

Are You Confident, or Confused, About the Future?

Today we are talking about God's future, coming for this world, whether people are ready or not. The question is simple: when it comes to what the Bible teaches about the future, are you confident or confused? There's a lot to take in: the rapture, the tribulation, the Antichrist, the second coming. It can be confusing. But 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 was written for exactly that person.

The Thessalonian church was hungry to know the truth about future things. Paul had taught them about the rapture in his first letter. But false teachers crept in; someone even wrote a fake letter claiming to be from Paul, saying the day of the Lord had already begun. Paul had promised them rescue, not wrath. They were shaken. They were scared. So Paul wrote again.

Verses 1–2: “Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him... not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed... Let no one deceive you in any way.”

God has great plans and wants you to know exactly where you stand in His timeline.

GOD WANTS YOU CONFIDENT, NOT CONFUSED, ABOUT THE FUTURE.

How can you be confident instead of confused? Paul gives us 5 facts about God's future timeline that will replace your confusion with confidence.

Fact #1 — As for the world: There Will Be a Great Rebellion (v. 3)

“For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first.” “The rebellion” “the apostasy”, means falling away. Not just departing from the truth, but becoming aggressive against it. A day is coming when the entire world will be against the truth of God. But that day is not here yet. The church still exists. God is still saving people. The proof is actually you. So long as true believers are on this earth, this world is not in total rebellion against God. Have hope. Be confident. God has a better plan for you than to let you suffer under His wrath in the tribulation. That day has not come, and as long as you're here, it won't.

Fact #2 — As for the world: There Will Be a Great Deceiver (vv. 3–5, 8–9)

When the world is in total rebellion, Satan will raise up a man the likes of which our world has never seen — the Antichrist. He will be lawless (standing against everything God calls good), prideful (he will sit in the rebuilt temple demanding worship, Daniel 9:27 tells us he will make a 7-year peace covenant with Israel, then break it at the midpoint), and powerful (performing real satanic miracles). Satan is not omniscient. He doesn't know God's timeline, so he has likely been preparing someone to be his Antichrist in every generation for 2,000 years. "The mystery of lawlessness is already at work." But verse 8 brings comfort: when Jesus comes back, He will destroy this man with the breath of His mouth. Your Savior will settle every score in His time.

Fact #3 — As for the world: There Will Be a Great Delusion (vv. 9–12)

"God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false... all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Those who refused to love the truth

will be given over to the lie they chose. Delusion. Deception. Destruction. But remember — this has not happened yet. Today, God is not sending this delusion. Today, God's Spirit is actively drawing people by grace. The door of salvation is wide open. Maybe today, God is inviting you. Believe the truth about Him. Believe the truth about yourself. When you believe in Jesus you are saved forever. God will not send you a delusion. He will send you deliverance.

Fact #4 — But First: There Will Be a Great Removal (vv. 6–7)

Where do you, as a believer, fit into all of this? “Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.” Notice Paul says both what is restraining and he who restrains — a force and a person. What did Jesus say He would build that the gates of hell would not prevail against? The church. The answer is you, if you are a believer in Jesus. When you believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit. The only Spirit more powerful than Satan is the Spirit of God — and He lives in you. The restrainer is the Holy Spirit. What is restraining Satan? The church, indwelt by the Spirit, pushing back darkness. When Jesus comes in the air

and catches up His church (the rapture), the restraining work is removed, and the rebellion, the Antichrist, and the delusion will follow. You will not be here for that wrath, because Jesus is coming for you first.

Fact #5 — As for You: There Is a Great Deliverance (vv. 13–17)

Notice the word Paul starts verse 13 with: But. “But... brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you... to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.” One word changes everything. For the rebellious world, God has a plan. But for you, He has a different plan. Not to be scared. Not to be shaken. Not to be sent a delusion. But to be saved. Rescued. Delivered. God chose you. God called you. God sanctified you. He called you “so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” On that day you will not stand trembling — you will stand justified, sanctified, and glorified. Every sin forgiven. Every fear gone. Every confusion cleared. So Paul’s command: “Stand firm and hold to the traditions you were taught.” The promise: Jesus Himself and God your Father will give you eternal comfort and good hope — all of grace.

Undeserved. Unearned. A gift from the Father who loves you.

The world is headed for rebellion, deception, and delusion. But you — beloved, chosen, called, sanctified, and saved by grace — you are headed for deliverance. God wants you confident, not confused, about the future. And now you can be.

As for the world — there will be a great rebellion.
As for the world — there will be a great deceiver.
As for the world — there will be a great delusion.
But first — there will be a great removal.
As for you — there is a great deliverance.