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 PERSECTUION 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 PERSEUCTED 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)

- 1^{ST} 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 *episynag* \bar{o} $g\bar{e}$ 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 PERSECTUION **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 price 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 ticked 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!
- 2^{ND} The day will not come unless... vs. 3-4
 - o 1^{st} 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..."
- 3^{RD} 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 2^{nd} 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!
- 4^{TH} The strong delusion... vs. 9-12
 - o 1^{st} 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 2^{nd} –Believing the delusion... vs. 11
 - God will send them a STONG 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 CONDEMENED 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."