

# ***“Paul’s Mystery Restrainer”***

## **Special Edition**

2 Thessalonians 2:3-7

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### **I. The Purpose of History – Biblical View**

- Completion of the Great Commission (Gen. 3:15- Matt. 24:14)
- God’s Handiwork in Providence (Matt. 16:3, Luke 12:56)
- Five Conditions for Christ’s Return (Matt. 24:14, 22; Luke 21:24; Rev. 6:8, 9:15, 13:17)

### **II. Paul’s Prophecy of the Lawless One**

- Concern about the Coming of Christ (2 Thess. 2:1-12)
- Two Conditions had to be met first (2 Thess. 2:3)

### **III. The Restrainer of the Lawless One**

- Antichrist won’t come until two conditions met (2 Thess. 2:3, 6-7)
- Who is Antichrist’s restrainer?
- What did the early commentators believe?
- Paul’s supporting teaching in Romans 13:1-4

### **IV. History’s Three Great Restrainers**

- Paul foresaw a converted Roman Empire (2 Thess. 2:3)
- What do we see when we look?
- Constantine gets a bad rap
- 1<sup>st</sup> Great Restrainer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Restrainer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Restrainer
- Must be taken out of the way (2 Thess. 2:6-7)
- Every nation, tongue, and tribe (Rev. 13:7)