

# “That Man of Sin”

## Tract C2

John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, **Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.** 20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? 21 **But he spake of the temple of his body.** 22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

So who is "that man of sin"? "The" "Antichrist"? Nero? Mohammed?

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, **and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition**

It would seem "that man of sin" and "the son of perdition" are interchangeable, but who are they? The above verse is the only one that discusses that "man of sin". One other verse uses the term "son of perdition" in reference to Judas. Could this aspect suggest a spirit of betrayal of Jesus? Let's consider that "man of sin".

2 Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God **sitteth in the temple of God**, shewing himself that he is God.

Can we get to know that "man of sin" better by exploring where he "sitteth" - in the temple of God? Following are all of the verses that include the term "temple of God":

Matthew 21:12 And Jesus went into the **temple of God**, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves,

The above verse is a reference to the literal temple that Jesus prophesied would be torn down - every stone - as it indeed was.

Matthew 26:61 And said, This [fellow] said, I am able to destroy **the temple of God**, and to build it in three days.

The temple of God referenced in the verse above is Jesus' body, rebuilt as the corporate body of Christ through His resurrection. John 2:21 **But he spake of the temple of his body.**

The following also suggests that the temple of God is the corporate body of Christ:

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]**; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto **an holy temple in the Lord**: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Further confirmed by the following:

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that **ye are the temple of God**, and [that] the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for **the temple of God is holy, which [temple] ye are.**

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for **ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The temple of God is the corporate body of Christ. Regenerate people are the temple of God, through Christ's death and resurrection.

On an individual basis:

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost** [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

So it we are left with an understanding that the "man of sin" may be revealed in the body of Christ.

The final two verses that use the term "temple of God" in John's vision in Revelation cannot be used to nullify the verses that clearly peg the location of the "temple of God". To suggest another "temple of God" would suggest that Jesus' perfect and finished work on the Cross was incomplete.

Revelation 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the **temple of God**, and the altar, and them that worship therein. Revelation 11:19 And the **temple of God** was opened **in heaven**, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his

testament:...

The prior verses are the only ones that use the term "temple of God". Some claim that Ezekiel's book calls for a future rebuilt temple perhaps because of the extent of detail. But within the context of that description we find:

Ezekiel 43:7 And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, **where I will dwell** in the midst of the children of Israel **for ever**, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, [neither] they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcases of their kings in their high places.

Are we to expect God to live in an earthly temple, built by the hands of men, **for ever**? We have assurance that He will not:

Acts 17:24 **God** that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, **dwelleth not in temples made with hands**;

So how could a man "desolate" any future rebuilt temple, that would necessarily already be desolate by God's own design?

A rebuilt temple for animal sacrifice would be a restoration of the Old Covenant and an affront to Jesus Christ and His perfect blood atonement for our sins. It would also fly in the face of scripture.

Hebrews 8:13 In that he saith, A new [covenant], he hath made the first old. **Now that which decayeth and waxeth old [is] ready to vanish away.**

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is **the power of God unto salvation** to every one that believeth; **to the Jew first,**

and also to the Greek.

Mark 12:33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love [his] neighbour as himself, **is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.**

Matthew and Mark send us to "Daniel the prophet" - not Paul - for help in understanding the abomination of desolation that is "set up". We learn from Matthew and Mark that we should expect it to "stand in the holy place" not "sitteth". In Luke 21:20 we find it is **Jerusalem** that is desolated.

To suggest that the temple of God resides anywhere other than in the corporate body of Christ is a product of doctrine that is held by a minority of the church and primarily over the last century. Jesus warned the Pharisees of such:

Mark 7:13 **Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition**, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

But how can the "man of sin" sitteth in the corporate body of Christ?

1) Consider the nicolaitans in the church ignoring the the "laity". Do they exhalt themselves above all that is called God?

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Are they even acting as God? Taking God's place by conforming God's Holy Word to this world?

"shewing himself that he is God."

2) For a more specific manifestation consider those speaking in untried, thus risking

unclean, "tongues" in the Church.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but **try the spirits**...3 And **every spirit that confeseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God**: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist....

3) Interesting to contemplate Todd Bentley's Lakeland healing revival in regard to the above.

How can the man of sin be manifest in a regenerate individual?

4) This may be oversimplified but consider the verses if a regenerate individual proudly declares he is a "self-made man".

5) What about being ego driven?

Micah 6:8 ...what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God"

6) Some Christians don't hesitate to assume God's place in judgment on those of our devout Jewish Brethren, for example, from whose eyes the Lord may not have yet lifted the "spirit of slumber", shewing themselves (Strong's: "point away from oneself") as God.

7) What about a Christian husband that may misunderstand "authority" over his wife, trumping the lead of the Holy spirit in her life?

8) What about sufferers from multiple personality disorder? (Read Shining Man with Hurt Hands or The Bondage Breaker)