

# *the man of sin revealed in the first century*

*“when the footage of history matches the frame of scripture, the picture is complete.”*

## *1. the core claim*

- *paul’s prophecy of the “man of sin / man of lawlessness” in 2 thessalonians 2 was fulfilled in the first century, not in some distant future.*
- *yahusha’s prophecies in matthew 24, mark 13, and luke 21 tied the judgement to “this generation” (a 40-year window).*
- *the prophecy was completed before the destruction of the temple in ad 70.*
- *the “man of sin” refers to the zealot rulers who seized and defiled the temple during the jewish revolt: john of gischala and simon bar giora.*
- *their 42 months of tyranny ended with the fall of jerusalem, which yahusha called “the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled” (luke 21:22).*
- *josephus, a first-century historian, recorded these events in the jewish war.*

## *2. paul’s warning: 2 thessalonians 2*

*2 thessalonians 2:1-8 (esv adjusted)*

*now concerning the coming of our master yahusha messiah and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of yhvh has come.*

*let no one deceive you in any way. for that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called elohiym or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of elohiym, proclaiming himself to be elohiym. do you not remember that when i was still with you i told you these things? and you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. for the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. and then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the master yahusha will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.*

**verse-by-verse historical echoes:**

verse	prophecy	historical echo
2:1–2	fear of having missed the coming of the master	thessalonians worried the judgement had already taken place.
2:3	rebellion first, man of sin revealed	jewish revolt (ad 66); zealot seizure of temple.
2:4	sits in the temple, proclaiming himself	zealot coins proclaimed “redemption of zion”; zealot leaders assumed priestly and kingly roles.
2:6–7	restrainer taken away	roman garrison massacred; believers fled jerusalem (pella).
2:8	yahusha destroys him by the breath of his mouth	titus’ army crushed jerusalem; simon bar giora dragged to rome and executed.

**historical echoes from josephus:**

- **war 4.3.7: “but john of gischala, being both crafty and bold, managed to get into jerusalem, and quickly gained the mastery of the temple. there he set himself up as ruler, seized the treasures, and slew those who opposed him, even priests, so that the set-apart place itself ran with blood.”**
- **war 4.9.3: “as for simon, he assumed the royal dignity, wore a white garment and purple robe, and appeared every day in the temple with pomp and the attendance of guards, as if he had been a king.”**

paul’s “man of lawlessness” sat in the temple, exalting himself.

### **3. yahusha’s time-lock: the olivet discourse**

**matthew 24:15-22, 34**

**“so when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet daniel, standing in the set-apart place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in judea flee to the mountains. let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. and alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a sabbath. for then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. and if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. ... truly, i say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.”**

luke 21:20-22, 32

*"but when you see jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. then let those who are in judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written. ... truly, i say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place."*

historical echo (josephus, war 6.9.4):

*"the slaughter within was even more dreadful than that from without. for the zealots fell upon the people themselves, and those who were not slain by the romans were destroyed by the madness of their own nation. the temple was defiled with the blood of priests, and the sanctuary filled with dead bodies."*

fulfilment window: yahusha spoke ad 30 → temple destroyed ad 70 = one generation.

note: believers obeyed yahusha's warning and fled to pella before the siege (eusebius, eccl. hist. 3.5).

#### 4. the two zealot "beasts"

name	role	coin inscription	fate
john of gischala	seized temple; declared himself high priest	coins: "deliverance of zion"	captured after tunnel collapse; sentenced to life imprisonment.
simon bar giora	proclaimed "king of the jews"; wore royal robes	coins: "redemption of zion"	captured in siloam tunnel; dragged in triumph in rome; executed at mamertine prison.

josephus records that both entered the set-apart place, killed priests, and turned the temple into a fortress. this fulfilled daniel's "abomination that makes desolate" (daniel 11:31; matthew 24:15).

#### 5. the 42-month prophecy

revelation 11:2

*"but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the set-apart city for forty-two months."*

revelation 13:5-7

*"and the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months. it opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against elohiym, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. also it was allowed to make war on the set-apart ones and to conquer them. and authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation."*

**daniel 7:25**

***“he shall speak words against the most high, and shall wear out the set-apart ones of the most high, and shall think to change the times and the torah; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.”***

**historical echo (josephus, war 5.1.5):**

***“now this was the time when the sedition at jerusalem was most strong, and the tyranny lasted three years and a half, until the destruction of the city.”***

span: nov ad 66 - aug ad 70 (42 months, 3½ years).

## **6. the restrainer**

**2 thessalonians 2:6-7**

***“and you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. for the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.”***

**options for the restrainer:**

1. roman authority - garrison removed in ad 66, leaving zealots unopposed.
2. believers - fled to pella (eusebius, eccl. hist. 3.5), leaving temple open to zealots.
3. shekinah / glory of yhvh - talmud (yoma 39b): signs of yhvh’s presence ceased 40 years before ad 70.

all restraining forces gone → zealots seized the set-apart place.

## **7. objections and responses**

<b>objection</b>	<b>response</b>
“the antichrist is a single future dictator.”	scripture defines antichrist as a <b>spirit</b> : “many antichrists have come” (1 john 2:18). john and simon were first-century examples.
“the temple is only spiritual now.”	paul spoke of the <b>literal temple</b> still standing (2 th 2:4). yahusha also pointed to literal temple stones (mt 24:2).
“not the whole world worshiped the zealots.”	“world” ( <i>kosmos</i> ) = the roman world. revelation 13:3 says “the whole earth marveled.” josephus: rome honored titus and vespasian as divine.

## 8. application for today

- *time texts are anchors - "this generation," "soon," "at hand" all point to the first century.*
- *prophecy is pattern - ad 70 was the unique fulfilment, but the spirit of lawlessness appears in later tyrants.*
- *faithful watchfulness - the early believers fled to pella and lived because they trusted yahusha's words. we too must heed his voice.*

## 9. further study

- *josephus, the jewish war books 5-7.*
- *eusebius, ecclesiastical history 3.5-8.*
- *look up "first jewish revolt coin year 2" (zealot propaganda in coins).*
- *don k. preston, who is this babylon?*
- *steve gregg, revelation: four views.*

## 10. closing thought

**daniel 2:34-35**

***"a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. but the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."***

*in ad 70, roman catapults hurled stones that shattered the walls of the temple. the kingdom of yhvh, the stone cut without hands, crushed the kingdoms of men; exactly on time.*