

[The Book of 2 Thessalonians](#)

Chapter 2 Part 2

“And then the lawless one will be revealed”

[Return To
All Commentary](#)

1 Now, brethren, **concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, **and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,**

4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Did you know that All of the events of human history are just about to come to an end Today. Paul is going to describe for us this morning, the events that will be [The Beginning Of The End.](#)

Have you ever wondered why the Lord is so patient with the world Today?

- **To put up with the blasphemy of men?** How can God be so patient?
- **The Lord is so long-suffering.** He has patiently been waiting for 2,000 years for all those who will give their lives to Jesus, live for Jesus, and wait for His return.

[2 Peter 3:9](#)

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise (**To Return for us**), as some count slackness, but **is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish** but that all should come to repentance

- **Jesus is about to come for His church** **He is coming for those who Love Him.** Jesus will remove them from the earth at the “**Rapture**”, just as he promised He would.

[Revelation 3:10](#)

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

- **Very soon**, the earth will enter those events that will trigger the final straw that will bring the beginning of “**The Great Tribulation period.**”
- **The last three and one half years** will be the time of **God's wrath** that will be poured out on the rest of the earth who have rejected Jesus sacrifice for them and have began to worship the beast.
- **Tonight** during our Sunday evening Bible study we will study Revelation chapter 6, the opening of the first seal, and the beginning of the Tribulation period that we are talking about this morning.

In Matthew chapter 24, Jesus said when you see the “Abomination of Desolation” that Daniel spoke about, standing in the holy place. Then he said, let him who reads, understand. He said it’s time for you Jews to flee out of Jerusalem. Don’t stop for anything.

Matthew 24:15-22

15 “Therefore **when you see** the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

16 “then **let those who are in Judea flee** to the mountains.

17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.

- **In Revelation 12** The Lord describes how He will give Israel “**Wings of an Eagle**” that will carry them to a wilderness place, where God will watch over them and keep them for the last 3 1/2 years called “**The Great Tribulation**”.

Revelation 12:14

But the woman (Israel) was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might **fly into the wilderness to her place, (Petra, in Jordan)** where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

- **This entire period** of time that 2 Thessalonians is speaking of this morning, begins with 3 1/2 years of peace. It is call “**The Tribulation**”
 1. **Israel and the Arab nations** are crying for a peace plan today.
 2. **The Tribulation period** begins with Revelation chapter 6, where a supernatural man appears on the earth’s scene and makes peace between Israel and Many nations.

Revelation 6:1-2

1 Now I saw when the Lamb (Jesus) opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”

2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow (But no arrow); and a crown (Authority) was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. (In Peace) ***The opening of the first seal encompasses the first 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation***

Daniel 9:27

Then he (Antichrist) shall confirm a covenant (Peace Plan) with many for one week (7 Years); But in the middle of the week (3 1/2 years) He (Antichrist) shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

3. **The Abomination that causes the Desolation** and destruction of the last 3 1/2 years of the Great Tribulation is because The antichrist enters the New Temple in Jerusalem enters the Holy of Holies, and erects a statue of himself and then command the Jewish nation and all of the world to worship him as god.
4. **Israel will have received this man** who comes as Peace maker and Reconciler of Israel and builder of their new Temple, as “The Messiah”.
5. **It will not be until he announces** that he is god and command Israel to worship him as god, that they will have their eyes opened and realize that Jesus was their messiah.

1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast (**antichrist**) rising up out of the sea, (**The Mediterranean sea, the Roman empire**) having **seven heads and ten horns**, (**10 Powerful nations**) and on his horns **ten crowns**, (**10 nations of Authority, TODAY’S EUROPEAN UNION**) and on his heads a blasphemous name.

2 Now **the beast** which I saw **was like a leopard**, (**Quick like Alexander the Great**) his feet were like the feet of **a bear**, (**Power like Cyrus**) and his mouth like the mouth of **a lion**. (**Ferocious like Nebuchadnezzar**) The dragon (**satan**) gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

He will conquer the entire known world with Alexander the Great’s Speed, Cyrus the Bears Power, and Nebuchadnezzar’s Ferocity in just 3 1/2 years!

3 ...And all the world marveled and followed the beast.

4 **So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; (WORSHIP SATAN WHO GIVE HIS POWER TO ANTICHRIST)** and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. (**Last 3 1/2 Year of the Great Tribulation Period**)

6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, **His tabernacle**, and those who dwell in heaven. (**The Abomination of Desolation**)

7 **It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.** And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

8 **All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

The 7 World wide kingdoms, and Daniels Statue

Power	Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Additional Information
	Metal man	Wild beasts	
Repetition			Enlargement
Babylon	Head of gold	Lion	Wings
Medo-Persia	Chest of silver	Bear	Higher on one side. Has three ribs in its mouth
Greece	Belly and thighs of	Leopard	Four heads and four wings

	brass		
Rome (pagan)	Legs of iron	Terrible beast	The terrible nature
Rome (papal)		Little horn	New information - a different type of power.
Europe	Ten toes	Ten horns	Three horns removed by the little horn
Kingdom of God	Rock	Judgment	A judgment scene



[2 Thessalonians 2](#)

2:5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things

- **Paul said** don't you remember that when I was yet you, I told you these things?
- It is believed by the context of 1 and 2 Thessalonians that Paul was only in Thessalonica for 3 weeks.
- **Even though** Paul was only there in Thessalonica a short time, he believed the this subject of the Last Days, the coming of Jesus for His Church, the coming of the antichrist and the beginning of the Great Tribulation Period were extremely important.
- **Because the Holy Spirit** places such great importance on these subjects, we equally devote quality teaching time to these subjects when we arrive at them in our verse by verse study.
- **Remember Paul** said, when I was with you I told you these things?

2:6 And now you know what is restraining, (*Antichrist From Coming*) that he may be revealed in his own time.

Right now, antichrist is being held back from being revealed.

- **It is my personal opinion** that the antichrist is alive in the world today.
- **He probably is already deeply involved in politics.** Particularly in the European Union, from where he will rule someday.
- **He is just waiting** for permission to be revealed, WHAT IS IT THAT IS RESTRAINING HIM FROM BEING REVEALED?

When Jesus was speaking to the church of Philadelphia, His true church in the last days that was faithful to the Word, And had not denied who Jesus is, they were not a powerful or mighty church, Jesus told them, “**You have a little strength.**”

- **We are not a great power in the world today,** even in the United States. Jesus church at it’s very best has just a little strength, but just enough to hold back the tide of evil, because as long as there are ten righteous people, God will spare the whole nation
- **Do you wonder why God has not judged America yet,** He will, so what is holding Him back, there must be at least 10 righteous people. (Probably here at CC Holbrook/Winslow)

You remember how that Abraham met the angels who were on their way to destroy the city of Sodom (Genesis 18 & 19). Abraham, when they announced to him their intentions, knowing that his nephew, Lot, lived in Sodom, he said shall not the Lord of the earth be just?

- **Abraham asked the Lord:** What if there are fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom? Would You destroy the righteous with the wicked?
- **The Lord said** if there are **fifty righteous** people, We will spare the city.
- **Then Abraham began to bargain.** “Lord what if there are 45, 40, 30, 20, 10
- **Abraham got the Lord down to ten righteous people.** Then the Lord said “**If there are ten righteous people, we will spare the city.**”

So in the morning when the angels came to Sodom and Gomorrah, they told Lot “Hurry, we can not destroy this place until you are safely out of it “(Genesis 19:22).

The angels led Lot, his wife and two daughters out of the city of Sodom. And then the judgment came upon that city and it was destroyed, but not until God had delivered Lot.

Genesis 18:20-32

And the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

21 I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know.”

22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD.

23 And Abraham came near and said, “**Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?**

24 **Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city;** would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?

25 **Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"**

26 So the LORD said, **"If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."**

27 Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:

28 Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?" So He said, **"If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it."**

29 And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, **"I will not do it for the sake of forty."**

30 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, **"I will not do it if I find thirty there."**

31 And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, **"I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty."**

32 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, **"I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."**

- **Even so**, the judgment of God is ready to come upon the earth, but God will not destroy the righteous with the wicked.
- **And so it is that little strength that the church has** that is holding back the tide of evil. We are the only voice that speaks out against the evil in our society today, a little strength. And really people get extremely upset when we do speak out.
 1. **It isn't popular to speak out against abortion**. But this is not our opinion, God said that it is wrong, so we open our mouths and speak up.
 2. **It won't make you popular to speak against homosexuality**. We have not developed our opinion of the Homosexual life style ourselves, the Lord called it an "**Abomination**", so we speak out against it.
 3. **I always tell people**, if you don't like the churches stance on these kinds of things, take it up with Jesus, He is the One that established these things.
 4. **Jesus will be here soon**, you can debate it with Him

2 Thessalonians 2

2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way

- **It is very interesting** here that the Holy Spirit calls "The Mystery of Lawlessness". What is it that is so attractive to human beings that they are so attracted to evil?
- **Why do the majority of human beings** love Lawlessness and evil more than righteousness and Goodness?
 1. **Why people** choose the path of death rather than the path of life?
 2. **Why people would engage** in things that are only harmful and destructive, things that destroy them.

3. **What is the attraction?** What is the magnet that draws people to love all the things in their life instead of life itself—Paul describes it here as “**The mystery of Lawlessness**”
4. **I believe that depth of evil** of the human heart are not knowable right now. On the day that Jesus judges the secret things of the human heart, we will be utterly amazed at just how awful our hearts really are.

Psalms 19:12

How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults.

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”

1 Corinthians

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.

2 Thessalonians 2

2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way

What is it that is hindering the unleashing of all of this evil that is lurching forward and cannot wait to get out of the human heart?

1. **Some commentators** have said that it is the Holy Spirit, and when He is removed from the earth, the antichrist will be revealed, and all lawlessness will flood forth.
2. **The problem** with this idea is that as students of the Word of God, we know that in the book of Revelation, many thousands, perhaps millions are saved by giving their lives to Jesus during the Great Tribulation.
3. **What is the only instrument** that draws a person to Jesus and saves them, The Holy Spirit.

John 16:7-8

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Holy Spirit will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

8 And **when He has come, He will convict the world of sin**, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

So, it cannot be the Removing of the Holy spirit from the earth that unleashes the antichrist and all lawlessness/

- **I believe the bible makes it clear** that it is The Holy Spirit working within the church, is the hindering force that is holding back the revelation of the antichrist. He will hinder. He will hold back until He is taken out of the way—that is, until the church is removed.
- **The church by itself**, has no power to hinder anything, but the Holy spirit empowering us, enables us to “Prevail against the very Gates of Hell”.

Matthew 16:18

... I will build My church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it

Psalms 139:7

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

- **Once the church is removed**, then God's Spirit will again be put upon the nation of Israel. And God will have a faithful remnant from the Jews
- **The Lord will seal one 144,000** of them to go through the tribulation period, much as God sealed Noah and he went through the great tribulation period of the flood
- **You remember that Enoch was “Raptured”** before the great tribulation period of the flood began—**Enoch was a Gentile, He was a Picture of the church.**
- **Enoch was 65 years old** when something happened to him in his life that caused him to “Walk with the Lord” and then **when He was 365 years old**, the bible says that **“He was not”**, because God took him, **The Lord Raptured Enoch to Heaven!**
- **But Noah, he was a type of Israel**, going through the Great Tribulation, but sealed by God in order to survive.

2 Thessalonians 2

2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

When the antichrist comes and takes his power, he is going to have tremendous power, it will be Satanic power.

- **He will be able to perform miracles.** And by these miracles, He will be able to deceive the nations.
- **The whole world will wander after him** because of the signs and the miracles that he is performing. He will seemingly be invincible.
- **There will be an assassination attempt on his life**, which he will miraculously survive! And he will appear to be invincible to the world. And they will be saying, **who is able to make war with him? Who can stand against him?**
- **When Jesus comes again**, Riding out of heaven in Revelation chapter 19, antichrist will be destroyed with the brightness of the coming of Jesus and with the Word that goes out of the Lord's mouth.

Some of the Names Of The Antichrist

The actual name of the Antichrist is not given to us in Scripture. The bible describes him as:

1. **The Assyrian**— Isa. 10:5 Assyria is Iraq, This means he is from Iraq, interesting
2. **The Beast**— Rev. 13:1
3. **The Chaldean**— Hab. 1:6 Ancient people from southern Iraq
4. **The King of Fierce Countenance**— Dan. 8:23
5. **The Little Horn**— Dan. 7:8

6. **The Man of Sin**— II Thess. 2:3
7. **The Son of Perdition**— II Thess. 2:3
8. **The Vile Person**—Dan. 11:21
9. **The Wicked one** —II_ Thess. 2:8

The Characteristics Of The Antichrist

- (1) **Ordinary beginning**— Dan. 7:8 , 24 ; Rev. 6:1 , 2 .
- (2) **Makes treaty with Jews for Seven Years**— Isa. 28:15 , 18 ; Dan. 9:27 .
- (3) **Overcomes some resistance in uniting Europe**— Dan. 7:8 , 20 , 24 .
- (4) **Becomes head of 10-nation European Confederacy**— Rev. 13:1 ; 17:12 , 13 .
- (5) **Attacked by Kings of the South and the North, and is killed**— Dan. 11:40-43 .
- (6) **His deadly head wound is healed**— Rev. 13:1 , 12:14 .
- (7) **He becomes world ruler**— Rev. 13:7b ; 17:9 , 11-14 , 17 , 18 ; 18:2 , 10 , 16 .
- (8) **Breaks Jewish 7 year peace treaty and stops temple sacrifices**— Dan. 9:27 .
- (9) **Kills the Two Witnesses**— Rev. 11:3-7 .
- (10) **Take over Gods role, commands worship of himself**— II Thess. 2:4; Matt. 24:15 .
- (11) **Persecuted the Jews**— Dan. 7:21-22 ; Jer. 30:7 .
- (12) **Kills the 144,000 Evangelists**— Rev. 14:1-5 .
- (13) **Destroys the World Church**— Rev. 17:16-17 .
- (14) **Defeated at Armageddon by Jesus**— Rev. 17:14 ; 19:19 .
- (15) **Cast alive into the Lake of Fire**— Rev. 19:20 ; 20:10 .

Attributes Of The Antichrist

- (1) **Extreme intelligence**— Rev. 13:18 ; Dan. 7:8 .
- (2) **Great speaking ability**— Dan. 7:8 ; Rev. 13:5 .
- (3) **Crafty political talents**— Dan. 9:27 ; Rev. 17:12 , 13 , 17 .
- (4) **Strong physical appearance**— Dan. 7:20 .
- (5) **Military genius**— Rev. 13:4 ; 17:14 ; 19:19 .
- (6) **Morally, the worse person that has ever lived**
 - (a) **Materialistic**— Dan. 11:38
 - (b) **Blasphemer**— Rev. 13:6
 - (c) **Against the Law of God**— II Thess. 2:8
 - (d) **Will Have Selfish ambition**— Dan. 11:36 , 37 ; II Thess. 2:4 .
 - (e) **Tries to change prophecy and history**— Dan. 7:25
 - (f) **Substitutes his self for God**— Dan. 11:36 ; II Thess. 2:4 .

2 Thessalonians 2

2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

- **Antichrist** will cause the whole world to wonder after him because he will have supernatural miraculous powers.

- **It is very possible** that Satan is responsible for raising a great storm on the Sea of Galilee that we read in the Gospels (C. Smith 2 Thess 2:9 Study)
- **It is possible** that antichrist will be able to command the wind or other natural elements of the earth, and with the powers that he has, people will be deceived because they will be supernatural powers that he will manifest—lying wonders, signs, all kinds of power.
- **Some also theorize** that he will claim to be of alien origin, perhaps even demonstrating this by coming in some kind of alien craft.

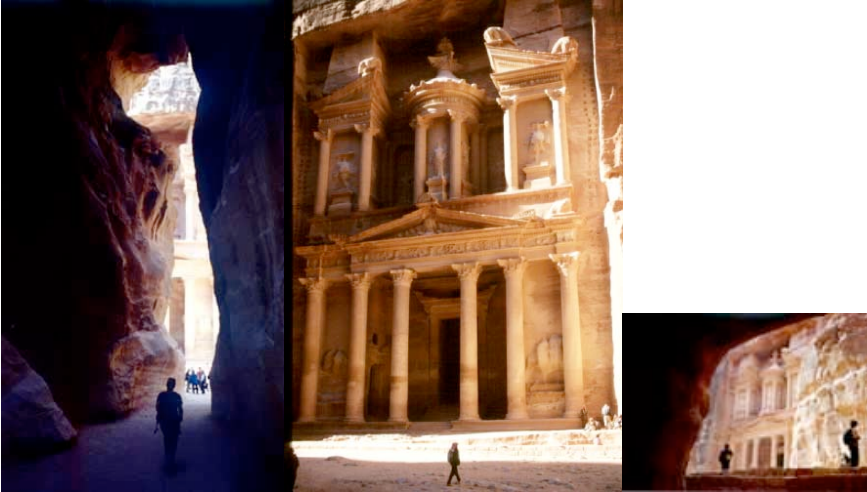
When he enters the new temple in Israel, and announces he is god, this will be Israel's signal to get out of Israel and flee to Edom, know to us today as "Petra"



Map of Petra in Jordan



Entrance to Petra



Entrance to the Treasury and the Treasury Itself



The Temple at Petra



Petra City



Roman Road at Petra

At the beginning, here in 2 Thessalonians, Israel will be deceived and believe that he is their long awaited Messiah.

2 Thessalonians 2

2:10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

- **The idea here** is that those who reject the truth of God's Word that declares to them that Jesus died to forgive their sins, and that only through Jesus can anyone be saved, then **The Lord will allow them to be deceived into receiving and worshipping antichrist.**
- **It is important** this morning to understand that the only protection any human being has from being taken and totally belong to satan, is if they give their life to Jesus.
- **Without the blood of Jesus** and His protection, you are open game for satan to do anything he wants to do with you.
- **If you continue to reject Jesus,** there is a moment when the Lord turns you over to totally being deceived by satan and then you belong to him forever!

During the Tribulation period, there will be many thousands of people who will have heard of Jesus before, or have now read in their Bibles, or seen literature that we leave behind, that will want to be saved.

1. **They can be saved** during the Tribulation, but it will be at the cost of their head!
2. **Antichrist will require** every person alive during that time to worship him as god, those that insist on receiving Jesus will be beheaded by the antichrist.

Revelation 13:14-17

14 And **he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs** which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.

15 He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

16 **He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,**

17 and that **no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

Revelation 20:4

4. ...**Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands...**

Just in case you have been holding that out to accept Jesus until you see the Tribulation come and the Church having been Raptured, I don't think after this study, you really want to wait.

2 Thessalonians 2

2:11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

- **In other words**, if you reject Jesus now, before he comes, then **God will allow you to be deceived after the antichrist comes.**

2 Thessalonians

2:12 **that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth** but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- **We are talking about your eternal life.** If you hear the truth that Jesus died for you and is offering you forgiveness and heaven and you reject His offer, and in 30 seconds the church is Raptured and then the Tribulation begins, there is a very good chance that you will be lost forever.
- **Have you already given your life to Jesus,** but today you are messing around with sin, If you give your self to a lifestyle of sin, you are going to be left behind.

Do you really want to take that chance?

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God from the beginning chose you for salvation.**

2:14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Two things are at work here, 2 things are taught side by side in the Bible.

1. **You have the responsibility** to make a decision either for or against Jesus, if you reject Jesus, you will be lost forever.
2. **God has the sovereignty** in that He chose you by His own purpose. Even the faith that you had to receive Jesus, He gave this to you.

You might say, "How can I have the decision to make, but god also be responsible for my salvation, don't they conflict with each other?"

Only in our limited human minds, in eternity it works perfectly, and this is the fact that the bible teaches both.

- **Human responsibility.**
- **The sovereignty of God**

2 Thessalonians 2

2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

Stand fast in the truth, the things that I taught you.

- **Remember**, they were getting these letters teaching them things contrary to what Paul had already taught. They were getting these false prophets that were coming in, telling them different things.
- **Paul is saying, hold fast to the traditions** that I gave you, that I taught you and that I wrote to you in the first epistle. I set it out for you. Hold fast to these things.

2 Thessalonians 2

2:16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,

2:17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

- **All of your hope, comfort and Grace** will only come to you if you live and believe every word that comes from the mouth of God.
- **Jesus is coming for those that love Him soon, are you ready?**

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