

A blue-toned mountain landscape with a large white number 2 in the center.

2

# THESSALONIANS

## CHAPTER 2:5-8



# 2 THESSALONIANS OUTLINE

## CHAPTER

### God's Righteous Retribution (1:1-12)

1

Paul's Encouragement 1:3-4

Paul's Exhortation 1:5-12

*Why are we suffering?*

**PERSECUTION**



## CHAPTER

### The Man of Sin (2:1-17)

2

Prophetic Correction 2:1-12

Pastoral Comfort 2:13-17

*What will occur?*

**PROPHECY**



## CHAPTER

### Disciplining the Disorderly (3:1-18)

3

Regarding Prayer 3:1-5

Regarding Undisciplined Living 3:6-15

Paul's Benediction 3:16-18





*How do I respond?*

**PRACTICE**





# 2 THESSALONIANS INTRODUCTION

-  **Paul wrote this letter from Corinth a few months after writing 1 Thessalonians.**
-  **Just a few months after writing 1 Thessalonians, word came from Thessalonica that some had misunderstood Paul's teaching about the Second Coming.**
-  **Paul has to address two mistaken issues (1) That Jesus could come at any time; (2) Persecution (from man or Satan) is the same as God's judgment.**
-  **Paul tells them not to listen to rumors and reports that the day of the Lord has already begun (2Th.2:1-2).**



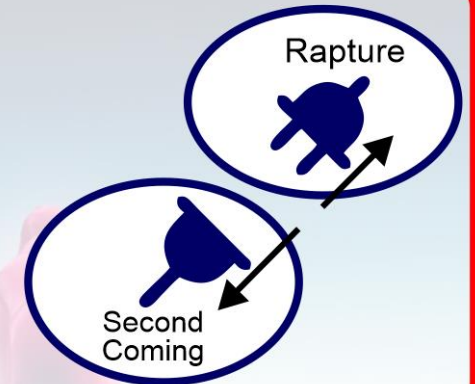


**PRETRIBS**

make the mistake of

**DISCONNECTING**

the Rapture from the Second Coming

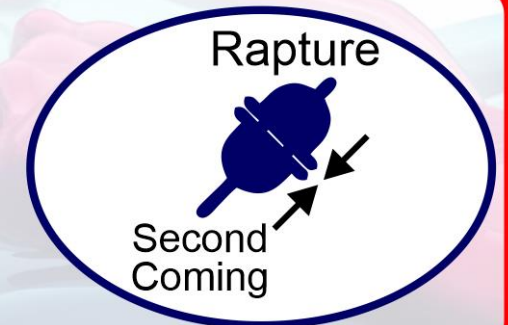


**POSTTRIBS**

make the mistake by

**IDENTIFYING**

the Rapture with the Second Coming



**PREWRATH**

shows the Rapture as

**BELONGING**

to the Second Coming





# 2 THESSALONIANS CONTEXT

## *The Problem Bringing Tension*

- The Thessalonians understood that the Day of the Lord will be a time of God's great wrath (Is.22; Je.30:1-17; Jl.1-2; Am.5; Zp.1).
- They were undergoing persecution coming from unbelieving men.
- They had an overly simplistic view:
  - The DOTL is a time of God's wrath which is “**bad stuff**”.
  - They were experiencing persecution from man or Satan which is “**bad stuff**”.
- Using their logic one could think they were in the DOTL whenever they experience persecution.



**Now, brethren, concerning  
the coming of our Lord  
Jesus Christ and our  
gathering together to Him,  
we ask you,**

**2 THESSALONIANS 2:1**





**“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,”  
(2Th.2:1)**

- **Paul refers to two distinct ideas:**
  - (1) “the coming”**
  - (2) “our gathering together”**
- **These are governed by one Greek article (Grandville Sharp Rule), which indicates two aspects of a single event.**
- **This is the rapture of the church. Christ comes down and we go up to meet Him in the air (1Th.4:16-17).**







**not to be soon shaken in  
mind or troubled, either  
by spirit or by word or by  
letter, as if from us, as though  
the day of Christ had come.**

**2 THESSALONIANS 2:2**





**“not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.” (2Th.2:2)**

- **The day of the Lord is the time when Jesus COMES back, is PRESENT in the clouds of the sky so that He is REVEALED in glory, brings relief to His believers by gathering them together to Him through rapture and resurrection.**
- **Their fears centered on the idea that the day of Christ had ALREADY come.**
- **Perhaps they were troubled by a misguided prophecy ('spirit or by word') or that some leader wrote them a letter saying they were in the day of the Lord, and so missed the rapture.**







# Signs Preceding the Coming Day

**(2 Thessalonians 2:3)**



**Let no one deceive you by  
any means; for that Day will  
not come unless the falling  
away comes first, and the  
man of sin is revealed, the  
son of perdition,**

**2 THESSALONIANS 2:3**



# **OCCURRING BEFORE THE DOTL**

- **Sun, Moon, Stars Signs (Jl.2:30-31)**
- **Elijah the Prophet (Ml.4:5)**
- **The Falling Away (2Th.2:1-3)**
- **Man of Sin Revealed (2Th.2:1-3)**
- **Man of Sin Declares To Be God (2Th.2:1-4)**
- **Peace And Safety (1Th.5:2-3)**
- **Believers Mocked For Believing The Lord's Coming (2Pe.3:3-4,9-10)**

**DAY  
OF  
THE  
LORD**



# MAN'S PERSECUTION IS NOT GOD'S WRATH

Though we may think of them both as “bad stuff” they are certainly NOT the same.

## PERSECUTION OF MAN

- **SOURCE:** Man or Satan
- **PURPOSE:** Satan wanting to compromise mankind
- **BELIEVERS:** We will endure persecution from the world or Satan (2Tm.3:12)

## WRATH OF GOD

- **SOURCE:** God
- **PURPOSE:** God's wrath of judgment poured out upon unbelievers
- **BELIEVERS:** We will not endure the wrath of God (1Th.1:10; 5:9)



**FOR BELIEVERS**

**RETURN  
OF  
JESUS**

**BLESSED HOPE**



TWO SIDES  
OF  
ONE COIN

**FOR UNBELIEVERS**

**DAY  
OF  
THE  
LORD**

**THIEF**





**“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,” (2Th.2:3)**

- Before the Day arrives the apostasy must first occur.**
- This is not A falling away, but THE falling away, the great and final rebellion.**
- The man of sin will be an individual (aka, Antichrist) who will come to prominence in the latter days.**
- It is the acceptance of beast worship that defines THE apostasy.**





# What The Man of Sin Does



(2 Thessalonians 2:4)



**who opposes and exalts  
himself above all that is  
called God or that is  
worshiped, so that he sits  
as God in the temple of  
God, showing himself that  
he is God.**

**2 THESSALONIANS 2:4**





**“who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” (2Th.2:4)**

- The man of sin demands worship for himself that belongs to God only.**
- This is the “abomination of desolation” spoken of by both Daniel and Jesus (Mt.24:15).**
- This event is the trigger point for the beginning of the period Jesus called the Great Tribulation (Mt.24:15-21).**
- The man of sin is Satan’s parody of the true Messiah.**





**“who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” (2Th.2:4)**

- The antichrist will reveal himself when he sits in the Temple of God saying he is God (Da.9:27; Mt.24:15; Rv.13:15). This occurs at the mid point of Daniel's 70th Week. Paul is saying this is something believers will see occur before Christ returns.**





# **SUMMARY CONTEXT OF 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-4**

- ◆ **The context is the coming of Jesus when He gathers (raptures) us to Himself (v.1)**
- ◆ **Someone falsely taught that the day of Christ had already come (v.2)**
- ◆ **Paul clearly tells us of two prerequisites, namely, (1) the “falling away” and (2) the “revealing” of the man of sin (v.3) These must occur BEFORE the day of Christ begins.**
- ◆ **When the man of sin is “revealed” he will exalt himself claiming to be God in the temple of God (v.4)**
- ◆ **This “revealing” of the man of sin occurs at the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th Week (Da.9:27; Mt.25:15; Rv.13:15)**



# What Restrains The Coming of This Man of Sin

**(2 Thessalonians 2:5-8)**



**Do you not remember  
that when I was still  
with you I told you  
these things?**

**2 THESSALONIANS 2:5**







**“Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?” (2Th.2:5)**

- Paul was only with the Thessalonians a few weeks (Ac.17:1-10), but thought it important to teach these brand new Christians about Biblical prophecy.**







**“Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?” (2Th.2:5)**

- **When Paul was still with them he taught about persecution, the rapture, and the antichrist. However, there was contradictory (2:2-3) teaching which described the persecutions they were enduring as the Day of the Lord.**
- **They confused persecution of man or satan with the wrath of God. That distinction is still confusing to some today.**
- **Paul taught them that they will not see the wrath of God poured out. We often need to be reminded of **Biblical truth**.**





A scenic landscape featuring a vibrant green field in the foreground, a path of smooth, light-colored rocks leading through it, and a line of trees in the distance. The sky is filled with dramatic, orange and pink clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

# On The Restrainer



**(2 Thessalonians 2:6-8)**



**And now you know  
what is restraining,  
that he may be  
revealed in his own  
time.**

**2 THESSALONIANS 2:6**





**“And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.” (2Th.2:6)**

- The popular (pre-tribulational) view of the restrainer is that it is the Holy Spirit.**
- That the restrainer is the HS works well for the pre-tribulational view.**
- With the view of the HS as the restrainer it makes this passage imply that the rapture must occur first.**
- That is, since the HS indwells believers, He is removed when the rapture occurs. This view ignores the immediate context.**





**“And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.” (2Th.2:6)**

## **COMMON MISTAKES WHEN INTERPRETING 2TH.2:6**

### **1 That the restraining is concerning sin in general**



- **The restraining specifically concerns the revealing of the man of sin**

### **2 That the restraining is answered by human logic and not from Scripture**

- **The restraining can be determined from Scripture**
- **God (or His agent) is restraining now**
- **The revealing is related to a specific period of time (“in his own time”) in the future**







**“And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.” (2Th.2:6)**

- **“Revealed in his own time” (v.6) refers to the Beast at the point of his “revealing” which occurs at the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th Week when he takes his seat in the temple.**
- **The restrainer is preventing the man of sin from beginning his oppressive reign until God's timing.**
- **The restraining is like a blindfold. When it is taken away we will know who is the man of sin.**







**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.**

**2 THESSALONIANS 2:7**







**“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.” (2Th.2:7)**

- Hints of God's plan are revealed in the OT (Ge.3:15; 12:3; Ex.19:5-6).**
- The full agenda was not clear until the first coming of Jesus.**
- Paul used the term “mystery” to describe God's total redemptive plan through the effects of the gospel (1Co.4:1; Ep.6:19; Cl.4:3).**









**“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.” (2Th.2:7)**

## **PAUL USED “MYSTERY” IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT SENSES** **— ALL MYSTERIES ARE CONNECTED TO JESUS —**

- 1 Israel hardened to allow Gentiles to be included (Ro.11:25-32)**
- 2 The gospel made known to the nations (Ro.16:25-27; Cl.2:2)**
- 3 Believer's new body at the Second Coming (1Co.15:5-57)**
- 4 The summing up of all things in Christ (Ep.1:8-11)**
- 5 Relationship between Christ and the church in marriage terms (Ep.5:22-33)**
- 6 Gentiles included in the covenant people (Cl.1:26-28)**
- 7 The end-time Anti-Christ (2Th.2:1-11)**








**“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.” (2Th.2:7)**


- Paul associates this removal with the revealing of the man of sin as he sits in the temple of God demanding worship at the middle of the Daniel’s 70th Week.**
- The focus here is on the FUNCTION of restraining, rather than the one who actually does it.**
- Paul expects believers to see the results of this restraining removed. That is, the “revealing” of the man of sin.**
- The restraining is specifically connected to the revealing of the man of sin, not to sin in general. Once the restraining is removed (“taken out of the way”), the man of sin will be revealed.**







**“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.” (2Th.2:7)**



# **MYSTERY OF LAWLESSNESS**

- In 1 Timothy 3:16 we learn that the mystery of godliness is God manifested in the flesh — Jesus Himself.**





And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory (1Tm.3:16).

- The antithesis to Christ is Antichrist, the man of sin and mystery of lawlessness, who will be possessed by Satan. Thus, Satan manifest in the flesh via the Antichrist.**







**“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.” (2Th.2:7)**

# **MYSTERY OF LAWLESSNESS**

- God has a mystery plan for the future**
- Satan has a mystery plan for the future (2Th.2:7)**
- These verses reveal how the personification of evil will mimic Christ. Satan possessing the Antichrist will come in the flesh.**







**And then the lawless one  
will be revealed, whom the  
Lord will consume with the  
breath of His mouth and  
destroy with the brightness  
of His coming.**

**2 THESSALONIANS 2:8**







**“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.” (2Th.2:8)**

- **When the lawless one is revealed it will begin the Great Tribulation Period (3 ½ Years, 42 Months, 1,260 Day) which occurs at the mid-point of the Week (Da.9:27; Mt.24:15).**
- **This is a unique period unlike any other (Da.12:1; Je.30:7; Mt.24:21). There is only one unparalleled time of trouble.**
- **Persecution and Hiding of Israel in Wilderness (Rv.12:14).**







**“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.” (2Th.2:8)**

**○ Period Antichrist will persecute Saints (Da.7:25; Rv.13:5-7).**



He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time. (**Da.7:25**).



<sup>5</sup>And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. <sup>6</sup>Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. <sup>7</sup>It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. (**Rv.13-5-7**).





# CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

**RESTRAINER Taken  
Out of The Way (v.7)**

**CHURCH  
Raptured (v.1)**

**1**

**Once the restrainer  
is removed, then the  
Antichrist will be  
revealed for who he is**

**— Unknown Duration —**

**The Great Tribulation is  
“cut short” for the sake  
of the elect (Mt.24:22).**

**3**

**2**

**ANTICHRIST Revealed (v.8)**

- **Abomination (Mt.24:15)**
- **Begin Great Tribulation (Mt.24:21)**





**<sup>7</sup>And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, <sup>8</sup>but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. <sup>9</sup>So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. <sup>10</sup>Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.**

**RELELATION 12:7-10**



**<sup>11</sup>And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. <sup>12</sup>Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."** <sup>13</sup>Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. <sup>14</sup>But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

**REVELATION 12:11-14**



**<sup>15</sup>So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. <sup>16</sup>But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. <sup>17</sup>And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

**REVELATION 12:15-17**





# **WAR IN HEAVEN ANTICIPATES SATAN'S WRATH**

**John tells us about this war in Heaven (Rv.12:7-9). It is this war that precipitates the “revealing” of the man of sin (Rv.12:7-17).**

**Once this battle takes place and Satan is kicked down to the earth, Michael stands aside (Da.12:1) and now allows him to carry out his own agenda as a final “last ditch” attempt to defeat the plan and character of God (Rv.12:12).**

**The cause of the time of distress is Satan, who “having great wrath,” uses the man of lawlessness to oppress both Israel and the church (Rv.12:12).**



# MICHAEL: WAR IN HEAVEN

## *Revelation 12:7-17*

### **This Is Not The Original Fall Of Satan. This is Still Future**

- After Satan's original rebellion he was still allowed access into the presence of God (Jb.1:6; 2:1).
- Rv.12:14 directly connects with Daniel 7:25 and 12:7 concerning the time frame.

Revelation 12:14 says, "time, and times, and half a time"  
Daniel 7:25 says, "time and times and the dividing of time"  
Daniel 12:7 says, "time, times, and half a time"



**Second Half of  
Daniel's 70th Week**



MICHAEL



A War in Heaven  
Takes Place Against  
Satan, Under the  
Leadership of  
Michael (Rv.12:7-9)

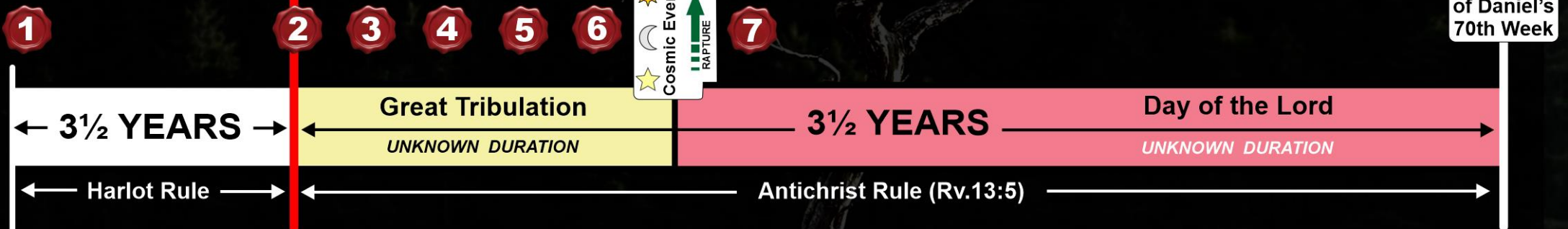
# WAR IN HEAVEN

## *Initiates The Great Tribulation*

Satan Cast  
to the Earth  
by Michael  
(Da.12:1;  
Rv.12:7-9)



Abomination  
of Desolation  
(Mt.24:15)



- This War Precipitates The Revealing of the Man of Sin (Re.12:7-9)
- The Restraining Includes the "Mystery of Iniquity" (2Th.2:7)
- Satan Cannot Prevail Against Michael And His Angels (Re.12:8)
- Michael Will "Stand Aside" No Longer Restraining Satan (Da.12:1; 2Th.2:4-7)



# MICHAEL: BODY OF MOSES DISPUTE



Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (Jd.1:9)

**Michael had the responsibility of putting the body of Moses in a "safe place" after his death presumably to await his role in the Tribulation as one of the 2 witness-heralds of Rv.11.**



<sup>5</sup>So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. <sup>6</sup>And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day. (Du.34:5-6)

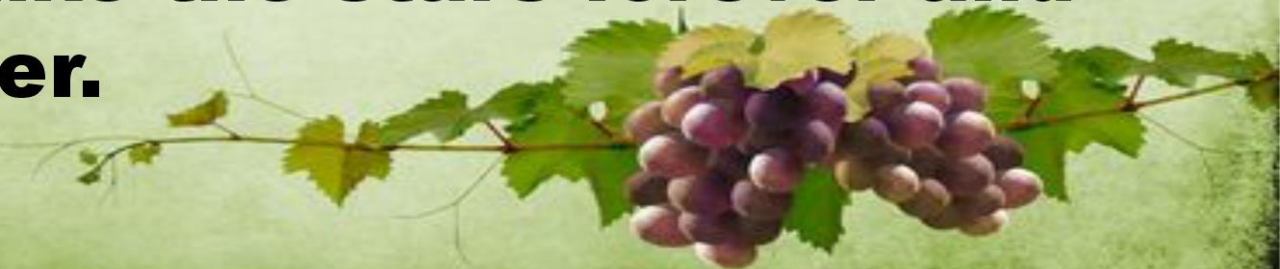


**When Moses died the Lord buried him. We have no further information where Moses' body was buried.**



**<sup>1</sup>At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.**

**DANIEL 12:1-3**





# MICHAEL STANDS ASIDE – DANIEL 12:1-3



At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time... (Da.12:1)

♥ **Da.12:1, This action of Michael initiates the “time of trouble” which is the unprecedented Great Tribulation (Mt.24:15-22). This is a time like no other in history. There is a cause and effect action here.**

♥ **The archangel Michael has always been the special protective “prince” of Daniel’s people, Israel (Da.10:13,21, same vision as Da.12:1).**

♥ **Da.12:1, “who stands watch over the sons of your people” tells us Michael’s present function as protector of Israel (Da.10:13, 21). When Michael “arises” he is ceasing his ministry as protector of Israel as seen by what happens next. This is God’s timing.**



# MICHAEL: STAND UP — DANIEL 12:1

עמד

“stand up” [H5975, ‘âmad] — ‘aw-mad’

עמד

**This Hebrew word can also mean ‘stand still’ or ‘cease’**

As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God" (1Sm.9:27) [The activity of going down ceased]

So Joab blew a trumpet; and all the people stood still and did not pursue Israel anymore, nor did they fight anymore (2Sm.2:28) [The activity of pursuing Israel ceased]

Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased (2Ki.4:6) [The activity of pouring oil ceased]

 **If a man is reclining or seated and is said to amad, he will stand up.**  
**If a man is standing up and active, then he will stand still.**

In Daniel 10:13 Michael is described as actively defending Israel.

So when he is said to ‘âmad he stands still or ceases his defense on their behalf.



**<sup>12</sup>Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup>But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. <sup>14</sup>Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."**

**DANIEL 10:12-14**

*Gabriel*



**<sup>21</sup> But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.**

**DANIEL 10:21**





# CROSS REFERENCE IN CONTEXT

SOURCE	ACTION	RESULT
<b>DANIEL</b> <b>Daniel 12:1-3</b>	<b>Daniel stands up (v.1)</b>	<b>Beginning of Unprecedented Great Tribulation</b> “And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time” (Da.12:1)
<b>PAUL</b> <b>2 Thessalonians 2:1-9</b>	<b>Restraining ceases (v.7)</b>	<b>Beginning of Unprecedented Great Tribulation</b> “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders” (2Th.2:9)
<b>JOHN</b> <b>Revelation 12:7-17</b>	<b>Satan cast to the earth (v.9)</b>	<b>Beginning of Unprecedented Great Tribulation</b> “Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child” (Rv.12:13)
<b>JESUS</b> <b>Matthew 24:15-21</b>	<b>Believers are to watch for this event (v.15)</b>	<b>Beginning of Unprecedented Great Tribulation</b> “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Mt.24:21)



# SUMMARY: ORDER OF EVENTS

## WAR IN HEAVEN

- **God tells Michael to cast Satan to the earth (Rv.12). And he does.**



## MICHAEL STANDS UP

- **Michael “stands up” (moves aside) from his role as Israel’s defender (Da.12:1).**
- **Michael “standing up” is the equivalent to being “taken out of the way” by God (2Th.2:7). The restraint is removed.**
- **This is a cause and effect series of events.**

## GREAT TRIBULATION

- **The revealing of the man of sin takes place.**
- **The result begins the Great Tribulation (Da.12:1; Mt.24:21).**
- **Michael’s restraint ministry comes to an end.**
- **This is related primarily to Israel and the temple (2Th.2:4; Mt.24:15).**