

## 2 Thessalonians 2:7 Who is Taken Out of The Way?

2 Thessalonians 2:7

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.

This verse is twisted by dispensationalists to mean rapture.

**The mystery of lawlessness already at work** is the workings of the antichrist, false teachers and deception. Apostasy started back at the time of the Apostles and has steadily continued up to this very day and will continue until the return of Christ. Mystery of lawlessness is pictured in Revelation 6, 12 and 13 as the Antichrist; the Great Red Dragon; the Beast from the Sea with 7 heads and 10 horns; the Beast from the earth with 2 horns like a lamb, yet speaks like the Dragon; the image of the Beast which comes to life and is the False Prophet. Satan the Devil is the Red Dragon of Revelation from where the others derive their source of power. The spirit of antichrist was and is already at work upon the earth.

**Only he who now restrains until he is taken out of the way.** He who now restrains is God and the he who is taken out of the way is the Antichrist, the Beast and False Prophet of Revelation and not, as the apostate theology of dispensationalism would have you believe, the Holy Spirit, the church.

Dispensational Theology is classic twisting of Scripture to falsely proclaim the apostate teaching of rapture. The context of the chapter is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ returns once and only once, not twice, not in two stages. Dispensationalists paint Jesus to resemble a Saturn Rocket more than our Creator God, the Second Person of the Triune. A simple exegesis of Scripture (which dispensationalists hate, for obvious reasons) will once again expose dispensationalism as pure folly and wives tales become doctrine.

### Exegesis

The first part of this verse is Present Tense, Middle Voice, Indicative mood in the Greek language. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work does not seem to pose much difficulty for anybody. It is the second part of this verse that is subject to scrutiny and must be exegesed to find the proper understanding.

2 Thessalonians 2:7b (NASB95)

only <3440 monon> he who now <737 arti> **restrains** <2722 katecho> (5723) *will do so until* <2193 heos> **he is taken** <1096 ginomai> out of the way <3319 mesos>.

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2 Thessalonians 2:7b (Authorized Version)

only <3440 monon> he who now <737 arti> letteth <2722 katecho> (5723) will let, until <2193 heos> he be taken <1096 ginomai> (5638) out of <1537 ek> the way <3319 mesos>.

2 Thessalonians 2:7b (Textus Receptus)

monon <3440 only> o <3588 who> katecwn <2722 hold fast> (5723) arti <737 now> ewv <2193 until> ek <1537 of, from> mesou <3319 midst, among> genhtai <1096 be> (5638)

Most good lexicons will provide the student of Scripture with proper information on the Greek language concerning proper translation. The number in parenthesis (5723), for the first part of the text in 27b is written in Present Tense, Active Voice and Participle Mood in the Greek. The second part of this verse (5638) is written in Second Aorist Tense, Middle Deponent Voice and Subjunctive Mood. A raw English translation that stays true to the Greek Tense, Mood and Voice of the Textus Receptus text could read as follows:

*Monon ho katecho* (mon'-on ho kat-ekh'-o) ... Only who holds fast (5723)  
*arti heos* (ar-tee heh'-oce) ... now till ek mesos ginomai (ek mes'-os ghin'-om-ahce) ... from amidst be (5638).

A smoother translation staying true to the original language could be:

**Only who restrains now until from our midst he comes to be.**

Not only is the word *taken* and *way* not direct translations of the text but an **insert** into the text, without identifying itself to be. The verse seems to be strongly stating the professing church may be the source or origin (ek mesos ... from midst) of the mystery of lawlessness.

The source of deception is coming from the pseudochristian church, and not God's true church.

There is nowhere in this verse, regardless of how it is translated, anyone or anything being taken away by rapture. The mystery of lawlessness being restrained by God is the lawless doctrines and teachings emerging from within ... within the midst of those professing to be Christian, but in truth are not. It seems the Beasts, the Antichrist and the False Prophet will emerge from those professing themselves as the church, the body of Christ.

With that said, let's examine the definitions and translations of the key words in the latter part of this verse.

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### Definitions

#### 2722 katecw katecho (*kat-ekh'-o*)

from 2596 and 2192; TDNT-2:829,286; v

AV-hold 3, hold fast 3, keep 2, possess 2, stay 1, take 1, have 1, make 1, misc 5; 19

- 1) to hold back, detain, retain
  - 1a) from going away
  - 1b) to restrain, hinder (the course or progress of)
    - 1b1) that which hinders, Antichrist from making his appearance
    - 1b2) to check a ship's headway i.e. to hold or head the ship
  - 1c) to hold fast, keep secure, keep firm possession of
- 2) to get possession of, take
  - 2b) to possess

#### 1537 ek ek (*ek*) or ex ex (*ex*)

a primary preposition denoting origin (the point whence action or motion proceeds), from, out (of place, time, or cause; literal or figurative; prep.

AV-of 366, from 181, out of 162, by 55, on 34, with 25, misc 98; 921

- 1) out of, from, by, away from

#### 3319 mesov mesos (*mes'-os*)

from 3326; adj

AV-midst 41, among 6, from among + 1537 5, midnight + 3571 2, misc 5; 61

- 1) middle
- 2) the midst
- 3) in the midst of, amongst

#### 1096 ginomai ginomai (*ghin'-om-ahee*)

a prolongation and middle voice form of a primary verb; TDNT-1:681,117; v

AV-be 255, come to pass 82, be made 69, be done 63, come 52, become 47, God forbid + 3361 15, arise 13, have 5, be fulfilled 3, be married to 3, be preferred 3, not tr 14, misc 4, vr done 2; 678

- 1) to become, i.e. to come into existence, begin to be, receive being
- 2) to become, i.e. to come to pass, happen
  - 2a) of events
- 3) to arise, appear in history, come upon the stage
  - 3a) of men appearing in public
- 4) to be made, finished
  - 4a) of miracles, to be performed, wrought
- 5) to become, be made

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### Conclusion

Exegesis once again provides proof positive rapture (pre-, mid- or post-) is a creation of man and not a truth of God. Rapture is a man made substitute for God's true teaching that believers who remain alive upon the earth are active participants of the First Resurrection.

The attempt of any theology to use this verse as a proof text for rapture is simply unsound and false teaching. He who restrains is not speaking about the Holy Spirit working through His church to restrain Satan and then be taken away into heaven to return later.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Let no one in any way deceive you, for [it will not come] unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

Those *claiming* to be the church are the initiators and creators of the great falling away, the Great Apostasy. Verse three is referring to the ONE and ONLY return of Christ at which time we seek the **First Resurrection** of the living and the dead in Christ, the binding Satan and the deceivers into the pit or abyss for a 1,000 year period.

In fact, chapter 2 of Second Thessalonians is speaking about the ONE-TIME, ONE-STAGE return of Jesus and the gathering of the church to Him at His ONE and ONLY Second Return. The church at Thessalonica was disturbed because false teachers and false letters were being circulated among the churches that claimed The Day of the Lord has already happened. Evidently, some were falsely claiming the persecution to be Great Tribulation and First Resurrection had already occurred. This is not a new thing for Paul had to in many ways refute this more than once.

2 Timothy 2:18

[men] who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

This second letter to Timothy was about 15 years after Paul's second letter to the Thessalonica church. These heresies and heretics are quite a persistent bunch of pseudo-christians and pseudo-apostles claiming authority and falsifying Apostolic letters and letters of recommendation for themselves (2 Peter 2 and Jude 4, 8-20). Paul takes special effort to authenticate this and all future letters.

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2 Thessalonians 3:17

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand, and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter; this is the way I write.

Now back to 2 Thessalonians 2:7.

2 Thessalonians 2:7

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.

God is restraining the working ... deceptions of Satan from within what some profess to be the church ... until his full emergence and full deception completely manifests itself. Only then will Jesus come to take him away and bind him 1,000 years.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

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;

What happens before the removal and binding of Satan? The 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection of believers to the Bema Seat, the Judgment of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the **judgment seat <bema> of Christ**, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Second Thessalonians 2:3 also defeats the *imminent return* of Jesus. Rapture strongly indicates imminence as an essential doctrine, Christ can return at any time to rapture His church. Scripture **STRONGLY** refutes the imminent return of Jesus and **STRONGLY** teaches **ONE** and **ONLY ONE** return of Jesus. Jesus' return is *impending* but the complex of events surrounding the Second Return of Jesus Christ is imminent ... let no apostate dispensationalist deceive you otherwise.

If truth be known, the doctrine of dispensationalism is a strong element of the Great Apostasy. What will happen to the faith of some who believe in pretribulation rapture when the reality that there is no rapture and there is tribulation comes to pass? The church is called to prepare the saints for Jesus but what some are doing ill-prepares them by hoping in rapture instead.

When the truth that there is no rapture manifests itself, and tribulation increases into Great Tribulation, there will indeed be a Great Falling Away due to ... Apostasy. Those falling away will be likened to the 5 virgins of Matthew 25, those

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who do not have enough oil to endure to the end ... the return of Jesus. Many will simply in anger feel deceived (they were) and as a result will continue to be deceived by the Great Red Dragon, the Beast from the Sea, The Beast from the Earth, and the False Prophet who will deceive again the apostates into receiving the Mark of the Beast of Revelation 13 whose reign of terror is the first six seals of Revelation, that culminates into Great Tribulation, the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal of Revelation that ends at the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet Judgment. The return of Jesus is at the Last (7<sup>th</sup>) Trumpet of the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal of Revelation.

1 Corinthians 15:52

in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet**; for the trumpet will sound, and the **dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection when the dead are raised and living saved will be changed at the ONE and ONLY Second Coming of Jesus. It is this reality of the change from mortal to immortal at the First Resurrection that the dispensationalists have perverted to mean rapture. Those who are instantaneously changed will rise up to meet Jesus in the air, go before the Judgment Seat of Christ and return to the earth with Jesus.

Unless one divorces themselves from the false teaching of dispensationalism, and apostasy, one will NEVER be prepared to know the difference between True from false, Good from evil, Truth from deception. The deceived will not know how to discern the difference between the seal of God on their forehead and the mark of the beast on their forehead or wrist because they believe they will not need to know the difference because they will not be around, they will be in heaven with Jesus. Dispensationalism has in effect *taken away* from the Book of Revelation, taken away those the book is written to and written for ... the church.

Revelation 22:19

and if **anyone takes away** from the words of the book of this prophecy, **God will take away his part from the tree of life** and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

False teachers and false believers when confronted Scripturally that their much beloved rapture theory is a hoax, they usually retort, "Well, if you don't want to be in the rapture, you don't have to be" as if this is something of their choosing; If you believe in rapture, you will be. It does however show how they entice the desires of the flesh ... preserving your life. But what does Jesus teach us?

Mark 8:35

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

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Cliché's seem to work better for this lot of deceivers than does the truth of God.

Mark 13:20

"Unless the Lord had shortened [those] days, no life would have been saved; but for the **sake of the elect**, whom He chose, **He shortened the days**.

For the sake of the elect, the born again believers ... the true church of God, Jesus shortens the days of Great Tribulation by appearing immediately after the Second Woe. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet Judgments of the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal of Revelation are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe respectfully. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Woe of Revelation does not have any of the saints of God in flesh at that time for the 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection of the saints occurs before the Third Woe of Revelation ... The Wrath of God.

Those who smugly believe they would be whisked away into heaven may very well find themselves to be in the thick of Great Tribulation here on earth. The 10 virgins of Matthew 26 speaks to about half of those proclaiming to be the bride of Christ will not have enough oil to sustain themselves until the coming of Messiah Jesus. Those who do not endure to the end will not be in the 1st Resurrection of believers at the return of Christ.

If this be the case, does it not seem fitting that the apostates who replaced Gods promise of Resurrection to believers alive upon the earth with the apostate teaching of rapture to not even participate in the First Resurrection of the living and the dead? When they laugh and say, "you don't have to be in the rapture if you don't want to," perhaps God laughs saying it is they who will not participate in the First Resurrection of the saints? The verses they claim to be rapture is in truth the 1st Resurrection, the 7th Seal at the 7th Trumpet (last) of Revelation.

1 Corinthians 15:52

in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

Now let's return to verse 7 of Second Thessalonians . God is the one restraining the pseudochristian church from the full manifestation of the fullness of deception from the antichrist, and the beasts and dragon of Revelation. They are being restrained until the fullness of the Gentiles is grafted into Israel, and Israel herself, the natural branch, comes to a saving relationship through much tribulation.

Revelation 7:1-3

1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

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2 And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,  
3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees **until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God** on their foreheads."

The sealing happens during the 6th Trumpet of the 7th Seal, just prior to the return of Christ. It is a blatant *lie* that the church is not mentioned after chapter four of Revelation.

Dispensationalism is such a convoluted and apostate system of theology that it may never repent of her deeds nor prepare the saints for the reality of waiting patiently for the ONE and ONLY return of Jesus. The church will be upon the earth during the times of Great Tribulation. Dispensationalism has so twisted the truth of the church not being grafted into Israel and their twisting and denial of Gods Word by inventing a rapture doctrine ... and a pre-tribulation rapture at that. The flesh appeal of this doctrine is simply too irresistible for carnal humanity to ignore.