

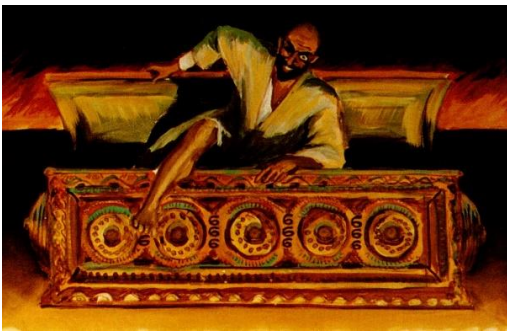
**REVELATION: Lesson 119**  
**Chapter 13:1-17, The Antichrist:**  
**The Man of Sin**  
**The Mystery of Iniquity**

9 November 2020

**Revelation 17:7-8** The woman rides the Beast. This represents a combination of the political and religious systems that will be in place on Earth being used by the Antichrist as he rides into power.

**Revelation 13:1** The beast with seven heads and ten horns and ten crowns. The Beast will have a 7-headed Empire with ten crowns (principalities or kingdoms). Today men have already divided up the world into 7 Continents and 10 Trade Zones. The seven heads also identify Rome as Satan's Seat (Rev 17:9).

**Daniel 7:7** The unique beast with ten horns. The ten kings belong to the Beast, not the Babylonian system.



**Revelation 13:3-17**

At the midpoint of the Tribulation, the man of sin will receive a deadly wound. The False Prophet will raise him up through miracles and convince the world that the risen one is the Christ (vs 3).

**Zechariah 11:15-17**

This is the "idol shepherd" that leaveth the flock. Instead of caring for the flock, he feeds off the flock. He will be injured by a sword, his arm will be dried up, and his right eye will be darkened.

**His deadly wound was healed**

**Psalms 83** Here are ten confederate nations trying to destroy the people of Israel. God's people call on the name of the Lord. At His Second Coming, the Most High (Jesus Christ) returns to destroy those enemy nations.

**2 Thess 2:1-7** The spirit of iniquity has been at work on earth for 2,000 years. But there is something on the earth that has been holding it back so that it cannot reach its full potential of wickedness.

**What is holding back the mystery of iniquity?**

1. Is it the **Roman Empire**? The Roman Empire no longer exists and the identity of the man of sin has still not been revealed. This is an incorrect interpretation.
2. Is it **human government**? "He who now letteth" cannot be applied to a government system. This is a person. Additionally, the man of sin will use human government to rise in authority.
3. Is it **Satan himself**? Has Satan been saving his best trick for last? Satan would never resist Satan; Jesus Christ taught us that lesson in Mark 4:23-26. The man of sin is promoted by Satan (2 Thess 2:9-10). Satan cannot both hinder and promote the rise of the Antichrist.

4. Is the restrainer **the Holy Spirit**?

**Here are the points given for this interpretation:**

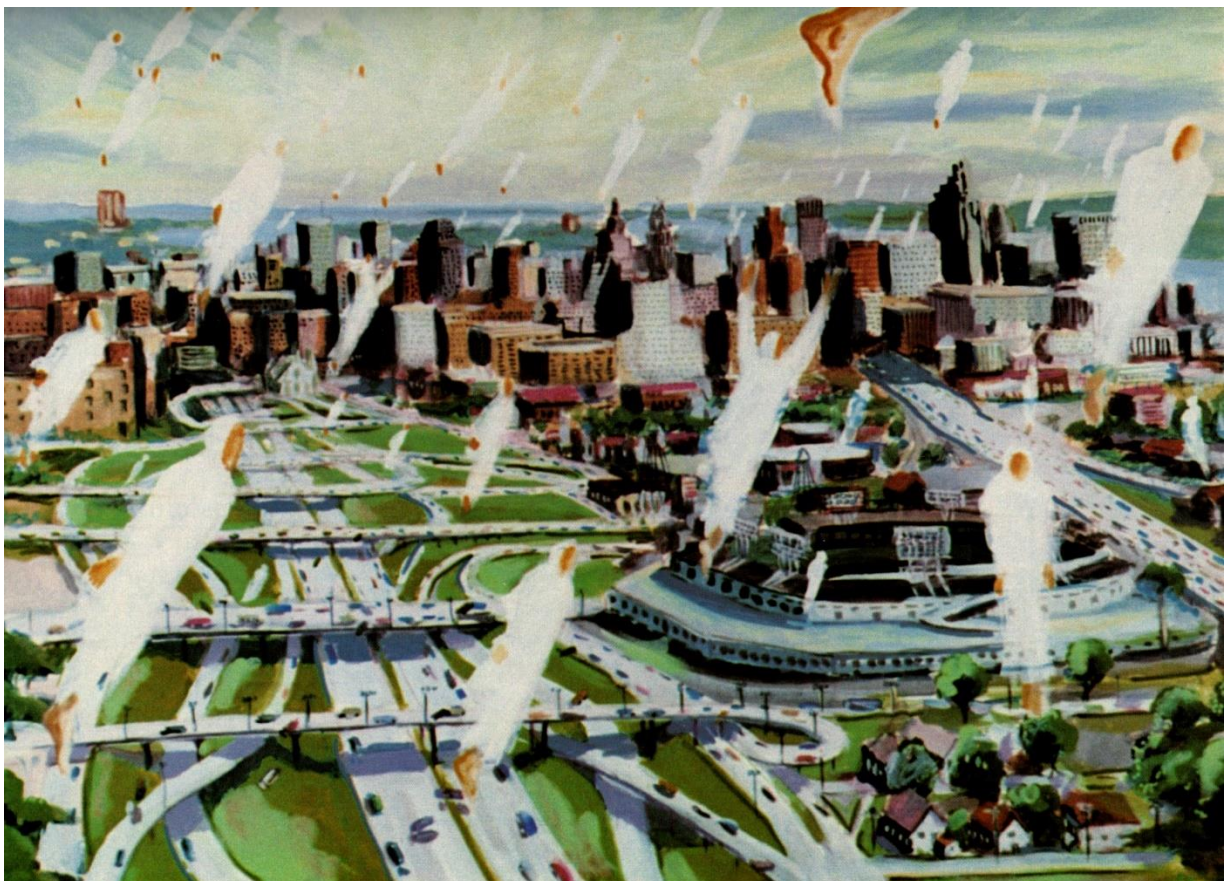
- a. The Holy Spirit is more powerful than Satan.
- b. Today is the dispensation of the Holy Spirit.
- c. The Holy Spirit is omniscient and therefore able to combat all of Satan's evil works worldwide.

**Here are the points that contest this interpretation:**

- a. The Holy Spirit resides in the bodies of believers. He's not floating around the world fighting satanic forces.
- b. The Holy Spirit exercises His power in and thru the Church, not outside the Church.
- c. The most satanic areas of the world are those lands where there are the fewest professing Christians.
- d. An interpretation that says the Holy Spirit leaves the Earth when the Church leaves the Earth cannot be correct. People will still be converted during the Tribulation. This is not possible apart from the work of the Holy Spirit of God.

5. The restrainer is the **Church, the Body of Christ**. We are in Him and He is in us.

- a. The Church is told to stand against the devil (Eph 6:11), resist the devil (James 4:7), wrestle against the devil (Eph 6:12), war against the devil (2 Cor 10:3-4).
- b. When Saul of Tarsus persecuted Christians, Jesus said, "**Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou me?**" (Acts 9:4-5). Saul was persecuting the Body of Christ.
- c. The man of sin cannot come to power while the Church is still on Earth.



**He who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way (2 Thessalonians 2:7)**