

## 2 Thessalonians Ch.2

### MAJOR THEME: THE DAY OF THE LORD HAS NOT YET COMMENCED

#### 1) LETS GET THINGS STRAIGHT V.1-5

- a) “Coming” and “being gathered to him” is reference to **the Rapture**
  - i) **You haven’t missed it**
  - ii) Don’t be easily unsettled or alarmed or deceived in any way by any
    - (1) Prophecy- self asserted individual claiming “thus sayeth the Lord”
    - (2) Report- gossip
    - (3) Letter- supposedly to have been written by us
  
- b) **“Day of the Lord”** – the entire time frame immediately following the Rapture all the way to the end of the Millennial Kingdom. Here, Day of the Lord has specific reference to the coming terrible day of judgement (**Is. 13:9-13; Joel 2:30-31; Zeph. 1:14-16**). It has three clear preceding events and it won’t happen “until”
  - i) **The Apostasy**
    - (1) Departure; abandoning a position once held
      - (a) This is the rebellion of the professing church’s departure from the truth of God in His Word.
        - (i) This very day an article in the ABC News perfectly highlights this “apostasy”
          1. <http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2017-08-23/same-sex-marriage-what-bible-has-to-say-robyn-whitaker/8831826>
        - (b) A specific and distinguishing apostasy
      - (2) Some have suggested, based on linguistic use of the word, that this “departure” is the rapture of the church.
        - (a) A compelling case; but the overall trajectory of the leavened professing church and the whole of scripture leans towards interpreting this as a specific form of moral and doctrinal apostasy.
    - ii) **The Man of Sin is revealed**
      - (1) This is the Anti-Christ; The Beast out of the Sea (Rev. 13)
      - (2) His being revealed is a decisive act at a definite moment in history
        - (a) Daniel 9:27
          - (i) Confirms a covenant for 7 years
          - (ii) 3 ½ years into it he breaks it and sets up “an abomination that causes desolation”
      - (3) v.4 “He sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God”
        - (a) This is a literal future Jewish temple; already planned and ready to implement
    - iii) **The Restrainer is taken “out of the way”** v.6-8
  
  - c) v.5 This is nothing new... **“Don’t you remember”?**
    - i) Paul had been over this before with them. “He did not regard prophetic truth as too deep or unimportant or controversial for new Christians. He believed it was a vital part of the whole council of God, so he taught it without hesitation or apology.” (BKC p.719)

#### 2) THE RESTRAINER V.6-8

- a) You also **“know”** what is holding him (the anti-christ) back.
  - i) Paul is reminding of them of the ground he already went over with them in regard to the Restrainer.

## 2 Thessalonians Ch.2

### **b) The Holy Spirit is the Restrainer**

- i) The only One with the power to do this restraining
  - (1) Does it both directly and through His indwelling of Christians, thus holding back the swelling tide of lawless living.
    - (a) Can we not see and sense Him loosening His restraining grip even now as we see the growing apostasy around us.

### **c) The Restrainer “taken out of the way”**

- i) This will occur at the Rapture of the Church
- ii) The Holy Spirit is “taken out of the way”
  - (1) Not “taken away”, for He will continue to be present and active though in a different capacity; no longer “indwelling” and “restraining”.
  - (2) It is hard to image just how terrible and evil will be the day when the fully unstrained flood of satanic influence is given free reign. It’s bad enough now...just imagine.
- iii) V.8 **THEN**, and not until then, the Lawless one will be revealed
  - (1) We are looking for the coming Christ, not coming the Anti-Christ
  - (2) We see the “secret power of lawlessness” v.7 now leaking through as apostasy between the fingers and loosing grip of Restraining Holy Spirit, but we will be raptured before he is revealed.

## **3) THE DECEIVER V.9-12**

### **a) His coming is in accord with the work of Satan and seen in three ways:**

- i) Counterfeit Miracles- denotes a real inherent power
- ii) Signs- denotes having significance
- iii) Wonders- denotes the awe they will evoke from people who see them
  - (1) Rev.13:3 the healing of an apparent fatal head wound
  - (2) Rev. 13:13 causes fire to come down from heaven in full view of men
  - (3) Rev.13:15 gives breath to an inanimate image of the beast
    - (a) Likely the result of a satanic techno-spirit invasion of an AI (artificial intelligence) platform.
- iv) Rev. 13: 4,8,13 the whole world was astonished and followed the beast; worshipped the beast; were deceived.

### **b) v.10 Deceives those who are perishing. Who are they?**

- i) Those who Lit. “did not receive/welcome to themselves” (aorist-indicative- middle; meaning a past tense act done for or by oneself) “the love of the truth in order to be saved”.
  - (1) This suggests having had a past opportunity and a wilful rejection or indecision in regard to the gospel of saving grace through Jesus Christ alone.
  - (2) Love for the truth simply means believing the gospel.

### **c) v.11 God given delusion as judgement**

- i) This seems to be a special judgement from God that will occur at this one time in history
- ii) The “lie” they will believe is that the anti-christ is God v.4
  - (1) “Ok...you didn’t want the truth? Then have the lie, and all its fruit...condemnation”
  - (2) ALL, lit. “having not believed the truth, but having delighted in unrighteousness” will be condemned.

## 2 Thessalonians Ch.2

- (a) This should serve as a special warning to all “Fence Sitters” who think to themselves, “I will wait and see what happens. If the rapture happens, then I will know that Christians were right, and then I will believe in him”.
- (b) This is delusional thinking and God has said anyone who thinks like that now, He will ensure that they continue in their delusion then and will be judged. There is no possibility to repent and believe post rapture for those who have heard and rejected pre-rapture.

### **4) THE STANDING V.13-17**

#### **a) Chosen** from the beginning to be saved

- i) Chosen or elect before the foundation of the world in Eph.1:4 is ἐκλέγω, the usual word for eternal election
- ii) Chosen here is εἴλατο coming from the root αἴρω meaning to take up; raise or lift
  - (1) The underlying meaning is clearly God’s selection to Himself
  - (2) But, perhaps there is a play on the word used here to remind them and us of the rapture; the taking up to God; raising of the dead; the lifting up of believers at his coming for the Church.

#### **b) Through belief** in the Truth and the sanctifying work of the Spirit

- i) Both gifts of Grace and the same working of God’s calling

#### **c) V.14 Share** in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ

- i) To Share in Lit. περιποίησιν- to fully acquire as one’s own possession, the glory of the Lord.
  - (1) See John 17:22,24- Jesus Himself prayed for you and me to fully acquire this glory and unity with the Triune God of Grace.

#### **d) V.15 Stand Firm**

- i) In light of sharing in His glory....**STAND FIRM!**
- ii) Be firm in your resolve not to be swept downstream by the flood and currents of ungodly culture.

#### **e) Hold To**

- i) We are prone to let go of truths that have been taught us or let them grow cold
- ii) We don’t need ‘new’ truth, we like the Thessalonians, need to be reminded of the Lit. παραδόσεις- **the traditions; paradigms and teachings of truth already given to us.**

#### **f) V.16 Prayer** for encouragement and strength to stay in the grace of God’s love and encouragement in every good deed and word.