

Christ's Return

A. The coming of the Lord.

“Now we beseech you, brethren, **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,**” 2 Thessalonians 2:1 ερωτωμεν δε υμας αδελφοι υπερ της παρουσιας του κυριου ημων ιησου χριστου και ημων επισυναγωγης επ αυτον.

1. “By the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ,” - υπερ της **παρουσιας** του κυριου ημων ιησου χριστου

Paul has been discussing certain things in his letter, but the main subject, above all the other subjects, *huper*, is the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ back to earth. He mentions it earlier in his letter in 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, **when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.**”

It is an event characterized by Christ returning in flaming fire, accompanied by his mighty angels, recompensing tribulation to them that trouble you, taking vengeance on those who are not believers in him, punishing them in everlasting destruction, being glorified in his saints.

He also spoke of this event in his first letter to the Thessalonians. “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the **coming of the Lord** shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 Also in 1 Thessalonians 5:2, “For yourselves know perfectly that **the day of the Lord** so cometh as a thief in the night.”

2. “**Coming**” - παρουσιας, *parousia*

Now the word he uses for the coming of the Lord is ***parousia***. Now there are many Greek words for to come, or to go. *Erchomai* – to simply come, or go; *eiserchomai* – to come into; *exerchomai* – to come out of; *epanerchomai* – to come back again; *dierchomai* – to come through; *poreuomai* – to go on a journey; and over thirty other words.

The significance of the word *parousia* is on the **presence** of the individual! It is not that he has **left his palace**, or that he is **on his way here**, but that he has **arrived**! It is linked to the word *pareimi*, and when used of persons it meant that the person is present; he has **arrived**. It was used of rulers, who left their palace to go visit a city in their kingdom. It was used of the presence of gods at the meals of people, and in a variety of other applications. But the main idea of *parousia* was one of presence, which tells us that the return of Christ to earth will not be one where he stops in the skies and then takes the Church back to heaven, but where he has arrived on the earth! And the various passages on this event reveal what he will be doing when he arrives on earth.

The disciples asked him for the sign that would reveal his return and arrival, **parousia**, on earth. “*And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*” Matthew 24:3

He says that there will be **great tribulation**. “*For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*” Matthew 24:21 False Christs, false prophets showing great signs and wonders. “*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*” Matthew 24:24 That it will be **quickly and brilliant**. “*For as the lightning cometh, parousia, out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*” Matthew 24:27 That it will catch the world by surprise.” Matthew 24:39 “*And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming, parousia, of the Son of man be.*” It will be **after the tribulation**. “*Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*” Matthew 24:29,30

We see also that the **resurrection** of believers in Christ takes place at the event of Christ's arrival on earth. “*But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming, parousia.*” 1 Corinthians 15:23 We also see that the believers in Christ will be in front of the Lord, that is, in his presence, before his face, *emprosthen*, when he has finally **arrived** here on earth. “*For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence, of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming, parousia?*” 1 Thessalonians 2:19 “*To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming, parousia, of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.*” 1 Thessalonians 3:13

Parousia is used again in 1 Thessalonians 4:15, “*For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*” and in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, “*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” In our passage here in 2 Thessalonians 2:1, “*Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,*” In 2 Thessalonians 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.*” And in 2 Thessalonians 2:9, “*Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*”

When the Apostle **James** spoke of the Lord's return to earth, he actually spoke of it as **Christ's arrival** on earth. “*Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*” James 5:7,8

And so did **Peter**. “*For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*” 2 Peter 1:16 “*And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*” 2 Peter 3:4,12

And so did the Apostle **John** in 1 John 2:28, “*And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his **coming, parousia.***” The word for **ashamed** is the aorist passive subjunctive of *aischunomai*, which denotes an emotional reaction of the guilt complex manifesting itself in a sense of shame or disgrace. It begins by having a reaction of the conscience over one's conduct where the believer has the sense that they have done wrong, then on to a feeling of not measuring up, unworthiness, shame, etc.. (See my studies on sin, guilt and shame). But how believers can avoid that is by living their lives here on earth by faith in the Father's **plan**, **power**, his **protection**, **provisions**, his **promises** and the **process** that the Father chooses to perfect us by studying Bible doctrine and applying it to our lives, and by doing God's will here on earth!

So the question is why bring up all these various passages? The reason why is that in modern dispensationalism they have put forth the claim that the Apostle Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, that is, to a Gentile church and that he had a secret revelation given to him that the other apostles didn't have. Which means that there are now **two** churches, when Christ only established **one**! Paul is very clear that Christ's atoning death on the cross broke down the wall of separation between Jews and Gentiles and made them into one new body. “*For he is our peace, who hath **made both one**, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*” Ephesians 2:14,15 **Any attempt to make a distinction by having a Jewish and a Gentile church is tantamount to undoing the work of Christ on the cross!**

They also say that in this secret revelation Christ gave Paul a mystery. “*How that by revelation he made known unto me the **mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ). Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:*” Ephesians 3:3-6

Which they interpret as having a secret return of Christ to earth, a secret and separate resurrection and a secret rapture. Of course this makes two returns of Christ to earth, two resurrections and two raptures, but they explain that away saying that there are two phases of his one return to earth. They also say that his return will be in secret and that he will return like a thief. How he intends to keep his return to earth secret, when he says that he is coming with all his powerful angels in blazing fire and in glory boggles the mind to understand, and that he comes back like a thief is disrespectful to say the least. **But Paul explains right there in the passage what this mystery is! That the saved Gentiles now are fellowheirs with the saved Jews!**

So we have to start with Jesus Christ and see what he has to say. He is the foremost authority concerning his return to earth and he is the one who states that his return to earth will be his arrival on the earth, parousia, as a glorious conqueror with all his angels of power! **Christ** defined the whole concept; **Matthew** repeated the same doctrine, so did the Apostles **Paul**, **James** and **John**, and all the other apostles! Christ never referred to two second comings, nor did he authorize any of the other apostles to teach that. He stated that when he returned to earth, he would return to earth, then when he **arrived** the first thing he would do is raise the dead, then destroy the beast and false prophet and their armies, conquer the world, judge the world, etc.. He also taught about the things that would be going on prior to his return to earth, things in nature, things in the skies, things among the governments of the world, things concerning the world's people, the apostasy of the Church, the rise of the antichrist to power as the world's leader, etc..

3. "By our **gathering together** unto him," - ημων επισυναγωγης επ αυτον

Now we see another event taking place at Christ's arrival on earth, and there are many of them, and that is our being **gathered** unto him. The word to *gather together* is the future active indicative of *episunago*, which meant to assemble a crowd, or in other usages, chickens together, into one place, The *epi* prefixed to *sunago* puts the emphasis on **where** the believers are to be gathered unto, and combined with the other *epi* and *autos*, *ep'auton*, shows that they are to be gathered unto him, that is, unto Christ.

This will take place after the resurrection and the rapture. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:17 When Christ returns to earth, he will raise the dead, then the dead will be snatched up into the air by the angels, whereupon they will all be brought unto one place, rather unto one person, the Lord Jesus Christ. "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Mt. 24:31

B. First comes the apostasy.

"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;" 2 Thessalonians 2:3 μη τις υμας εξαπατηση κατα μηδενα τροπον οτι εαν μη ελθη η **αποστασια πρωτον** και αποκαλυφθη ο ανθρωπος της αμαρτιας ο υιος της απωλειας.

1. The word for **first** is *proton* and it denotes that which is first in time, order, or place. There were some in the fledgling Church who were saying that the Lord could return at any second, and then there were those who were saying that he had already come! So Paul clarifies this by saying that regardless of where you had heard that, or how you heard that, whether by letter or by word, the Lord was not going to return to earth until there was the grand apostasy of the Church **first!** "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." 2 Thessalonians 2:2

2. *Apostasia* denotes the state of being in apostasy and is related to the word *aphistemi*, which meant to abandon, to remove, or be moved from a state, position, relationship, or association. So the question is what, or whom, are the ones in view here being apostate from? In the original Greek it meant abandonment from the faith, and in the classical Greek it signified revolt from a military commander.

And it refers to the believers in Christ living on earth in that period of time, who will depart from the faith, which is in essence revolt from the Father and the Son. It's interesting to note that in every great epoch of time of God working with his people beginning with Adam and Eve in the Garden, God's people went into apostasy. First it was Adam and Eve, then the generation before the flood, both kingdoms of the nation of Israel, and now the Church Age believers living in the Laodicean age of the Church. And there was even the apostasy of one third of the angels before all this! "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Jude 6

Christ prophesied a great apostasy before his return to earth. "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matthew 24:10-12 Which denotes Christians not living in the spiritual life dynamic.

Paul prophesied about believers apostatizing from God. “*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall **depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;” 1 Timothy 4:1 “*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.*” 2 Thessalonians 2:3*

Peter warned doctrinal believers about being swayed away from the faith, doctrine and the spiritual life by those who aren't doctrinal. “*Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.*” 2 Peter 3:17

Sometimes Christians turn away from the faith because of **persecution**. “*Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.*” Matthew 24:9,10

False teaching, as mentioned earlier, leads believers into apostasy. “*And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*” Matthew 24:11

Temptation can be a cause for some believers to turn away from the faith. “*They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*” Luke 8:13

The **love of money** will lead others to fall away from the faith. “*But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*” 1 Timothy 6:9,10 Which sums up the **Laodicean Church** in the end times, which certainly describes the present Church in America. “*Because thou sayest, **I am rich**, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*” Revelation 3:17

Giving up on the local church and the teaching of Bible doctrine it provides will lead believers into departing from the truth. “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*” Hebrews 10:25

Refusing to walk by faith, which is revealed in the passage as a departure from God, will certainly result in departing from the faith. “*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.*” Hebrews 3:12

Having a **love for the world system** and all that it has to offer will lead believers away from the Word into apostasy. “*For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*” 2 Timothy 4:10 “*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*” James 4:4

Departing from grace and going into legalism will lead the believer into apostasy. “*Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.*” Galatians 5:4 “*For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.*” Hebrews 6:4-6

4. The next thing will be the **revealing** of the man of sin, “*and that man of sin be revealed*,” και **αποκαλυφθη** ο ανθρωπος της αμαρτιας. The word for **reveal** is the aoist passive subjunctive of *apokalupto*. But there are three things to be taken into consideration here; three things that the Church has always had to be on the watch for.

One, there is the apostasy of the Church at the end time, which is characterized by the final phase of the Church Age known as the Laodicean Church. **Two**, then there is the removal of the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit, who has been preventing this for millennia! And **three**, then there is the revealing of the antichrist, which we will get into later on in the study. Now this doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit is going to be taken away from the earth, but that he no longer is going to be holding back the whole satanic movement that has been trying to get their man to the place of world power! When he stops restraining them, then they will go on to accomplish their wicked goal.

The subjunctive mood of *apokalupto* tells us that the revealing of the antichrist is contingent upon certain circumstances. What are those circumstances? One will be the Holy Spirit will stop restraining the whole satanic movement to get Satan's man into power!

Now some have translated *apokalupto* as to reveal, to uncover, to unveil; others have said that it speaks of his sudden appearance on the scene. The emphasis of this word is not on him being born, or created in a laboratory combining the DNA of a woman and Satan, or on him being alive, or advancing in the position of politics or world rule, but upon **the revealing of deity!**

Now there are two ways that we can take this term of deity, not from the perspective of Christianity, which knows that only God alone is deity, but from the perspectives of Greek society and the mystery religions. **One**, in the mystery religions the purpose of going through all the initiatory rites was to get a man to the state of perfection. When he had arrived at being a perfected man, then it could be said of him that he had arrived at what he was all along – a god. Which is what the lie was that Satan put forth to the original couple in the garden.

Two, then there was the other concept where the Greeks believed that the *daimones*/demons were a race of superior beings who had come to them from different galaxies in the universe. They regarded these beings as gods or deities, or as lesser deities under the supreme deity of the universe. So, if one of these deities, supreme or lesser, had a child with a human mother, then that child was automatically a deity by virtue of its descendancy from one of these deities!

Either way, and probably both are involved, this revealing of the man of sin, whom we refer to as the antichrist, is a revealing of him to the world as both a perfected, perfect man, as a man who claims to be god, or a god. And the Scriptures are very clear on this matter. They prophesied that God would have his seed born of a woman, whom we know to be the Lord Jesus Christ. But that Satan would also have his seed born of a woman! “*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between **thy seed** and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*” Genesis 3:15

Now this brings into the picture all the concepts of the *Nephilim*, who were created out of the DNA of the rebel angels and human women. Satan's forces have been working toward this end for thousands of years; working to combine his DNA and bring about an half human, half celestial being, a super child who will grow into adulthood as a divine being, a master of the mystery religion and one who will be groomed from childhood to rule the world! It will be this being who claims to be the Messiah of Israel, the king of the world, and a god in the flesh and will be revealed as such!

Now the aorist passive subjunctive of *apokalupto* is used for revealing telling us that he is not going to reveal himself, but that he is going to be revealed. That is, someone else is going to reveal him! So the question is who? And the answer goes back to who his representative has been all along – **the pope!** He is going to reveal him as the Messiah of Israel, the king of the world, and the perfect “god” man.

He is going to be the head of the worldwide corporation that already exists, (which is what a city is), and rule the world from the city of Jerusalem, which is the end time city of Rome. All the tentacles of power that will be needed for him to step in and take over the reins of power are already in place! The political, the economic, the military and the religious.

This half man/half alien, half man/half nephilim, this beast, will not be truly human, that is, having a human father and a human mother. He will have been created, that is grown in a test tube, or whatever, somewhere on earth, or somewhere other than the earth, placed in a human mother and given birth, and again, here on earth, or off the earth.

Now there are those in various areas of power in this nation, who have claimed that America was raised up for the purpose of being the nation that not only would bring about the rule of the world, but also that the antichrist would come through this nation. What we are talking about is the central government located in Washington, DC. We know that America was started by believers in Christ and has been, even officially, known as a Christian nation. But a long time ago this nation was taken over at the federal level by occult oriented men and women for an occult purpose.

New York is the economic capitol of the world; the Pentagon is the military capitol of the world; and the White House is the political capitol of the world, with the President being the CEO of this world rule. In fact, the present occupant of the White House has even made the claims that he needs neither the permission of the UN, nor the Congress, to do what he wants to do.

The office of the CEO of USA, Inc. is oval in shape, as we all know. The oval shape is the shape of an **egg**. Now this is very important symbolism, because the prophecy made in the garden of Eden was dealing with the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent. **The battle between the Christ and the antichrist!** *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between **thy seed** and **her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”* Genesis 3:15

In this battle the seed of the woman, Jesus Christ, will crush the head of the seed of the serpent, who will be the antichrist, but bruising his heel in the process. Now when human beings are born, they are born from human mothers. But when snakes, or other reptiles are born, they are born from **eggs!** The symbolism is startling here, for what this is pointing to is that the antichrist will come from the oval, egg-shaped office of the White House! And from that launching point he will be the ruler of the world.

So when the passage is talking about the revealing of the man of sin, or the antichrist, it is talking about something different than what people have assumed it to be. He could be alive and in a position of power, even world power, right before everybody's eyes – even now! People could be looking at him and seeing what he does and not even have the slightest clue that he is the antichrist. It is when he manifests himself as deity, or as a “god”, a perfected man, that we will see this prophecy fulfilled.

The current accepted theology on this event is that it will take place in the middle of the Tribulation age, when this man of sin, the seed of the serpent, the hybrid son of satan, will be indwelt by Satan himself when he is cast out of heaven.

To reveal, *apokalupto*, as we have pointed out refers to the revealing of deity, or a deity. The standard approach in referring to this speaks of the antichrist “coming on the scene”. But there are other Greek words that would denote that idea. Such as, *anaphaino*, which was a nautical term describing something suddenly coming into view on the horizon. Or *emphanizo*, to appear suddenly, to make known, or to appear before someone. And *optomai*, to see with the eye.

But *apokalupto* is the more grander, august concept and was used of the unveiling of a deity to reveal himself to his creatures. If man wanted to know the true God, then there is no way he could know God apart from God choosing to reveal himself to his creatures. It is the word used in connection to Jesus Christ in the book of Revelation, which is the revealing of Jesus Christ to his people.

But the word is used here in this passage concerning the antichrist, not that he is God, but that **he arrogantly makes the claim that he is god**, or is a god, and shows himself to the world as being such. And remember the idea of deity in their mind denoted two things.

One, in the mystery religions the purpose of going through all the initiatory rites was to get a man to the state of perfection. When he had arrived at being a perfected man, then it could be said of him that he had arrived at what he was all along – a god.

Two, then there was the other concept where the Greeks believed that the *daimones*/demons were a race of superior beings who had come to them from different galaxies in the universe. They regarded these beings as gods or deities, or as lesser deities under the supreme deity of the universe. So, if one of these deities, supreme or lesser, had a child with a human mother, then that child, (here it's Satan's son), was automatically a deity by virtue of its descendency from one of these deities!

5. “*The son of perdition;*” - ο υιος της απωλειας.

Some have translated *apoleias* as perdition and others as destruction. But *apoleias* is related to the word Apollo, which is the name for the son of Zeus. Zeus was just another name for the rebel angel Satan. It must also be brought to mind, that when the current occupant of the White House took his nomination, he came out on his platform from a recreated temple of Zeus! Actually there were two temples, one to Zeus, and the second one to Zeus' wife, Hera. Which was a direct occult statement that he was the son of Zeus/Satan! Whether he's the one...time will tell.

The throne of Satan was originally located in Pergamos, but was moved to East Berlin years ago and reassembled in its current location, where it still exists today. It was an altar to Zeus and was the model used on the stage from which the current occupant of the White House publicly came out from. “*And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.*” Revelation 2:12,13

This is the Babylonian belief. It began with Nimrod, (the son of Cush the false prophet), who *married* Semiramis, started the Babylonian system on earth under Satan and later on died. After he died, Semiramis claimed that she had sex with Nimrod, (who had become deified when he went up to the constellation Orion), and the product of their union was their son, Tammuz. Tammuz, who now headed up the Babylonian rule of the world, then became the ruler of the world. And this same pattern will repeat itself in the last days with the antichrist being the son of Zeus/Satan.

C. The antichrist's claim to be god.

“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.” 2 Thessalonians 2:4 ο αντικειμενος και υπεραιρομενος επι παν το λεγομενον θεον η σεβασμα ωστε αυτον εις τον ναον του θεου ως θεον καθισαι αποδεικνυντα εαυτον οτι εστιν θεος.

We have five verbs in this passage: the orist passive subjunctive of *apokalupto* – **to reveal as deity**, the present middle participle of *antikeimai* – **to oppose**, the present passive participle of *huperairo* – **to exalt himself**, the orist active infinitive of *kathizo* – to take his seat, or **sitteth**, and the present active participle of *apodeiknumi* – **to show himself**.

We had seen that the revealing of the antichrist is contingent upon certain circumstances. One of them will be the Holy Spirit no longer restraining the whole antichrist agenda on earth. The other one will be when he takes his seat in the temple of God. He will take his seat on a throne and be revealed to the world that he is a god, or a deified man, or a god incarnated, or avatar and show himself to be such.

To **oppose**, *antikeimai*, meant to be in opposition to, or hostile toward. In the middle voice it tells us that it is reflexive and that when he takes his seat on his throne of rule and worship, he will then set himself in opposition toward any religion, or any other deity that is worshipped on earth. *Antikeimai* also had a legal sense to it, so it tells us that **he will change the laws on earth that will make any form of worship, other than of himself, illegal on earth**.

To **exalt** himself, *huperairo*, has the ideas of lifting up and above. In the context we have revealed what it is that he is elevating himself above and that is everything that is called god and everything that is worshipped as god. Which was the age old desire of Satan/Heyllet in the first place. “*For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*” Isaiah 14:13,14

“So that he as God **sitteth** in the temple of God, **shewing** himself that he is God.”. The word for **sitteth** is the orist active infinitive of *kathizo*, to take a seat, where the infinitive mood is used to show the purpose of him seating himself in the temple of God, **which is to show that he is God!** Now to take a seat had different meanings depending on the context.

When used of a **king**, it meant that he was going to hold court over his subjects; when used of a **judge**, it meant that he was now going to officiate over legal matters. When used of **deity**, it meant all of those plus the ideas of receiving prayer requests from one's subjects and being worshipped. It also had the idea that one held a position of **rule** and that he is exercising legal authority over those under him.

The temple of God is an interesting concept here, for there were **three temples of God**. The temple of God in **heaven**, the temple of God in **Jerusalem** and the spiritual temple of God consisting of **believers in Jesus Christ**. The standard theology on this is that this passage refers to a temple that will be rebuilt in Jerusalem, but there are those who believe that before the antichrist takes over his rule of the world, his father, Satan, will take him into the third heaven and seat him on the heavenly throne, as the satanic counterpart to God's Son, Jesus Christ, being seated on the throne in heaven. This will trigger the war in heaven whereupon Michael and his angels will fight against them and kick them out of heaven! Then Satan will take him down to earth and seat him on an earthly throne.

But there is another concept and that deals with the apostle Paul and the word for **temple** here, *naos*! There were two words for temple back then, *heiros*, which was the word for the entire temple itself and temple grounds. And *naos*, which was the word used only for the actual holy of holies. *Naos* was the Greek word used for the actual room where the deity dwelt.

Here's where it gets interesting, whenever Paul spoke of the entire temple complex, whether the temple itself, or the temple grounds, he only used the word *heiros*! But whenever Paul used the word *naos*, **he only used it in connection with the Church!** What this is saying is that Paul only used the word *naos* when he was talking about the body of Christ! **He never considered the *heiros* that was there in Jerusalem as being the *naos* of God, that is, the place where God dwelt!**

Now some will say there is no way that the antichrist could be literally seated on a living body of believers in Jesus Christ. This is true, but remember the word to be seated refers to being in a position of authority as well. If that's the case, then we have the antichrist exercising legal authority over the Church here on earth.

Some will deny that can happen, but it's already happening through the rule of the corporation, the "City", that is presently ruling the world! All the laws that have been passed throughout the world, all the international laws and jurisdiction, the Uniform Commercial Code, social security numbers, driver's licenses, artificial persons, etc., etc., all go back to the rule of Rome over the world!

Then there is also the problem of registered churches throughout the world, incorporated churches in America, all these churches are put under the authority of the government and if you chase the chain back far enough they all go under Rome! We have Rome, then the UN, international law, the member states of the UN, also called nations, then, all corporations, and all corporate persons, all under the legal authority of Rome and the pope!

Then there is the matter of "worshipping" the beast. The passage where that is found is Revelation 13:12, "*And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.*" Here it is the beast from the earth, the false prophet, which will make the world "worship" the beast from the sea, whom we know to be the antichrist.

The word used here for **worship** is *proskuneo*, which had the rudimentary idea of kissing toward, spoke not of worship as we surmise it to be, but of **obeisance**! It was a movement of the body expressing deep respect or deferential courtesy, as before a superior; a bow, curtsy, or other similar gesture. When exercised before the Caesar of Rome, or the Roman vicar today, there were three positions depending upon one's station in life: to bow and kiss the pope's ring, to kneel and kiss the pope's ring, and to prostrate one's self before the pope and kiss his feet. The body language was not the issue. All that spoke of was their station in life. The real issue was that **they were in obedience to the pope!**

So the word **worship** here actually speaks of individual's submitting to the authority of the antichrist and obeying his rules! Right now, whether they know it or not, believers throughout the world are already submitting to the authority of the beast system. It's not to the Beast himself, but to the system that is in place awaiting his arrival on the scene of world rule. The thing that is going to trigger it all will be when the antichrist forces people to take the mark of the beast, without which they will not be able to buy or sell, that is, participate in the new world economy. Which system is already in place via the B.E.A.S.T. computer system headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.