

The Man of Lawlessness/Sin

There have been many ideas and thoughts concerning him through the centuries. There have been many attempts to identify him also, so far without success! The following is a summary based on material from William Hendriksen's commentary on 1 & 2 Thessalonians and is useful for showing the major ideas concerning the man of lawlessness/sin. He goes into much more detail on the subject and is worth reading.

1. Who he is **not**:

- a. He is not to be identified as Satan.
- b. He is not to be identified with the beast from the sea in Revelation 13 & 17
- c. He is not an abstract power or concept
- d. He is not to be identified with the line of the Roman Empire.
- e. He is not Nero Redivivus i.e. Nero brought back to life.
- f. He is not the pope or the papacy.
- g. He is not the Chaos-dragon of the Babylonians or to be identified with the apocryphal or pseudepigraphical perversion of the term '*Belial*'.
(pseudepigraphical from *pseudo* = *false* & *epigraphy* = *study of inscriptions*)

2. Who he **is**:

- a. A definite eschatological person. (eschatology = *doctrine of the last things*)
- b. He is revealed in scripture!