



WHO IS THE **RESTRAINER**

2 Thessalonians 2:1-10

Revelation 12:7-17

Daniel 12:1-3

Matthew 24:15-21

⁶And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:6-8



¹Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ²not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-3

**⁴who opposes and exalts himself
above all that is called God or that
is worshiped, so that he sits as God
in the temple of God, showing
himself that he is God. ⁵Do you not
remember that when I was still with
you I told you these things?**

2 THESSALONIANS 2:4-5



SUMMARY CONTEXT OF 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-4

- ♦ **The context is the coming of Jesus when He gathers (raptures) us to Himself (v.1)**
- ♦ **Someone falsely taught that the day of Christ had already come (v.2)**
- ♦ **Paul clearly tells us of two prerequisites, namely, (1) the “falling away” and (2) the “revealing” of the man of sin (v.3) These must occur BEFORE the day of Christ begins.**
- ♦ **When the man of sin is “revealed” he will exalt himself claiming to be God in the temple of God (v.4)**
- ♦ **This “revealing” of the man of sin occurs at the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th Week (Da.9:27; Mt.25:15; Rv.13:15)**

⁶And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:6-8



SUMMARY CONTEXT OF 2 THESSALONIANS 2:5-6

- ◆ **The Thessalonians “know” the reality of this restraining activity (v.5).**
- ◆ **The idea of “now” (under restraint) is contrasted with a future, “in his own time” (restraint removed) (v.6).**
- ◆ **“Revealed in his own time” (v.6) refers to the Beast at the point of his “revealing” which occurs at the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th Week when he takes his seat in the temple.**
- ◆ **The restrainer is preventing the man of sin from beginning his oppressive reign until God's timing (v.6).**
- ◆ **The restraining is like a blindfold. When it is taken away we will know who is the man of sin.**

RESULTS WHEN THIS “RESTRAINER” IS REMOVED

2 Thessalonians 2

ANTICHRIST EXALTS HIMSELF

1

“who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (v.4)

ANTICHRIST COMES IN THE POWER OF SATAN

2

“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders” (v.9)

SUMMARY CONTEXT OF 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-7

- ♦ **Paul associates this removal with the revealing of the man of sin as he sits in the temple of God demanding worship at the middle of the Daniel's 70th Week.**
- ♦ **The focus here is on the function of restraining, rather than the one who actually does it.**
- ♦ **Paul expects believers to see the results of this restraining removed. That is, “revealing” of the man of sin.**
- ♦ **It is not lawlessness in general which is being restrained, but the mystery of lawlessness.**
- ♦ **If we never understand who or what is meant by the restrainer here does it alter when Jesus is coming?**

MYSTERY OF LAWLESSNESS

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way (2Th.2:7)



It is the spiritual forces behind the man of sin which are being restrained.



In 1 Timothy 3:16 we learn that the mystery of godliness is God manifested in the flesh — Jesus Himself.



The anti-thesis to Christ is Antichrist, the man of sin and mystery of lawlessness, who will be possessed by Satan.



It is the devil being restrained from bringing his full weight on the world through the beast, not wickedness in some general sense.



Revelation 12:12 says Satan will attack without restraint when he is cast out of heaven.

¹⁵"Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), ¹⁶"then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. ¹⁸And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

MATTHEW 24:15-18



¹⁹But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! ²⁰And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

MATTHEW 24:19-21



⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

REVELATION 12:7-10

¹¹And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹²Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." ¹³Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

REVELATION 12:11-14

¹⁵So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

REVELATION 12:15-17



WAR IN HEAVEN ANTICIPATES SATAN'S WRATH

John tells us about this war in Heaven (Rv.12:7-9). It is this war that precipitates the “revealing” of the man of sin (Rv.12:7-17).

Once this battle takes place and Satan is kicked down to the earth, Michael stands aside (Da.12:1) and now allows him to carry out his own agenda as a final “last ditch” attempt to defeat the plan and character of God (Rv.12:12).

The cause of the time of distress is Satan, who “having great wrath,” uses the man of lawlessness to oppress both Israel and the church (Rv.12:12).

MICHAEL: WAR IN HEAVEN

Revelation 12:7-17

This Is Not The Original Fall Of Satan. This is Still Future

- After Satan's original rebellion he was still allowed access into the presence of God (Jb.1:6; 2:1).
- Rv.12:14 directly connects with Daniel 7:25 and 12:7 concerning the time frame.

Revelation 12:14 says, "time, and times, and half a time"
Daniel 7:25 says, "time and times and the dividing of time"
Daniel 12:7 says, "time, times, and half a time"



**Second Half of
Daniel's 70th Week**

MICHAEL



A War in Heaven
Takes Place Against
Satan, Under the
Leadership of
Michael (Rv.12:7-9)

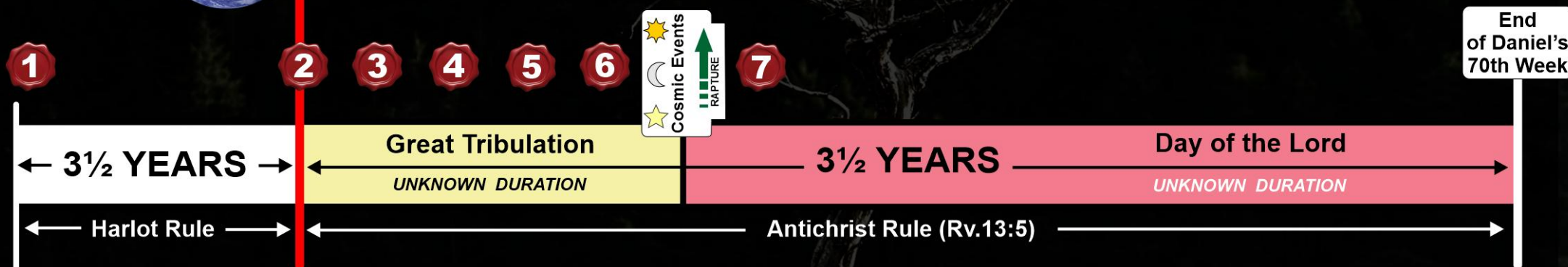
Satan Cast
to the Earth
by Michael
(Da.12:1;
Rv.12:7-9)



Abomination
of Desolation
(Mt.24:15)

WAR IN HEAVEN

Initiates The Great Tribulation



- This War Precipitates The Revealing of the Man of Sin (Re.12:7-9)
- The Restraining Includes the “Mystery of Iniquity” (2Th.2:7)
- Satan Cannot Prevail Against Michael And His Angels (Re.12:8)
- Michael Will “Stand Aside” No Longer Restraining Satan (Da.12:1; 2Th.2:4-7)

MICHAEL: BODY OF MOSES DISPUTE

Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (Jd.1:9)

Michael had the responsibility of putting the body of Moses in a "safe place" after his death presumably to await his role in the Tribulation as one of the 2 witness-heralds of Rv.11.

⁵So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. ⁶And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day. (Du.34:5-6)



When Moses died the Lord buried him. We have no further information where Moses' body was buried.

¹"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

DANIEL 12:1-3



MICHAEL STANDS ASIDE — DANIEL 12:1-3

At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time... (Da.12:1)



Da.12:1, This action of Michael initiates the “time of trouble” which is the unprecedented Great Tribulation (Mt.24:15-22). This is a time like no other in history. There is a cause and effect action here.



The archangel Michael has always been the special protective “prince” of Daniel’s people, Israel (Da.10:13,21, same vision as Da.12:1).



Da.12:1, “who stands watch over the sons of your people” tells us Michael’s present function as protector of Israel (Da.10:13, 21). When Michael “arises” he is ceasing his ministry as protector of Israel as seen by what happens next. This is God’s timing.

MICHAEL: STAND UP — DANIEL 12:1

“stand up” [H5975, âmad] — ‘aw-mad’

This Hebrew word can also mean stand still or cease

As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God" (1Sm.9:27)

So Joab blew a trumpet; and all the people stood still and did not pursue Israel anymore, nor did they fight anymore (2Sm.2:28)

Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased (2Ki.4:6)



If a man is reclining or seated and is said to amad, he will stand up.

If a man is standing up and active, then he will stand still.

In Daniel 10:13 Michael is described as actively defending Israel.

So when he is said to 'a^mad he stands still or ceases his defense on their behalf.

¹²Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. ¹³But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come."



DANIEL 10:12-14

Gabriel

**²¹But I will tell you what is noted
in the Scripture of Truth. (No one
upholds me against these, except
Michael your prince.**

DANIEL 10:21



DANIEL 12:1-3 — CHRONOLOGICAL PROGRESSION

- 1 MICHAEL STANDING ASIDE (Da.12:1)**
- 2 THE TIME OF DISTRESS (Da.12:1)**
- 3 RESCUE AND PROTECTION OF THE “WOMAN” (Rv.12)**
- 4 RESURRECTION IN TWO CATEGORIES (Da.12:2)**
 - A The just at the return of Christ**
 - B The unjust after the Millennial Kingdom**
- 5 THE BELIEVERS WHO SURVIVE THE 70TH WEEK WILL “SHINE BRIGHTLY” IN THE KINGDOM (Da.12:3)**

- The deliverance of the church is not in view at Daniel 12. Only the nation of Israel can be viewed (Daniel's people).

CROSS REFERENCE IN CONTEXT

SOURCE	ACTION	RESULT
DANIEL Daniel 12:1-3	Daniel stands up (v.1)	Beginning of Unprecedented Great Tribulation “And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time” (Da.12:1)
PAUL 2 Thessalonians 2:1-9	Restraining ceases (v.7)	Beginning of Unprecedented Great Tribulation “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders” (2Th.2:9)
JESUS Matthew 24:15-21	Believers are to watch for this event (v.15)	Beginning of Unprecedented Great Tribulation “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Mt.24:21)
JOHN Revelation 12:7-17	Satan cast to the earth (v.9)	Beginning of Unprecedented Great Tribulation “Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child” (Rv.12:13)

MICHAEL



A War in Heaven
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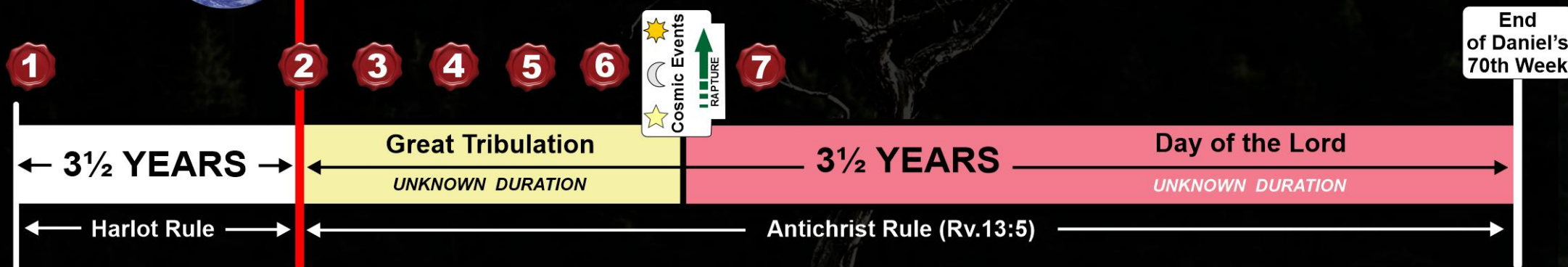
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SUMMARY: ORDER OF EVENTS

WAR IN HEAVEN

- **God tells Michael to cast Satan to the earth (Rv.12). And he does.**



MICHAEL STANDS UP

- **Michael “stands up” (moves aside) from his role as Israel’s defender (Da.12:1)**
- **Michael “standing up” is the equivalent to being “taken out of the way” by God (2Th.2:7). The restraint is removed.**

GREAT TRIBULATION

- **The revealing of the man of sin takes place**
- **The result begins the Great Tribulation (Da.12:1; Mt.24:21)**
- **Michael’s restraint ministry comes to an end**
- **This is related primarily to Israel and the temple (2Th.2:4; Mt.24:15)**