

The lawless one—let us continue our conversation on the lawless one. We are reading from 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2, verses 8-11. At verse 8 we saw the revealing of the lawless one: “Then the lawless one will be revealed.” We dwelt upon the fact that the lawless one changes the truth into a lie. He knows the Scriptures, and he knows how to quote them; but he is antinomian. He is *anomia*¹—*nomos*² being law, *anomos*³ is like asymmetry—lawless, changes the truth into a lie because he is not concerned about the truth. Truth just serves whatever ends he makes of it, and his ends are to draw you into the worship of Satan. There, we are not talking about witches, and covens, and movies about clandestine meetings, and so on. We are not talking about that. We are talking about, over the whole earth, no one being able to resist the seed of the serpent. So in order to have provision and protection, everyone bows to, or gives in to, or acknowledges, or obeys that which offers the promise of their survival.

The lawless one is skilled. He speaks great things and blasphemies.⁴ He is skilled at blending the line between a lie and the appearing of truth. And you must have discernment to know what is the lie and what is the truth. How do you have such discernment? The answer is, understanding the distinction between things that are true and the Spirit of truth. I went through examples from my own growth and maturing, but also talking to you about these talking heads on TV right now, who are a type of the man of lawlessness. They absolutely are. And your spirit should have a nauseating response to these opinionators who are skillful in two things:

1. They tell you what you want to hear, and they stir up enmities in you.
2. They do so in a way that gives them plausible deniability. They feed you what they want you to regurgitate, but they do so by asking you questions. They appear stunned and shocked and outraged, but it is all theatre—it is all manufactured theatre. They will even

All Scripture quotations are from the NKJV Bible, unless otherwise noted.

¹ See *anomia*, Strong’s Greek 458 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/458.htm>

² See *nomos*, Strong’s Greek 3551 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/3551.htm>

³ See *anomos*, Strong’s Greek 459 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/459.htm>

⁴ See Revelation 13:5: “And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.”

admit that. When held to account, they will say, “No reasonable person could be expected to believe what we are saying.” They will do that when held accountable.

It is not even that you are not a reasonable person if you are deceived by these provocateurs; reason will not save you from this. If you are a son of Greece, you are drawn in; and so it says, “as opposed to being a son of Zion.”⁵ Because, as a son of Zion, you have a measure, a standard that is called the Spirit of truth. You understand—within you, your spirit knows when the witness of the truth is being spoken because the Spirit Himself testifies with our spirits.⁶ When what is said is representational of the Holy Spirit, it will register in our spirits in a certain way. When it is not representative of the Holy Spirit, but indeed representative of lawlessness and deception, your spirit within you will be animated, will be in distress, because the note will be discordant.

If you are not able to make that distinction now... and there are countless millions of evangelical Christians who mouth exactly what they hear from their favorite news channels. There is no understanding of Scripture, no discernment of the Holy Spirit; they are being led astray by the leaders who have told them what they want to hear. This is lawlessness. This is *anomia*. If you neither know the Scriptures nor are you led in your understanding by the Holy Spirit in what Scriptures you do know, I am saying to you now, you are already deceived. The perpetrators of this deception are the leaders who have continuously led the children of God into greater and greater wilderness experiences. They represent the woman in the wilderness who is looking for legitimacy,⁷ and they are drawn in by the spirit of lawlessness.

Here is how the man of lawlessness is going to be disclosed and destroyed:

1. Whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth,
2. And destroy with the brightness of His coming.⁸

⁵ See Zechariah 9:13b: “And raised up your sons, O Zion, Against your sons, O Greece, And made you like the sword of a mighty man.”

⁶ See Romans 8:16 (NIV): “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

⁷ See Revelation 12:1-6, 13-17, and chapter 17.

⁸ See 2 Thessalonians 2:8: “And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.”

What does it mean, “whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth”? What does that mean? And further, what does it mean, “and destroy with the brightness of His coming”? Conventionally, how have we heard these Scriptures? We have heard the Scriptures that say, “When Jesus comes back, He is going to destroy the antichrist.” It is what we have heard. We have conflated the outcomes of the throne of judgment to which all of the enemies of God are brought as captive suspects and destroyed. We have said that, but that comes at the end of the millennium. According to Revelation, chapter 20, the timing of that is the end of the millennium when He is summing up all things in Christ. So what exactly is meant by “whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth,” and/or what is meant by “destroy with the brightness of His coming”?

Let us plunge into these. “Whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth”—there, the word “consume” is analogous to the word annihilate or destroy. It is the word *analiskó*,⁹ and it properly means: to use up, to destroy, or to consume. “Whom the Lord will consume”—but here is how He will do it: “with the breath of His mouth.” The word “breath” here is the word *pneuma*¹⁰—that is the word for “spirit”—so with the Spirit of His mouth. What comes out of the mouth of the Lord? What do Scriptures say comes out of the mouth of the Lord? “Man shall not live on bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”¹¹ So what comes out of the mouth of God is word. “Breath” there is the word “spirit.” So the Lord will consume with the Spirit of His word.

What have I been talking to you about? The distinction between things that are true and the Spirit of the truth, or plainly put, the Spirit of truth. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you

⁹ See *analiskó*, Strong’s Greek 355 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/355.htm>

¹⁰ See *pneuma*, Strong’s Greek 4151 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/4151.htm>

¹¹ See Deuteronomy 8:3: “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every *word* that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.” See also Matthew 4:4.

free.¹² How then will you know the truth? “I will send you the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit,¹³ and He will take of what belongs to Me, and He will distribute it to you.”¹⁴

So there is a dispensation, a distributing. The word “dispensation” is not about timing. I do not know how many times I have to say that. It is not about what happened in this dispensation of time or that dispensation of time. No. A dispensation is a giving out, an *oikonomia*;¹⁵ that is actually the word. As time progresses, God gives out more of the word that has been reserved as bread for the day. Have you not heard that there is hidden manna?¹⁶ Hidden manna is not to be found anywhere in the traditional doctrines of Christian religion. If you are relying on those things, the traditional doctrines of Christian religion—what Luther said, what Calvin said, what is in the code of conduct or the book of methods—whatever it is you are relying on, those may have been true or useful at a certain point in the growth of the believer, but if you have not grown up, it is because you are not living on the word as God is revealing the word in the fullness of time. There is an order, a *nomos*, suitable for the fullness of time. It is consistent with what God is producing amongst and in a people who are ready, who are prepared, and who are mature.

I could go on quite a bit on that, but here is the next portion.

- God will consume with “the Spirit of His word,” which is “the breath of His mouth”—the *pneuma* that comes out of His mouth,
- and destroy with “the brightness of His coming.”

¹² See John 8:31-32: “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”

¹³ See John 15:26 (KJV): “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:”

¹⁴ See John 16:13-14: “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.”

¹⁵ See *oikonomia*, Strong’s Greek 3622 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/3622.htm>

¹⁶ See 1 Corinthians 2:6-7: “However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ...” See also Revelation 2:17a: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat.”

If you look domestically at “the brightness of His coming,” what does it mean? What are we talking about? The word for “the brightness” of His coming—“brightness” there is the word that relates to the effulgence. “The Son is the radiance, the brightness, of His Father’s glory. The Son is the exact representation of the Father” (cf. Hebrews 1:3). Another word for “brightness” is the word “epiphany,” and in the Greek it is *epiphaneia*.¹⁷ An epiphany is an incarnation. Antiochus Epiphanes claimed that God was appearing as Antiochus—you know, a very modest title. There is an epiphany of God that is available and possible. This epiphany is the incarnation in flesh of the mature Son.

This is consistent with the teaching from the last book in the Old Testament, Malachi, the last chapter, where he says, “And the Lord, whom you seek, shall suddenly come into His temple. And who can endure the brightness of His coming? For He shall be as a refiner’s fire and a launderers’ soap, because God will have men in righteousness who serve Him as in the days gone by.”¹⁸ This is the epiphany, the bright appearing of Christ. “If you have seen Me, you have seen My Father.”¹⁹ “Father, let them be one in the manner in which You and I are one. You are in Me, and I am in You; let them be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.”²⁰

So what do we get then? What is the antidote for the man who changes everything to conform to his image and likeness? What is the antidote for that? This man of lawlessness, this *anomia*, this antinomian who does away with the ancient landmarks, who does not regard the Spirit of truth but instead will tell you anything for the sake of inducing you to rely to your destruction, what is the antidote for that? The antidote is the Spirit of the word coming out of a mature body—the brightness of His coming—because the Son is the radiance of His Father’s glory. That is how the

¹⁷ See *epiphaneia*, Strong’s Greek 2015 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/2015.htm>

¹⁸ See Malachi 3:1-4.

¹⁹ See John 14:9-11.

²⁰ See John 17:20-23: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

Father appears. He appears in the Son, and Christ appears in us in the glory of His mature state. So that is where the war is going to be.

The coming of the lawless one—here is where it ties directly into our reading in the Book of Revelation, the 13th chapter.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, [How does Satan work?] with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish [those who dwell on the earth], because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved [Saved from what? Saved from the deception amongst the unrighteous, saved from the hegemonic control—the way that the lawless one interprets, distorts, and twists Scripture. People wrest or twist the Scripture to their own destruction.²¹] And for this reason... [because they love the deception] (2 Thessalonians 2:9-11a, NKJV, comments added in brackets).

If you are taking in things and not filtering them through the Spirit of truth, if you are taking them in because they feed your fear—that fear that you will not submit to Christ; that fear that you refuse to overcome when you have been told time and again and when you yourself have known that this is a place where Satan has got you locked up, but you will not come into the light, you will not bring it into the truth. Perhaps you are part of religious organizations that have no clue as to how you might do that, have no understanding of blockage removal—the rescue of the soul from the control of the enemy—who teach that the saving of the soul is by obeying four spiritual laws and making a declaration rather than rescuing the soul from a mindset that is rooted in Adam, by which you have been already predisposed to the terror of the loss of provision and protection.

What do we think right-wing Christianity is today? What do we think this Republican Jesus is about? Do we not understand that this is all about provision and protection? Your heroes on Fox News are those who feed that in you. You hear the supposed prophets telling us there is a culture

²¹ See 2 Peter 3:16 (in reference to Paul's letters): "...as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures."

war. God has launched this war to rescue His people out of the security that they have in making things the way they used to be. That is the whole appeal of ‘Make America Great Again’ to the evangelical church. It reminds White evangelicals of when they used to be in control. God is shaking things up. This is not about Black and White, Democrats and Republicans; this is a spirit of lawlessness that is utilizing deception based in what you fear, to trap you.

If you have relied upon and found security in the way things used to be, the appeal of going back to the way they were, even though they never were like that, is how you have been suckered in. This is what it is. This is what lawlessness is. It does not regard the truth. Your heroes on these news broadcasts, they know. I mean, they have multimillion dollar contracts, so they are not sweating if they are going to pay their rent or eat; and they have bodyguards. They are feeding you what your soul is afraid of. You cannot and you will not escape that pull of lawlessness unless you turn from it, humble yourself, bring the fact of what you are afraid of to God, and finally learn to trust God.

None of this is about trusting God. It is all about how by armed strength or by organized responses we can take back a nation and benefit from its economy. That is why, when this nation’s economy is rolled into the global economy, nobody is going to get away from that. You think you are going to avoid the beast? No. You are on the fast track to being absorbed into the economy of the beast. That is what it is about. Believe it or not, the Scriptures actually prophesied these things. Listen, if this is what you love, if you cannot be talked out of it, if none of what I am saying appeals to you because your fear of not having enough has become so entrenched that you prefer to listen to these prophets of deception and these prognosticators based on falsehoods—if that is what you prefer, let me read you this Scripture.

And for this reason [the reason that you do not love the truth] God will send them [that would be you] strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 NKJV, comments added in brackets).

What is it saying? It is saying you are not part of that which destroys the lawless one. How is he destroyed? His influence over the minds of men and his influence over you will be destroyed by:

- The *pneuma*—the breath that comes out of the mouth of God, which is truth;
- And by the brightness of His coming—that has to do with the mature Son who is the radiance of His Father’s glory. In that sense, He is the *epiphaneia*, He is the epiphany of God. He is how God shows up in human form.

That is the plan.

When the Lord comes—now there will be a time when the Lord comes out of heaven at the end of the age; but He destroys the lawless one before He comes, because He grants victory to the saints. He does not save the world out of their lawlessness because the lawless one appeals to the world. The lawless one overcomes the saints in this war of words that characterizes this battle, but the saints are not brought under the control of the evil one because they are the radiant alternative to the darkness, deception, and lies of the *kosmos*²² spoken by this spirit.

I want to continue in the vein of this discussion. We will import everything we have been talking about back into the 13th chapter of the Book of Revelation as we look at this war. And specifically, we will look at this second beast who comes up out of the earth and has a name, a number, and an image; and the entrapment of humanity in those things as contrasted with those who have the name of the Father on their foreheads.

I am Sam Soleyn, continue to study this with me. Bye-bye.

²² See *kosmos*, Strong’s Greek 2889 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/2889.htm>