

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Be Not Soon Shaken in Mind
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Last time...Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write a 2nd letter to the church at Thessalonica to clear the air of confusion regarding the Day of the Lord

The church was fearful that the persecution and tribulations they were suffering was a part of the Day of the Lord and that they, therefore, has missed the Rapture

This time...Paul reminds them of things he had previously taught them about the Day of the Lord

- a coming apostasy...a falling away from the faith
- the revelation of the counterfeit christ
- the removal of the Restrainer of evil
- a strong delusion for those who believe the lie

v1-2 Now we beseech you, brethren...be not soon shaken in mind:

Given what you know about the Rapture, do not be fearful about the Day of the Lord.

Paul pleads with the church to not be fearful or deceived
He is begging them, he cannot stop thinking about them
Just as parents cannot stop thinking about their children
Just as the Father in heaven cannot stop thinking about His children

This is the heart of Paul, a pastor's heart, for that church (children of God)
This is my heart for this church

Paul does not want the family of God to be

- soon/quickly/easily shaken in mind/disturbed
- troubled by
 - an unclean spirit
 - an untrue spoken word
 - a spurious letter

regarding

- the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together unto Him...The Rapture (Bridegroom and Redeemer)
- the day of Christ, the Day of the Lord...the 2nd Coming (King and Judge)

v3-4 except...a falling away first...man of sin be revealed:

Do not be deceived!

Your persecution and tribulations are NOT the Day of the Lord

You have NOT missed the Rapture, the Day of the Lord is not here yet!

Jewish/Biblical demarcation of “day”

1. 24 hours, from sundown to sundown
day starts in darkness and ends in Light
(vs the world’s 24 hours from midnight to midnight that starts and ends in darkness)
2. 1000 years (2 Peter 3:8 citing Ps 90:4; Gen 2:17 with Gen 5:5)

The “Jewish”/Biblical day starts in darkness and ends in Light

Mal 4:2 unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings

John 1:4-5 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 8:12...1st time, but unrecognized and rejected

Rev 19:11-16...2nd time, unmistakable

In between, in the darkness...Matt 5:14

Day of the Lord

Mil Reign of Jesus Christ (Rev 20:1-10)...a “day”

After the “light of the world” is removed from the darkness is a “Day” that starts in darkness

- 70th Week of Daniel/Jacob’s Trouble
- Tribulation and Great Tribulation

and erupts into Light

- Rev 1:7 he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him
- 1000 year reign of Kok Jesus Christ

In the darkness before the Day of the Lord starts, there will be

1. a falling away...something that happens in “The Church” apostasy, a departing from the faith (the faith of Christ), liberal indistinguishable from the culture and society in which planted

1 Tim 4:1-3

2 Tim 3:1-8

2 Tim 4:3-4, 10a

Not finishing well their course

7 Letters to the 7 Churches – 5 rebukes and calls to repentance

2. a revelation...something that happens in the world
of the counterfeit christ

- aka Antichrist, man of sin, son of perdition,
“that Wicked”
- opposes himself, believing Satan (a creature) and
not The Creator God Almighty
- exalts himself, declaring himself to be God;
possessed by Satan

- Is 14:12-14
- “anti” Phil 2:5-8 and Matt 20:25-28
- “pro” Matt 4:8-9
- John 5:43
- Dan 9:27 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

- Rev 11:1-13
 - after the Bride of Christ has been “seized”
(more in this in a moment)
 - Israel is now the witness of Jesus Christ on earth
 - 2 witnesses...Moses/Law and
Elijah/Prophets?
 - 144,000...12,000 x 12
 - happens “mid-week” (Dan 9:27)
 - Matt 24:15-16 Abomination of desolation

- Rev 13:1-18...worship Antichrist and take his mark

v5 Remember ye not:

This is not new information from the Apostle Paul
He taught them (new believers) all of this during the 3 Sabbaths he was in
Thessalonica before being run out of town by unbelievers

Remember, and you will know that the current persecution and tribulations are
NOT the Day of the Lord!

You have not missed the Rapture because v3b-4 have NOT happened

v6-8a withholdeth...letteth...taken out of the way:

By remembering what Paul had previously taught them...

allowing them to put into perspective and to understand their persecution and tribulations...

they know that evil is being restrained until the appointed time of the Antichrist

What is happening now is not the Day of the Lord but the “mystery of iniquity”

- John 3:19-20 **light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved**
- the righteous suffer at the hands of the wicked
- lawlessness
- madness...because refuse to sit at the feet of Jesus
- Is 5:20

Yet Someone...”he” (v7), person or persons...is

- withholdeth = “to hold down”...restraining
- letteth = “withholds now”...restraining now

evil in the world

until he/person/persons is “taken out of the middle”

And the Antichrist cannot be revealed until the person or persons restraining evil is taken out of the middle

The restrainer of evil in the world (“in the middle”) must be removed...

seized and secured out of harm’s way (the judgment of God)...

BEFORE

- the Antichrist is revealed
- the Mark of the Beast is imposed
- the judgment of God falls

Who is the person/persons “in the middle” that is restraining evil in the world?

Types and shadows

- Noah
- Lot
- The Levites

[Camp of Israel in the wilderness]

Num 1:53

Num 8:14-19

Num 17:13 – 18:5

Camp of Israel = the world
Aaron the High Priest = Jesus Christ
Levites = the Church, Bride of Christ, Body of Christ
Rev 1:5
1 Peter 2:9

The Church...the Bride of Christ, the Body of Christ...is restraining evil in the world and preventing the wrath of God from coming upon the world... until she is removed

- by apostasy
 - holding the truth in unrighteousness
 - attacking the image of God (homosexual marriage)
 - worldliness vs Godliness and holiness
 - false gospels
 - lovers of Self and of pleasures rather than lovers of God
 - after their own lust, turned from the truth and turned to fables, having itching ears
- by the Rapture

Then shall the Antichrist...that Wicked, lawless one...be revealed

Hard to imagine that the Church is restraining evil in the world, isn't it?
Harder to imagine is the violence, lawlessness, and wickedness in the world after the Church is gone!

What about this character, the Antichrist?

v8b-10a the shall consume...whose coming is after:

The counterfeit christ

- possessed by Satan, the very ultimate in demon-possession
- "gifted" with
 - all of Satan's power
 - signs and lying wonders...miracles, but miracles that draw to Satan and away from the Living God (salvation)
- filled with deceit/delusions and unrighteousness/wrong
 - the very personification of Is 5:20 for whom the world is now being prepared

Jesus Christ

- will consume/destroy the counterfeit christ and his kingdom by
 - the spirit of His mouth (Rev 19:15)
 - the sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17, Heb 4:12)
 - His Word
 - the very manifestation of His presence on earth (Light)

v10b-12 strong delusion:

The worshippers of the counterfeit christ will perish...2nd death...they worship the lie and refuse

- to worship Jesus Christ
- to believe Truth (John 14:6, John 17:17, John 1:1)
- the Good News of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:3-4)
 - the Lamb of God, the Father's sacrifice for sin
 - our Substitute bearing the wrath of God
 - 100% God and 100% man...the only possible Redeemer
 - Light and Life

The inhabitants of earth will

- worship the counterfeit christ
- take his mark (a counterfeit of Ezk 9:1-11 and Rev 7:24)
- believe all of the counterfeit christ's delusions
- make their choice

The Living Almighty God will give them

- their choice – death vs Life
- a strong delusion to “seal” the lie (v4) in their hearts
- the reward of what they have sown (Gal 6:7-8)

Application/Lessons

1 Chron 12:32

Days of Lot and Days of Noah...the wicked were surprised by the judgment of God but the righteous were not and were delivered from it

1 Thes 5:1-3

The world is being prepared

- for the Antichrist and his mark
- to fight against Jesus Christ, Kok

Is 5:20...madness

US State Dept: Rainbow flag of LGBTQ Pride to fly on same pole with national flag at any USA embassy

Rainbow: God's promise to Noah to not judge the entire world with water again
It's theft by those unashamed of, even celebrating, perverted behavior
mocks God

Green New Deal and Climate Change: pushing plant-based foods, getting the nation to stop eating animal-based foods (1 Tim 4:3)

CA State Education Dept: the focus on finding the right answer in Math is an example of White supremacy infiltrating classrooms. "The concept of mathematics being purely objective is unequivocally false, and teaching it is even much less so."
(Matt 24:7)

NY: NY parent goes to court seeking permission to marry their own adult child

Is 59:14 And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

Deception, the hallmark of the "beginning of sorrows", abounds and is in fact ruling in the world

2 Tim 3:13 evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Yet...the Church, the Bride/Body of Christ, is still restraining evil in the world

What is going to happen?

Sequence of events:

1. Rapture
2. Falling away from sound doctrine...apostasy
3. Tribulation
4. rise of Antichrist
5. Abomination of Desolation
6. Great Tribulation

Luke 21:28 when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Unless you know the Truth/Word, you will be deceived

Understand the "news"/current events thru the lens of the eternal Word of God

Keep your eyes on Israel...the sign of God's judgment upon the nations (Is 11:11-16)

Pray for the Lord to soften hearts around us to receive the Good News of Jesus Christ

Pray for the Lord to stir our hearts to build the house of God on earth today

- Our individual walks with our Good Shepherd
- The Church

Whereas there may be shortages of many items in the nation's economy, there is no shortage of grace and mercy and hope in God's economy...at least not now

Before the Abomination of Desolation...during the ministry of the 2 Witnesses...

God's judgment is mixed with mercy

After the Abomination of Desolation...v4...God's judgment is without mercy upon those who believe that lie (v10-12)

Choose hope (Titus 2:13)!

Without Jesus Christ, there is no hope...for mankind or for individual persons

Prayer

You have received the Word of God

May it find good soil

May it be written on your heart

May it edify, exhort/encourage, and comfort you

May you be refreshed to go back into the mission field

If you want or need prayer, hands laid on you, please join me over here!

If you want the baptism of the Holy Spirit to receive the power of God from on high to be the witness of Jesus Christ, come

If you need the gift of healing or desire the very best gift of the Spirit to face the coming week, come