

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

2-2-2025 PM

## INTRO.:

A. Read the text: **2 Thess. 2:1-4.**

B. Regarding the text:

1. There have been many answers given to this question.
2. However, the two names given to him indicate that he is an evil being.
3. I would not be dogmatic about my answer. However, I believe our answer is the most logical one.

## I. WHO IS THE MAN OF SIN?

A. Who is the man of sin mentioned in **2 Thessalonians 2:3**?

1. **Read 2 Thessalonians 2:3.**
2. There are several different thoughts about this verse.
  - 1) Satan, Judaism, a Roman ruler, the principle of evil, and the antichrist.
  - 2) His two names indicate that he is an evil being.
    - a. Man of sin. He persistently violates the law of God (**2 Thess. 2:4** "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.")
    - b. Son of perdition. His ultimate end will be eternal condemnation.
  - 3) He sets himself up as a religious leader.

B. Four additional points:

1. At the time Paul wrote, he was not an identifiable being. He still had to be revealed (**2 Thess. 2:3**).
2. The development of this man began in the first century (**2 Thess. 2:7**).
3. Once this man came on the scene, he would continue until the Lord's coming when he would be destroyed "with the brightness of his coming" (**2 Thess. 2:8**).
4. They possessed "lying wonders" (**2 Thess. 2:9**).
  - 1) **Exodus 7:11; 8:7** "And the magicians did so with their *enchantments*, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt." (Or incantations).
  - 2) **Acts 8:9-25**: Simon the sorcerer. He did tricks but NO miracles (**Acts 8:18-19**).

## II. THE ONLY THING THAT MEETS ALL OF THE IDENTIFIERS LISTED IS THE PAPACY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

A. At the time Paul wrote the Thessalonians, the Catholic church and the papacy had not been established on the earth contrary to the claims of Catholicism.

B. The mystery of iniquity had started working.

1. Paul warned the elders of Ephesus about corruption from within (**Acts 20:30**).
2. Elders were the overseers of the flock (**1 Pet. 5:1-3**).
  - 1) The corruption that developed within the eldership led to the hierarchal priesthood in Catholicism.
  - 2) Paul also noted some of the doctrines that would form as the church departed from the faith (**1 Tim. 4:1-3**).
3. The man of sin sits in the temple of God showing himself that he is God.
  - 1) The pope is the supreme head of the Catholic Church, which they consider to be the temple of God.

- 2) He shows himself to be God.
  - a. His titles: Holy Father (**Matt. 23:9**); and Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church (**1 Tim. 2:5**).
  - b. He allows himself to be worshipped, an action that only God deserves (**Matt. 4:10**).
  - c. He makes rulings as if He is God.
    - a) Claims to speak ***Ex cathedra*** a Latin phrase, meaning not “from the cathedral,” but “from the chair.”
    - b) According to Roman Catholic doctrine, a Pope speaking ex-cathedra on issues of faith or morals is infallible.
    - c) Each new Pope changes the laws.
- 3) Many popes have been declared to be saints. To be a saint, the individual had to perform two miracles.

### **III. THE POPE, REGARDLESS OF WHICH ONE IS IN POWER, IS A MAN OF SIN.**

**A. Sin is the transgression of God’s law (**1 John 3:4**).**

**B. They allow the transgression of God’s law in a multitude of ways.**

1. Every November, the Catholic Church allows the faithful to offer a plenary indulgence for the souls in purgatory. This means Catholics can release souls from their temporal punishment in purgatory so they can immediately go to heaven!
2. Sainthood comes by several steps. The person must have one verified miracle, typically a medically inexplicable healing, which must be attributed to the candidate’s intercession. This miracle must be confirmed as scientifically unexplainable, enduring, and complete. A board of medical experts, theologians, and then the Pope must review and validate this miracle.

**C. For many years the Pope did not allow Mass to be given in local languages. The Roman Catholic Church used the Latin language in their Mass until Pope Pius XII in 1951 began to allow the change.**

1. This was a significant departure from the longstanding tradition of using Latin exclusively, and it marked the beginning of a gradual transition towards more inclusive worship practices.
2. Pope Paul VI implemented the changes by promulgating the revised Roman Missal in 1969. This marked a complete shift towards using the vernacular languages, allowing the faithful to actively engage in the prayers and responses during the Mass.

### **IV. CONCLUSION:**

**A. The “man of sin” in 2 Thessalonians 2 is an apostate follower of Satan.**

**B. There are men of sin today. Those who reject the gospel of Christ.**

### **V. APPEAL.**