

## Are YOU The Man of GOD .... or .... The Man of SIN ?

This study will focus on the contrast between the children of God ....  
and .... the children of the devil ('that wicked one').

Do you do works of righteousness .... or .... do you do works of evil?

Do you love your brethren in the Lord .... or .... do you love the world?

**1 John 3:10-12** In this **the children of God are manifest,**  
and **the children of the devil:**

whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God,  
neither he that loveth not his brother.

11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning,  
that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, **who was of that wicked one,** and slew his brother.  
And wherefore slew he him? Because **his own works were evil,**  
**and his brother's righteous.**

In 2 Timothy 3:17 .... in the phrase 'the man of God'

the article 'the' .... and the preposition 'of' .... do not appear in the Greek.

Only the nouns are written for: **man** <anthropos> and **God** <theos>.

**2 Tim 3:16-17** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable  
for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That **the man of God** may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all  
good works.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3 .... in the phrase 'that man of sin'

the adjective 'that' ... and the preposition 'of' ... do not appear in the Greek.

Only the nouns are written for: **man** <anthropos> and **sin** <hamartia>.

**2 Thess 2:3** Let no man deceive you by any means:

for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first,  
and **that man of sin** be revealed, the son of perdition;

**Just as 'the man of God' is not 1 individual man ....**

**neither is 'that man of sin' 1 particular man.**

Whether 'a' or 'the' precedes it, the phrase 'man of God' is written in the scriptures 72 times. **Many men** are the 'man of God'. To name a few, there were **Moses** (Deut 33:1, Josh 14:6, 1 Chron 23:14), **Elijah** (1 Kings 17:18,24), **Elisha** (2 Kings 5:20), **David** (2 Chron 8:14, Neh 12:24).

*Turn to 2 Thessalonians 2, and hold your place there as we reference other verses throughout the chapter.*

Paul is assuring the saints in the churches of God (2 Thess 1:4) that, when Jesus comes, they will be caught up (1 Thess 4:17) with the called, and chosen, and faithful (Rev 17:14), of all ages (1 Thess 4:16, 3:13; Jude 1:14; Psa 50:3-5; Deut 33:2; Zech 14:5; Matt 24:30-31), and assembled with Christ in the air. He is encouraging them not to be worried about the perilous (dangerous, fierce, savage, hard to endure) times that will come in the last days (2 Tim 3:1), just before the Lord returns:

**2 Thess 2:1-2** Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,  
2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that **the day of Christ** is at hand.

The 'disciples' .... called 'Christians' (Acts 11:26) had already been warned:

**Matt 24:3-6** And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be?  
and **what shall be the sign of thy coming,**  
**and of the end of the world?**

- 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them,  
**Take heed that no man deceive you.**
- 5 For **many shall come in my name,** saying, I am Christ;  
and **shall deceive many.**
- 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: **see that ye be not troubled:** for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Jesus Christ will NOT RETURN .... UNTIL 'all these things come to pass', as He foretold in Matthew chapter 24. The Spirit of God inspired more, similar words of caution, so that the saints would not to be misled, as Paul listed 2 other things that must happen before the day of the Lord comes:

**2 Thess 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means:**

for **that day shall not come, except**

- **there come a falling away first,**
- **and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**

The phrase, "the son of perdition" is written 1 other place in the Bible, when Jesus prayed for 'the men which the Father gave Him out of the world' (John 17:1-26) except for Judas Iscariot, 'the man of sin' who betrayed Him:

**John 17:12** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but **the son of perdition;** that the scripture might be fulfilled.

In both 2 Thess 2:3 and John 17:12 .... in the phrase 'the son of perdition' the article 'the' ... and the preposition 'of' ... do not appear in the Greek.

Only the nouns are written for: **son** <huios>

also translated 'a son' and 'the children'

and **perdition** <hamartia> also translated 'destruction'.

So we understand that the phrases 'that man of sin' and 'the son of perdition' do not mean 'ONE CERTAIN MAN' .... who will come in the FUTURE .... commonly called 'THE ANTI-CHRIST'. But, rather, these phrases indicate 'ANY' man/men, son/sons, child/children of the devil/Satan/that wicked one.

Perdition .... is contrasted with eternal life (also Phil 1:28):

**Heb 10:39** But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Punishment with everlasting destruction awaits the disobedient ....

when Jesus returns in flaming fire taking vengeance (2 Thess 1:7-9):

**2 Peter 3:7** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

It is important to see that the 'man of sin' .... a part of the house of God .... magnified himself when Jesus was put to death (Psa 35:14,26-27):

**Psa 55:12-14** For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:  
 13 But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide,  
and mine acquaintance.  
 14 We took sweet counsel together,  
and walked unto the house of God in company.

'The son of perdition' was one of the Lord's DISCIPLES. He was inside the church .... among the congregation .... in the synagogue .... in the temple:

**Zech 13:6** And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

So also before the Lord comes again .... 'that man of sin' will magnify himself (Dan 8:25, 11:36-37) again .... in the temple 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.

Satan put it in Judas' heart to be the traitor (John 13:2, Luke 6:16):

**John 6:65-71** And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that **no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.**

66 From that time many of his disciples went back,  
and walked no more with him.

67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go?  
**thou hast the words of eternal life.**

69 And **we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ,**  
**the Son of the living God.**

70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve,  
and **one of you is a devil?**

71 He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon:  
for **he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.**

Jesus told His disciples that they were "not all clean" (John 13:11). He said:

**John 13:18** I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen:  
but that the scripture may be fulfilled, **He that eateth bread with me  
hath lifted up his heel against me.**

The BETRAYER was not openly Jesus' ENEMY -- but was His disloyal FRIEND:

**Psa 41:9** Yea, **mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted,**  
**which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.**

The false apostle ate WITH the Bread of Life (John 6:35,48,51) but he never ate OF the Living Bread. He attacked from within, and betrayed with a kiss:

**Luke 22:21** But, behold, **the hand of him that betrayeth me**  
(Luke 22:48) **is with me** on the table.

Simon Peter questioned the Lord, as to who it was, and Jesus identified him:

**John 13:26-27** Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop  
(a fragment, bit, or morsel; like a piece of food, as bread, to be soaked in  
gravy or liquid), when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop,  
**he gave it to Judas Iscariot,** the son of Simon.

27 And after the sop **Satan entered into him.** (Luke 22:3)  
Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

The 'strong man' (Satan) was 'bound' (Mark 3:27, Rev 20:2-3) by Jesus Christ in His 1st advent .... when He destroyed the works of the devil by His death on the cross (1 John 3:8, Heb 2:14) .... so that Satan could not prevent the church from being built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ (Matt 16:16-19, 1 Cor 3:11, Isa 28:16):

**2 Thess 2:5-7** Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye know **what withholdeth** (or is 'restrained') that he (that man of sin) **might be revealed** (uncovered, unveiled, disclosed, made known) in his time. (when he is 'released')

7 **For the mystery of iniquity doth already work:** (the spirit of Satan was then, and still is now, working in the world) only he who now letteth (but Satan is now being 'hindered' .... 'prevented' .... from executing his extremely murderous plan against God's saints) will let (he will stay 'bound'), until he be taken out of **the way.** (when he will be 'loosed' in the 'midst'):

**Rev 12:12** Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for **the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.**

That 'man of sin' IS the spirit of Satan, who is 'anti' (against) Christ. He is the only 'being' who 'qualifies' as one who was 'already here' in the last days (which began over 2,000 years ago) .... and yet, one who 'will come' in the future .... just prior to the Lord's coming (Matt 24:21-27):

**1 John 2:18, 22** Little children, **it is the last time:** and as ye have heard that **antichrist** (Greek <antichristos>) **shall come, even now are there many antichrists;** (Greek <antichristos>) **whereby we know that it is the last time.**

22 **Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist,** (Greek <antichristos>) **that denieth the Father and the Son.**

He is 'that man of sin' - who 'professes' to know Christ, yet denies His word:

**1 John 2:4** He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

ANY man who HAS the spirit of Satan .... being a child of the devil .... who is a 'liar' .... is that 'man of sin'. The children of the devil .... do the devil's will; the children of God .... do God's will (Matt 12:50, Eph 6:6, Col 4:12, James 1:22, 1 Pet 4:2, 1 John 2:17, Rev 22:14):

**John 8:44** Ye are of your father the devil (Acts 13:10), and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Judas was a liar, a deceiver, and an antichrist, who 'pretended' to know God:

**Titus 1:16** They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Deceivers say one thing and do another (1 John 1:6). The contrast is between those of the WORLD, of error .... and those of GOD, of truth:

**1 John 4:1-6** Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Peter's confession was that .... Jesus is the Christ (Matt 16:16):

**2 John 1:7** For many deceivers are entered into the world,  
who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.  
This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

'Antichrist' is not ONE evil man. There are MANY who are opposed to Christ:

**2 Cor 11:13-15** For such are false apostles, deceitful workers,  
transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; (2 Tim 3:13)

for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if  
his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;  
whose end shall be according to their works.

As Judas, 'the son of perdition' was a bishop (Acts 1:20) .... who ruled  
in the church (1 Tim 3:1-7) .... in the last days .... others will follow devils:

**1 Tim 4:1** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times  
some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits,  
and doctrines of devils;

The closer time gets to the Lord's coming .... the worse the seduction gets:

**2 Tim 3:13** But evil men and seducers (1 John 2:26, 2 John 1:7,  
Col 2:4) shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

That 'man of sin' sits in the holy temple -- not a literal, physical one --  
but among the body of Christ (1 Cor 3:16-17, 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16, Eph 2:21-  
22; Heb 3:6; 1 Pet 2:5) .... and does what is right in his own eyes

(Prov 12:15) .... instead of submitting himself to the righteousness of God:

**2 Cor 4:2** But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty,  
not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully;  
(Jere 48:10) but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to  
every man's conscience in the sight of God.

The devil plants his deceitful workers in the church. Jesus said

they will stay among the believers until the end .... when He comes:

**Matt 13:24-30** Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man (the Son of man - vs 37) which sowed good seed (the children of the kingdom - vs 38) in his field (the world - vs 38):

25 But while men slept, his enemy (the devil - vs 39) came and sowed tares (the children of the wicked one - vs 38) among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: (the end of the world - vs 39) and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers (the angels - vs 39), Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

We are repeatedly warned not to be DECEIVED (Matt 24: 4-5,11,24;

Luke 21:8; 1 Cor 6:9, 15:33; Gal 6:7; Eph 5:6; 1 John 3:7; Rom 16:18):

**2 Peter 2:1-2** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious (Greek <apoleia> also translated 'perdition' 8 times, 'destruction' 5 times, and 'damnable' 1 time) ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

We do not war after the flesh (2 Cor 10:3-6). We are in a 'spiritual' battle:

**Eph 6:12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, (1 Tim 1:18, 1 Cor 15:32) but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

'WHO' is God describing in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 .... when we read

"that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" (vs 3),

"that he might be revealed in his time" (vs 6) ....

and "that Wicked" be revealed (vs. 8)?

Consistently through the CONTEXT .... 'the wicked one' (Matt 13:19; 1 John 2:13,14, 3:12, 5:18) .... has the ENERGY, the super-human power, of Satan.

**2 Thess 2:8-12** And then shall that Wicked (Greek word <anomos> **also translated 'lawless'** in 1 Tim 1:9) be revealed,

whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth,  
and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

- 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working (Greek <energeia> of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,  
10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.  
11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:  
12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Though Satan is a spirit being, he is also referred to as "the man" by Isaiah:

**Isa 14:12-17** How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer,  
son of the morning!

how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven,  
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;

I will be like the most High. (sounds like 2 Thess 2:4)

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? (Mark 3:25-27, 2 Tim 2:26)

Ezekiel's prophecy also typified the devil as "the prince" and "a man"

.... who claimed to be "a God", and to "sit in the seat of God":

**Ezek 28:2** Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus (a Phoenician city on the Mediterranean coast), Thus saith the Lord GOD;

Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said,

I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, (this is what 2 Thess 2:4 describes) in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

Ezekiel's personified Satan again, as "the king" of Tyrus .... who had "been in Eden the garden of God". He was "the anointed cherub that covereth" .... and was "perfect" in his ways from the day he was created, till iniquity was found in him .... he sinned. Therefore, God will cast him out of his mountain, and destroy him (Ezek 28:12-16). Paul referred to Satan as "the god of this world" (2 Cor 4:4) and "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph 2:2) .... upon whom the wrath of God will come (Eph 5:6-7, Col 3:6).

The man of sin, corporately, will rule in the churches world-wide and masses will love him. He will bend (actually, break) God's law .... so that it appears compassionate, sensitive, and flexible -- rather than judgmental, demanding, and firm, toward sin. They will be deceived because they love sin:

**2 Tim 4:3-4** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, (2 Thess 2:10-12) and shall be turned unto fables.

Near the end of the world .... when Satan is released 'full force' ....  
to deceive the nations (Rev 20:3) .... and bring great persecutions and  
tribulations (2 Thess 1:4-6) .... and war against the saints (Dan 7:21, Rev  
13:7) .... **the elect will NOT be deceived** (Mark 13:22, Matt 24:24):

**Daniel 12:10** Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried;  
but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand;  
**but the wise shall understand.**

True believers will fear to meet in public .... in that time of affliction:

**Heb 10:25** **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,**  
**as the manner of some is;** but exhorting one another:  
**and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

The 'visible' church at large will be apostate and fall away (2 Thess 2:3,  
Luke 8:13, Heb 6:4-6). Perilous times will come in the last days .... when  
men have a FORM of godliness .... but deny God's power. 'Real' saints are to  
turn away from them (2 Tim 3:1-5) .... and be faithful unto death (Rev  
2:10). God's judgment will start at God's house .... in the holy temple that  
will have become abominable (Matt 24:15) and desolate (Luke 13:35):

**1 Peter 4:17** For the time is come that **judgment must begin**  
**at the house of God:**  
and if **it first begin at us,**  
**what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?**

Peter asked; Paul answered .... when Jesus is revealed from heaven:

**2 Thess 1:8-9** **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them** that know  
not God, and **that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:**  
**9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction**  
**from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;**

'That man of sin' (2 Thess 2:3) .... is 'that Wicked' (2 Thess 2:8) ....

who is LAWLESS. That is what SIN is .... it is LAWLESSNESS .... VIOLATION and DISREGARD of God's law. That is why 'that Wicked' is 'that man of sin':

**1 John 3:4** Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law:  
for **sin is the transgression of the law.**

By contrast .... with the 'man of sin' ....

The 'man of God' walks right (Ezek 36:27, Rom 8:1-4, Gal 5:16).

The 'man of God' stands right (Eph 6:13, Luke 21:36, Col 4:12, 1 Cor 15:1).

The 'man of God' sits right (Psa 26:4-5)

The 'man of God' loves God's law (Psa 119:97,113,163,165):

**Psa 1:1-2** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, **nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.** (Psa 26:4-5)

2 But **his delight is in the law of the LORD;**  
**and in his law doth he meditate day and night.**

The 'man of God' is taught and instructed .... to withdraw himself from men of corrupt minds, destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness .... who have erred from the faith for the love of money (1 Tim 6:1-10):

**1 Tim 6:11** But **thou, O man of God,** flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

**Which Are YOU .... the Man of GOD .... or .... the Man of SIN ?**

*This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"*

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