

WHO COMES FIRST? Christ or anti-Christ?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (KJV)

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by ***OUR GATHERING TOGETHER UNTO HIM**, 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. 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**; who opposeth and exalteth himself 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. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?"

****And now ye know WHAT** withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.**

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only who (or what) now letteth will let, until taken out of the way.

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: *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.** And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

These Scriptures are clear but, if you believe otherwise, that's fine. The only danger is that -- unless you believe the **'Day of Christ'** comes **AFTER the falling away**--you may not be prepared to refuse the Mark--and miss out on the huge reward of martyrdom! (Revelation 20:4-6)



*OUR GATHERING TOGETHER?

WHEN? Matthew 24:29-31 says "Immediately **AFTER** the tribulation... they shall **GATHER TOGETHER** His elect from the four winds from one end of heaven to the other."

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 says **we will be changed at the LAST TRUMP**--that would be the **7th trumpet**. (Rev. 11:15-19)

**WHAT restrains lawlessness? GOD'S LAWS.

FIRST: Natural LAWS given to Moses could not restrain lawlessness because of man's **'stony' heart** (Ezekiel 36:26) but **NOW**, because of Christ, we can have a 'new' heart--receiving His Spirit--to keep His **Spiritual LAWS**:

- 1) The Law of **Liberty** (James 1:25) restrains bondage.
 - 2) The Law of **Faith** (Romans 3:27) restrains idolatry.
 - 3) The Law of **Christ** (Galatians 6:2) restrains vanity/pride.
 - 4) The Law of the **Spirit of Life** (Romans 8:2) brings rest.
 - 5) The Law of **Kindness** (Proverbs 31:26) silences rebellion.
 - 6) The Law of the **Wise** (Proverbs 13:14) holds back violence.
 - 7) The Law of **thy Mother** (Proverbs 6:20) bridles immorality.
 - 8) The Law of **Righteousness** (Romans 9:31) opposes greed.
 - 9) The Law of **Truth** (Malachi 2:6) exposes falsehood.
 - 10) The Law of the **Mind** (Romans 7:23) reins in covetousness.
- {ALL are fulfilled by **self-less LOVE** (Romans 13:8-10)}

When spiritual **laws** are taken out of the way... (i.e., when **TYRANNY** displaces **LIBERTY**, **IDOLATRY** usurps **FAITH**, **PRIDE** (rather than **HUMILITY**) and **DEATH** (not **LIFE**) are celebrated, **DISHONOR** supplants **CIVILITY**, **VIOLENCE** supplants **WISDOM**, **LUST** overcomes **SELF-CONTROL**, **GREED** replaces **TRUST**, **DECEPTION** disguises as **TRUTH** and **ENTITLEMENT** replaces **STEWARDSHIP**).

That is when (& how) **anti-Christ's** reign (1 John 2:18).

"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find FAITH on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)

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Counterfeits Come First

"Howbeit that *was* not **first** which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and **afterward** that which is spiritual."
(1 Corinthians 15:46)

The next page gives Biblical evidence that counterfeit "anointed ones" come first.

Here are 3 examples:

Adam's FIRST son--**Cain**



Abraham's FIRST son--**Ishmael**



Israel's FIRST king--**Saul**





FIRST PLACE!

Did you ever wonder why being **FIRST** is such a **big deal** to people? Perhaps it's because we are made in God's image! The concept of **dominion & ownership belonging to the FIRST** is God's idea. *{That may be why every FIRSTBORN becomes a target for God's enemies--firstborns need to know that it is both an honor & a responsibility to give themselves to God's purposes--which is the easiest way to redeem families.}*

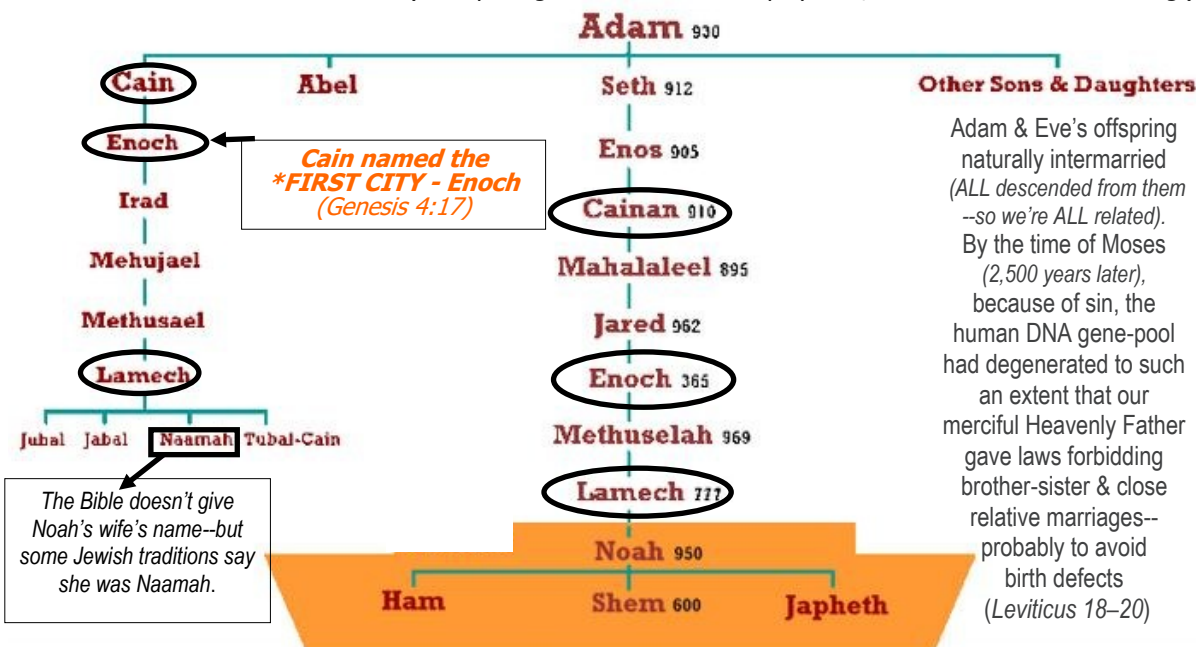
The **FIRST** of everything belongs to the Creator (*Exodus 23:19, Leviticus 27:26-28**). The Thief (*John 10:10*) realizes that if he can be given the **FIRST** part--**the rest is his**. **Cain's** error was that he didn't offer his **FIRSTFRUITS**. That opened a door (*Gen. 4:7*).

**It's worth noting that--while overlooking the first part of that Scripture--religious folk have made the last part into burdensome unBiblical 'kosher' rituals. Abraham served angels milk & meat together in Genesis 18:8.*

The Geneology of Adam

CAIN

6 generations of Adam's **FIRSTBORN**, Cain, are recorded in Genesis 4, followed in Genesis 5 by 10 generations of Seth's descendants (*with their ages*). **Notice the duplication of names. And, Cain's heirs came FIRST.** (*Perhaps angels have read God's 'playbook,' but don't know God's timing.*)



*** COUNTERFEIT CITY** Abraham came out of Syria (*Deuteronomy 26:5*) around 1800 B.C. searching for a **CITY** (*Hebrews 11:10*). The **New Jerusalem** is promised to overcomers (*Revelation 3:12*) & called 'the mother of us all' (*Galatians 4:26*) But, there is a **COUNTERFEIT CITY** that COMES FIRST: **Babylon (the harlot) is revealed & judged** (*Revelation 18-19*) **before the New Jerusalem (the bride) Holy City** appears (*Rev. 20-21*).

ISHMAEL

COUNTERFEIT HEIR COMES FIRST: When Abraham was 86 years old, he made a mistake--he fathered Ishmael. That's why in Jewish restaurants today, when you hear someone yell '86 that order,' it means 'cancel it.' Apparently, God canceled Abe's error (*although the world is still reaping the consequences in Middle East wars*) because God referred to Isaac as Abraham's **ONLY** son. (*Genesis 22:2 & 16*) (*Note: his Arab descendants today insist their God has NO son--the trauma persists generationally*)

COUNTERFEIT 12 PRINCES COME FIRST:

Ishmael had **12 sons**--called **Princes** (*Genesis 25:13-16*) BEFORE Jacob (Israel) had **12 sons**--called **Princes** (*Genesis 49:28, Numbers 7:2*) THEIR names are engraved on the gates of the Holy City (*Revelation 21:12*). They're also called the **12 Tribes of Israel** (*Rev. 7 & 14*).

KING SAUL

COUNTERFEIT DELIVERER COMES FIRST:

Saul was a 'type' of the anti-Christ, starting out good (*1 Samuel 10:6-11*) but a big disappointment (*1 Samuel 8:9-19, 10:18-19, 15:11*) and a people-pleaser, only partially defeating enemies, consulting a witch and, finally, persecuting God's elect.

God then selected a shepherd/worshipper, David, to deliver Israel and (*in some ways*) typify the Messiah (*see Psalm 22*).

David is our model for dealing with demon oppressed leaders--showing love & respect without, **as did Cain**, allowing rejection to metastasize into anger, **envy** & violence. **Envy** caused religious people to murder (*Mark 15:10, Matthew 27:18*).