

STUDY OF THE MAN OF SIN

Study Presented by Elder W. T. Russell 1976

We are made sad to think about the loss of our brother who has been here in this Bible study every time, every one of these nights that we have met together. He is in a much better world. He is much better off than we are. He has escaped troubles and trials and I guess the most of us who are here tonight are made to realize that those that follow us, those who live after we are gone, and, even children who are not yet born, will suffer the greatest of any of us have suffered, have more hardships than we have ever had, more trials than we have ever had. There is one thing sure, we must keep this alive and I'm glad to be numbered with this crowd, and I'm proud tonight of our brethren who sowed the seed and cultivated it and we are reaping today the harvest of their labors and I hope that others will reap what we sow.

It is good to be here. It is always good to be where the Spirit of the Lord is and it is here. I have some things tonight to talk about that are not pleasant. Nevertheless, we must face it regardless of what the Bible tells us, whether we would like to see it or not, we have got to accept it as the truth. A lot of things that happen that are a matter of history recorded in the Bible wasn't pleasant, but it happened. There are a lot of things that are going to happen before the Lord comes back that are not going to be pleasant. Now this would be a good night to preach on the joys of salvation, but we have got to recognize other things as well as the joys and pleasures and peace that we have by believing on the Lord because we are living in a world of sin. Now this was requested, has been referred to during this study. We have three subjects to get in on two study nights. I'm going to try to manage it if we can at all, which will throw us Thursday night to devote about half of our time to sermon preparation and the other half of our time to the Church in Glory.

Tonight I want to talk about the Man of Sin. Now this is something that you don't hear much about and it is not a pleasant subject. It is not pleasant to think about but it is just as sure to come as Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea. I may not live to see it. In fact, there may not be a person in this house tonight that will live to see it, but I believe there will be. I couldn't say there would be because the Bible doesn't tell us the time that it will happen, but it just tells us that it is going to happen.

Now I want to read tonight from the second chapter of II Thessalonians, and I might say right here, this is the only time that Paul mentions this man of sin, or any other writer. Now we have other antichrists referred to in the Bible and this is an antichrist, but this is the man that Paul tells us about that no other writer mentions. Now we're going to talk about some of the others, but this one stands in a place to himself.

**II Thessalonians 2:1 "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,
2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that day of Christ is at hand."**

Now, evidently, somebody had written a letter to the church as Thessalonica and signed Paul's name to it and maybe some of the other disciples or apostles, indicating that the day of the Lord was at hand, just about to happen—the Lord was about to come back. And he said, don't be

“shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us,” (which leads us to believe that somebody had written and indicated in some way that it was Paul’s writing.)

II Thessalonians 2:3 “Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come,*” Now I want you to notice this. I said the other night, I repeat it again tonight, that I couldn’t stand in the pulpit and say the Lord was liable to come back before sunup. Now I’ve heard that said. I’ve heard that statement made, but I can’t do it, honestly. Why? Now here were some people that we actually believing, had been led to believe, that the coming of Christ was at hand, would soon happen, just like they were ready to get their ascension clothes to go on. Now that’s misleading for anybody to go contrary to the Bible and leave impressions that something is about to happen when they know by the teaching of the scriptures that it can’t happen until something else takes place. So we want to watch that. I’ve been guilty of those things and when a person learns by experience, he doesn’t forget it too quickly.

Now Paul is warning the Thessalonians not to allow anybody to deceive them, that the day of the Lord shall not come **“except that there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”** And I want you to notice that he characterizes this man the same way that Judas was characterized. He was the son of perdition, and that is just simply saying, “a child of hell.” Now this man of sin that Paul is writing about, he refers to him as the son of perdition and, to me, that carries a lot of weight and has a strong meaning, but we’ll get to that later. Notice what kind of character he is.

II Thessalonians 2:4 “Who opposeth and exalteth himself above *all* that is called God,” Now lest I forget it or let it slip away, don’t try to identify this man as the Pope, because he never has done that. He has done a lot of things that we couldn’t approve of, that the scriptures don’t uphold, but he hasn’t done that **“or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”** Now notice, it is not a god as an idol, but shewing himself that he is God.

II Thessalonians 2:5 “Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, i told you these things?” Why Paul had already preached to them along these lines. They weren’t in the dark. He had already told them, but somebody slipped the message in and, you know, that’s the way it happens sometimes. It is an easy thing for churches to be confused when people preach different doctrines and different people occupy the pulpit and one preaches one thing and another preaches another, and that’s been the case sometimes.

II Thessalonians 2:6 “And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. Now I think they knew, for he said, **“Ye know what’ withholdeth.”** In other words, you know what’s holding him back from being revealed. Even at the time that Paul wrote this to the church, he said, “You know what is holding him back.”

II Thessalonians 2:7 “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let* until he be taken out of the way.” Now there was something in Paul’s day that prevented the coming of the man of sin and that very same thing has been effectual in the prevention of the man of sin coming on the scene even until tonight and he hadn’t come. He still hasn’t come. And, notice, he says here now he will have to be taken out of the way before He comes or before He can come.

II Thessalonians 2:8 “And then” In other words, when he is taken out of the way, whatever that is and we’ll talk about that, just as soon as that is moved out of the way **“shall that Wicked**

be revealed,” (that wicked one or that man of sin will appear.) **“whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:”** Now if I know and if you know tonight that that man of sin was here and you knew who he was, we would know just about how long it would be till the Lord comes back, because he would be here when the Lord comes. Now the language couldn’t be any plainer than that is, for he will be consumed—his work will be ended—when the Lord comes and that plainly says **“with the brightness of his coming.”**

II Thessalonians 2:9 *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,”*

II Thessalonians 2:10 **“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish;”** Notice, that it’s coming through wicked men, and already in our country, devil worship is growing by leaps and bounds. They even have churches of Satan and I told them in Bowling Green not too long ago that in a matter of time, there would be one in Bowling Green. It might not be too long till there will be one in Gallatin—worshippers of the devil, and that is what that deceivableness of unrighteousness is having reference to.

II Thessalonians 2:10 (continued) **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”**

2:11 **“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:”**

2:12 **“That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”**

Twelve verses of the second chapter (of Thessalonians) cover the man of sin and I think we can get enough from these twelve verses to be sure that, even though the Bible tells us about many antichrists that have risen in time and have completed their work and came to their end, here we have one that will be living and in operation when the Lord comes back. Now I’m going to have to bring in some things tonight and you are going to have a tape of what I say, and I realize that this is a serious quest, but I am as sincere as I ever was in my life in what I believe along this line.

Now to take up the first antichrist that the Bible tells us anything about, we find it in prophesy and that is in the Book of Daniel, the second chapter. You remember that Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, had a dream and Daniel, one of the dispersed of the children of Israel, was in Babylon and he was called upon to interpret the dream Nebuchadnezzar had seen in a vision or dream an image and it must have been a huge thing. The head of that image was gold and the breast was silver; his belly was brass and the legs were iron and the legs and feet mixed with miry clay. And he saw in his dream that a stone was cut out of the mountain, without hands, and where ever you find that phrase “without hands”, it just simply means that God did it without human agency. This stone fell upon the feet of the image and ground it to powder as the “chaff of the summer threshing floors.” Well Daniel told him what the image represented. And he said, “Thou, O King, art that head of gold the King of Babylon, the head of the nation, and he said, “Thou art this head of gold.”

But then he told him about another nation rising, and another, and another, and, for time, we will just briefly mention these things. I have a history at home and I’m sorry our high schools don’t use it today –“Medieval History”—and in that history it is in complete accord with the Bible about the nations of Babylon, the Medes and Persians, the Greeks and the Romans, taking it exactly in the same order as it is outlined in the Bible, but they don’t study that today. You couldn’t find one today, and I wouldn’t want to part with this one. I would loan it to you, but this is what he’s

telling, that there would be a besieging of Babylon and the Medes and Persians would gain power and control. Now, notice that the shoulders, the breast, depreciated from gold to silver. Now the Medes and Persians held control for many years but they got into war and have been going on all through the centuries, and the Greeks took over. They gained control and they were the leaders and the head of the nations and the work. Even at that time, we had the first antichrist during the Greeks' possession of the world, their authority in the world, and that was the ruler the Greek ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes, a humiliation to the Jews, God's chosen people, the nation of Israel, and an antagonism, and I might say, in an atheistic manner, defiled the altar of the Jews by offering a hog upon that altar when he knew that God had decreed that only a certain animal was to be offered as a burnt offering as a clean beast, one that chewed the cud and parteth the hoof (Ref. Leviticus 11:2 and 11:3) They were to be used in sacrifices, but Antiochus Epiphanes offered an altar offering to the order of a hog, which was despicable to the Jews and he did it for humiliation and, not only that, but in defiance of their religion and he was the first (antichrist). We could say a lot about this Greek ruler but we won't have the time tonight. That's not all that he did. There were many other things that he did that showed his character and what he was as a man and the way that he despised Christianity and what the Jews held to in that day. Now there's our first antichrist and that's the little horn that you read about over in the Book of Daniel, and I can't call to mind exactly where the chapter is right now. We can get it if you want it. We don't have time to look it up. I believe it is the 8th Chapter if I'm not wrong. (Daniel 8:9)

There is something else that we want to talk about, and I think its antichrist. I think it needs to be regarded as antichrist. I don't think it's the same one that we read about in our lesson tonight. I don't believe the identity is the same and that is the papacy—Catholicism. There are a lot of things we could bring in tonight to show and to prove that the papacy is, in reality, antichristian, not anti-God, don't get me wrong, because they believe in God and they teach about God, as well as Christ, but when we take up the man, not the organization. I'm talking about the office now—the man—not the organization. The organization of Catholicism is not antichrist, but the Pope is, and, from 1870, when the infallibility of the Pope was decreed, that he couldn't be wrong, and there were many other things connected with his office and his character that was antichrist and he still claims it tonight, that he is the head of the ecclesiastical as well as the civil and that all of the ambassadors of nations should be sent to him and they should bow at his feet. Have you wondered why the presidents of our country have sent ambassadors to the Pope of Rome? Because he claims to be the head of that government and that it is a nation, just like the United States or any other nation in the world, and he has to have that honor and they send them. I guess some of them have kissed his ring. And that's no credit to the United States or any other nation. But here's the antichrist—the man. Now it's blasphemy on the part of anybody, and the Pope claims this, that with the blessings and the authority given by the Pope to the priests who officiate in the Catholic churches, that by their blessings, and every bit of it goes back to the Pope—that's where the authority is—that by their blessings that the wine that is given in their Eucharist, as they call it, is changed from that liquid of the grape to the literal blood of the Son of God. Not only that, but the bread is transformed from that state to the flesh of the Son of God, and their people are taught that from the blessings of this man headed yonder at Rome, that it is transformed into the literal blood and literal flesh of the Son of God and, in partaking of that, that they actually partake of Christ literally. That's blasphemy, blasphemy! Not only that, but this purgatory theory, and it is resting in the hands of priests and the Pope from whom they get their authority, that they can elevate from that place that they call purgatory where the spirits of their people are claimed to go, that in a certain amount of time, and with a certain amount of money, that they can get them out. That's blasphemy, and all the claims, and we won't go into them tonight, that is made by the Pope of Rome and is transferred to the priests all over the world at large is blasphemy and he is the one

that is the antichrist tonight and, of course, the infallibility of the Pope which happened in 1879, that's a long time after it started—that's blasphemy. So he's an antichrist.

Alright, now I don't hardly agree with Dr. B. H. Carroll. He could be right; I might be wrong. but he brings in four. And I think the reason he brings in the third one before the man of sin is ordered to uphold his theory of post-millenniums, that is that this man of sin, or this antichrist, will usher in the millennium. Now you all know, you have enough tapes in the past and enough notes in your books to know what I believe along the line of the millennium and I haven't changed my mind about it, but I could do it. I try to stay open minded. If somebody can give me a "thus saith the Lord" and show me where I'm wrong, proving it to me with the harmony of the word of God, I would give up my view, but, until they do, I won't. I want us to think about this tonight because it is a serious matter.

The ushering in of the millennium had its beginning with the Reformation, really got on foot with the Reformation, but I will tell you something that happened before the Reformation. Let's go back to Constantine. Constantine united church and state and there was much glorification for Constantine because he had brought together church and state in union. Sometimes the church was on top and sometimes the state was on top; one had authority at one time, another had authority at another, but by and large, they walked along together and one supported the other. I might also add that the Bible was chained to the pulpit and it was controlled by the state at large and the authority for the use of that Bible was given to the state, to the priest, or to the Pope that occupied, by his office, and nobody was allowed to read it. What would you think of somebody that brought you a letter, let it be from your mother, or let it be from your father, or a brother, and he would say now, you've got a letter and I will read as much of it as I think you ought to know, but that letter is addressed to you. Who has the authority to break that letter and pick out a certain amount of the message that is sent and withhold the rest? But that's exactly what they did. Their people were not allowed to read the Bible themselves, nor interpret it for themselves. They had to take what was dished out to them, and like it. But it was Victor Emmanuel that entered Rome as the Captain of the army with an open Bible in his hand and that was when church and state was separated and following that was the Reformation when Martin Luther nailed his thesis to the church door and let the Pope know and the priests know exactly what he objected to in Catholic Catechism. He had "guts", if you'll pardon the expression. He had a backbone. Up until that time others objected to what was going on in the Catholic church. They didn't endorse it, but they kept their mouths shut and went on with it, or along with it, but Martin Luther had the backbone and the courage, my brother, to write it out on paper and nail it to the door and let them know exactly where he stood, and I'm going to give him credit tonight for that, because a lot was accomplished through that act. The Reformation fire started burning and, as a result, the Catholics were robbed of a lot of their power. The church and state was divided or separated where that the state could not control the church anymore and the church could not control the affairs of the state anymore. It was separated and Victor Emmanuel was the one to give the credit too, for that and fathering, as we said, the Reformation that took place and that was about 1510, 1500 years, or better than 1400 years after the church was organized. Now we won't have time tonight to go into all the Reformation moves, but there were many of them. That crippled Catholicism. Of course, there was another organization born within the Catholic church to bolster and to build up what had been torn down and what was being torn down by the moves that were made by the Reformers, and we won't have time to go into that either, but I want to point out to you tonight that these things had their effect in the bringing about the state or condition of religious liberty in the world. The Reformation brought it about. Had it not been for the Reformation of that century, no telling how long it would have been before the religious liberty would have been enjoyed. Now this is a part of history and we need to know about it.

Alright, I want to get back where we were awhile ago to the millennium. Now when did the millennium start? I know the 20th Chapter of Revelation to a lot of people is a key and they try to take the 20th Chapter of Revelation and try to build from there, when actually the 20th Chapter of Revelation is just an explanation. That's what it is. It's an explanation and I might also add here tonight that it is symbolic language, and you do not find it anywhere else. Let that soak in.

Let's get back now. When religious liberty was declared, up until that time the Catholics had full sway and they drove the true church of our Lord Jesus Christ back into the hills and hollows, the dens and the caves, in hiding and they had to get out of sight and out of hearing to keep from being arrested and put into prison. What the Catholics were trying to do was to completely annihilate the church, get it out of existence and don't tell me that the devil wasn't the one behind their every move and, if that's the case, he's still in there tonight behind the moves that they are making wherever they are in the world. So then, you can go to the valleys of the Piedmont in France and see what happened to the church in that day and, not only that, but there was a counsel held. (Let me see if I can't find that.) It is *Dr. Justin A. Smith's history* that gives us this information. I would like to read just a little of it. I can't read it all. It would take too much time.

"In A.D. 1512-17, a council was held in Rome, called from the place of its assembly – The Church of St. John Lateran –the Fifth Lateran Council. At the eighth session of this council, held in December, 1513, a papal bull was issued, in the following May, and to show cause for their continued refusal to acknowledge the Pope's supremacy. When the Council came together in that session, May 5, 1514, no answer appeared to this summons. Not that there were no longer those in Christendom who refused allegiance to the usurped authority of Rome, nor because any one could have imagined that opportunity for a free protest before the Council would have been allowed; not because, joined with the impossibility of a response under such conditions, it was a fact that just at that time there actually was no one ready, like the Wickliffe and the Huss of a former age, or the Luther who was soon to appear, to give a voice to the spirit of revolt against Rome, which, though widely prevalent, was for the most part nursed in secret. throughout the length and breadth of Christendom, says Elliott—and his words are true in the sense just explained—'Christ's witnessing servants were silenced'—they appeared as dead." (Get that) "The orator of the session ascended the pulpit, and, amidst the applause of the assembled Council, uttered that memorable exclamation of triumph—an exclamation which, notwithstanding the long multiplied anti-heretical decrees of Popes and councils, notwithstanding the more multiplied anti-heretical crusade and inquisitorial fires, was never, I believe, pronounced before, and certainly never since:—" *(and here's what the orator said,)* "There is an end of resistance to the papal rule and religion;" *Now if that had been the truth, wouldn't that have been a sad day, that there wasn't anybody left to advocate the truth that all had joined Catholicism. And here's another statement he made:* "Opposers exist no more!" And again, 'The whole body of Christendom is now seen to be subjected to its head, that is, to thee,' (the Pope). Three years and a half later, October 31, 1517, Luther nailed his thesis to the Wittenberg Church door."

Now I might bring in something right here to think about. That was the prophecy over in the Revelation letter where John was told by the Lord, "**I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy**" How long? Count it—You count it up. It is 1260 years—1260 years. "**a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.**" **Rev. 11:3** And he said their dead bodies would lie in the street for three days and an half and no one would suffer

their bodies to be put in tombs or be buried. **Rev. 11:9 “And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.”**

Let's read on (from Dr. Justin Smith, p. 159)

“It is undoubtedly true that for some time previous to the meeting of this Fifth Lateran Council, as described, the murderers of God's people had been especially active, with results of intimidation and the apparent silencing of dissent and protest highly gratifying to the hierarchy. The crusaders against the Albigenses and Waldenses had well-nigh extirpated those troublesome heretics. The measures of the Inquisition in various parts of Europe had succeeded to the utmost wish of those by whom they were carried on. A threatening schism in the papal body itself was healed during the session of this Council. So fully, in view of all, did the members of the Council sympathize in the exultant confidence of their orator that upon the final adjournment they celebrated the triumph which Popery seemed to have achieved in a feast, whose splendour had never in Rome been equaled. It was like the rejoicing, the merry-making and the sending of gifts of which our prophecy speaks. It is also matter of history that in the same Council there was an emphatic reaffirmation of the long-standing papal law that the bodies of heretics should be denied all rights of Christian burial; so that here, also, we find almost literal fulfillment of the words: ‘Do not suffer their bodies to be put in graves.’ These conspicuous examples of the application of his law in the exhuming and burning of the bones of Wickliffe, at an earlier date by command of the Council of Constance, and the direction given by the same Council that the ashes of Huss should be cast into the Lake of Constance, are familiar facts. It may be added that in like manner the ashes of Savonarola were thrown into the Arno, and that it was common for the papal bulls to ordain that the heretics against whom they were fulminated should not only be put to death, but should be denied Christian burial.”

Now these are just historical references to the fulfillment of some of these prophecies we read about and the two witnesses are the true churches and the preachers. They are the lights in the world; that is, they are the ones who hold the truth and they are the ones in whose authority it rests. So then, they were, as this tells us, “appeared as dead” because nobody answered when they were called upon to appear before that Council and here we find what seemed to be all of the true churches of that day dead and in their graves. But the historians tell us when freedom and liberty was declared, that persecution was dreaded no longer, and was not to be feared, that they came up out of the earth like grasshoppers. Where were they? They were in the dens and the caves; they were in hiding places away from the law, but they were carrying on their services for God.

Let me say right here before we get any further. I fear tonight, as I said at the outset of this study, that some children not yet born will probably have to hide away in secret places from the law and authority to teach and to preach the gospel that we love tonight and that we should appreciate a lot more than we do. We count too much for granted tonight. This country has been greatly blessed and I wonder tonight how we are going to treat that—that which God has blessed us with—to such an extent God is going to allow the very things that are prophesied to come to pass in our cities and in our country.

Let's get back now. I believe that the devil, in that sense in which the 20th Chapter of Revelation refers to his binding which took place when church and state were separated and liberty was proclaimed. Why do I believe that? You've got to have a reason and that said that he was bound, that he should deceive the nations no more until the thousand years are finished.

And I put a limit on it, which just simply said, at the end of that thousand years, whatever it is, he will be loosed and he will deceive the nations again. If that means anything, it means that. I want to say right here tonight that I don't believe, neither do the commentators of the scripture in the main believe, that the thousand years that he is talking about here are literal twelve month years, but it is a round figure, a definite number, or an indefinite. He didn't see fit to give us the period of time that we would have liberty. He didn't tell us how long it would be that the devil would be bound in so many years; only he gave us a symbolic figure. Now you can count it. The fifteenth century and we are almost to the year 2000. I don't know how much longer it is going to last. I wouldn't dare say, but I am saying tonight that the binding of Satan's hands that disallowed him the liberty of uniting church and state and deceiving the world by one organized religion, that was severed when he was bound at the end of that time he said he was going to be loosed for a little season. I'm having to pass over a lot of things because time is getting away.

When will the man of sin come on the scene? That's the question, I guess, that's in my mind tonight that we would like to know. I'll tell you what I believe. As I have said before, take it for what it is worth. Try to find your harmony in the word of God. I have heard a lot of people talk about the thousand year reign and the thousand years in which the devil is bound, but they don't say much about that little season, and I don't know how long that little season is going to be. I'll give you a little comparison. In the 6th Chapter of Revelation, John said, "**Rev. 6:9** **“I And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar”** of God) **“the souls of them that were”** beheaded **“slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held.”**

He said, **Rev. 6:10** **“And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”**

Rev. 6:11 **“And white robes were given unto every one of them;”** Now the question comes to my mind—were they in heaven? How long had they been in heaven? before they got the white robes? I stumbled up on that one day. I began to ask myself the question—how long had they been in heaven before they got the white robes? I'll tell you exactly what I think about it tonight. I think that John saw those martyrs as they died, the very day that they gave up their souls and they cried out in the hours of death and said, 'How long O Lord until thou not judge and avenge our blood (that we are shedding now) on them that dwell on the earth? And they got their white robes right then; they went to heaven right then. But the answer came back to them that they should rest for a little season. The devil is going to be loose for a little season. How long has that been? Through that 1,260 years those martyrs gave their lives, fifty million and better. Their souls are basking in the sunlight of God's eternal bliss and glory tonight. They were our predecessors. They paved the way for us, laid down their lives in order that we might have this truth tonight, and they are there. How long have they been there? A little season. The devil is going to be loosed after this period called by many "The Millennium." He's going to be loosed for a little season. What's going to happen? He's going up **“ on the breath of the earth and compass the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city”** (Ref. Rev. 20:9 (and that's the church). What does that say? **“and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”** Now the man of sin is going in that number and that man of sin will come at the beginning of the period when the devil is free again. He who now let will be let until he is taken out of the way and when he is loosed again, that time, that man of sin, is going to appear on the scene and not until. As long as the devil is bound in that capacity that he is bound tonight, he cannot introduce into this country this man of sin, but when he is loosed he can introduce his man of sin to the earth and I dread to see the day. I dread to see the day. I want to go back and show you why. Those souls that were under the altar of God, it was not only said unto them that they should rest for a little season, but he said "until your fellow-

servants have given their lives as you have.” There’s going to be men of God, and I’m sure, mothers with their babies tied around their necks as in former days with a hand under that baby holding up its weight with a cord around its neck and that mother told, if you will just give up your faith, we’ll let the baby live, but, if not, he will die on your bosom and mothers in that day allowed their own babies to breathe their last breath of life hung around their necks before they would deny the things that we love tonight—the truths of the gospel of the Son of God. Thank God for people that lived and died that we might have it tonight. We ought to love it above everything else anyway. We ought to be able to make every sacrifice that we are called upon to make to advance that cause until that time comes because it seems to me tonight we have just a short time. You look at the nations and the condition of the nations of the world tonight, even our own nation. Look at the sin that’s in our world tonight and how it is growing and the little regard for law and order. Another officer was killed in Nashville this week because they are trying to protect us and our homes. They are dedicated to that work. I’m glad that we’ve got men who are willing to do it, but they are laying their lives on the line. We ought to be willing to keep ours on the line for this is the most valuable possession anybody could have in this world. Men have died for it, they have lost everything they had in order that it might be handed down to their children and that is sacrificing. Today we are living in luxury compared to other days, and what are we doing about it? Our time is short and especially mine. The greater portion of it is behind me and I have failed so many times in so many ways that I regret tonight in a better use of my time but I am more determined than I have ever been in my life to stand for these things that God has given us through the sacrifices of men and wealth and even life that we might have it tonight.

So I’m going to close this study tonight. But this man of sin—what will he be? Well, it said he will sit in the temple of God. What is that? To me, that’s the church. How can he do that? Well, he’ll just take it over. That’s exactly how he can do that, and those who will not worship him—those who will not follow him and go according to his rule as a dictator—will suffer as those suffered in the days gone by and that day is ahead, and he will be here when the Lord comes back and He will destroy him with the brightness of his coming.

Transcribed by Joyce Callis. Any errors are most likely those of the transcriber and not Bro. Russell.