

2 Thessalonians 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Analysis

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God—**opposeth** (antikeimenos, ἀντικείμενος, adversary) and **exalteth himself above** (hyperairōmenos, ὑπεραιρόμενος, lifting himself over) describe total rebellion against deity. **All that is called God, or that is worshipped** (sebasma, σέβασμα, object of worship)—he claims supremacy over every religious system.

Sitteth in the temple of God (naon tou Theou, ναὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ)—whether literal rebuilt Jerusalem temple or metaphorical (the church), he enthrones himself in God's sanctuary. **Shewing himself that he is God** (apodeiknyanta... theos, ἀποδεικνύντα... θεός) parallels Satan's original rebellion (Isa. 14:13-14). This is ultimate blasphemy—creature claiming Creator's throne.

Historical Context

Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the Jerusalem temple (167 BC), offering swine on the altar and erecting Zeus's image—prefiguring this final abomination. Roman emperors demanded worship; Caligula attempted to place his statue in the temple (AD 40). Paul envisions an even greater defilement yet future.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you recognize the 'spirit of antichrist' (pride, self-worship) in contemporary culture?
2. What does Satan's counterfeiting of God's temple worship reveal about his strategy?
3. Why must the man of sin be 'revealed' before Christ returns—what purpose does this serve?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ ἀντικείμενος καὶ ὑπεραιρόμενος ἐπὶ πάντα

Who **opposeth** **and** **exalteth** **himself above** **all**
G3588 G480 G2532 G5229 G1909 G3956

λεγόμενον θεός ἦ σέβασμα ὥστε αὐτὸν εἰς τοῦ

that is called **God** **or** **that is worshipped** **so** **that he** **in** **Who**
G3004 G2316 G2228 G4574 G5620 G846 G1519 G3588

ναὸν τοῦ θεός ως θεός καθίσαι ἀποδεικνύντα

the temple **Who** **God** **as** **God** **sitteth** **shewing**
G3485 G3588 G2316 G5613 G2316 G2523 G584

ἐαυτὸν ὅτι ἔστιν θεός

himself **that** **he is** **God**
G1438 G3754 G2076 G2316

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 28:2 (References God): Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

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.

1 Corinthians 8:5 (References God): For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

Ezekiel 28:6 (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God;

Daniel 11:45 (Temple): And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

Daniel 7:8 (Parallel theme): I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Daniel 11:36 (References God): 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.

Ezekiel 28:9 (References God): Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? but thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee.