

What is the Identity of the Restrainer in 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7?

2 Thess 2:5-10

5 Don't you remember that when I was still with you I told you about this? 6 And you know what currently restrains him, so that he will be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; but the one now restraining will do so until he is out of the way, 8 and then the lawless one will be revealed. The Lord Jesus will destroy him with the breath of His mouth and will bring him to nothing with the brightness of His coming. 9 The coming of the lawless one is based on Satan's working, with all kinds of false miracles, signs, and wonders, 10 and with every unrighteous deception among those who are perishing.

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Top down:

What is the book of 2 Thessalonians about?

- Know Your Bible, page 80
- How to Read the Bible Book by Book, pages 369-372

What is the main message of this section of 2 Thessalonians? (chapter 2)

Bottom Up:

What is the Greek word for:

That which restrains

He who restrains

NT:2722

κατέχω

katecho (kat-ekh'-o)

In the neuter in verse 6

In the masculine in verse 7

It is a verb that means to hold in one's grasp

From the Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament (BDAG):

1. To prevent the doing of something or cause to be ineffective; prevent, hinder, restrain
 - a. To hold someone back from going away; to hold back. **Phm 13, Luk 4:42**
 - b. To hold down, suppress something . **Rom 1:18**
 - c. *To prevent someone from exercising power; restrain. 2Th 2:6, 7*
 - d. To hold back with design.
2. To adhere firmly to traditions, convictions, or beliefs; to hold fast. **1Co 15:2, 1Co 11:2, 1Th 5:21, Heb 3:6, 14, Heb 10:23**
3. To keep in one's possession; possess. **Mat 21:38, 2Co 6:10, 1Co 7:30**
4. To keep within limits in a confining manner; confine. **Rom 7:6.**
5. To have a place as one's own, take into one's possession; occupy. **Luk 14:9.**
6. To lay claim to. **Rom 1:18.**
7. To hold course (nautical). **Act 27:40.**

What are the different theories concerning who or what the restrainer is?

1. The Roman Empire
2. Human Government
3. The Church
4. The Holy Spirit
5. The archangel Michael

Advocate for #2 Human Government: Arnold Fruchtenbaum The Footsteps of the Messiah, pages 566-567

Scriptures cited:

Genesis 9:1-17

Romans 13:1-7

Advocate for #4 the Holy Spirit: J Dwight Pentecost. Things to Come, page 262

Scriptures cited:

John 16:7-11

1Co 6:19

1 John 4:4

Isaiah 59:19b

Comparing Scripture with Scripture:

What other Bible passages talk about this future event?

The appearance of the antichrist/man of lawlessness/beast

The abomination of desolation

Matthew 24

Daniel 7-11

Revelation 12-13

Questions to Ponder:

Does the Bible say that the church restrains satan or evil kings with great power?

Does the Bible say that the Holy Spirit restrains satan or evil kings?

In the book of Revelation, who does battle with Satan?

In Daniel, who does battle with evil empires?

Who in Revelation 20 binds satan and holds him bound for a thousand years?