

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

Analysis

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—Let no man deceive you (exapatēsē, ἐξαπατήσῃ, thoroughly deceive) warns against any teacher, whatever the method. The day will NOT come **except** (ean mē, ἐὰν μή) two events occur first.

First: **a falling away** (apostasia, ἀποστασία)—rebellion, apostasy, departure from faith. Second: **that man of sin be revealed** (ho anthrōpos tēs anomias, ὁ ἄνθρωπος τῆς ἀνομίας, 'the man of lawlessness'). **The son of perdition** (ho huios tēs apōleias, ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας) titles Judas (John 17:12)—this figure is similarly devoted to destruction. Paul identifies the Antichrist without using that term.

Historical Context

Jewish apocalyptic expected a final opponent of God before Messiah's kingdom. Daniel's 'little horn' (Dan. 7:8), the 'abomination of desolation' (Dan. 9:27), and various pseudepigraphal texts described this figure. Paul places him in church-age eschatology as a real, future individual.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the apostasy (falling away) differ from normal unbelief—what makes it unique?
2. What historical figures have been wrongly identified as 'the man of sin,' and why?
3. How should certainty about unfulfilled prophecy affect your preparedness for Christ's return?

Interlinear Text

μὴ τις ὑμᾶς ἐξαπατήσῃ κατὰ μηδένα τρόπον ὅτι ἐὰν
no man you Let by any means for G1437
G3361 G5100 G5209 G1818 G2596 G3367 G5158 G3754

μὴ ἔλθῃ ἡ ἀποστασία πρῶτον καὶ ἀποκαλυφθῇ ὁ
no there come G3588 a falling away first and be revealed G3588
G3361 G2064 G646 G4412 G2532 G601

ἄνθρωπος τῆς ἀμαρτίας, ὁ νιὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας
that man of sin the son of perdition
G444 G3588 G266 G3588 G5207 G684

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 5:6 (Parallel theme): Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

1 John 2:18 (Parallel theme): Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

Daniel 7:25 (Parallel theme): And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Daniel 8:25 (Parallel theme): And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

John 17:12 (Parallel theme): While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Revelation 17:8 (Parallel theme): The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Revelation 17:11 (Parallel theme): And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

1 Corinthians 6:9 (Parallel theme): Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

Daniel 11:36 (Parallel theme): And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.