

Antichrist

	Time of Antichrist's Appearing	Distinctive Emphases
Church Fathers	Many antichrists (false teachers) will appear, but the Antichrist yet future	Antichrist will be an apostate Jew and false Messiah. He will appear after the fall of the Roman Empire in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem.
Dispensationalism	Many antichrists (false teachers) will appear but the Antichrist yet future	Antichrist appears during 70 th week of Daniel after the Rapture (cf. Daniel 9:24-27) and makes a peace treaty with Israel at the beginning of the seven-year tribulation period. He reveals his true identity in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem betraying Israel.
Historicism	Antichrist identified with the papacy	The temple mentioned by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 is a reference to the church, not the Jerusalem Temple. The harlot Babylon (Revelation 17) is a reference to the Roman Church.
Preterism	Many antichrists (false teachers) present throughout the course of this age. The beast of Revelation 13 was Nero and the Book of Revelation depicts events of the first century which are already largely fulfilled.	Jesus Christ returned in judgment upon Israel in A. D. 70, closing out the end of the Jewish age. When Paul refers to the temple in 2 Thessalonians 2:4, he's referring to the Jerusalem temple which was destroyed in A. D. 70.
Reformed Amillennariansism	Many antichrists (false teachers) appear throughout the course of this age. A final Antichrist is yet to come in the form of state-sponsored heresy and the persecution of the church	The temple mentioned by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:4 is a reference to the church, not the Jerusalem temple. Antichrist's appearance is tied to a time of great apostasy.

Contemporary Interpretations of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

	Identity of Man of Sin	Identity of the Restrainer	Paul's reference to the "temple of God" (2:4)
Preterism (prophecy is already fulfilled)	Nero or succession of Roman Emperors	The Jewish commonwealth or the Roman Empire	Paul is referring to the Jerusalem Temple, still standing before A. D. 70
Historicism (prophecy refers to the papacy)	The current Pope or the papacy as an office	The preaching of the gospel	Paul is speaking of the church
Dispensationalism (the prophecy is yet future)	Future Antichrist	The Holy Spirit	A rebuilt temple in Jerusalem
Reformed Amillennialism	Future Antichrist	The angel of Revelation, the providence of God, or the preaching of the gospel	Paul is speaking of the church