

Memory Verse

2 Thessalonians 2:7

**And you know what is restraining
him now so that he may be revealed
in his time.**

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

Who is the Restrainer?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Daniel 12:1-4

Michael Ufferman



The Restrainer: **WHO IS IT?**



THE RESTRAINER MYTH

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

Revelation 4:1-2

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

Revelation 4:1-2

- 1 After this I looked, and, behold, a **door was opened in heaven**: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, **Come up hither**, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.
- 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

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For the **Pretribulation Rapturist**, this is when the Resurrection/Rapture of the Church occurs.

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However, this belief is not biblically supported.

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

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2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

They say: 1) this is when the Church is removed from the earth,
2) and so is the Holy Spirit, which is restraining Satan and the Antichrist from running rampant across the earth.

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They say: 3) the rapture happens at the beginning of the final 7 year period spoken of in the Book of Daniel... the 70th Week, therefore, 4) the Holy Spirit of God has been removed at the beginning of the 70th Week.

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This becomes a **MAJOR ISSUE** when we discuss
THE RESTRAINER

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

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[2 Thessalonians 2:7-8](#)

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians about events that would occur before the Day of the Lord:

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8

- 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only **he who now letteth** [restrains or hinders] will **let** [restrain or hinder], until he be **taken out of the way**.
- 8 And **then** shall **that Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:...

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

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Pretribulation Rapturists argue that this **restrainer is the Holy Spirit**, and **He ceases to “let”** (restrain) when He is taken out of the world with the raptured Church (supposedly Revelation 4:1), which allows the Antichrist to come on the scene (that Wicked be revealed).

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

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Again, what happens when the restrainer ceases to restrain (vs 8)?

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

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Again, what happens when the restrainer ceases to restrain (vs 8)?

“then shall that wicked [one] be revealed”

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

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Just prior in that same passage, Paul teaches that when the restrainer ceases, the Antichrist will be revealed in a very unique way.

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

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2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

- 1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,
- 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

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They were concerned that the Lord had already returned and that the rapture had already occurred ELSEWHERE.
But Paul gave them very clear signs to observe.

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

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- 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;...

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How will they recognize...

- 1) the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that
- 2) our gathering together unto him... are near?

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

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- 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
- 4 Who opposeth [against] and exalteth himself [in place of] above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

When does this unveiling of the Antichrist in the Temple occur?

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

Daniel 9:27

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

Daniel 9:27

27 And he shall confirm the **covenant** with many for **one week**: and **in the midst of the week** he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

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When does the Antichrist violate the Temple?

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

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When does the Antichrist violate the Temple?

In the midst of Daniel's 70th week.

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

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In this context of Daniel 9:27, when must the restrainer stop hindering?

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In this context of Daniel 9:27, when must the restrainer stop hindering?

In the midst of the 70th Week... for sacrifice and oblation to cease... for the Antichrist to set himself up as God in the Temple of God.

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

How does this pose a problem for **Pretribulation Rapturists** who believe the Holy Spirit is the restrainer?

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If the Rapture happens at the **BEGINNING** of the 70th Week... and the Holy Spirit is removed at the **BEGINNING** of the 70th Week... then Antichrist should...

- 1) reveal himself, and
- 2) violate the Temple at the **BEGINNING** of the 70th Week.

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

How does this pose a problem for **Pretribulation Rapturists** who believe the Holy Spirit is the restrainer?

If the Rapture happens at the **BEGINNING** of the 70th Week... and the Holy Spirit is removed at the **BEGINNING** of the 70th Week... then Antichrist should...

- 1) reveal himself, and
- 2) violate the Temple at the **BEGINNING** of the 70th Week.

BUT HE DOESN'T!

THE RESTRAINER MYTH

How does this pose a problem for **Pretribulation Rapturists** who believe the Holy Spirit is the restrainer?

SO... IF the rapture occurred at the beginning of the 70th Week...
and IF the Holy Spirit is supposedly gone...
but the man of lawlessness is still restrained...
then the restrainer cannot be the Holy Spirit.

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**THE HOLY SPIRIT BEING THE RESTRAINER
IS A MYTH**

The Restrainer:

WHO IS IT?

Part 2 of 2



WHO IS THE RESTRAINER?



WHO IS THE RESTRAINER?

IS THERE A BETTER OPTION?



WHO IS THE RESTRAINER?

IS THERE A BETTER OPTION?

YES!



THE BETTER OPTION

In 2 Thessalonians 2, what does the word “letteth” mean?

According to Strong’s Concordance, *Letteth* means:

- I. to hold back, detain, retain
 - A. from going away
 - B. to restrain, hinder (the course or progress of)
 - i. that which hinders Antichrist from making his appearance



THE BETTER OPTION

Who is the prince, hinderer, defender, guardian of Israel?



THE BETTER OPTION

Who is the prince, hinderer, defender, guardian of Israel?

[Daniel 10:21](#)



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Daniel 10:21

21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth:
and there is none that **holdeth** with me in these things, but
Michael your prince.

According to Strong's Concordance, *Holdeth* means:

I. to strengthen, prevail, harden, be strong, become strong, be courageous, be firm, grow firm, be resolute



WHO IS MICHAEL?



WHO IS MICHAEL?

Strong's Concordance says:

Michael = "who is like God"

... one of, the chief, or the first archangel who is described as the one who stands in time of conflict for the children of Israel



WHO IS MICHAEL?



WHO IS MICHAEL?

Daniel 10:13



WHO IS MICHAEL?

Daniel 10:13

13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, **Michael, one of the chief princes**, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.



WHO IS MICHAEL'S OPPOSITION?



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Who, as God's enemy and, ironically enough in opposition to Michael's name, desires to be "like the Most High"?



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Isaiah 14:13-15

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will be like the most High.**

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.



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Referring to Satan



WHO IS MICHAEL'S OPPOSITION?

Who is Michael seen contending with over the body of Moses?



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Jude 9



WHO IS MICHAEL'S OPPOSITION?

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9 Yet **Michael the archangel**, when **contending with the devil** he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.



MICHAEL THE RESTRAINER



MICHAEL THE RESTRAINER

The Hebrew word *amad* (Strong's #5975) means “to arise or cease”,
depending upon the previous state of a person.

If one is sitting and performs the action of *amad*, it means “to arise”.

If one is walking and performs the action of *amad*, it means “to
cease”.

It can also mean “withstand or stand fast”.



MICHAEL THE RESTRAINER

Daniel 10:13, 20



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20 Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and **now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia**: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.



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**Regime change is about to come soon.
Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece...**



MICHAEL THE RESTRAINER

In what posture does one “withstand, help, and fight”?



MICHAEL THE RESTRAINER

In what posture does one “withstand, help, and fight”?

Standing, leaning forward, defending



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What is Michael’s activity in Daniel 10:21?



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[Daniel 10:21](#)



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In this case, is Michael acting as a restrainer?

Yes!



MICHAEL THE RESTRAINER

If he is already “standing fast or standing strong” for Daniel’s people and then performs the action of *amad*, what does he do?



MICHAEL THE RESTRAINER

If he is already “standing fast or standing strong” for Daniel’s people and then performs the action of *amad*, what does he do?

He stands still... he ceases... he stands up.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Daniel 12:1



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Daniel 12:1

- 1 And at that time **shall Michael stand up**, the great prince **which standeth** for the children of thy people: and **there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time**: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.



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Does this sound like he is fighting for Israel...
or has he ceased to “stand” for Israel?



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Does this sound like he is fighting for Israel...
or has he ceased to “stand” for Israel?

He has ceased standing/defending Israel



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

The Antichrist strategically places his headquarters when Michael ceases restraining.



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[Daniel 11:45](#)



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

The Antichrist strategically places his headquarters when Michael ceases restraining.

Daniel 11:45

45 And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace **between the seas in the glorious holy mountain**; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

When will the Antichrist reveal himself in the Temple?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

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[Daniel 9:27](#)



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

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27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and **in the midst of the week** he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and **for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate**, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.





THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Additional references related to this time period:



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Additional references related to this time period:

Revelation 11:2



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Additional references related to this time period:

Revelation 11:2

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and **the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.**



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Additional references related to this time period:

Revelation 12:6, 14



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Additional references related to this time period:

Revelation 12:6, 14

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there **a thousand two hundred and threescore days**.

...

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for **a time, and times, and half a time**, from the face of the serpent.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Additional references related to this time period:

Revelation 13:5



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Additional references related to this time period:

Revelation 13:5

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months**.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

How does this compare to what you have already learned concerning when the Great Tribulation begins in Daniel's 70th week?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

How does this compare to what you have already learned concerning when the Great Tribulation begins in Daniel's 70th week?

Perfect timing in the 2nd Half of Daniel's 70th Week.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

When in Daniel's 70th week will Michael *amad* or, in other words, cease withstanding the enemies of Daniel's people?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

When in Daniel's 70th week will Michael *amad* or, in other words, cease withstanding the enemies of Daniel's people?

In the midst... at the midpoint.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Does this coincide with the timing of Michael's action?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Does this coincide with the timing of Michael's action?

Perfectly!



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

In Revelation 12:1-5, who is the woman (nation) that gives birth to the man child who is to rule all nations?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

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Revelation 12:1-5



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

In Revelation 12:1-5, who is the woman (nation) that gives birth to the man child who is to rule all nations?

Revelation 12:1-5

- 1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; **a woman** clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:
- 2 And she **being with child** cried, **travailing in birth**, and **pained to be delivered**.
- 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

In Revelation 12:1-5, who is the woman (nation) that gives birth to the man child who is to rule all nations?

Revelation 12:1-5

- 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for **to devour her child** as soon as it was born.
- 5 And **she brought forth a man child**, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and **her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.**



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

John saw war in Heaven.
Who is seen warring against Satan?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

John saw war in Heaven.
Who is seen warring against Satan?

Revelation 12:7



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

John saw war in Heaven.

Who is seen warring against Satan?

Revelation 12:7

7 And there was war in heaven: **Michael and his angels fought against the dragon**; and the dragon fought and his angels,



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

What was the outcome?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

What was the outcome?

Revelation 12:8-10



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

What was the outcome?

Revelation 12:8-10

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And **the great dragon was cast out**, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

What are the feelings of the devil as he comes down?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

What are the feelings of the devil as he comes down?

Revelation 12:12



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

What are the feelings of the devil as he comes down?

Revelation 12:12

12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for **the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath**, because **he knoweth that he hath but a short time**.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

As a result, whom does he go after to persecute?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

As a result, whom does he go after to persecute?

Revelation 12:13



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

As a result, whom does he go after to persecute?

Revelation 12:13

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, **he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.**



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Does she find refuge during this time of trouble?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Does she find refuge during this time of trouble?

Revelation 12:6, 14



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Does she find refuge during this time of trouble?

Revelation 12:6, 14

6 And the woman fled into **the wilderness**, where she hath **a place prepared of God**,...

...

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into **the wilderness**, into her place,...



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

How long does she find refuge?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

How long does she find refuge?

Revelation 12:6, 14



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

How long does she find refuge?

Revelation 12:6, 14

6 ... a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

...

14 ... a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Daniel warned that Michael would “cease” (*amad*) and the most troublesome time of Israel’s history would result.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

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[Daniel 12:1](#)



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Daniel warned that Michael would “cease” (*amad*) and the most troublesome time of Israel’s history would result.

Daniel 12:1

- 1 And at that time shall **Michael stand up**, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and **there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time**: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

As Michael ceases his defense, what happens to Israel?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

As Michael ceases his defense, what happens to Israel?

Revelation 12:13



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

As Michael ceases his defense, what happens to Israel?

Revelation 12:13

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, **he persecuted the woman** which brought forth the man child.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Satan/Antichrist desecrate the Temple at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th Week. What do people in the world do?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Satan/Antichrist desecrate the Temple at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th Week. What do people in the world do?

Revelation 13:4



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Satan/Antichrist desecrate the Temple at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th Week. What do people in the world do?

Revelation 13:4

4 And **they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast**, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

When will Satan empower the Antichrist?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

When will Satan empower the Antichrist?

Revelation 13:5



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

When will Satan empower the Antichrist?

Revelation 13:5

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue **forty and two months**.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Does this fit the timing of when the restrainer ceases to hinder which, in turn, allows the Antichrist to be revealed in the Temple?



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Does this fit the timing of when the restrainer ceases to hinder which, in turn, allows the Antichrist to be revealed in the Temple?

[2 Thessalonians 2:7-8](#)



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

Does this fit the timing of when the restrainer ceases to hinder which, in turn, allows the Antichrist to be revealed in the Temple?

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8

- 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only **he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.**
- 8 And **then shall that Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:...



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

There is one more passage which may or may not be Michael.



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

There is one more passage which may or may not be Michael.

Revelation 20:1-3



THE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL

There is one more passage which may or may not be Michael.

Revelation 20:1-3

- 1 And I saw **an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.**
- 2 And **he laid hold on the dragon**, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and **bound him a thousand years**,
- 3 And **cast him into the bottomless pit**, and **shut him up**, and **set a seal upon him**, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

