

THE RESTRAINER

2 Thessalonians 2:6-12

I. TAKEN OUT OF THE WAY (Verses 6-7)

- a) The Restrainer is the Holy Spirit working in and through the Church in this age to restrain Satan and his lawlessness. (2 Th 2:6,7; 1 Jn 4:1-4; Mt 16:18; Eph 6:11ff)
- b) Although Satan is at work in the world today, a full-blown rebellion against God is yet future, and will follow the rapture of the Church. (2 Th 2:7,8; Jn 12:31; Jn 14:30; 1 Th 4:13- 5:4; Jn 14:1-3)

II. THE REBELLION (Verses 8-12)

- a) During this time, Satan will empower the Antichrist to perform miraculous signs and deceive those who have refused to believe the truth. (2 Th 2:9-12; Rev 12:9; Jun 8:44; Rev 13)
- b) When Christ returns to earth, He will destroy the Antichrist and put an end to the rebellion. (2 Th 2:8; Rev 19:11-20:3)

21ST CENTURY APPLICATION

As Christians, we need to be reminded that God has chosen us to be a restraining force against evil in our world. We must remember that our battle is not against fellow human beings, but a spiritual one. Our power is not of ourselves, but comes from the Spirit of Christ who indwells everyone who has faith in Him. Satan and his allies are promoters of sin and rebellion in the world we live, but the Spirit of Christ is more powerful than Satan. The time will come when Christ will take us home to the place He has prepared for us in heaven. That great event will be followed by a time on this earth of unprecedented sin and rebellion against God. God's wrath will be revealed against this rebellion, and ultimately put an end to it when Christ returns to reign the earth in peace. Christians are not appointed to the time of rebellion and outpouring of wrath on this earth. Anyone can have the assurance of deliverance from sin and God's condemnation simply by believing that Jesus Christ died on Calvary's cross to make payment for our sins and rescue us from God's wrath. Have you put your trust in Him?