

II Thessalonians 2:1-12

REVIEW...

- **HOW IS THE BOOK DIVIDED...**
 - o Chapter 1 – Encouragement to the church – that this is NOT the DAY of the Lord
 - o Chapter 2 – Clarification concerning the DAY of the Lord
 - o Chapter 3 – Empowerment – to live a life for God until the DAY of the Lord
- **JUDGMENT AND GLORY...**
 - o Paul was bound to give THANKS for the church – because of their FAITH and LOVE...
 - o He also BOASTED about the church – because of their PATIENCE in PERSECUTION...
 - o PERSECUTION that was the MANIFEST EVIDENCE of the righteous JUDGEMENT of God!
 - The FORK in the ROAD – that reveals whether people are FOR or AGAINST the Lord!
 - Those FOR the Lord were PERSECUTED – those AGAINST did the PERSECUTING!
 - o Those who are PERSECUTED are COUNTED WORTHY to escape the coming judgment...
 - o Those who PERSECUTE – reject the GOSPEL – will be JUDGED...
 - God will REPAY (*vengeance*) those who cause us tribulation with THE Tribulation...
 - PUNISHED with everlasting destruction – cast from the presence of the Lord!
 - But the DAY of the LORD – the DAY of JUDGEMENT has not come YET...

THE APOCALYPSE... (4 POINTS)

- **1ST – THE DAY OF CHRIST... vs. 1-3**
 - o 1st – Gathering together / Day of Christ ... vs. 1-2
 - In chapter 2 Paul CLARIFIES details about WHEN the DAY of the LORD will happen...
 - He opens by reiterating two KEY prophetic events that have YET to occur...
 - Both of these events he dealt with at length in **I Thessalonians**...
 - The RAPTURE of the church – and the DAY of Christ!
 - 1 - Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our GATHERING TOGETHER to Him...
 - GATHERING TOGETHER – *episynagōgē* – 2x in NT – also in **Hebrews 10:25**
 - This is a reference to the RAPTURE of the church – when we go to meet Jesus!
 - **I Corinthians 15:51-52** – “I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”
 - We will be caught up into heaven – **I Thessalonians 4:16** - Jesus comes for His church!
 - No one knows the exact day or hour – like a THEIF in the night – **I Thessalonians 5:2**
 - In the blink of an eye – we will be GATHERED TOGETHER to Him!
 - Those who believe in Jesus – the church - will be snatched up into heaven!
 - 2 - The DAY of CHRIST – or the DAY of the LORD...
 - The phrase THE Day of the Lord – used 32 times in the Bible – 27x in OT / 5x in NT...
 - Has a companion term that precedes THE DAY of the LORD - the LAST DAYS...
 - Peter uses both terms on Pentecost in **Acts 2:17-21** in reference to the birth of the church!
 - The LAST DAYS began with Pentecost – and will end with the RAPTURE of the church...
 - THE Day of the Lord - not a LITERAL day – begins with the RAPTURE of the church!
 - Followed by an illusion (*they will say*) of PEACE and SAFETY – **I Thessalonians 5:3**
 - Then comes SUDDEN destruction – the WRATH of God – **Revelation 6-18**
 - The TRIBULATION with 3 sets of 7 judgments – Seal / Trumpet / and Bowl judgments...
 - The terror will be so great - unless God limited it – no one would survive – **Mark 13:20**

- o 2nd – THE DAY has NOT come... vs. 2
 - Do NOT be SHAKEN in mind...
 - SHAKEN in mind – to agitate or be upset or disturbed – as in waves tossed by the sea!
 - They church was being SHAKEN in mind - by the letter Paul had written - **I Thessalonians**
 - In light of their PERSECUITION – **II Thessalonians 1:4** – the wicked state of the world...
 - There were those who believed the DAY of the Lord had already happened...
 - That they had missed the RAPTURE – and they were living in the time of WRATH!
 - Williams Miller a minister in the 1800s – said Jesus was coming in the year 1844...
 - People sold everything to prepare - Jesus did not come – the GREAT disappointment!
 - Misinterpreting Bible Prophecy can lead to us being VERY confused...
 - But we are not given the prophecies so we know WHEN Jesus will return...
 - We are given them - so we know HOW to live our lives – UNTIL He returns!
 - Do NOT be TROUBLED in spirit...
 - TROUBLED in spirit – 3x in NT – in relation to events leading to the DAY of the LORD!
 - **Matthew 24:6 / Mark 13:7** – “When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled [same word]; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet.”
 - As we see the world get WORSE - it does TROUBLE us – but it should not surprise us!
 - **II Timothy 3:1** – “In the last days PERILOUS times will come...”
 - PERILOUS (*chalepos*) 2x in NT – can also be translated VIOLENT...
 - The other time it is used is in **Matthew 8:28** – the two demon possessed men...
 - When Jesus came to the east side of the Sea of Galilee – two men met him...
 - They were so VIOLENT (*same word*) no one could pass by that way!
 - Paul is telling us in the last days things are going to get tough...
 - Satan knows his time here is coming to an end – so he is trying his hardest!
 - He is going to get VIOLENT – hold nothing back – to try and TROUBLE the people of God!
 - He is the prince of the power of the air – **Ephesians 2:2**
 - Perhaps it is no accident that TV and radio are transmitted through the AIR...
 - Because satan certainly is the power behind the MEDIA...
 - Satan uses these things to twist and pervert our minds – keep us distracted...
 - We need to be wise – NOT TROUBLED - not ignorant of the dangerous times we live in!
 - **II Corinthians 2:11** - “Lest Satan should take advantage... we are not ignorant of his devices.”
- o 3rd – Let no one deceive you by any means... vs. 3
 - DECEIVE – to cheat or trick – like how satan tricked Eve in the garden – **II Corinthians 11:3**
 - DECEIVED that the we are in the DAY of the LORD...
 - **Luke 21:7-8** – “Teacher, but when will these things be? And what sign will there be when these things are about to take place?” And He said: “Take heed that you not be deceived...”
 - **Matthew 24 / Mark 13 / Luke 21** – Jesus gave the Olivette Discourse...
 - The disciples asked Jesus what the sign of the Day of the Lord would be...
 - Wars / famines / diseases (*COVID*) / earthquakes / terrors / believers hated!
 - All of these are the beginning of sorrows – but the end is not yet – **Matthew 24:8**
 - BEFORE the DAY of the LORD – there are TWO events that must take place FIRST!
- 2ND – THE DAY WILL NOT COME UNLESS... vs. 3-4
 - o 1st – The FALLING AWAY ... vs. 3
 - FALLKNG AWAY – *apostasia* – 2x in NT literally meaning to depart from...
 - There are two possibilities as to what this FALLING AWAY could be...
 - DEPARTURE from the FAITH – many turning away from God...
 - The most important command we have – is to love God above all else - **Matthew 22:37**
 - But in the last days people will love themselves rather than God – **II Timothy 3:2**

- This is not hard for us to do – since we by nature tend to focus on ourselves!
- We tend to think the world revolves around us – it is easy to forget about God...
- The world becomes POST CHRISTIAN – where many if not most – have DEPARTED!
- In many parts of Europe today – less than 10% of people attend church regularly...
- Even in the US – church attendance has plummeted over the past 20 years!
- **Matthew 24:12** – “Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.”
- DEPARTURE from the EARTH – this could be a reference to the RAPTURE...
 - The DAY of the LORD will not come UNTIL after the RAPTURE of the church...
 - **Either view fits the Biblical context – more than likely BOTH are True!**
- o 2nd – Man of sin is revealed... vs. 3-4
 - THE Man of THE Sin / THE Son of THE Perdition (*destruction*)...
 - Two of more than 30 titles in the Bible given to one man...
 - The big mouth – **Daniel 7:8** / we most often refer to him as the Antichrist – **I John 2:18**
 - He will be a leader who will rise out of Europe – the little horn – **Daniel 7:8**...
 - He will make a peace treaty with Israel for 7 years after the Magog invasion – **Ezekiel 38**
 - There is a good chance he will have Jewish heritage – God of his fathers – **Daniel 11:37**
 - He will make PEACE by offering to rebuild the 3rd Temple for Israel – **Daniel 9:27**
 - North of the Dome of the Rock (*monument*) – in a place called the Dome of the Spirit...
 - He will rebuild the Temple – as proof he is the messiah – and Jews will embrace him!
 - **John 5:43** – “I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.”
 - He OPPOSES and EXALTS himself...
 - OPPOSES – 8x in NT usually translated as adversary – OPPOSED to / the enemy of God...
 - EXALTS – 3x in NT meaning to be arrogant – ABOVE all that is called God or worshiped!
 - This man will NOT honor God – he thinks he is ABOVE God...
 - He will seek to abolish God from every aspect of life – government – economy – religion!
 - He will rule the worlds political system – he will be the government – **Revelation 13:7**
 - He will rule the world financial system – 666 – make of the beast – **Revelation 13:16-18**
 - He will be the world religion - worship him as the god of this world!
 - He will sit in the Temple of God – showing (*declare*) himself he is God...
 - 3 ½ years into the Tribulation the Antichrist will perform the Abomination of Desolation!
 - The Antichrist will enter the rebuilt 3rd temple – into the Holiest of All – **Daniel 9:27**
 - The footstool of God – where the Ark of the Covenant once stood (*1st Temple only*)
 - There he will demand he is god – and should be worshiped!
 - **Matthew 24:15** – “When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (*whoever reads, let him understand*), run...”
- 3RD – THE LAWLESS ONE... vs. 5-8
 - o 1st – Paul encouraged the church to REMEMBER... vs. 5
 - Paul was not teaching the church anything new – he had said ALL of this before...
 - In fact - the Bible has a LOT of say about these particular events – to name a few...
 - Joel 2 / Daniel 7-12 / Matthew 24 / Mark 13 / Luke 21 / 1 Thessalonians 4-5 / Revelation 6-19!
 - **You may have noticed that the Bible often repeats itself...**
 - **The same message given in many ways – JESUS IS COMING SOON...**
 - **The reason is because often we do not hear it – or do not understand – the first time...**
 - **The Bible tells us over and over in the hope we will eventually get it...**
 - **It is too important for us not to get / so we must repeat it as many times as needed!**
 - o 2nd – The mystery of lawlessness... vs. 6-7
 - Having told the church WHAT needed to happen before the DAY of the LORD...

- The FALLING AWAY and the man of sin REVEALED ...
- Paul goes on to detail WHY – the man of sin has not YET been REVEALED!
- Now you know (*see*) what is restraining – that he may be REVEALED in HIS time... vs. 6
 - RESTRAINING – to hold back – something or someone is holding back the antichrist...
 - Keeping him from being revealed – *apokalyptō* – until it is HIS time!
 - Who is RESTRAINING – it would seem the HOLY SPIRIT!
- Although the MYSTERY of LAWLESSNESS is already at work... vs. 7
 - THE MYSTERY – 27x in NT almost always referring to the PLAN of God for salvation...
 - Yet here it would seem to represent the opposite – THE PLAN of INIQUITY / REBELLION...
 - The PLAN of satan to raise up a FALSE CHRIST to rule the world – already at work...
 - WORK – *energeo* – he is already energetically deceiving the nations – preparing leaders!
 - ONLY the HOLY SPIRIT is restraining - so the Man of PERDITION cannot be revealed!
 - There is a good chance the antichrist is alive today – waiting for the right time...
 - Because he cannot be revealed until the HOLY SPIRIT is removed...
 - If he revealed himself now – we would all know who he is – tell the world not to follow!
- Until HE is taken out of the way...
 - How will the HOLY SPIRIT be taken out so the antichrist can rise to power...
 - The RAPTURE of the church – because we have THE SPIRIT in us!
 - I Corinthians 6:19 – “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit...”
- o 3rd – The destruction of the lawless one ... vs. 8
 - Then the LAWLESS one will be revealed – *apokalyptō* – the APOCALYPSE...
 - Once the RAPTURE happens – concluding the time of the church – **Romans 11:25**
 - The Man of Sin will rise to power – but it will be VERY short lived...
 - Because at the end of the 7 years of Tribulation...
 - The Antichrist will gather his army to the Valley of Megiddo - **Revelation 19:11-21**
 - Then Jesus will come out of Heaven on a white horse – King of Kings / Lord of Lords...
 - He will return with us – ten thousands of His saints – **Jude 1:14**
 - Battle begins in Bozrah – where the remnant of Israel is hidden for 3½ years - **Isaiah 63:1**
 - Jesus will depart from there to the Valley of Jehoshaphat (*Megiddo*) – **Joel 3:14**
 - The Lord will CONSUME with the breath of His mouth...
 - This is not a matter of Jesus needing a breath mint – this is the WORD of God...
 - With one WORD he will defeat the Antichrist and his army – **Revelation 14:20**
 - And with the brightness of His coming – the darkness will be extinguished!
 - The Antichrist will be the first to be thrown into the Lake of Fire – **Revelation 19:20!**
 - We do live in a fallen world – and we are at war - with sin / the world / satan...
 - But there is NO question on the outcome - we know because of Jesus we win in the end!
- 4TH – THE STRONG DELUSION... vs. 9-12
 - o 1st – Signs and wonders... vs. 9-10
 - Having told the church WHAT needed to happen before the DAY of the LORD...
 - The FALLING AWAY and the man of sin REVEALED...
 - And WHY the man of sin has not YET been REVEALED – restrained by the Holy Spirit...
 - Paul will conclude by detailing WHAT will happen when he is REVEALED!
 - The coming of the LAWLESS ONE is according to – 5 things...
 - 1 - WORKING of satan – literally the energy of satan – perhaps possessed by him...
 - 2 - All POWER – *dynamis* – word used to describe those filled with the Spirit – **Acts 1:8**
 - 3 - SIGNS – evidence of his deity – proof that he is more than a man...
 - 4 - LYING WONDERS – pseudo miracles – we would sake FAKE miracles!
 - 5 - UNRIGHTEOUS DECEPTION – those who are PERISHING will be completely deceived...

- PERISHING – (*present / passive*) – those who are being destroyed because of UNBELIEF...
- Those who did NOT receive the LOVE of the TRUTH so that they might be saved!
- The Antichrist will try and prove he is god - by deceiving the world with signs and wonders...
 - **Revelation 13:3-5** – “*I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed... and they worshiped the beast... for [3 ½ years].*”
 - The Antichrist will proclaim to the world – he is THE Christ – raised from the dead!
 - A false prophet will cause fire to come down from heaven – **Revelation 13:13-15**
 - The prophet can make statues of the Anti-Christ speak – put the unbelievers to death!
 - Signs so convincing they could - if possible – deceive even those who believe – **Mark 13:22**
 - There is a VERY real danger to following signs and wonders...
 - Satan can – and will - imitate God – so he looks like the real thing – **II Corinthians 11:14**
 - The only way to know the TRUTH is by being men and women of the Word!
 - Jesus Word is TRUTH – **John 14:6** - He is how we know the TRUTH - **John 17:17**
- o 2nd – Believing the delusion... vs. 11
 - God will send them a STRONG delusion...
 - STRONG – *energeia* / Delusion – *planē* – meaning to wander...
 - Where we get our word PLANETS – because they seem to wander across the sky!
 - So they should BELIEVE the LIE...
 - BELIEVE the lie – comes from the root word for FAITH – they put their FAITH in the lie!
 - The delusion – people energetically put their FAITH in the world – rather than Jesus!
 - People might think – if the RAPTURE – happens then I will believe...
 - They are waiting for a SIGN – until then they are content to LIVE for this life...
 - But for those who reject the TRUTH now – there is no guarantee they will believe later...
 - It seems more likely they will believe in the STRONG DELUSION – believe the lie...
 - Which is why it is so important to put our FAITH in the TRUTH today – **II Corinthians 6:2**
- o 3rd – Condemned... vs. 12
 - For this REASON – because they did not LOVE / WANT the TRUTH...
 - They will be CONDEMNED – judged – who did not BELIEVE in the TRUTH...
 - Instead they chose to live for the WORLD – live in the pleasures of unrighteousness!
 - We live in a world that is blinded to the events unfolding all around them...
 - They seem oblivious to the fulfillment of countless prophecies...
 - They are ignorant of the coming JUDGMENT – careening haplessly towards destruction...
 - And we are left to ask – why is something so clear to us – hidden from them!
 - **I Corinthians 2:10** – “God hath revealed [*apokalyptō*] them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”
 - We are NOT deceived – because we know the Lord / look to the Word...
 - Opening our eyes to see the things that are hidden from the world around us...
 - But we are not to keep it hidden – we are to proclaim it from the rooftops!
 - **Matthew 10:27** - “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.”