

The Thessalonians Church

All Scripture is KJV: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

What does the 2 books of Thessalonians tell us? – it teaches on

1. Jesus return, and his timing for his return? – (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
2. How Jesus will return, and in what way or manner?
3. It teaches on who the elect are, and how we can know who the elect are?
4. It also teaches on how the books of 1&2 Thessalonians fit in with other scriptures about the return of Christ?

✚ So the book of 1 Thessalonians spoke about the coming of the Lord, which is the rapture of all believers at that point.

✚ It also spoke on the issue of the second coming of Jesus, it spoke of the day of the Lord and showed that the rapture and the day of the Lord are the same event.

These two books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians were amongst the first letters that the Apostle Paul ever wrote, and they were written to the church at Thessalonica for this reason.

- ✓ The timing of these letters are between 51-52 A.D.
- ✓ Paul wrote these letters to correct some of the misunderstanding amongst the believers especially concerning the return of Jesus.

You will notice that in the first opening words and greetings continue to speak on the same subject concerning the coming of Jesus.

He is still speaking about the rapture, and he has not stopped speaking about the rapture as the return of Jesus in any chapter or verse, even in 1 Thessalonians and now again in 2 Thessalonians.

1. But, isn't it amazing how many people will want to change what Paul is speaking about here concerning the rapture as that it is not the coming of Jesus, but yet Paul said that Jesus himself is coming in the clouds and he uses the term "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ".
2. But still.....people will argue that this is not the coming.....even though he just got through saying that it is the coming. (that's because people have been brainwashed about the pretribulational rapture which is not found anywhere in the scriptures.)
3. It is impossible to think or to change the sequence of events taking place here into anything else, seeing that it is the very facts that Paul is describing to us as this is Jesus coming back for his believers.
4. How can any further scriptures in Thessalonians make sense if you change for example 2 Thessalonians to say that Jesus is not coming back. To simply say that this is not the second coming even though the scripture here says it is.
5. Also how can you make sense of verse 1 in 2 Thessalonians 2:1 where it says

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

6. What an exciting passage chapter 2 is, that it I can tells us exactly how we as believers will be gathered by Jesus.

So what I want us to do this morning is to listen carefully, and try and absorb as much as possible as to what the scripture is saying, and not try and disprove what the scripture is saying, and reject it.

- ✓ Because if you reject scripture there is nothing else for you to get hope from.
- ✓ Don't let other people make your mind up for you.
- ✓ Jesus has given you salvation and the spirit of God is able to teach you and guide you..... the bible says "in all things", so listen to the spirit when it is speaking to you.
- ✓ Jesus said himself that these words I give you are spirit and they are truth.

✚ So as we get into the scriptures.....listen and learn.

2 Thessalonians 2 (King James Version (KJV)

¹ Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

1. Very explicitly the scripture is telling us that the believers will be gathered.
2. This means that the believers will be rounded up, and gathered together, and then they will be airlifted to safety.
3. This is what was translated from the Greek **Textus Receptus** as "parousia" into English meaning the "rapture" – to be caught away, or to be snatched away.
4. This will be a time in the future as the scripture says that we will be **"gathering together unto him"**.

Now if you look at this timing period and what takes place here and compare it to Revelation 6 and Mathew 24 it fits the events that will take place perfectly.

But if you try and fit this event with what takes place in Revelation 19:11, which is Jesus riding on a white horse with his armies following him, then this does not match with Matthew 24 or any other passage if you want to associate it with the rapture and the second coming of Jesus. This would have to be coming number 3 in that case.

In Revelation 19, there is no believers being gathered. They are already there waiting for the marriage supper of the Lamb. Because they were already gathered in Revelation 6 and which was also spoken of in Matthew 24's events.

- ✚ And just to show that Paul knows what people are going to say about this event in the future, he adds these nice little verses to rule out any doubt.
- ✚ Look what he says in verse 2.

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

1. What he is saying here is this. That you must not be easily shaken in your mind as to any decisions be changed about this event.
2. That you also not be troubled about how this event is taking place.
3. He knows what people are going to say about this in the future, and that's why he add this.

- a) **neither by spirit**
- b) **nor by word**
- c) **nor by letter as from us**
- d) **as that the day of Christ is at hand**

- ✓ He said let not any spirit try and change what is factual and true.
 - ✓ Whether they come with another word. Don't believe it.
 - ✓ Even if they came as if we had written another letter concerning this – then don't believe that either, because it will not be from us.
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- ❖ Why, because people will want to change these events to line up with other doctrines which are not true. That's why.
 - ❖ They want to deceive people into thinking that Jesus can come at any moment.
4. So verse 2 says that we must not be troubled as if that day is at hand. **as that the day of Christ is at hand.**

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

1. "Falling away" – Luke 8:13. It is a spiritual falling away. Not the rapture.
2. Some people who also try and defend the Pretrib rapture have even tried to use this term falling away as to describe the rapture, but it does not even mean that. Look what Luke 8:13 says it means.
3. They try to say that see.....the falling away is the saints and that is before the rapture.....
4. But that is not what falling away means.

Luke 8: 13 ¹³ They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

5. Son of Perdition – Is the Antichrist.

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

- ✚ Verse 4 is what is commonly called or referred to as the abomination of desolation as spoken by Daniel the prophet as we have read before.
- ✚ Revelation 13, and the Lord explains it in Revelation 17. (Kingdoms rising)

1. So the doctrine which says that Jesus can come at any moment is false, and it is a false teaching.
 2. This is taught over and over again in parrot fashion because nobody wants to read the scriptures for themselves, but instead like the TV preachers which make everything sound good and believable.
 3. Therefore verse 3 is repeating what verse 2 just said, and verse 4 sums up the reason why it is so.
 4. Because that event has not happened then, and it has not happened now either.
 - ❖ In fact if any one tells you that Jesus can come at any moment, and that all prophecy has been fulfilled and that he can now come at any moment.....then that person is a deceiver..... Because the scripture says in verse 3.....let no man deceive you by any means....
 - ❖ But a lot of people who teach that.....are not trying to be deceptive.....they just repeating the lies what they have heard and it is false.....it's a false doctrine.
 - ❖ They just being part of this deception.
 - ❖ But the bible says that we must not listen to anyone when they say that the day of Christ is at hand. Like it can happen now, at any moment.
- ✚ Now for many of us who don't know what the day of Christ is or what it means let me explain. Lets turn to some scriptures to find out.

1 Corinthians:8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 5:⁵ To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

- ✓ So it is a day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 1:¹⁴ As also ye have acknowledged us in part, that we are your rejoicing, even as ye also are our's in the day of the Lord Jesus.

- ✓ A day of rejoicing. – A reunion.

✚ So these verses all tell us of the day, and what that day will be like when we see Jesus.

Philippians 1:6⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

- ✓ So this verse again says, that what Jesus started in us he is going to perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ So this again points to a coming day. It's going to be a day when it's the end of our life on this earth.

So all those verses are speaking about when we will be with Jesus. And these verses fit perfectly in with what Paul told the Thessalonian church. That if we die we will be with Jesus, if the rapture takes place we will be with Jesus. Either way we will be with Jesus.

- ✓ So the same day of the rapture, is the same as the Day of the Lord.
 - ✓ But some people will try and say that the day of Christ is a different day, as the Day of the Lord. But here's the truth of the matter, Jesus is the Lord, He is also Christ, who is also the Lord.
 - ✓ That's why sometimes it's even called the Day of the Lord Jesus.
1. So, 1 Thessalonians 2:3 alone is sufficient alone to demolish the pretribulation rapture. Because this verse alone states that we must not be deceived.
 2. Because certain things have to happen first before the rapture takes place.
 3. But people will try and deceive you to say that the rapture is at any time, and therefore place the rapture before any tribulation takes place. **But wait a minute.....are there things that have to happen first.**
 4. Not to mention the scriptures we have of Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13, which makes clear reference to the fact that the rapture is after the tribulation.
 5. So this scripture in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, says that it is a deception to say that Jesus' return is at hand, and can come at any minute.
- ✓ So Paul is saying to the believers.....you will see these things happen first.....that the antichrist must set himself up.....so don't get all worried and shaken that Jesus is coming at any moment.

➤ **Let's stop here for this morning and we will continue next Lords day.**

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⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

Romans 1:13 King James Version (KJV)

¹³ Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was **let** hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

- **Let** - To hinder or to obstruct.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....