

**Memorials to signs****By Dr. M. Halloway****Amplification - Dr. J. Gangwer****Memorials and Mysteries****‘The Mystery of Iniquity’  
(II Thessalonians 2:7-9)**

**Intro:** Reminding ourselves of the meaning of ‘mystery’ - a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding, a hidden purpose or counsel. The word ‘iniquity’ here is the idea of *lawlessness*, a contempt of law, a condition or action not simply without law, as the etymology might indicate, but contrary to law. Obviously there has always been both a contempt of the Law that leads to contrariness by the same group of people. We have seen much more than an up-tick of a contempt and contrariness of God’s Law in these last so many years. This nonsense of legalizing same-sex marriages and the ready acceptance of this is Iniquity, lawlessness and rebellion against God. When people, saved or not saved choose to live together as a married couple, this is iniquity, it is lawlessness and a rejection of God’s law. The legalizing of any form of sin is an act of lawlessness, an act of contempt for God and His standards of righteousness. The fact that this is a mystery goes to the evidence that those who have no problem with tacking a contrary course to God’s righteousness, live in both darkness and ignorance. And those who do, willfully set themselves against God.

We are witnessing the depravity escalating before our eyes and the spirit of antichrist is becoming bolder with every passing Day. The reality of the Lord coming for the Redeemed and the final days of this Church Age are coming to a close and the Rapture looming closer with each passing day is becoming more real than at any other time since Christ ascended. While this ‘mystery of iniquity’ is not a mystery for the maturing Believer, it remains one to those who are lost and choose to walk in darkness.

**I. The mystery of iniquity – II Thessalonians 2:7 – 9.**

- A. We have looked at what the Scriptures have to say concerning those who have heard the Gospel message prior to the Rapture taking place, and reject the Gospel-of saving faith in Christ, following this event they cannot get saved – **II Thessalonians 2:10 – 12.**
1. If someone states they are going to wait and see if what the Scriptures teach is true or not, they’ll never be able to do so in order to make the right decision. **(I John 4:3)**
  2. They allowed themselves to be deceived once and rejected the Gospel, they’ll continue to do the same because it is in the nature of their heart to choose deception over truth.
- B. As surely as the Holy Spirit is active in this present world so is the spirit of antichrist and they war against one another for the soul of the lost and the testimony of the Redeemed – **(Ephesians 6:10 – 13) (II Corinthians 4:1 – 5) (Galatians 1:6 – 9 & 3:1 – 5)**

1. So, when it comes to the ‘spirit of antichrist’ it is an issue of both a present and future reality as in the Tribulation and his losing at the end of the Millennium.
2. There is that point in time when the spirit of antichrist will indwell a human and impart the ability to do miracles and wonders. (**II Thessalonians 2:8 – 10**)
  - a. This individual will be accepted as a sort of super-human individual.
  - b. He will appear at a time when the church is Raptured out and the world is in a turmoil looking for someone stabilize the world with diplomatic treaties and in some cases force.
  - c. It is believed this individual will be Jewish and be accepted as the long awaited Messiah.
  - d. He is depicted in Revelation 6:2 if we notice the characteristics of this horse and rider.
    - (1). He has a bow and a crown.
    - (2). He, however does not have any arrows for the bow.
3. Seeing that no man knows the hour of Christ’s second coming, nor the time of the rapture, if the angels don’t know, Satan doesn’t know either and so he only knows what we know, and so perhaps he has always had someone in the wings ready to launch.
  - a. Antichrist will wage war against the Tribulation Saints and try to exterminate them through economic means – **Revelation 13:15 – 18**.
  - b. He will show his true nature at the mid-point of the Tribulation setting off the time known as the Great Tribulation.  
(**Daniel 9:27; Matthew 13:14; 24:14 – 25**)
4. This individual’s identity will not be revealed until after the Rapture takes place, so as badly as there are those who want to be the first by stating so and so fits the description, don’t listen to them because they have no idea who he will be.
5. Just know this, that the ‘spirit of antichrist’ is in the world today and we need to beware that we do not succumb to that spirit, rather that we live fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit of God. (**Galatians 5:25** – “**If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**”)