

THE REMOVAL OF THE RESTRAINER

In **2 Thessalonians 2:1-8** we learn that the man of sin will not be revealed until the Restrainer is taken out of the way (out of the midst). Who is this Restrainer? Concerning the coming of **Yahushua** and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, **2** not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us, whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter, asserting that the day of **Yahushua** has already come. **3** Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the **Man** of lawlessness is revealed, the **Man** doomed to destruction. **4** He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called **God** or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in **YHWH's** temple, proclaiming himself to be **YHWH**.

Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? **6** And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. **7** For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom **Yahushua** will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

In verse 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. **7** 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. This only makes sense if the Restrainer is **YAH's** Spirit.

That which is restraining evil today is the Blessed Spirit of **YAHWEH** who is now dwelling in a unique and special way in the Church, which is **Yahushua's** Body, his **CHOSEN (Ephesians 2:22; 1 Corinthians 3:16; John 14:17)**.

When the Chosen are removed by means of the Rapture, the Spirit of **YAH** will be taken out of the way.

That is, He will no longer be on the earth in the sense of indwelling a body of believers. Just as He came on the day of Pentecost in a special way, so He will "leave" at the time of the Rapture (though obviously He will still be working in the hearts of men during the Tribulation, just as He was working in the hearts of men prior to Pentecost). The Church must be removed before the **Man of Sin** is revealed.

The **Man of Sin** will be revealed when he makes a treaty with Israel (**Daniel 9:27**), and this will mark the beginning of **Daniel's 70th week**. Thus the Chosen must be removed prior to the beginning of **Daniel's 70th week**.

It is significant that although the Church is mentioned repeatedly in **Revelation chapters 1-3**, it is never mentioned as being on the earth in **chapters 4-19**, the chapters that deal with the Tribulation period. The reason is obvious: the Church/Chosen are removed from earth to heaven by way of the Rapture (**John 14:3**).

The Church will thus be kept from the hour of testing which will come upon all the world, to test them that dwell upon the earth, according to **Revelation 3:10**.

Another key chapter which focuses upon the Tribulation is **Matthew 24**. The Church is not mentioned in this chapter either.

The most important single passage dealing with the timing of the Rapture is **Revelation 3:10**, "Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from [out of] the hour of temptation [testing, trial], which shall come upon all the world, to try [test] them that dwell upon the earth."

In **Revelation 3:10 Yahushua** promised His Church Age believers that they would be exempt from the hour of trial or trouble that would come upon all the world. He did not promise to keep us through this time or to keep us in this time, but He promised to keep us out of this time. He will keep us out of this time by removing us from the earth prior to **Daniel's 70th week**. This great event is described in **John 14:1-3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** and in several other passages.

But for those that refuse to submit unto the Word of **Yahushua** and receive him as their Messiah and Savior, prior to his return (the rapture), they will then be left to deal with **haSatan**, the **Anti-Christ** and the **Beast** and will still have an opportunity to make the choice, but at a much higher price, with their life (Head)!

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of **Yahushua**, and for the word of **YHWH**, and which had not worshiped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his **MARK** upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with **Yahushua** a thousand years. **Revelation**

20:4