on the Rapture!
13. Paul had recently taught on the “Mystery Doctrine” in his previous letter, which was written a relatively short time before the current one (I Thess. 4:13).
14. It is also evident that they had been instructed in this Doctrine prior to II Thessalonians being written (I Thess. 5:1-11).
15. Hence why are they suddenly confused and thinking the Rapture had already come?
16. The answer lies in what Paul states here. Note that he does not want them to be shaken in their thinking by “...a spirit, nor through a word, nor through a letter as through it were from us...”
17. In other words, someone had passed himself off as being associated with Paul and his ministry!!!
18. Somewhere at some time and in some way, a false teacher(s) had gotten into the congregation and supplied them with such rubbish as a mid-tribulation, post-tribulation or partial rapture view, or else convinced them that the Rapture was not a true Doctrine!!!
19. Paul postulates three potential ways in which this could have occurred. The first is through a “spirit”.
20. “Spirit” is used in the New Testament in certain instances not of the Holy Spirit or the human spirit that all believers possess, but of prophetic utterances given to those who had a communication gift involving direct revelation (1 Co. 14:32; 1 Jn. 4:1; Rev. 22:6).

21. Recall that the early part of the Church Age involved a great deal of direct revelation as the early church did not have a complete canon of Scripture (I Cor. 13:8-10).
22. Hence churches would have travelling prophets or else those from their own congregations give prophetic utterance as God the Holy Spirit inspired them (I Cor. 14:31-4).
23. A second potential way in which the congregation(s) could have been tricked is what Paul simply refers to as “a word”.
24. Such is not a reference to one word merely, but he uses “word” to refer to a message or a teaching.
25. Consider the English phrase, “I would like to have a word with you”.
26. In this scenario, the false teacher instructed and explained false doctrines to these young believers of this new upstart church.
27. Again, this person could have been someone within or outside the congregation.
28. It would be most likely an outsider as such a one claimed to represent Paul and his organization. Such would be hard for a new convert who was a member of the Thessalonian Church(s).
29. However it could have been a teacher who claimed he had correspondence with Paul.
30. The third and final potential way in which the false teacher(s) got his message across is through a “letter”.
31. In other words, such a one composed a letter posing as Paul or one of his associates, teaching the church false doctrine regarding the Rapture.
32. Whatever the case, one thing is clear. These believers were tricked into believing they had either missed the Rapture or had been exposed to some sort of other false doctrine regarding the Rapture.
33. They in essence must have reacted to events occurring around them, thinking that such were part of the End Times scenario.
34. It must be remembered that the Rapture was a new, Mystery Doctrine, and while they had been instructed on it, we do not know what details (beyond which we can glean from this letter) were given to them.
35. The events that we take for granted, having the completed canon of Scripture, were not available to them yet (I Cor. 13:8-10).
36. The book of Revelation would not be penned for another forty years, and even then it would take years and years for copies to be made and distributed to the churches.
37. Hence, we cannot be certain of all that this group understood regarding the Tribulation and what it all involved.
38. Perhaps they looked at the famine and mistreatment of Jewish believers in Judea as well as their own adversity as all being part of the End Times scenario (I Thess. 2:14; 3:3 cp. Acts. 11:28-30).
39. Whatever the case, they were under the impression that they had somehow missed the Rapture and were in the Tribulation (cp. II Tim. 2:17, 18).
40. Hence their belief in and thinking regarding the Doctrine of the Rapture had been shaken. It is Paul’s desire that they do not function in this manner.
41. Rather than ball them out for believing whatever person had sold them this bad bag of goods, he will use it here as an opportunity to teach them the correct Doctrines regarding the Rapture and Tribulation.

42. Note that in no place does Paul state “The Rapture will not occur for 100s or 1000s of years. How could you people possibly be in the Tribulation?!!!”
43. Again, the events of the destruction of Jerusalem, the Tribulation and Second Advent were all taught together (Matt. 24:1ff; Luke 21:1ff).
44. It seems that even Peter thought End Times prophecies were being fulfilled with the Advent of the Church (Acts 2:16-21)
45. Believers in Thessalonica heard of earthquakes, comets (signs in the heavens) persecution and some bad actors at the helm of the Roman Empire.
46. This combined with the false Doctrine given them led them to believe they were not merely living in the last days but in the Tribulation Period.
47. Paul will use the next section of this letter to correct such thinking.

EXEGESIS OF VERSES 3 & 4:

VERSE THREE

“Do not let anyone deceive you in anyway, For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction is revealed”.

μή τις ὑμᾶς ἐξαπατήσῃ κατὰ μηδένα τρόπον. ὅτι ἐὰν μὴ ἔλθῃ ἡ ἀποστασία πρῶτον καὶ ἀποκαλυφθῇ ὁ ἄνθρωπος τῆς ἀνομίας, ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας,

(neg. part. μή/me **"not"** + int.pron-n-m-s τις/tis **"anyone"** + pron-2nd-a-c-pl σύ/su **"you"** + verb-aor.act.subj.3rd.s ἐξαπατάω/exapatao **"deceive"** + prep-acc. κατὰ/kata **"according to"** + card. adj. μηδεὶς/medeis **"not one"** + noun-a-m-s πρόπος/propos **"manner/way"** + conj. ὅτι/hoti **"for"** + conj. ἐάν/ean **"if"** + neg. part. μή/me **"not"** + verb-aor.act.subj. ἐρχομαι/erchomai **"it comes"** + noun-n- f-s w/ d.a. ἀποστασία/apostasia[2xs] **"the apostasy"** + adv. πρῶτος/protos **"first"** + conj. καὶ/kai **"and"** + verb-aor.pass-subj.3rd.s ἀποκαλύπτω/apokaupito [26xs – ‘apocalypse] **"he is revealed"** + noun-n-m-s w/ d.a. ἄνθρωπος/anthropos **"the man"** + noun-g-f-s w/ d.a. ἀνομία/anomia **"of the lawlessness"** + noun-n-m-s w/ d.a. υἱός/huios **"the son"** + noun-g-f-s w/ d.a. ἀπώλεια/apoleia **"of the destruction"**).

VERSE FOUR

“The one who is opposed to and exalts himself over all that is called God or any object of worship so that he sits in the place of God, displaying himself to that he is God”.

ὁ ἀντικείμενος καὶ ὑπεραιρόμενος ἐπὶ πάντα λεγόμενον θεὸν ἢ σέβασμα, ὥστε αὐτὸν εἰς τὸν ναὸν τοῦ θεοῦ καθίσσαι ἀποδεικνύντα ἑαυτὸν ὅτι ἔστιν θεός.

(verb-pres.mid.part.n.m.s w/ d.a. ἀντίκειμαι/antikeimai **"the one who opposed/hostile to"** + conj. καὶ/kai **"and"** + pres.mid.part.n.m.s ὑπεραίρω/hupairo **"who exalts himself"** + prep-acc. ἐπὶ/epi **"above"** + adj-a-m-s πᾶς/pas **"all"** + verb-pres.pas.part.a.m.s λέγω/lego **"called"** + noun-a-m-s θεός/theos **"god"** + conj. ἢ/e **"or"** + noun-a-n-s w/ d.a. σέβασμα/sebasma **"object of worship"** + conj. ὥστε/oste **"so that"** + pron-3rd-a-m-s αὐτός/autos **"he"** + prep-acc. εἰς/eis **"into"** + noun-a-m-s w/ d.a. ναός/naos **"the place"** + noun-g-m-s w/ d.a. θεός/theos **"of the God"** + verb-aor.act.inf. καθίζω/kathidzo **"to sit"** + verb-pres.act.part.a.m.s ἀποδείκνυμι/apodeiknumi **"displaying"** + reflex. pron-3rd-a-m-s ἑαυτοῦ/heautou **"himself"** + rel. ὅτι/hoti **"so that"** + verb-pres.act.ind.3rd.s εἰμί/eimi **"he is"** + noun-n-m-s θεός/theos **"God"**).

ANALYSIS OF VERSES 3 & 4:

1. Paul continues with his exhortation to the Thessalonians that they not be shaken in their thinking, assuming that somehow the Day of the Lord had arrived and they were living in the Tribulation.

2. The first and primary reason that this couldn't occur is the fact that the Antichrist and his program of evil is not on the scene.
3. He states in verse three, **"Do not let anyone deceive you in anyway, For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction is revealed"**.
4. Note that Paul first warns them about being deceived. The Greek literally reads "May not anyone deceive you in any one manner".
5. In other, you are not to be deceived by anyone, anyway, anyhow!!!
6. Jesus gave similar warnings to His disciples (Matt. 24:4-6).
7. Paul notes two events that must come prior to the Tribulation officially beginning.
8. The first is that of "the apostasy". Our word translated as 'apostasy' is the nominative, masculine, singular noun, ἀποστασία/apostasia, "apostasy, rebellion, defection, revolt".
9. The word is used only 2xs in Scripture, here and in Acts 21:21, where Paul was falsely charged by the Jews of leading a rebellion against God.
10. During the Tribulation there is a mass program of rebellion against God and all that is holy. This apostasy happens on the scene as a package, a program that Satan has been planning for a very long time, going all the way back to Paul's day (II Thess. 2:5-8).
11. This evil program of rebellion is brought out by the Antichrist who is here called "the son of destruction" as he will indeed be destroyed (Rev. 17:8, 11).
12. It is the same title given to Judas Iscariot (John 17:12).
13. The Tribulation, which is the first phase of the Day of the Lord, cannot occur without Antichrist on the scene to roll out his program of evil for the human race.
14. The Tribulation begins with Jesus Christ breaking the seven seals. The first of which is the releasing of Antichrist and his conquering much land (Rev. 6:1ff).
15. Hence, not Antichrist, no Tribulation!!! The tribulation cannot officially begin until he is on the scene.
16. Note the language here. Paul states that "the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction is revealed".
17. In other words, Antichrist's big reveal precedes all of the other events of the Tribulation.
18. Such does not mean that he is around and on the scene for years prior to the Tribulation.
19. This information may be hard to hear as we usually consider the Rapture to be the event that begins the Tribulation, and it is. However Paul is stating here for the Tribulation week to commence, Antichrist also must be on the scene.
20. Our word translated as "revealed" is the aorist, passive, subjunctive of ἀποκαλύπτω/apokalupto, "'to uncover, disclose, make known, reveal, to show appear"
21. The aorist tense indicates punctiliar action, or 'action at a point in time' (without reference to how long the action takes).
22. In other words, up until that time, Antichrist had been hidden, concealed, unknown. However there is a specific point at the beginning of the Tribulation where he is known by all.
23. The question we may ask is, will he be revealed prior to the Rapture of the Church?
24. Paul continues in verse four further describing the Antichrist by stating he is **"The one who is opposed to and exalts himself over all that is called God or any object of worship so that he sits in the place of God, displaying himself to that he is God"**.
25. Note, it is not just some things but "all that is called God or any object of worship".

26. During the Tribulation, the Antichrist will not “coexist” with other faiths, certainly not the Judeo-Christian belief system, nor any other system of worship for that matter.
27. He actually will sit himself in the place of God and declare that he is God to the people.
28. He calls himself God and has supernatural wisdom to share with the human race (Ezek. 28:2ff).
29. He speaks out against God (Dan. 7:8, 20-25; 13:6).
30. He rises up against the Prince of Princes (Dan. 8:25).
31. He exalts himself above God and all forms of religion (Dan. 11:36-39).
32. He receives worship from the people (Rev. 13:4-8; 14, 15).
33. He receives worship during the Tribulation and actually takes his place in the temple to receive worship from the Jewish people.
34. Such is what the Bible calls the “abomination of desolation”. This event and phase of Antichrist’s program takes place in the middle of the Tribulation (Dan. 11:31; 12:11; Matt. 24:15; Mark. 13:14).
35. However in the *initial part* of his program, he emerges as a brilliant political leader and problem solver who claims to bring peace to the world (Dan. 7:8; I Thess. 5:3; Rev. 6:2).
36. This leads many to follow him. Paul is stating that this is going to be a huge worldwide movement and it will be evident who the Antichrist is and what his program is all about.
37. None of this existed at the time, hence the Thessalonians simply could not be in the Tribulation!!!

EXEGESIS OF VERSES 5 & 6:

VERSE FIVE

“Do you not remember that while I was still with you that I kept on telling you things?”

Οὐ μνημονεύετε ὅτι ἔτι ὦν πρὸς ὑμᾶς ταῦτα ἔλεγον ὑμῖν;

(neg. part. οὐ/ou **"not"** + verb-pres.act.ind.2nd.pl μνημονεύω/mneoneuo **"you remember"** + conj. ὅτι/hoti **"that"** + adv. ἔτι/eti **"while"** + prep-acc. πρὸς/pros **"with"** + pron-2nd-a-c-pl σύ/su **"you"** + near demonstr. adj.-a-n-pl οὗτος/houtos **"these things"** + verb-imperf.act.ind.1st.s **"I kept on telling"** + pron-2nd-d-c-pl σύ/su **"you"**).

VERSE SIX

“And you know the one who now restrains him until he is revealed in his own time”.

καὶ νῦν τὸ κατέχον οἶδατε εἰς τὸ ἀποκαλυφθῆναι αὐτὸν ἐν τῷ ἑαυτοῦ καιρῷ.

(conj. καὶ/kai **"and"** + adv. νῦν/nun **"now"** + verb-pres.act.prt-a-c-pl w/ d.a. κατέχω/katecho **"the one restraining"** + verb-imperf.act.ind.2nd.pl οἶδα/oida **"you kept on knowing"** + prep-acc. εἰς/eis **"unto"** + verb-aor.pass.inf. w/ d.a. ἀποκαλύπτω/apokalupto [apocalypse] **"the revealing"** + pron-3rd-a-m-s αὐτός/autos **"him"** + prep-loc. ἐν/en **"in"** pron-g-m-s ἑαυτοῦ/heautou **"one's own"** + noun-l-m-s καιρός/kairos **"time"**).

ANALYSIS OF VERSES 5 & 6:

1. Paul continues with his address to the Thessalonians regarding the Antichrist with a question directed to his readers.
2. He states in verse five, **“Do you not remember that while I was still with you that I kept on telling you things?”**
3. Paul again relies on his prior communication with the Thessalonians, specifically that communication that he gave them while he was with them ministering in Thessalonica.
4. Such again hints at the fact that he spent quite a bit more time with them than merely three Sabbaths (Acts. 17:1-10).
5. He spent a considerable amount of time teaching them (exactly how long cannot be discerned). However it was significant as he taught them quite a bit.
6. Note the use of the imperfect, active, indicative of λέγω/lego. Paul did not merely mention this but “kept on telling” them these things regarding the Antichrist, the fact that he needed to be on scene for the Tribulation to begin and that he would oppose God and all other religion other than his own.
7. The Thessalonians were very culpable on this subject, and while this young upstart church had legendary accolades hurled upon them for their high level of application under adversity, herein lies their Achilles heel (I Thess. 1:7, 8)!!!
8. They had dropped the ball regarding their GAPing key ideas and concepts related to the end times thereby paving the way for some charlatan(s) to slip them a Mickey fin (II Thess. 2:1, 2).

9. Their confusion was to the effect that they had somehow missed out on the Rapture and were in the midst of the Tribulation which somehow did not feature any notable person who could function as the Antichrist!!!
10. **Principle:** Not rightly dividing the word of Truth, to include prophesy, can jamb you up spiritually.
11. Again, Paul appeals to their memory regarding what he has taught them as a proof text for his assertion (II Thess. 2:1, 5, 9-11; 4:1; 5:1 cp. Matt 16:9; Mark 8:18; Luke 24:6,7 John 16:4; Acts 20:31; II Pet. 1:15).
12. It is important that we listen to the WOG intently and commit it to memory. The Spirit will help us to recall it in a time of need.
13. They should have known that their being in the Tribulation was a fallacy. They failed to recall or else had failed by put stock in the Doctrine which was already taught to them!
14. He notes the content of what they already know about the Antichrist in verse six where he states, "**And you know the one who now restrains *him* until he is revealed in his own time**".
15. Who is this person whom they know is restraining the Antichrist? Although unnamed, it is the Holy Spirit, the One Jesus left with His Church till He returns (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7).
16. The Holy Spirit is the behind the scenes member of the Trinity. Part of His mission is to restrain the Mystery of Lawlessness" from reaching fruition until the time comes. It was already at work even in Paul's day (II Thess. 2:7).
17. The Holy Spirit will continue to do so until the time for the Tribulation comes and the Antichrist has his big reveal.
18. Note that it will happen "in his own time". Such is a reference to the Tribulation which is a relatively short period of time (Rev. 12:12).
19. Our word for "revealed" is the aorist, passive infinitive of ἀποκαλύπτω/apokalupto, "to uncover, make known, reveal, show appear".
20. It is the same word from which we get our English word, *apocalypse*.
21. The aorist tense indicates punctiliar action or "action at a point in time", without reference to duration.
22. There will be a specific time or event whereby Antichrist will make himself known to the world. It will no doubt be a very big deal and people will swoon over him.
23. Just as our Lord is revealed in the last days both at the Rapture and His Second Advent, so Antichrist has his own, counterfeit reveal as he happens upon the scene (II Thess. 2:8).
24. At some point, he reveals himself and such gets the clock ticking on the Tribulation clock.
25. It occurs when Jesus Cracks the first of the seven seals (Rev. 6:1).
26. Antichrist is revealed when the "apostasy" comes on the scene (II Thess. 2:3).
27. It is of interest that Paul taught them so thoroughly on the Rapture, Tribulation, Second Advent and Antichrist, very soon after their conversion.
28. Hence eschatology, doctrines involving the last days, is an important foundation for Christians early on in their ph2.
29. Again, nowhere does Paul state that the Rapture is hundreds if not 1000s of years away, indicating that they held on to the possibility that the return of Christ could happen in their lifetimes.

EXEGESIS OF VERSES 7 & 8:

VERSE SEVEN

“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, only the one who is restraining him now will do so until he goes away”.

τὸ γὰρ μυστήριον ἤδη ἐνεργεῖται τῆς ἀνομίας· μόνον ὁ κατέχων ἄρτι ἕως ἐκ μέσου γίνηται.

(d.a.-n-n-s ὁ/ho **"the"** + conj. γάρ/gar **"for"** + noun-n-n-s μυστήριον/musterion **"mystery"** + adv. ἤδη/ede **"already"** + verb-p-m-ind.3rd.s ἐνεργέω/energeo [energy] **"he keeps on working/remaining active"** + noun-f-f-s w/ d.a. ἀνομία/onomia **"of the lawlessness"** + adv. μόνος/monos **"only"** + verb-pres.act.part.n-m-s w/ d.a. κατέχω/katecho **"the one who is restraining"** + adv. ἄρτι/arti **"now"** + conj. ἕως/heos **"until"** + prep-abl. ἐκ/ek **"out from"** + adj-ab-n-s μέσος/mesos **"the midst"** + verb-aor.dep.subj.3rd.s γίνομαι/ginomai **he becomes"**).

VERSE EIGHT

“And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will destroy by the breath of His mouth and He will bring him to an end by the appearance of His coming”.

(conj. καὶ/kai **"and"** + adv. τότε/tote **"then"** + verb-fut.pas.ind.3rd.s ἀποκαλύπτω/apokalupto **"he will be revealed"** + adj-n-m-s w/ d.a. ἀνομας/anomas **"the lawless one"** + rel. pron-a-m-s. ὅς/hos **"whom"** + noun-n-m-s w/ d.a. κύριος/kurios **"the lord"** + verb-fut.act.ind.3rd.s ἀναιρέω/anaireo **"will destroy"** + noun-i-n-s w/ d.a. πνεῦμα/pneuma **"by the breath"** + noun-g-n-s w/ d.a. στόμα/stoma **"of the mouth"** + pron-3rd-g-n-s αὐτός/autos **"of him"** + conj. καὶ/kai **"and"** + verb-fut.act.ind.3rd.s καταργέω/katargeo **"he will bring to an end"** + noun-d-f-s w/ d.a. ἐπιφάνεια/epiphaneia **"by the appearance"** + noun-g-f-s w/ d.a. παρουσία/parousia **"of the coming"** + pron-3rd-g-m-s αὐτός/autos **"of him"**).

ANALYSIS OF VERSES 7 & 8:

1. Paul continues with his description of the end time scenario, explaining again what will occur in the Tribulation.
2. He states in the first clause of verse seven, **“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work...”**
3. The postpositive conjunction, γάρ/gar, “for”, links this sentence with what is said in verse six regarding the saints’ knowledge of Satan’s plan for the end times being restrained.
4. The phrase “mystery of lawlessness” is used only here in the Bible. It describes the works of Satan and his plan for the end times, but how is it a “mystery”?
5. Our word translated as “mystery” is nominative, neuter, singular noun, μυστήριον/musterion, "a mystery, secret, a secret rite; a religious technical term in the cults of the Greco-Roman world, a religious secret confided only to the initiated, what

can be known only through revelation mediated from God, a divine secret, something above human intelligence" (Matt. 13:11; Rom 16:25; I Cor. 2:7).

6. Both our word for mystery and our word for lawlessness, ἀνομία/onomia, both have the article. The passage literally reads "the mystery...the lawless one", indicating that there is a specific mystery and a specific type of lawlessness involved in it.
7. But how is this lawlessness a mystery? It is a mystery because all of the details of his sinister plan are hard to know (cp. Rev. 17:5ff).
8. Many of the details are only given to the initiated. Who are the initiated? Those committed to Satan's plan of lawlessness. However through Bible Doctrine, we too can understand it *to a certain degree*.
9. While it may be interesting to try to peel back the layers of the onion on the Deep State New World Order, realize that there are wealthy powerful people that are very good at covering their tracks.
10. There are certain things about Satan's end time plan that we will not know about until it comes.
11. However, interesting that Paul states that it was "already at work" in his day.
12. Our word translated as "at work" is the present, middle indicative verb, ἐνεργέω/energeo, from which we get our English word, "energy".
13. The present tense demonstrates continuous, ongoing action. Hence the mystery of lawlessness "keeps on being at work" during Paul's generation!
14. Satan has been planning his work and working his plan for a long time, going all the way back to the first century AD at least.
15. His works include, sending out his angels and demons to infiltrate various governmental, religious, educational and business establishments and corrupting them into supporting his warped views and absurd propaganda.
16. He has been at work doing this for a very long time, even though he knows he has only a short time to implement it (Rev. 12:12).
17. However he can only go so far in his plans. For much of human history he has been restrained in his agenda.
18. Paul states in the final clause of verse seven stating **"...only the one who is restraining him now will do so until he goes away"**.
19. The restrainer is said to continue to restrain Satan and his organization. That does not mean that they cannot engage in a great deal of evil.
20. However they do not have *unrestrained access* to the earth and the people on it to execute his New World Order. There are things he is able to do and things that he is not permitted to do.
21. Hence, while Satan can plot and plan, the execution of these things has been greatly limited over the past 2000 years.
22. In the Tribulation He removes the restraint completely and allows the devil his "time in the sun" so to speak.
23. As time goes on and we get closer to the end we will see similar levels of evil that have not existed since the time of the flood (Gen. 8:21).
24. As previously stated, the one who has restrained him is the only one who CAN RESTRAIN Satan, namely God.

25. In view is *the behind the scenes ministry* of God the Holy Spirit who has greatly limited Satan over the years but does so less and less till He eventually goes away completely from this ministry and gives the human race over to their stupidity.
26. Note the shift from the neuter to the masculine gender in vv. 6 & 7. Jesus referred to the Spirit in both the neuter and masculine as well (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13).
27. He is masculine in gender as He is God. However our word for “spirit”, πνεῦμα/pneuma is in the neuter.
28. Note too that He is not “taken out of the way” as the NASB translates it. There is no passive voice in our verb for “goes away”, the present, deponent, indicative of γίνομαι/ginomai.
29. Since the final great manifestation of the mystery of lawlessness is the appearance of antichrist and since the antichrist coming to power involves a resuscitated person from hell returning to the earth, God has to give the green light for it to occur.
30. Once he removes His restraint, antichrist is able to come back to earth in a new body and be revealed.
31. It is not as if the Holy Spirit leaves the scene completely.
32. He is first of all God and therefore omnipresent. Secondly He will continue to convict the world of sin and the need for a Savior as well as work His ministry of Regeneration for those who make the SAJG in the Tribulation.
33. Paul continues in verse eight where he states, **“And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will destroy by the breath of His mouth and He will bring him to an end by the appearance of His coming”**.
34. The “lawless one” is a reference to the antichrist.
30. Our word for “revealed” is the future, passive indicative verb, ἀποκαλύπτω/apokalupto, , "to uncover, make known, reveal, show appear".
35. It is the same word we saw in our previous verse. However note that it is in the passive voice. The antichrist “will be revealed”.
36. Satan will work out some elaborate way to show or present the antichrist to the human race in some sort of dramatic reveal.
37. However at the end of the Tribulation, Satan and the Antichrist fail to beat God to the Millennium and secure a win in the angelic conflict.
38. Jesus Christ Himself will also have a big reveal and will destroy the antichrist by the “appearance of His coming”.
39. As part of his parousia, “coming”, Jesus destroys the antichrist and sends him to the LOF (Dan. 7:10, 11, 26; Rev. 19:20).
40. Note that He does this with “the breath of His mouth”. Such does not indicate that the Lord “breaths fire” so to speak but that he speaks and the antichrist is destroyed (Isa. 11:4; Rev. 1:6; 2:16; 19:15 cp. Ps. 33:6).

EXEGESIS OF VERSES 9 & 10:

VERSE NINE

"The one whose coming is in accordance with the working of Satan with all kinds of false power and signs and wonders".

οὗ ἐστιν ἡ παρουσία κατ' ἐνέργειαν τοῦ Σατανᾶ ἐν πάσῃ δυνάμει καὶ σημείοις καὶ τέρασιν ψεύδους

(rel. pron-g-m-s ὅς/hos "**whose**" + verb.pres.act.ind.3rd.s εἰμί/eimi "**is**" + noun-n-f-s w/ d.a. παρουσία/parousia "**the coming**" + prep-acc. "according to" noun-a-f-s ἐνέργεια/energeia "**power/working**" + proper noun-g-m-s w/ d.a. Σατανᾶς/Satanas "**Satan**" + prep-inst. ἐν/en "**with**" + adj-i-f-s πᾶς/pas "**all**" + noun-l-f-s δύναμις/dunamis "**power**" + conj. καὶ/kai "**and**" + noun-l-n-pl σημεῖον/semeion "**signs**" + conj. καὶ/kai "**and**" + noun-l-n-pl τέρας/teras "**wonders/marvels**" + noun-g-n-s ψεύδος/pseudos [pseudonym] "**false/fake**").

VERSE TEN

And with all deception of unrighteousness for those perishing, who have not received the love of the truth in order to be saved".

καὶ ἐν πάσῃ ἀπάτῃ ἀδικίας τοῖς ἀπολλυμένοις, ἀνθ' ὧν τὴν ἀγάπην τῆς ἀληθείας οὐκ ἐδέξαντο εἰς τὸ σωθῆναι αὐτούς.

(conj. καὶ/kai "**and**" + prep-inst. ἐν/en "**with**" + adj-i-f-s πᾶς/pas "**all**" + noun-inst-f-s ἀπάτη/apate "**deception**" + noun-g-f-s ἀδικία/adikia "**of unrighteousness**" + verb.pres.mid.part.d-m-pl w/ d.a. ἀπόλλυμι/apollumi "**for the ones perishing**" + prep-gen. ἀντί/anti "**instead of**" + rel. pron-g-n-pl ὅς/hos "**which**" + noun-a-f-s w/ d.a. ἀγάπη/agape "**the love**" noun-g-f-s ἀλήθεια/aletheia "**of the truth**" + neg. adv. οὐ/ou "**not**" + verb-aor.dep.ind.3rd.pl δέχομαι/dechomai "**they received**" + prep-acc. εἰς/eis "**into**" + verb-aor-pas.inf. w/ d.a. σώζω/sodzo "**being saved**" + to be verb [supplied] "**are**" + pron-3rd-a-m-pl αὐτός/autos "**they**").

ANALYSIS OF VERSES 9 & 10:

1. Having just described the antichrist in verses 7 & 8, Paul goes on to describe him as **"The one whose coming is in accordance with the working of Satan with all kinds of false power and signs and wonders"**.
2. Again we have a reference to the antichrist's "coming", where the nominative, feminine, singular noun, παρουσία/parousia, is used.
3. His "coming" is his "reveal" which will function as a cheap substitute to our Lord's "coming".
4. While God the Holy Spirit allows this to happen, as He is no longer restraining him, it is evident here that Satan is the power that is sponsoring and supporting this activity.

5. Our word translated as “working” is the accusative, singular noun, ἐνέργεια/energeia "power, energy, activity, work". It is the Greek root from which we get our English word, “energy”.
6. Usually this word is used in association with God’s power (Eph. 1:19; 3:7; Phil. 3:21; Col. 1:29; 2:12).
7. Here it is used in reference to Satan, as a powerful angel, working behind the scenes to sponsor, support and aid antichrist in his rise to power and his fooling the masses.
8. Satan is the one making this happen. However, since the antichrist is a resuscitated person from hell, it is evident that God allows for this to occur and actually has a part in the matter (Rev. 11:7; 17:8).
9. This is another way in which the antichrist is a false Christ. Satan tries to come as close to mimicking Jesus as possible.
10. Hence, just as Jesus had God supporting Him in His ministry and miracles, so Satan is the power behind the antichrist (Rev. 13:2, 17:8).
11. At this point we can only speculate whether antichrist is possessed by Satan. He is only said to be empowered by Satan. However Satan has a history of possessing people or creatures to further his plans (Gen.3:1; Luke 22:3).
12. He is said to come on the scene with “all types of false power and signs and wonders”.
13. Note that all of these powers, signs and wonders are said to be “false”. Such does not indicate that he is not able to do amazing things from a human perspective.
14. These are not mere magic tricks. Rather, they are called false due to the fact that they are deceptive in nature and mimic true miracles of God.
15. They are also false in that they lead people to the wrong conclusions of who the antichrist is. People actually believe that he is a divine being and worship him (Rev. 13:4 cf. 12-15).
16. These signs and wonders are also deceptive in that they convince people to follow after the antichrist and join in his evil (Rev. 13:3, 4).
17. What’s more they are not true miracles from God, but counterfeit imitations used merely to impress the human race into accepting antichrist and his satanic religion.
18. When God performs miracles they are used to deliver, heal and encourage the faith of His people, not sell them a bag of false goods as the devil and antichrist will do.
19. However when people see them, they will be impressed. One can only imagine what a following a leader would have if he could make fire come out of heaven as well as produce other signs and wonders live on television and the internet for the world to see.
20. These three words, “power signs and wonders” were used of Jesus’ ministry and works (Acts 2:22).
21. Antichrist seeks to pass himself off as Christ and as God whereby he receives worship from the human race, particularly those who receive the mark.
22. Jesus warned His followers of such false prophets and false Christ’s in the Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24:24).
23. He continues in verse ten where he states that antichrist’s coming is “**...with all deception of unrighteousness for those perishing, who have not received the love of the truth in order to be saved**”.
24. Realize that antichrist is deceiving the masses because he is not what he portends to be. He does not have the best interests and concerns of the human race in view.
25. He does not love humanity as our Heavenly Father does (John 3:16).

26. Indeed he wants to enslave the human race via the mark, which is much more than a tattoo, as well as murder all of the Jews.
27. He wants to take over the entire world and establish some sort of lasting peace whereby he can beat God to the Millennium (Rev. 13:11-14).
28. However, while believers are subject to his deception, those in unbelief are particularly susceptible as they lack access to the Holy Spirit.
29. Such ones are referred to here as “those perishing” (spiritually speaking – I Cor. 1:18; 2:15; 4:3)
30. Such ones are also described as those “...who have not received the love of the truth in order to be saved”.
31. This phrase, “the love of the truth”, is found only here in Scripture and cues us into a central truth regarding the Gospel.
32. Those who reject it do not reject it merely because they have not heard it or do not understand it. They reject the message because they hate what it has to say and love falsehood in its stead (John 3:19).
33. Such ones are easy targets for Satan and antichrist’s propaganda and false doctrinal campaign of unrighteousness (cp. II cor. 4:4; 11:14; Eph. 2:2).
34. What’s more, God sends upon them a deluding influence in the Tribulation (II Thess. 2:11).
35. While Satan has had his way with unbelievers for thousands of years now, realize that in the Tribulation, those that receive the mark are objects of his deception as people have never been before.
36. What’s more his deception is tied to and associated with their receiving the mark (Rev. 19:20; 20:10).
37. Once one is deceived into receiving the mark of the beast, he enters a point of no return whereby he cannot be saved and is sealing his fate in the LOF (Rev. 14:9-11).
38. Believers on the other hand are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Rev. 7:3 cp. Eph. 4:30).