REVELATION: PART 39 · STUDY GUIDE

Daniel 11 and 2 Thessalonians 2: The God of Forces and the Restrainer

Daniel 11:36–38; 2 Thessalonians 2; 1 John 4:1–4 | Sunday, April 16 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

This message finishes the Daniel material and says plainly that all of it is background for Revelation 13 next week. Hal picks up the king who honours a god of fortresses and works on the Hebrew: the word is forces, and it is usually used of military force — a god of great force, especially able to put down military power of any kind. From there he traces how the world is being made ready. He was on the college campuses through the 1960s and watched the swing from empiricism to the occult; now the supernatural is commonplace, and he says that is no accident. He believes unidentified flying objects are real but come from a source other than most people suppose, and he offers a screenplay of his own for how an alien god might be introduced. Then 2 Thessalonians 2: the mystery of lawlessness already at work, and the man of lawlessness who cannot be revealed until the restrainer — the Holy Spirit, who lives in us — is taken out of the way. He closes reading 1 John 4.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Daniel 7 — One of the chapters Hal sends the group home to read in full

Daniel 9:26–27 — The prince who comes from the people that destroyed the city and the sanctuary; the covenant with Israel

2 Thessalonians 2 — The mystery of lawlessness, the man of lawlessness, and the restrainer taken out of the way

1 John 4:1–4 — Test the spirits; the spirit of the Antichrist already in the world; greater is He who is in you

Revelation 13 — Where the study goes next week

Revelation 17–18 — Where, Hal says, the one-world religion is established

KEY TERMS

A god of forces — what the Hebrew behind “a god of fortresses” really says — force, usually military force; a god able to put down military power of any kind

A foreign god — the god by whose help this king acts against the strongest fortresses; Hal says the word means alien

The mystery of lawlessness — already coming in and at work in the world, preparing the way for the man of lawlessness

The man of lawlessness — the name this coming ruler is given in 2 Thessalonians 2; he cannot be unveiled while the restrainer is here

The restrainer — the Holy Spirit — and He cannot be taken out of the world without the containers in which He lives

The apostasy — the complete rejection of all things about God; with the unveiling of the man of lawlessness, one of the two events that come before the seven years

Satan, and the devil — the two names Hal defines from their meanings: slanderer, and deceiver

The spirit of the Antichrist — every spirit that does not confess Jesus; already in the world in John's own day, and preparing it to be deceived

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What does the Hebrew word behind "a god of fortresses" actually mean?

2. What does verse 38 say the king does for that god?

3. What change did Hal watch on the college campuses between 1960 and 1964?

4. What does Hal say about sightings of unidentified flying objects?

5. What does the temptation of Jesus show about Satan's power?

6. What happens to God's restraint of Satan as the final seven years approach?

7. According to 2 Thessalonians 2, what has to happen before the man of lawlessness can be revealed?

8. Why does Hal say the restrainer cannot be removed without the Church going too?

9. Which two events must take place before the seven years can begin?

10. Why does Hal conclude there is a gap between the Rapture and the start of the seven years?

11. What does Hal say about where the two figures come from?

12. What test does the passage Hal reads at the close give, and what comfort does he draw from it?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Hal says the mindset of the secular world has been changed over decades, and that it is no accident. Where do you notice that shift in what you watch and read?

2. He defines the devil as the deceiver and says he is great at deceiving. How would you tell the difference between something supernatural and something from God?

3. “Test the spirits.” What does testing actually look like in practice, for you, this week?

4. Hal says the restrainer cannot be removed without removing the containers He lives in. What does it mean to you to be one of those containers now?

5. He says a new theory about Jesus gets trotted out every Christmas and Easter, and that most were shown false centuries ago. How do you answer one when you hear it?

6. “Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” Where do you most need that sentence to be true right now?

MEMORY VERSE

> *“Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.”*
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> — 1 John 4:4, as Hal reads it in this message