

## God's saving work in spite of satanic forces

2 Thessalonians 2; Revelation 7 & 14

- I. In the Tribulation, the “man of sin” will lead the rebellion against God (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12).
  - A. The “man of sin” (= the antichrist) will oppose God and claim to be God (2:1-4; Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; Revelation 13:14-15).
  - B. The antichrist will be revealed after the “restrainer” is removed (2:5-7).
    - “Restrainer” – Likely the Holy Spirit who indwells the church which is removed at the rapture.
  - C. The antichrist will have satanic power until Jesus destroys him at the end of the Tribulation (2:8-10a).
  - D. Unbelievers will perish because they reject God's truth to believe lies and do evil (2:10b-12).
- II. In the Tribulation, many will believe in Christ and be saved (Revelation 7 & 14).
  - A. God will “seal” (save) 144,000 Jews who will serve him in the Tribulation (7:1-8; 14:3).
  - B. God will save many Jews and gentiles who will be martyred and worship God in heaven (7:9-17).
  - C. The 144,000 Jews will also worship God in heaven (perhaps also martyred – Revelation 14:1-5).
  - D. An angel will proclaim the gospel to the whole world calling people to worship their Creator (14:6-7).