

# "ALREADY AT WORK"

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (p. 1868)

December 10, 2017

*For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work;  
but the one who now holds it back will continue  
to do so until he is taken out of the way.*

2 Thessalonians 2:7

**Intro:** 1) two key words describe the interaction between God's power and the work of Antichrist:

- what is *mysterion*, the "secret" work of Antichrist only seen by God's perspective
- what is *apocaluptō*, "uncovered" in God's good timing (thus the title of Revelation)

2) three large categories in which Christians have thought about themselves and *thlipsis*:

- post: the church ushers in the millennial age then Jesus returns
- pre: the church is removed before tribulation (or Tribulation)
- a: God is now restraining the "secret power" until a final Tribulation, then Jesus returns

## 1. The Antichrist and the antichrists

*Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. 2 Thessalonians 2:5*

- 1) Be prepared for the "mystery" of tribulation → John 16:33
- 2) Be prepared for the "uncovering" of Tribulation

## 2. This is consistent with . . . .

*He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. . . . After that, he must be set free for a short time. Revelation 20:1-3*

- 1) Isaiah 2:6-22, \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Daniel 11:36-45, \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Matthew 24:4-14, \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Revelation 6:1-17, \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Revelation 20:1-10, \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. First Advent lessons for Second Advent living

*Concerning this coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed . . . . 2 Thessalonians 2:1*

- 1) The Herods and emperors and \_\_\_\_\_ were (ARE!) antichrist TYPES
- 2) Keep your eyes on the PROMISES [John 16:33; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, 5:8-11]
- 3) Jesus WINS

## **Reading this week: 1 Thessalonians**

This might be Paul's earliest encouragement to a church struggling with the implications of the Second Advent. I hope you will be as encouraged as our brothers and sisters in Thessalonica.

Monday: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, The Thessalonian faith

How much do you identify with the "severe suffering" of the Thessalonian church? How does their faith encourage you?

Tuesday: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16, Who is your Paul?

Who has been the Paul, the encourager, in your life? How did this person bring the word of God to you?

Wednesday: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13, Our glory and joy

What would Timothy say about your "faith and love"? This week, pray Paul's 3:9-13 prayer for an ACRC friend.

Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-11, Living to please God

How has brotherly love become a bigger part of your life? Who are you struggling most to love "more and more"?

Friday: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, The *parousia*

What aspect of Paul's Second Advent teaching most encourages you? How does the reality of the "trumpet call of God" move you to more living to please God?

Saturday: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28, Doug's favorite benediction

How are you keeping the Spirit's fire burning? How are the "alls" of 5:16-18 helping your spiritual flame?