



**GROWING
IN THE
DARK**

Growing in the Dark

2 Thessalonians 1

“This passage is probably the most obscure and difficult in the whole of the Pauline writings and the many gaps in our knowledge have given rise to extravagant speculations.” - Leon Morris

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2 Thessalonians 2:1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.



Situation

something happens

Thought

the situation is
interpreted

Emotion

a feeling occurs as
a result of the thought

Behavior

an action in response
to the emotion

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2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

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⁵ Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

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⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, ¹⁰ and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹ For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹² and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

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2:5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I told you these things?"

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What is the rebellion (v3)?

2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs ...

“rebellion” – *apostasia*. Apostasy is the rejection of God and his truth by those who once professed to believe it.

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Who is the man of lawlessness (v3)?

“lawless” – *anomia*. Antinomianism is the rejection of socially established morality and the law.

The “antichrist” (1 John 2:18) and the “beast” (Revelation 13).

2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

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What or who is restraining his appearance (v6-7)?

^{2:6} And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

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What is the powerful delusion send by God so that people will not believe (v11-12)?

2:11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹² and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.