



2 Thessalonians 2 | The Coming Anti-Christ | 1.25.26

Big Idea: For obvious reasons, many people have an interest in how our world will end. Within the context of Christianity, false ideas about the Return of Christ are easily promoted. **GOD's Word** is our rescue, for in it we find truth that provides clarity and comfort. This is especially seen in our study of 2 Thessalonians.

- **Second Thessalonians** arrived about three months after letter one. In it, Paul commended the congregation for (1) their maturing faith, (2) mutual love, and (3) perseverance in trials. He also addressed their huge concern: did we miss the Rapture?

Paul did what was common throughout his church letters - **he interjected a prayer.**

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 *Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,¹² that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

- **Paraphrase of the prayer** - Through faith may you continue to display GOD's enabling grace, thereby glorifying our Lord Jesus Christ!
- Thoughts and emotions are not trustworthy in the best of circumstances, and when we experience trials, it further complicates our thinking and feelings.
- The **Rapture** provides a platform for the Anti-Christ to demonstrate his unique ability to bring peace to the entire world.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.*

- **It's easy to misrepresent** someone if they are not present to correct the information.

Proverbs 18:13,15,17 *He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him. ¹⁵The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. ¹⁷The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.*

1 Thessalonians 4 shows the difference between the Rapture, which is a single event occurring in the blink of an eye, and the various events surrounding **The Day of the Lord.** (**1 Thessalonians 5**) The Day of the Lord takes in His return, witnessed by the entire world, Battle of Armageddon, separation of believers (sheep) from non-believers (goats), Satan being bound, 1000 year Kingdom rule established, curse on earth removed, resurrection of bodies of Old Testament believers, and The Eternal State of **Revelation 21-22.**

→ Paul's letter provided the facts; **truth to the rescue!**

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

Fact of Christ's promise to Return

(commonly agreed upon)

Interpretation of that promise

(disagreements on when)

Speculations of that promise

(careless and unfounded)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** (Rapture) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the **air**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ **Therefore comfort one another with these words.***

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *But concerning the **times and the seasons**, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.*

*² For you yourselves know perfectly that the **day of the Lord** so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.** ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For **God did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. ¹¹ **Therefore comfort each other and edify one another**, just as you also are doing.*

According to 2 Thessalonians 2, three things must occur prior to Christ's return:

1. The apostasy (falling away)
2. The revealing of the Anti-Christ
3. The restrainer of evil ceases from His work
 - **Study 2 Thessalonians 2 in preparation for 2.1.26 sermon.**