

# 2 Thessalonians 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

## Analysis

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**And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time—what withholdeth** (to katechon, τὸ κατέχον, the restraining thing/force) is neuter gender, referring to an impersonal force or principle. This restrainer prevents the man of sin's premature appearance—**that he might be revealed in his time** (kairō, καιρῷ, appointed season).

Interpretations include:

1. Roman government maintaining order
2. the Holy Spirit
3. the church's presence
4. angelic forces
5. God's sovereign decree.

The Thessalonians knew Paul's meaning from oral teaching (v. 5), but it remains partially mysterious to us. What's clear: evil is restrained until God's appointed time releases it.

## Historical Context

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Roman law and order (Pax Romana) did restrain anarchy and lawlessness in Paul's day. Many early interpreters saw Rome as the restrainer. When Rome fell, some expected immediate Antichrist appearance. This shows the danger of over-specific identifications of prophetic symbols.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. What restraining influences on evil do you observe in current world events?
2. How does God's sovereignty over evil's timing comfort you amid increasing lawlessness?
3. Why might God intentionally leave some prophetic details unclear to original audiences?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ νῦν τὸ κατέχον οἴδατε εἰς τὸ ἀποκαλυφθῆναι  
And now what withholdeth ye know that might be revealed  
G2532 G3568 G2722 G1492 G1519 G601

αὐτὸν ἐν τῷ ἔαυτοῦ καιρῷ  
he in his time  
G846 G1722 G1438 G2540

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Thessalonians 2:3** (Parallel theme): 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;