

# The Man of Sin

## (Sunday School Lesson)

The world today is crying out for a great leader who can truly provide solutions to the perplexing problems which face mankind. Men are looking for a leader who can bring peace to a world torn by numerous wars. Men are looking for a man who will solve the great economic problems that face the nations of the world. Men are looking for someone who will bring in an age of prosperity and happiness.

In the past, leaders have generally failed to fulfill their promises. The people of the world have, for the most part, been greatly disappointed by their leaders. They want someone who can really take control of the world's problems and provide strong leadership. They feel that such a man is desperately needed and they will do almost anything to put him in power.

Arnold Joseph Toynbee, a noted historian, says:

We can foresee world government...and see when it comes, the need for it will have been so desperate that mankind will not only be ready to accept it even at the most exorbitantly high price in terms of loss of liberty, but it will deify it and its human embodiments as an excruciated Greece-Roman world once deified Rome and Augusta.

Renald Showers added these perceptive comments:

The rejection of God's rule which started for man in the Garden of Eden seems to be reaching a frenzied pitch. Man is determined to prove that he can rule the world in an orderly, meaningful way without God. He asserts that the ultimate purpose of everything is the glory and exaltation of man. His man-centered mania not only makes him refuse to submit to the rule of God but also renders him incapable of submitting (Rom. 8:7).

Man reels from one crisis to another. The more he insists on going his own way, the more he batters and bloodies himself. However, instead of admitting that his rebellion against God is the cause of his problem, man stubbornly stands unbowed before the Lord of the universe. The more intense his predicament, the more entrenched is man's determination to prove that he can rule the world without God. Such firm resolve together with the worsening world situation makes man susceptible to the claims of an ultimate man—a man who opposes God, who seems to have the ability necessary to solve the world's problems and to rule the world well without God, a man who claims to have attained deity and has supernatural powers which appear to support that claim, a man who eventually demands total devotion from the human race and is the ultimate expression of absolute dictatorship and ruthless self-rule.

Man is enslaved already by his man-centered mania, but his acceptance of the claims and rule of an ultimate man will trap him in the pinnacle of slavery. Ironically, man's greatest effort to rid himself of the rule of God will not produce the freedom that he desires. Instead it will enslave him in the most fiendish, oppressive form of bondage. Rather than moving toward Utopia, man is hurtling toward the most horrible time of tribulation in world history. In light of the worsening world situation and man's growing susceptibility to the slavery of an ultimate man, there is an urgency about the present time. Man desperately needs to change his course by recognizing the root of his predicament—his rejection of the rule of God in favor of self-rule. If there were ever a time when man needed to be confronted with the sovereign rule of God and the serious consequences of rejecting that rule, the time is now. [*The Most High God—A Commentary on the Book of Daniel*, pages xi-xiii.]

How tragic that men are not looking to God to be their Leader. In the days of Samuel, the Jews rejected God from being their King (1 Samuel 8:5-7) and instead they chose a great and powerful man to lead them (1 Samuel 9:1-2). So also in the latter times, men will again reject the rule of God and will choose a great and powerful man to rule the world. People today are convinced that **man** can find solutions to all our difficulties and that **man** can eliminate all our diseases, abolish war and poverty, and create one perfect world! **Man** is the solution, not GOD! As you read your newspapers or watch the news on TV or listen to the news on radio or on the Internet, how often do you hear that the solution to man's problems is found in the Bible? How often do men in high places today tell us that the living God is the answer and we need to put our trust in Him?

No, mankind has proclaimed a declaration of *independence from God*. The attitude of our day is: *Who needs God? We can get along fine by ourselves! We can bring in a perfect society by ourselves! We can be our own god!* Thus, today people are looking for a **man**, not for GOD. And God says, " \_\_\_\_\_ be the man that trusteth in \_\_\_\_\_ " (Jeremiah 17:5).

In the days of Samuel, God gave the children of Israel what they wanted and what they asked for. He gave them Saul! They soon saw that Saul was a mistake, and they paid dearly for that mistake! In the latter days, God will give the world the kind of leader it wants! He will allow the world to have just what it has been looking for and longing for! This man is described in the Bible as "the M \_\_\_\_\_ of S \_\_\_\_\_ " (2 Thessalonians 2:3). The word "sin" in this verse means "lawlessness."

In 2 Thessalonians chapter 2, we are told that the forces of evil and lawlessness are already at work in our day (verse 7), but there is coming a future day when the evil will be greatly intensified and unrestrained and an evil man controlled by Satan will take charge of the entire world system (verse 9).

Likewise, in 2 Timothy chapter 3, verses 1-5, we are given the characteristics of the last days when wicked men shall wax worse and worse (verse 13). Finally, toward the end of the age, there will arise one man who will exemplify these horrible characteristics better than any other evil man known to history. As we consider Paul's descriptive list in 2 Timothy 3:1-5, let us see how well these words describe the future dictator of the world! Let us also take this opportunity to search our own hearts, lest we as Christians should be guilty of some of the sins which are given in this list. Let us look at each of these 19 characteristics:

## **2 Timothy 3:1-5 as Applied to the Man of Sin**

### **1) Men shall be loving themselves.**

The man of sin will be the epitome of selfish ambition. His only desire will be to promote himself. He will remove and destroy anyone who stands in his way. He will help and aid only those who worship him and become part of his Satanic government. His concern is only for himself: "He shall exalt \_\_\_\_\_ and magnify \_\_\_\_\_ " (Daniel 11:36; compare 2 Thess. 2:4).

### **2) Men shall be covetous (lovers of money).**

Men shall love money because it seems to bring them security and power. The man of sin will obtain total security ("who is able to make \_\_\_\_\_ with him"--Rev. 13:4) and power ("and \_\_\_\_\_ was given unto him"--Rev. 13:5). As a result this man will have total control of the world! He will be the absolute dictator! Satan will one day find a man to accept the offer he made in Matthew 4:8-9.

### 3) Men shall be boasters.

A boaster is one who opens his mouth and brags and lets everyone know what he is going to do in his own power and in his own resources (leaving God completely out of the picture). The man of sin will have a "\_\_\_\_\_ speaking \_\_\_\_\_ things" (Rev. 13:5; compare Daniel 11:33). Most politicians boast about what they plan to accomplish. This man certainly will outdo them all, and much of what he promises will be accomplished (because God will allow it and Satan will empower it).

### 4) Men shall be proud.

“Proud” literally describes a person who shows himself above others. He wants to have preeminence and first place, even if it means stepping on everyone else to get there! The man of sin will go so far as **to show himself above God**: "who opposeth and exalteth himself \_\_\_\_\_ all that is called \_\_\_\_\_, or that is worshipped; so that he \_\_\_\_\_ sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Thess. 2:4). As a result, what must all those who dwell upon the earth must do (Rev. 13:8)? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the fate of those who refuse to do this (Rev.13:5)? \_\_\_\_\_

### 5) Men shall be blasphemers.

The man of sin will be the blasphemer of all blasphemers! "He shall speak marvellous things \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_" (Daniel 11:36). He has a "mouth speaking great things and \_\_\_\_\_" (Rev. 13:5) and "he opened his mouth in \_\_\_\_\_ against God, to \_\_\_\_\_ His name, and His tabernacle and them that dwell in heaven"? (Rev. 13:6).

### 6) Men shall be disobedient to parents.

Respect for authority is first learned in the home. The first authority a person finds himself under is that of parents. If a person does not submit to authority in the home, then ultimately (unless his heart changes) he will refuse to submit to the authority of God Himself. In 2 Thessalonians 2:8 the man of sin is called "that Wicked (one)," and the word "wicked" actually means "lawless." The man of sin is that lawless one. He will be a man who will have no respect for the laws of God whatsoever! He will **oppose** (2 Thess. 2:4) God and the Word of God in every way!

### 7) Men shall be unthankful.

When the man of sin opens his mouth, thanksgiving to God does not flow forth! As we have already seen, he constantly blasphemes his Creator (Rev. 13:5-6)! He owes his thanks to the one who has given him his power and authority and position. Who is that (Rev. 13:2; 2 Thess. 2:9; Matt. 4:8-9)? \_\_\_\_\_

### 8) Men shall be unholy.

“Unholy” describes those people who have no respect for anything which is sacred. They do not reverence the things which God has ordained and established. The man of sin certainly exemplifies this lack of respect for that which is holy. Apparently this man will set up his own image or statue in the temple in Jerusalem (Rev. 13:14-15; 2 Thess. 2:4), a hideous act which our Lord referred to as "the abomination of desolation" (Matthew 24:15) in accord with Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 9:27). Moreover, those who do not worship the image of this man will be \_\_\_\_\_ (Rev. 13:15)!

**9) Men shall be without natural affection (the love that should naturally exist between kindred and those whom we are close to).**

The man of sin will not show love or affection to anyone, unless he is willing to surrender his total loyalty and allegiance and love to him (and to serve him is to serve his master, Satan!). During his reign of terror, "iniquity shall \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12). Jesus also predicted that during this time "the brother shall deliver up the brother to \_\_\_\_\_, and the father the child, and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 10:21). Those who should naturally love each other will be hating each other and betraying each other and putting each other to death!

**10) Men shall be trucebreakers.**

"Trucebreakers" describes those people who are unwilling to enter into a truce. They would rather wage war than make peace. If they are bound by a treaty, they see no problem in breaking it. In Daniel 9:27 we learn that the man of sin will make a "covenant" or a peace treaty with the nation of Israel, but after three and a half years (in the middle of this seven year period) he will break this treaty!

**11) Men shall be false accusers.**

"Accuser" is the Greek word "devil." The word "devil" means "one who accuses, slanders and utters false charges." This certainly is an appropriate name for Satan (Rev. 12:10), and certainly the man of sin will be just like his spiritual father, the devil, the one who empowers him!

**12) Men shall be incontinent (without self control).**

Such men are unable to check their own drives and impulses. They have no power to exercise restraint over their lusts and wicked ambition. The man of sin will not be able to control his all-consuming desire for power and position. He will not be satisfied until he gains total control and authority.

**13) Men shall be fierce.**

Men shall be savage and brutal. "Fierce" literally means untamed, like a wild animal. No wonder the man of sin is described by the term "the B \_\_\_\_\_" (Rev. 13:2)!

**14) Men shall be despisers of that which is good.**

The man of sin will hate anything that stands for God. Thus when he is in power, he will make an all out effort to "make \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ them" (Rev. 13:7).

**15) Men shall be traitors.**

We have already seen how the man of sin will betray the nation of Israel (Daniel 9:27). All those who trust in him will be disappointed! This same word is used to describe another one of Satan's servants in Luke 6:16. Who was that? \_\_\_\_\_ There is only one other person apart from Judas who has been called (in the Scriptures) "the son of perdition" (see John 17:12--this expression indicates that this person is doomed to perish). You guessed it, the man of sin (2 Thess. 2:3). Both betrayers, Judas and the man of sin, will suffer an eternity lost and tormented in the lake of fire! It would have been better for these men if they had never been born!

**16) Men shall be heady.**

“Heady” means that these people will fall forward into something without really thinking! These headstrong ones rush into something without considering the lasting value of it and the final outcome. What will be the final outcome of the man of sin (Rev. 19:20; 20:10)?

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**17) Men shall be highminded (puffed up).**

Such people are inflated with a sense of their own importance to the point where they envelop themselves in a cloud of smoke and are unable to see themselves clearly. Thus shall the man of sin be blinded by his own sinful pride, and fall into the condemnation of the devil (compare 1 Tim. 3:6).

**18) Men shall be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.**

The greatest pleasure for the man of sin will be to have the worship of men and to be idolized by men, a pleasure and privilege which is rightfully reserved only for the Creator. It should be the pleasure and delight of the creature to love and serve and worship the Almighty God.

**19) Men shall have a form of godliness but they will be denying the power thereof.**

Down through history, there has always been a conflict between religion (dead formalism), and faith in the living God. The worship of the man of sin will be the world's last religion! During the last three and a one half years before Christ comes, the only religion on the face of the earth will be "**beast-worship**" (Rev. 13:12,15), which is actually "**Satan-worship**" (Matthew 4:8-9)! Only the power of God will destroy this religious system (see 2 Thess. 2:8), at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, in power and great glory! ***At that time all men will see man's total failure to solve the world's problems, and they will begin to see God's perfect ability to bring about a perfect kingdom and a perfect society!***

Is your trust in a man or in man's system, or is your trust in the living God and in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ???

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