

# *Olivet Discourse*

(13) Q & A, Satan

2 Thess 2:1-7

2 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. NASU

The following Q&A has been transcribed from the 5/13/2012 class. This class was focused on the SATAN element of the "End Times Chart, slide #6-7". Please refer to "Lesson 13" in the "Olivet Discourse" study for the lesson audio. All of the written notes, charts, and recorded lesson can be found at [www.timelesstruthfortoday.com](http://www.timelesstruthfortoday.com).

- (Refer to IIPet.3 for this context). Isn't the 'end of days' inevitable? (since it's prophesied). Does that mean we're not going to repent?
  - *As a world we're not going to repent, but on an individual basis, praise the Lord, we can!*
- When (timing) is the 'pouring out of the 7 bowls'?
  - *The 7 bowls are intensely associated with the last half of the Tribulation.*
- (Refer to IIThess.2:1-7 for this context). Is the antichrist going to 'take his seat in the temple...' in an earthly temple or a heavenly temple?
  - *Good question, because there are both temples mentioned. However, the temple referenced in IIThess. is the physical temple which will be in Jerusalem.*
- But this temple is not in existence today, correct?
  - *Yes, this temple must be rebuilt at least by the midpoint (3.5 years) of the Tribulation. That's why so many Bible students are intensely interested in any efforts to rebuild the Temple.*
- You have stated that the antichrist is in the world right now, correct?
  - *Yes, it's my personal opinion that the antichrist is already here but he is not 'revealed' (un-masked) because he is being restrained (IJn.4:3)*
- In IIPet.3 it talks of a day with the Lord as being like 1000 years and 1000 years like a day. Are the 7 years, and 3.5 years of the Tribulation our years or Gods?
  - *It seems to me that God has gone out of His way to make sure we understand these to be literal years (42 months, 1260 days, etc).*
- Does Satan 'come upon' the antichrist at some point or is he there from the start?
  - *The Scripture describes an 'un-holy trinity' at the end time. The antichrist, the false prophet, and the dragon. Satan is identified with each one but is also separate. So this seems to be a true counterfeit trinity...*
- Who do we understand is 'he who restrains'?
  - *We believe that this can only be the Holy Spirit.*

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- When the Holy Spirit is 'taken out of the way', does that mean the Holy Spirit is removed from this earth?
  - *Absolutely not! He ceases to restrain Satan but the Holy Spirit is God, He is omnipresent. There is a great multitude of people that get saved during the tribulation.*
- But how is Satan restrained today? There is so much evil in the world.
  - *Correct. But Satan is only allowed to go so far with his evil. See Job 1-2 for an example of how he is restrained from doing as much evil as he would want. During the Tribulation, especially the last half, he will be unrestrained.*
- What happens at the end of the Tribulation?
  - *Christ returns (the 2nd coming), Satan is bound (for 1000 years), the Millennium begins the rule and reign of Christ upon this world.*
- But isn't a lot of what's described as the Tribulation already going on?
  - *Somewhat, but the tribulations today are not on the global scale as they will be. See Mt.24:21*
  - *There have been times, especially WWII, where it seemed like the end had come, but these times will be eclipsed by the Great Tribulation.*
- How is the antichrist going to handle / explain the Rapture?
  - *Since he is a liar and deceiver, he will likely claim responsibility for it in some way. He certainly wouldn't say it was God's work. He wants to be God! see Is.14:12-15*
- Why would Satan feel he could win a battle against God?
  - *Unknown. It is his driving passion to become God and be worshiped as God. And why do unbelievers continue to reject the glorious Gospel??*
- Why does God tolerate Satan at all? For nearly 5000 years.
  - *This question has tormented Bible students forever. God does use Satan to bring about His own purposes, but beyond that, it's simply God's will to do so. He tolerates Satan for a while...*
- Doesn't the Scripture say that God is too Holy to look upon sin? How could he tolerate Satan?
  - *Yes, Hab.1:13. However the passage could be more closely translated 'to look upon with approval'. God does not approve of sin or Satan.*
- At the end when Satan is thrown into the Lake of Fire will we be so Holy we won't be able to cheer?
  - *Good question! Actually from Rev.12:12 it says that heaven is going to rejoice when Satan is cast out (of heaven) at the midpoint of the Tribulation. So probably we'll be rejoicing at Satan's end.*
- How does Jn.12:31-32 and Lu.10:18 relate to Rev.12 re the casting out of Satan?
  - *Jn.12 and Lu.10 refer to the breaking of Satan's power. He's subject to Jesus. But in Rev.12 that subjection results in casting out of heaven.*