

5. The combination of Hezekiah's rebound and prayer of deliverance, the grace of God and His salute to David, and the power of the remaining Jewish Pivot delivered Judah from the fifth cycle of discipline.
6. Conclusion: When in the throes of national discipline, if believers humble themselves before God in post-rebound prayer, He will deliver a client nation:

**2 Chronicles 7:13** - "If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people,

**v. 14** - and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

**v. 15** - "Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer offered in this place [ **Solomon's temple** ]. (NASB)

This concludes our studies of the Pivot, Client Nation, and principles associated with the Lord's control of history. We now return to our passage that addresses these and other subjects related to The Day of the Lord and the Man of Lawlessness. We will first review the expanded translation of the passage for as far as we have advanced in 2 Thessalonians 2. (See CR14, lessons 132-146)

**2 Thessalonians 2:1** - Now we urgently request you, fellow believers, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ [ **the Rapture** ] and our gathering together around Him [ **resurrection of "the dead in Christ"** and **"those who are alive and remain"** (1 Thessalonians 4:16c-17a ),

**v. 2** - that you be not easily shaken in mind or disturbed, neither by a spirit [ **demon influence** ], nor by a message [ **false doctrine** ] nor by a letter [ **false corrigendum** ] as if from us, alleging that the day of the Lord<sup>1</sup> [ **Κύριος (Kúrios): 2d Advent** ] is near.

<sup>1</sup> The King James Bible has the word "Christ" which is incorrect. The word Χρίστος (*Christos*) indicates that the Rapture is near. The word in the Greek text is Κύριος (*Kúrios*) which instead indicates that the Second Advent is near. This means that the false corrigendum asserts that Thessalonian believers are living in the Tribulation.

**2 Thessalonians 2:3 -** Let no one deceive you according to any rhetorical method, for that day [ **the 2d Advent** ] shall not come until after the Rapture occurs first, and the man of lawlessness [ **Beast-Dictator** ] will then [ **post Rapture** ] start the process of having his identity revealed, the son of destruction.

**v. 4 -** The Lucifer-indwelt Beast-Dictator opposes God and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, with the result that he symbolically takes his seat in the Holy of Holies of the temple of God in the form of a self-commissioned statue, asserting that he himself is God.

**v. 5 -** Do you not remember what you previously understood, that while I was last with you I was teaching you these doctrines?

**v. 6 -** And now you know what thing [ **the power of the Holy Spirit** ] restrains [ **under rules of engagement** <sup>2</sup> ] him [ **Lucifer & later the Beast Dictator** ] now [ **Church Age** ] so that he will be revealed in his dispensation [ **Tribulation** ].

**v. 7 -** For the mystery of lawlessness [ **mystery doctrines of the Church Age related to satanic strategies** ] is already operational. Only He Who restrains [ **the Holy Spirit** ] will continue that ministry of restraint until He is taken out of the way [ **at the Rapture** ]. (EXT)

It is at this point we studied four doctrines that are associated with the “restraining ministry” of the Holy Spirit which incorporates (1) the Pivot, (2) the Client Nation, (3) the historical impact of the Pivot, and (4) that Jesus Christ controls history. We resume the passage now at:

**2 Thessalonians 2:8 -** Then the lawless one [ **the Beast-Dictator** ] will be revealed [ **future passive indicative of ἀποκαλύπτω (apokalúptō)** ] whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; (NASB)

<sup>2</sup> “Restrain: to prevent from doing; to limit, restrict, or keep under control; to limit the force, effect, development, or full exercise of; suggests holding back by force from acting or going to extremes” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v. “restrain”).

The verb *apokalúptō* is a gnomic future tense therefore it is prophetic for what has not happened as yet and, in context, cannot occur until the Rapture occurs first.

**PRINCIPLE:** Biblical prophecy is not a look *into* the future and predicting what *will* occur, but rather a look *back from* the future and reporting what *does* occur.

The gnomic future indicates a statement of fact that may be expected to take place in the future, but context indicates it may not occur until a preceding event occurs first.

The passive voice indicates the Beast-Dictator receives the action by being revealed but only after the Rapture occurs and then following his rise to power.

Rapidly moving events of the Tribulation come together to project this man into a position of prominence in world affairs.

By the time he leads a coup d'état against the nations of Western Europe he will have become established as a household name. All these events reveal him to the world and thus he receives the action of this international recognition.

The declarative indicative mood is a statement of a fact to be fulfilled in the future therefore it is eschatological reality.

With the removal of the Holy Spirit's restraining ministry at the Rapture, all that remains is a struggle for world power. Absent restraint, demon influenced dictators quickly rise to power while seizing control of certain areas of the world.

Chaos seeks order through power resulting in tyranny. Power politics becomes the human viewpoint solution in the Tribulation.

Restraint in the Church Age is supplied by Pivot politics. In a Client Nation, Pivot power is expressed by its general subscription to principles of freedom contained in the laws of divine establishment.

The current affinity by many for a return to the laws of divine establishment and limited government reflects a rejection of power politics. If their efforts prove successful it will be because reason suppressed emotion.

In the Tribulation, a similar but unrestrained power struggle will result in the Beast-Dictator imposing military control over the whole of Europe with overtures of pursuing global power.

As international armies maneuver for position in the Valley of Megiddo, the stage is almost set for Armageddon. Victory by Western European forces will solidify global domination for the Beast-Dictator.

Just as his advance on Jerusalem brings terror to the souls of the Jewish people, the Lord intervenes and brings the battle to a swift conclusion.

Verse 8 jumps from the “lawless one” being publically revealed over to the Second Advent of Christ indicated by the noun **Κύριος (Kúrios)** followed by the verb **ἀναιρέω (anairéō)**. The NASB translates this with the word “slay.” It is a gnomic future active indicative of the historical reality of the Second Advent of Christ. It is best translated “annihilate.” *Anairéō* is also used in the context of a “public execution” in seven New Testament verses.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See Luke 23:32; Acts 2:23; 10:39; 12:2; 13:28; 22:20; 26:10.