

Let and Letteth

By: David A. Sargent

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12, “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; 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. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

The passage in question is in verses: 6 & 7, “And now ye know what **withholdeth** that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now **letteth** will **let**, until he be taken out of the way.”

The reason why I include verse 6 is because of the word withholdeth, which interprets verse 7 for letteth and let.

The word let and letteth are usually derided as an issue with the King James Bible and given as proof that the King James Bible is in error. This is an answer to that derision and is proof that the King James Bible is superior to the Original manuscripts and the professors who are teaching this ridiculous nonsense and talking you out of believing your Bible.

Most of the people teaching that this is an error in the King James Bible do not even know the interpretation of the passage or who is letting and who is withholding in the passage.

It is quite funny to read someone trying to take a poke at the Bible and then calling the Bible the “Word of God” when it is NOT. Now wait; you are jumping to conclusions with what you are thinking. I am not saying that the Bible is NOT the “word of God” and I am not saying that the Bible is NOT the “words of God” I believe both. What I am saying is that the written words of the Bible are NOT the same as the “Word” of God because that title is reserved for the INCARNATE Word: The Lord Jesus Christ. You can tear a page of the Bible which is the word of God; you cannot tear the Word of God by no means because the Word of God is a PERSON.

Now that that is cleared up the word “let” has more than one meaning. Most people are familiar with the term used in this way: “Let them alone” which is a line in a familiar nursery rhyme. Now what does let mean in that? Does it mean “to allow” or “to withhold”? Can it mean both at the same time? Most people mean by “withhold” is to “disallow” however, when you let them alone, are you not disallowing doing anything to bring them home? And at the same time are you allowing them to come on their own? So, the word can be used in both ways to mean the opposite but the same at the same time.

Another thing to think about is the term let in view of leasing whether it is space or time. To let would be to allow an allotment of space or time and this form of let also withholds ownership and therefore the word let is in this case both allowing and disallowing at the same time. In the sense of property I found this statement of the word let: “There is sometimes confusion over who leases and who lets a property, and what the terms actually mean. Both terms are commonly used in the context of property law. 1. Only the landlord / lessor can “let” the property, meaning to rent it out to the tenant / lessee: “The landlord is letting the office to a local company.”” This can apply to time as well as property and in the case of letting out to someone the property would imply allowing someone to use it while disallowing complete ownership of the property or time. You can lease time on a radio or TV station so this can apply to time as well as property or space.

What we must discover in the passage is who is doing the letting? Who owns the lease? And then who is restraining this lease or calling the debt and withholding the disallowing or allowing in the case of the passage in question: 6 & 7, “And now ye know **what** withholdeth that **he** might be revealed in **his** time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only **he** who now letteth will **let**, until **he** be taken out of the way.”

So the withholdeth is a “what” not a “he”; and when the withholding is so that a “he” is not revealed until the withholding is allowing his revealing in his time; and so here there is a “mystery” even though it says “you know” which would mean that the world will be taken by this but the church will know what this is. The “...mystery of iniquity doth already work...” What is this “mystery of iniquity”? Is this a “what” or a “who” and is this the “what” that withholdeth or the “he” that might be revealed in “his” time? Further is the “he” who now letteth the same “he” that is taken out of the way or are they two different “he’s”?

Question after question seems to make this passage one of the more difficult passages to understand; however, remember a text without a context is a pretext which is duplicity. So let’s get the passage in its context:

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2, “Now we beseech you, brethren, **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him**, 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 the day of Christ is at hand.”

Here we see the event and what to expect at “...the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and by our gathering together unto him...” This is commonly called the Rapture, which is the second part of the first resurrection.

1. Christ resurrection with Old Testament Saints
 - a. Ezekiel 37:12-14 (prophecy of Matthew 17:52-53)
 - b. Matthew 27:52-53 (fulfillment of Ezekiel 37:12-14)
2. The resurrection of the New Testament Church
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:51-56 (called a mystery & same event as below)
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (not have you to be ignorant & same above)
3. The resurrection of the Tribulation Saints
 - a. Revelation 7:13-17 (part one)
 - b. Revelation 14:14-16 (part two)
 - c. Revelation 20:4-6 (part three)

We are dealing with the second part of the first resurrection; the resurrection of the New Testament Church. Notice that in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 this is called “...the day of Christ...” and gives prerequisites for this day in the following verses:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-5, “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; 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. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?”

The “...that day...” is a direct reference to the previous verse “...the day of Christ...” and it will “...not come, except there come a falling away first...” so there will be a great apostasy in the local churches. A falling away from the truth or the Bible and from the things contained in the Bible. This falling away is upon us as of the date of this writing. We have been in the falling for some time now. If this falling away is first then the second thing would be “...that man of sin be revealed...” the man of sin is the same person as the “...son of perdition...” however these two titles are not in force at the same time. This person is the



Antichrist first. Now we are told in Matthew 7:15, “**Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.**” The antichrist will also be a false Christ and try to deceive many: Matthew 24:24, “For there shall arise **false Christs**, and false prophets, and shall shew **great signs** and **wonders**; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

This passage also relates to the time of the tribulation: Matthew 24:29a, “**Immediately after the tribulation of those days...**” and if you still are not sure: Matthew 24:16, “Then let them which be in Judaea **flee into the mountains:**” is a reference to Revelation 12:6, “And the **woman fled into the wilderness**, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” And Revelation 12:14, “And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that **she might fly into the wilderness**, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.” And if that weren't enough in Matthew 24:21, “For **then shall be great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” It tells you this is about the great tribulation.

Back to 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5, “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**; 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**. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?”

This man of sin is the same as the son of perdition, and he will be shown to be the antichrist so the “...who opposeth and exalteth himself...” is this same person. The same “he” in the part: “...so that **he** as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing **himself that he is God**.” At this point it is important to understand that the church will not see him sit in the temple of God shewing himself that he is God that is the fact of the antichrist after he has been the man of sin for three and a half years he will defile the temple and for the next three and a half years is the son of perdition. Right not he is THE antichrist and what he does will show the church who he is and that is he will make a treaty with the world for peace for seven years and inclusive of this treaty will be Israel. When he **MAKES** the treaty it will be around the Feast of Tabernacles in the Autumn time; and he will confirm this covenant a year later for seven years. The confirming of this covenant ushers in the tribulation time and his title changes from the antichrist to the man of sin. This will be again in the Autumn time around the Feast of Tabernacles. Between these events in the Spring time around the Assentation day will be the rapture of the Church.

Daniel 11:24, “He shall **enter peaceably** even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them **the prey**, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall **forecast his devices** against the strong holds, even **for a time**.”

This is a years' time when he enters in peaceably and forecast his devices which the context will bear witness to: Daniel 11:31, “And arms shall stand **on his part**, and they shall **pollute the sanctuary** of strength, and **shall take away the daily sacrifice**, and **they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate**.” This happens at the middle of the seven year tribulation; and if that were not enough Daniel 11:37, “Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for **he shall magnify himself above all**.” Which relates to the passage we are talking about in 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**.”

So we should recognize this fellow by the act of making a peace treaty for world peace for seven years.

2 Thessalonians 2:6, “And **now ye know what withholdeth** that he might be revealed in his time.” Now you should know WHAT withholdeth that HE the antichrist might be revealed in his time: the WHAT is the peace treaty; which he must make first. Until then he is withheld from being revealed. In the next verse we see the mystery: 2 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.”

Notice the “man of sin” and “son of perdition” and “mystery of iniquity” and that he is already at work. This is that spirit of antichrist that is already in the world: 1 John 4:1-3, “Beloved, **believe not every spirit**, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because **many false prophets are gone out into the world**. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and **this is that spirit of antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that **it should come**; and **even now already is it in the world.**”

So who is letting this antichrist in allowance or not because in the passages he is NOT revealed yet, so letting is disallowing for now until the lease is expired. Who owns the nations of this world? Who is the god of this world now? Who is the leaser letting space and time in this world NOW?

Tempting the Lord Jesus Christ the devil makes this claim: Luke 4:5, “And **the devil**, taking him up into an high mountain, **shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time**. And the devil said unto him, **All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it**. If thou therefore wilt worship me, **all shall be thine.**” Was this accurate and is it still accurate if it was?

2 Corinthians 4:3-4, “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom **the god of this world** hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” Is the god of this world letting people see the light of the glorious gospel of Christ? No, he is disallowing it where he can.

But you thought that God was in control; and that is correct, God is Almighty; and has set his kingdom aside with his kingship and allowed Satan to control things here ever since Adam fell in sin. The Lord will get them back but **not** during the Church age. That happens after the Tribulation when the Lord comes back and sets up His Kingdom for a thousand years: Revelation 11:15, “And the seventh angel

sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**” This kingdom goes on after the thousand years to eternity eventually. But the point is these kingdoms of the world are OWNED by the devil right now; and he is leasing them and letting them, to who he wants to run them, run them. SO, the he that let in this verse is Satan leasing the kingdoms of the world, and eventually will let to his own fellow the Antichrist. Then Satan steps aside to let the Antichrist run the kingdoms of this world in the ground.

2 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.” The antecedent of the “he” that now letteth will let is the mystery of iniquity; and notice that in the next verse the antichrist is called “...that Wicked...” be revealed.

2 Thessalonians 2:8, “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:” The Lord comes in later to destroy him and this coming is not the same one in verse one because in the first verse that is our gathering together unto the Lord, and this one is when the Lord returns with the armies that we are a part of in Revelation 19:14, “And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.” We come back with Him. We can’t come back with Him if we are not already gone up to be with Him! We show up in heaven right before this at the marriage: Revelation 19:7-8, “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for **the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.** And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”

2 Thessalonians 2:9, “Even him, whose coming is **after the working of Satan** with **all power** and **signs** and **lying wonders,**” Now here is the interpretive verse; The Lord’s coming is “...after the working of Satan...” so it was Satan who is the he in “...he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way...” He takes himself out of the way of his man so his man the antichrist can make that peace treaty. So letting is a lease of time allotted to the antichrist by Satan, who when he (Satan) removes himself from blocking events and the antichrist reign then allows or lets him make this covenant of peace to deceive the whole world:

2 Thessalonians 2:10, “And **with all deceivableness** of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth,** that they might be

saved.” That is what happens to the world because they “...received not the love of the truth...” which is the gospel so “...that they might be saved.” So they remain lost because of the god of this world blinded their minds. Ultimately, God caused this strong delusion by allowing Satan to run things here:

2 Thessalonians 2:11, “And for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion**, that they should believe a lie.” The strong delusion is how Satan was able to cause people to receive not the love of the truth. This was accomplished by altering the truth of God: Romans 1:21-25, “Because that, **when they knew God, they glorified him not as God**, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and **their foolish heart was darkened**. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: **Who changed the truth of God into a lie**, and worshipped and **served the creature** more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.” Bible perversion is the number one way Satan has managed to turn people from the truth and is also God’s strong delusion that He used through Satan’s work here. And WHY?

2 Thessalonians 2:12, “**That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**” It all boils down to the alternative to truth and righteousness: the LIE and unrighteousness! 1 John 5:17, “All unrighteousness is sin: and **there is a sin not unto death.**” If there is a sin **not** unto death, then there is a line drawn where there **is a sin unto death**. The illusion is that there is a sin **NOT** unto death and **men think that they got away with sin** for a time: Ecclesiastes 8:11, “Because **sentence** against an evil work is **not executed speedily**, therefore **the heart** of the sons of men **is fully set** in them **to do evil.**” This illusion will be completed when Satan gives control of his kingdoms to the antichrist in letting him bring the worlds kingdoms together in a one world tyrannical government. This is the culmination of this world’s world view.

Therefore to **let** means allow and disallow at the same time: so stands the King James Bible without error.

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The End