

I. The Man of Sin Described (vv 4-7, 9)**A. Four Presuppositions for Interpreting these Texts:**

- 1) That these refer to particular historical persons, not just historical cyclical patterns (Amos 3:7)
- 2) That the Church is of primary concern in the Scriptures, not the world (Jn 17:9)
- 3) That the man of sin will actually be revealed in history (vv 5, 8)
- 4) That the Visible Church, as an institution, is to identify him when he is revealed. WCF 25.6, 'There is no other head of the Church, but the Lord Jesus Christ; nor can the Pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof; but is that Antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalteth himself, in the Church, against Christ and all that is called God.'

B. Using the Analogy of Scripture (2 Thes 2; Rev 13, 17)

- 1) The Argument: Identity of the Man of Sin based upon (Rev 17:8-10)
 - a) The Beast is the Roman Empire (Rev 17:8-9; Dan 2:44)
 - b) The Man of Sin is the office of the Papacy, which is the final form of government in the Roman Empire (Rev 17:10-11). Note, Rome had seven forms of government: Kings, Consuls, Decemviri, Tribuni Militum, and Dictators (which *had fallen*); the Emperors (which *is*); and the papacy, (which *has not yet come*).
- 2) The Assertions: Eight descriptions of the Man of Sin, which is the Pope of Rome, based upon the parallel texts of 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation 13
 - a) The Man of Sin is the Chief Blasphemer of the holy God (2 Thes 2:4; Rev 13:1, 6; Mt 9:2b-3, 6)
 - b) The Man of Sin is the Chief Profaner of God's holy worship (2 Thes 2:4; Rev 13:6; *Heidelberg Catechism* 80)
 - c) The rise of the Man of Sin is restrained by God (2 Thes 2:6-7; Rev 13:3)
 - d) The Man of Sin will be revealed in history (2 Thes 2:6-7; Rev 13:5)

- e) The Man of Sin is granted power (2 Thes 2:9; Rev 13:2)
- f) The Man of Sin works deceiving signs (2 Thes 2:9; Rev 13:13; 2 Tim 3:8; 1 Sam 4:3-4)
- g) The Man of Sin speaks deceiving teachings (2 Thes 2:10; Rev 13:11; 2 Cor 11:14; Col 2:23; Rev 17:5)
- h) The Man of Sin is the leader of false church (2 Thes 2:10; Rev 13:8)

C. Briefly Contrasting Antichrist with Christ —

- 1) Their Pattern: Christ humiliated himself, and then was exalted by God. Antichrist exalts himself and then will be humiliated by God.
- 2) Their Persons: According to Deity and Holiness
- 3) Their Powers: Christ performed signs as proof of His deity for His glory and the good of His elect. Antichrist performs signs by the power of Satan to trick others in order to bring them to perdition as well.
- 4) Their Purposes
 - a) Christ came to seek and save the lost. Antichrist came to lead the lost to further destruction.
 - b) Christ gave of Himself. Antichrist takes from others.
 - c) Christ is the way, the truth and the life. Antichrist is the deceiver leading to death

II. The False Church Described (v 10).**A. Head** — *With all unrighteous deception***B. Hands** — *Unrighteous***C. Heart** — *Because they did not receive the love of the truth***D. Home** — *That they might be saved* (Rev 18:4-5)**III. Uses from the Text**

- A.** We are to have a holy hatred of the man of sin and his false system.
 - 1) As does Christ (Psa 45:8)
 - 2) So should we (Psa 139:21-22)
- B.** We are to have a holy hatred of our sin (Psa 139:23-24)
- C.** We are to look to Christ alone for our salvation.
- D.** We are to persevere in faith and obedience.
- E.** We are to exhort others to faith and obedience as well (1 Chr 12:32)