

## 2 Thessalonians 2 v 1 - 12 The man of lawlessness

Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. <sup>2</sup> Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don't believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. <sup>3</sup> Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. <sup>4</sup> He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God. <sup>5</sup> Don't you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? <sup>6</sup> And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. <sup>7</sup> For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. <sup>8</sup> Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming. <sup>9</sup> This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. <sup>10</sup> He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them. <sup>11</sup> So God will cause them to be greatly deceived, and they will believe these lies. <sup>12</sup> Then they will be condemned for enjoying evil rather than believing the truth.

1, Why do we feel Paul is reiterating (v1 - let us clarify, v5 don't you remember that I told you) the authority of Jesus Christ? What is the ultimate reason?

2, Bearing in mind Paul is talking to the persecuted Christian community, which is being nurtured and growing to reflect all of God's law, can we see similarities to communities we might know?

3, How do we interpret the idea of things have to get worse before they can get better?

4, Looking at the passage and relating to the below creeds, can we see any common theme's or reasons?

5, How does this apply to us and those around us, now?

## The Apostles' Creed

### [Apostles Creed CoE explanation](#)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the  
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

## The Nicene Creed

### [After Apostles Creed half way down page](#)

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from  
heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin  
Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and  
the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic  
Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.