

- (3) Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the ἀποστασία comes first, and the man of lawlessness (ὁ ἄνθρωπος τῆς νομίας) 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 (τὸν ναὸν τοῦ θεοῦ), 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 may be revealed.
- (7) For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains (μόνον ὁ κατέχων) will do so until he is taken out of the way.
- (8) And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;
- (9) that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,
- (10) and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.
- (11) And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false.

There are four key concepts in this passage that appear to require some comment: (a) the "Day of the Lord" (verse 2); (b) the ἀποστασία (verse 3); (c) the "man of lawlessness" or "man of sin" (verse 3); (d) the "one who now restrains" (verse 7).

- a. The "Day of the Lord" concept has a considerable background in the OT. There it appears quite consistently to refer to a time when the Lord manifests Himself in wrath. Generally the Day of the Lord is associated with darkness, thick clouds, gloom, and strong manifestations of God's disfavor. However, in the dark clouds there is a silver lining for the remnant, the true spiritual people of God. In wrath God always remembers mercy. Among OT references to the Day of the Lord are the following:

Isaiah 13:6-11 -- "Wail, for the day of the Lord is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will fall limp. And every man's heart will melt. And they will be terrified, pains and anguish will take hold of them; they will writhe like a woman in labor, they will look at one another in astonishment, their faces aflame. Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; and He will exterminate its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash forth their light; the sun will be dark when it rises, and the moon will not shed its light. Thus I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud, and abase the haughtiness of the ruthless."

Ezekiel 30:1-3 -- "The word of the Lord came again to me saying, Son of man, prophesy and say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Wail, Alas for the day!" ' For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near; it will be a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations."