

THE CHARACTERISTICS THAT DEFINE
THE MAN OF SIN

WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE MAN OF SIN?

Error of the ecclesia at Thessalonica—1 Thes 5:1-4; 2 Thes 2:1-5

SUGGESTED PREREQUISITES TO UNDERSTANDING THE MAN OF SIN

Definition of the Greek word *theos*

Organization and purpose of the true church— Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 12:12

Manner and object of the second advent

CHARACTERISTICS THAT DEFINE THE MAN OF SIN

A system within organized Christianity—B276.2

Contains large percentage of those professing to be Christian—the “host” of Dan 8:12; “tares” of Mat 13:38

Starts as an apostasy or falling away from the true church, but will “prosper”—Dan 8:12,24

Gradual beginning dating from the time of the apostles—2 Thes 2:7; Mat 13:25

A counterfeit of the true (see the definition of *anti-*; Strong’s G473)

Replaces truth with error, “cast the truth to the ground”—Dan 8:12

Limits and controls the word of God—Rev 11:3-12

Has power, but it is “not his own”—Dan 8:24

Systemic pride and arrogance—2 Thes 2:4; Dan 8:25; Rev 18:7

Reign of the system must be shown to be 1260 “days”—Dan 7:25; Rev 11:2,3; 12:6,14

THE SYSTEM MUST HAVE CERTAIN STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT (B355.1 – 356.6)

Secret Ambition—2 Thes 2:7; Mat 13:25

Organization into a hierarchy

Exercise of power begins to extend beyond the immediate organization into the civil arena

Exaltation to power and authority—Dan 8:23-25

BIBLICAL IDENTIFIERS OF THE MAN OF SIN

The “abomination that maketh desolate”—Dan 11:31; Mat 24:15; Mark 13:14; see also Dan 8:11

A horn (power) with eyes (intelligence) and a mouth (utterance)—Dan 7:8,20

“Great swelling words”—Dan 7:11,25 ; Rev 13:5,6

“Think to change times and laws”—Dan 7:25

Makes the nations “drunk”—Rev 17:2

“Wear out the saints of the Most High”—Dan 7:21,25; 8:24; Rev 13:7

A beast (government) that survives a deadly wound (Rev 13:3,12).

BIBLICAL SYMBOLS USED TO ILLUSTRATE THE MAN OF SIN

Woman: the corporate body without its head, especially a harlot, Jezebel—Rev 2:20

Man: the corporate body with its head. Compare Elijah—2 Thes 2:3

City: in the sense of governmental control, especially Babylon—Rev 17:18,5; R5295.1¹

¹ The figure of a mountain is one commonly used in the Scriptures for a kingdom. Mount Zion represents the Kingdom of God. This Mount Zion Kingdom is to include the whole earth. This Kingdom is about to be established. Its establishment is what the Apostle is discussing. A kingdom is in figure also called a City; but strictly speaking, a mountain represents the nation, and a city represents the government of that nation. This figure of speech is very common today. If we read that Berlin does thus and so, we know that the German Government is referred to; or if we read of St. Petersburg's doing thus and so, it means the Russian Government; similarly, Washington would represent the Government of the United States, and London, the British Government. (R5295.1)