

11/30/25

2Thessalonians 2:1-8a

The constant attack against God's word through false doctrine is an ever ending thing.

The apostle Peter tells us in his second epistle by way of commentary that Paul's epistles were already being twisted. 2Pet. 3:16-17

* "as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

It should be no surprise when Paul tells us that false teaching had entered Thessalonica. 2Thess. 2:2

Paul had gone into great detail about the study of end things, eschatology, in spite of his brief three week stay in founding the church. 1Thess. 5:1; 2Thess. 2:5

1. To wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who **delivers us from the wrath to come.** 1Thess. 1:10
2. To be raptured and receive our glorified bodies. 1Thess. 4:14-17
3. To not be concerned about the Day of the Lord that comes as a thief in the night to the unbeliever, but

it will not overtake believers as a thief for we are sons and daughters of light. 1Thess. 5:1-5

4. Paul had told them all these things when he was still with them. 2Thess. 2:5

Chapter two is the heart of the epistle, in fact the primary purpose for the writing.

* And apparently, what is not so obvious to us in this chapter was very clear and common knowledge to the Thessalonians and Paul.

The section is unique in that some of what he shares about the Antichrist is found nowhere else in Scripture.

1. Remember that First Thessalonians was written to share Christ's return "for" his saints at the rapture.
2. And Second Thessalonians was written to clear up the confusion of the Day of the Lord and when Christ comes to the earth "with" his saints to set up the Kingdom Age, the Millennium.

Paul has told them in chapter one to rest with him in their sufferings, for God would recompense the wicked and that Christ would be glorified in his saints. 2Thess. 1:7-10

Now in chapter two Paul is going to clear up the deception and mix-up that had occurred by some false prophecy, teaching or a forged letter in the name of Paul.

There are three things that must be distinguished.

1. The raptrue, the catching up of the saints. 2Thess. 2:1, 6-7
2. The revelation of the Antichrist. 2Thess. 2:3-5, 8a
3. The return of Christ to the earth. 2Thess. 2:8b

2:1-2 The exhortation regarding the false teaching.

2:1 The relation between the Lord's coming and the rapture.

* "Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you."

- 1) Paul begs and entreat them as his brethren in distress and anxiety, "we ask you".
* He says, we ask "erotao", it mens to urge affectionately and humbly to correct the false teaching. 1Thess. 4:1; 5:12

2) Paul ties both events to deal with their relationship.

a) They knew as fact already that they would be raptured. 1Thess. 4:17

b) Jesus did the same thing to His disciples, prior to going to the cross. Jn. 14:1-3

* "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and

receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

- c) The phrase "gathering together" is found two times in the New Testament.
 - 1)) The other time is for the forsaking the gathering of saints as a corporate body by some. Heb. 10:25
 - 2)) A.T. Robertson, discovered it's used in the Island of Syme, off Caria, to mean "collection".

2:2 The reproof for believing the lie.

* "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."

1) It is a mild reproof, but a reproof never the less, for they knew better.

2) The condition is described by the command to stop what they had believed what was false doctrine.

a) They allowed themselves to be soon shaken.

1)) He described their reaction as being soon "takeos", which denotes a hastily reaction without thinking it through.

2)) He then described the effect as shaken "saluo", meaning to waver, move, agitate, topple, a restless

tossing and used of a ship not securely moored.

b. This activity took place in their mind.

- 1))** The word mind “nous”, referring to the reasoning aspect giving equilibrium of thought balance.
* The word is found 24 times in the New Testament, all are used by Paul, except for three.
- 2))** Their mind “nous”, their intellect was imbalance causing them to be “troubled”, to vacillate emotionally, making them unstable and thrown into confusion.
* Troubled “threoo”, a continuous state of nervousness
- 3)** The proclamation could have come in three ways.
 - a)** By spirit, meaning a prophecy. 1Thess. 1:18-20
 - b)** By word, referring to teaching or communication.
 - c)** By letter, as from them, forged in Paul’s name. 2Thess. 3:17

5) The content was about the day of Christ.

- a)** The “day of Christ” is synonymous with the rapture and the “Day of the Lord”.
- b)** The catching up of the saints in the air. 1Thess. 4:17
- c)** Their gathering together to Jesus 2Thess. 2:1

d) Some believe it should read “The Day of the Lord”, the Received Text of Antioch has “the day of Christ”.

c) The rapture our gathering to Jesus or the Day of Christ initiates the Day of the Lord, God’s wrath on the earth.

2:3-4 The correction regarding the false teaching.

2:3 The imperatives necessary for the Day of the Lord.

* “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.”

- 1)** Paul says, “Let no man deceive by any means.”
 - a)** He clearly tells them they have been deceived, even as Eve had been seduced by Satan. 2Cor. 11:3
 - b)** He warns of the various methods deception can come, by any means.
 - c)** The word deceive “exapateo”, means to beguile, seduce wholly, entirely.
- 2)** Paul says, let me give to you two things that are absolutely necessary for that day to take place.
 - a)** The first is the falling away must come first.
 - 1))** The phrase appears only two times in the New Testament.

- 2)) The other is found in Acts, accusing Paul of teaching Jews to apostasy from Moses. Acts 21:21
- 3)) The italicized words are supplied to indicate they are not in the original text, an honest footnote, but supplied focus on the subject at hand.
- 4)) The article is found, which make this falling away “apostasia” a deflection or apostasy, a very specific one, in fact the ultimate and last falling away from the faith, will bring in the day of the Lord, coinciding with the rapture.
 * Distinct from the seasonal and periodic departures from the faith.
1Tim. 4:1-3; 2Tim. 3:1-9; 4:3
- 5)) Some say that the phrase could equally mean a departure or removal of the church from the earth.
 - a)) The root word is, “aphistemi”, to remove.
 - b)) But the word is never used for the rapture, only “harpazo and espisunagoge”. 1Thess. 4:17; 2Thess. 2:1c
 - c)) The double intention I do not believe is in the text, it is not necessary, it would be redundant.
- b)) The second thing is the man of sin revealed.

- 1)) The unveiling of this man is the result of “the falling away” and the commencing of the Day of the Lord. 2Thess. 2:6-8a
- 2)) The title is the “man of sin” is “the lawless man” and identifies his character.
 - a)) There are many antichrists. 1Jn. 2:18. 22; 4:3; 2Jn. 7
 - b)) The prefix “anti” has a two-fold meaning and application, instead of Messiah the first 3 ½ years and against Christ the last 3 ½ years, respectively exercise in the two divisions of the seven years of Tribulation.
 - c)) The fact that he was not present, confirmed the day of the Lord had not arrived.
- 3)) The title “Son of perdition” identified his destiny, the loss of well being.
 - a)) It is used of the Antichrist, who is the instrument of Satan. 2Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:2
 - b)) It is used of Judas Iscariot. Jn. 17:12
 * He became the instruments of Satan by his spirit!

2:4 The activities of the lawless man.

* “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.”

1) He opposes and exalts himself above all, true and false that is called God or that is worshipped.

a) He will be contrary and objecting to every devotion to God or what is called God.

* Though the falling away has taken place, he perpetuates it in the worship of himself!

b) He will place himself above and over all, demanding worship by all.

* Paul uses the same word, “above measure” for his thorn in flesh to keep him humble. 2Cor. 12:7

2) He will sit in the temple of God, showing himself to be God.

a) This precludes that a third temple will be built. Rev. 11:1-2

b) This will take place in the middle of the seven years, the abomination spoken by Daniel the prophet as Jesus declared, at the three and a half year mark, lasting 42 months. Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15

1)) He will break the covenant in the middle. Dan. 9:27; 12:11

a)) Antiochus Epiphanes was a type of the Antichrist, the lawless man, son of perdition, the beast, all are the same person. Dan 8:11; 11:31

b)) In 168 B. C. he set up an altar to Zeus and slaughtered a pig on it forcing the priest to eat it, inciting the Maccabean revolt.

c)) Antiochus did not fulfill the prophesy in its ultimate prediction for Jesus placed it in the future.

d)) Many prophecies have a two-fold fulfillment, if not more in types!

2)) The sixty-nine weeks of Daniel have been fulfilled, 483 years to the day.

c) This will mandate the mark of the image or beast, on the right hand or the forehead to buy or sell. Rev. 13:4, 14-18

1)) Lucifer’s threats of being worshipped are recorded for us in Isaiah and the temptation of Jesus. Is. 14:12-15; Matt. 4:9

2)) He will have a false prophet, his P.R. man. Rev. 13:11; 16:13; 19:20; 20:10

d) There have been many foreshadows as Antiochus Epiphany but culminate in the Antichrist, Jesus made this very clear. Dan. 8:11

1)) Caius Caligula attempted to set up an image in 40 A.D.

2)) Jesus said, “I come in my Father’s name, you received me not... Jn. 5:43

2:5 The apostle was not telling them anything new.

* “Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?”

1) They were very familiar with the details.

1Thess. 1:10; 5:1-3, 9

* The word “told” is in the imperfect tense, indicating that on different occasion he told them, not just once!

2) The false teaching contradicted the words of Paul, which were the word of God.

3) The removal of the church was necessary.

4) The lawless one will then be revealed.

2:6 The restraining agent at the present.

* “And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.”

1) They knew what was restraining.

a) The phrase “what was restraining” is in the neuter “katecho” and means to hold down or back.

b) This verse and the previous one are a mild reproof to them, almost to say, “What were you thinking”.

2) They knew that what was restraining would be present only till the time for the Antichrist to appear.

a) In his own time “kairos”, season or period of space in time, “The Day of the Lord”.

1Thess. 5:1

* The same word is used for the birth of Jesus, “the fullness of time”. Gal. 4:4

b) The Antichrist, the Son of Perdition, the lawless one will be revealed “appokalupto” or unveiled. 2Thess. 2:3, 6, 8

* The word “apokalupsis” for Jesus. 2Thess. 1:7

2:7 The difference between the present and future lawlessness.

* “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.”

1) The mystery of lawlessness is already at work in the world in power.

a) It has been working and is working in at the present, in part. 1Jn. 2:18, 22

b) It is working in the present, progressing to the full completion, he will come in his own name and be received. Jn. 5:43

* The definite article accompanies mystery of lawlessness, it is not mere disorder as usual!

2) The restraining power will be removed and then the mystery “mysterion”, that which was previously hidden, will be revealed a person, the lawless man. vs. 3-4, 6

a) The term mystery in the New Testament is used of things hidden previously, but now revealed.

- 1)) It is used of the mystery of Israel's blindness until the fullness of the Gentiles. Rom. 11:25
- 2)) It is used of the mystery of the resurrection and rapture. 1Cor. 15:51-52
- 3)) It is used of the Gospel hidden from ages and generations, but now revealed. Col. 1:26
- 4)) The term is never used of something not understood or unknown, but equally this knowledge is not known by the natural human intellect, but revealed by God's word and spiritual illumination.
- b) He who is taken out of the way is the same as the restrainer in verse six.
- 1)) Now the masculine is used for the restrainer.
- 2)) The word taken "ginomai" is in the aorist tense, indicating a definite event!
- c) The restrainer that will be removed is not the Holy Spirit, for the Holy Spirit will be working mightily in the hearts of people for salvation, during the last seven years.
- d) The only thing that is consistent with what Paul has been telling the Thessalonians is that the "church", the gathering of the saints to Christ,

"harpozo" will happen before the Antichrist. 1Thess. 4:17; 2Thess. 2:1

- e) The Holy Spirit is working through the church, super-naturally, she is the witness of Christ on the earth to protest and object to the evil of man.
- f) Once the church is removed there will be no witness of Christ initially, but the Holy Spirit will begin to deal with the hearts of men and women, in the time of wrath, against the super-natural spirit of Satan.
- g) The neuter is argued to represent the Holy Spirit to be removed, but did Jesus not teach this was the function of the Holy Spirit, through the church? Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13, 14; Acts 1:8
- * My Spirit shall not always strive... Gen. 6:3

2:8a The sum total of the matter.

- * "And then the lawless one will be revealed."
- 1) The phrase "And then" is emphatic, and only then shall the lawless one be revealed, for the clue for his being revealed is the departure of the church.
- 2) This verse will clear up any confusion of verse three, before he appears something has to be removed, namely the church, so the Antichrist.

- a. Once the restrainer is removed the man of lawlessness will be revealed “apokalupto” meaning to be unveiled.
 - 1) This is the third time the word appears in this form regarding his unveiling.
2Thess. 2:3, 6, 8
 - 2) The falling away of verse three, certainly will begin before his revelation and reach its climax at the departure and removal of the church.
1Tim. 4:1-4; 2Tim. 3:1-9; 13; 4:3-5
- b. Once the restrainer is removed the “Day of The Lord” will begin.
 - 1)) False peace and safety followed by sudden destruction. 1Thess. 5:3
* “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.”
 - 2)) God will turn the world over to believe the lie. 2Thess. 2:10-12
* “and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- c. The Antichrist will appear as a man of peace through diplomacy, but war, famine, pestilence and persecution will follow him. Rev. 6:1-11
* It’s called “The hour which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” Rev. 3:10