

II Thessalonians 2 – 17 December 2023

“Will You Be Shaken & Fall Away?”

Introduction

- *Paul wrote II Thess to correct false communications
 - *False teachers always come behind good teaching
 - *In Chap 1, Paul encouraged them to continue strong not falling to the persecution around them
 - *They should rest b/c evil will be judged
 - *Now in Chap 2, Paul addresses the specific problem
 - *Thessalonians were being told they missed the Rapture and that they're in the Tribulation
 - *Will they be shaken & fall away from their faith?
 - *We are in the last of the last days & Satan continues his attempts to shake us of our faith in Jesus Christ
- Today, we'll see 3 ways to identify the end0times work of the devil**
- And then we'll see some actions we can take to enable stability**

1st way to enable some stability is to look at 3 methods by which we can be shaken (Vs 1-2)

Read Vs 1-2

1. In light of the fact that Jesus will soon come in presence to you in the air...do verse 2
 - a. 'Coming' emphasizes presence more than 'revelation' or 'advent' or 'epiphany'
 - b. Could refer to either Rapture or 2nd Coming
 - c. The gathering together unto Him is the Rapture..."so shall we ever be with the Lord"
2. Vs 2 gives 3 false confusing teachings trying to sneak into their minds & hearts
 - a. #1 - By spirit
 - i. I Cor 12:10 describes the spirit of prophecy
 - ii. John 4:1-3 says test the spirits who speak
 - b. #2 - By word
 - i. The message itself or the content itself
 - c. #3 - By letter
 - i. Primary means to communicate them
 - ii. Paul signed this letter to authenticate it (3:17)
 - iii. Fake social media for good Bible teachers

3. This is demonic effort to destabilize our faith
 - a. Said of John Baptist, he wasn't shaken reed
 - b. The stars are spoken of as stable
 - c. Things that are shaken can crumble & fall
4. Where are we shaken? Battlefield of the mind

2nd way to enable some stability is to know the 3 events indicating you're in the Tribulation (Vs 3-8)

Read Vs 3

1. The day...what day? The Day of the Lord, or the day of Christ from vs 2, that Paul spent much time talking about in his 1st letter
 - a. Refers to all things of Trib & 2nd Coming
2. So 3 things have to happen to know you're in the Tribulation period of time (3rd one in vs 6)
 - a. #1 Event - A great falling away (a rebellion, GK *apostasy* – to separate from)
 - i. Only other NT usage is to separate from the truth in Acts 21:21

- ii. A form of the word is used for ‘divorce’ or leaving your identity of one-flesh union
- iii. Plutarch uses the word for political revolt
- iv. So this isn’t speaking of Rapture, as some say, but speaking of church members falling away from believing true doctrine
 - 1. Read I Tim 4:1-3 & II Tim 4:3-4
- v. It’s probably also a world-wide falling away as in II Tim 3:1-5
- vi. This apostasy doesn’t mean there can’t be great revival happening at the same time
- b. #2 Event - The Anti-Christ is revealed
 - i. He’s the Man of Sin
 - 1. Daniel - ‘the prince that’s to come’
 - 2. Jesus calls him ‘the one that comes in his own name’
 - ii. He’s the ultimate Son of Perdition
 - 1. Jesus also called Judas a Son of Perdition in a general way
 - 2. *Perdition*: Translated *destruction* it’s an expression of death & hell
 - 3. He’s very offspring of hell & waste

Read Vs 4

1. Anti-Christ mean both *against* Christ & *in place of* Christ
2. This event in the rebuilt temple (Rev 11) is detailed in Dan 9
 - a. Jesus told the nation of Israel when they see it to flee to Petra (Matt 24)
 - b. He's man of peace for 3.5 years (Dan 8:25, Rev 6:1-2), then this event (Dan 9:27) before he's seen as evil for later 3.5 years (Dan 7:25)

Read Vs 5

1. Do you know people that say, "I already read the Bible"
2. We're leaky vessels & need to remember

Read Vs 6-8

1. #3 Event - The Rapture of the Church
 - a. What restrains evil? The Holy Spirit
 - b. Paul says they already knew. Was obvious

- c. Jesus said ‘you are the salt of the earth’ & ‘you are the light of the world’
 - d. Rev 1:19 is outline, then Rev 4:1 is hereafter
2. Although spirit of Anti-Christ is already at work in the world, the man Anti-Christ cannot come until the Church w/ God’s Holy Spirit is removed
 3. But in the end, Jesus destroys him in Rev 19 with the very word from His mouth

3rd way to enable some stability is to know 3 tricks of the devil that want to shake you (Vs 9-12)

Read Vs 9

1. Anti-Christ’s arrival is orchestrated by Satan
 - a. Read Rev 13:4 – power & pride
2. #1 Trick - Miracles are done by Satan thru him
 - a. Read Deut 13:1-3, sign, then check teaching

Read Vs 10

1. Jesus said that the lies are so good that they could even deceive the elect if they didn’t have the protection of the Holy Spirit (Matt 24:24)

2. Deception is received when truth isn't believed

Read Vs 11

1. Just as God allowed Babylon to judge Israel, God allows Anti-Christ to send mental deception
2. #2 Trick - He wants them to believe *the* lie
 - a. What has Satan wanted from the beginning?
 - i. "I will ascend, I will be like the Most High"
 - b. What did Satan tempt Eve w/ in beginning?
 - i. "You shall be as gods knowing good & evil"
 - c. Many live this way w/ themselves as god
 - i. Anti-Christ will make it religion
 - d. Not believing the truth of Jesus as God & believing in self as god is *the* lie

Read Vs 12

1. #3 Trick – Believing pleasure is always good
2. Very act of taking pleasure to yourself as the only god you care for, is the very act that condemns

Finally, let's look at 3 actions we can take to enable stability in our walk with Jesus (13-17)

Read Vs 13-14

1. God chose & called you, so you can't miss it!
2. What a great combination of the Spirit sanctifying us and our belief yielding to Him
3. #1 Action - Trust the power of Spirit of God
4. Work of the Spirit (love, faith & hope) is evidence of the continuing sanctification leading to glorification
5. The Spirit moving in us brings us confidence we're not going to miss God's plan (II Cor 5:4-8)

Read Vs 15

1. Paul's exhortation is the opposite (Stand fast) of their trouble from vs 2 of being shaken in mind
2. #2 Action - Trust the Word of God
3. What a great thing that we can get our arms around God's truth in the Bible & it will never be added to (Read Jer 6:16)

Read Vs 16-17

1. Let God's Word reassure us w/ comfort & peace
2. What they had in Paul's 1st letter, what they're missing from chap 1:3 of this letter is hope
3. #3 Action – Hope in God Himself
 - a. Paul now reminds them that they have hope in Jesus Christ, they just simply need to hold it
 - b. Read Prov 13:12 – We have a living hope that brings life!

Conclusion

So look for these signs of Satan's methods, events, & tricks & choose to trust & hope in God

- 1. There are 3 methods by which to be shaken**
 - a. By spirit – “*God* told me...”
 - b. By spoken word – “You know what I heard...”
 - c. By spurious letter – Or Social Media post
- 2. There are ways to know you're in Trib**
 - a. The Falling Away - Apostasy
 - b. The Anti-Christ's reveal -
 - c. The Holy Spirit departs the earth - Rapture
- 3. The Devil has the same old tricks to shake us**
 - a. Lying signs and wonders
 - b. Believing we can become God
 - c. Believing pleasure in automatically good
- 4. When this world begins to shake you...**
 - a. Trust the Spirit of God
 - b. Trust in the Word of God
 - c. Hope in God Himself