

The Thessalonians Church

All Scripture is KJV: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

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?
- ✚ 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.
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 into believing 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. 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

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,

- ✓ What an exciting passage chapter 2 is that it tells us exactly how the believers will be gathered by Jesus.

So don't try and disprove what the scripture is saying, and reject it.

- ✓ So as we get into the scriptures.....listen and learn.
1. Very explicitly the scripture is telling us that the believers will be gathered.
 2. This means that the believers will be gathered together, and then they will be with Jesus.
 3. This is what it means 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. But Revelation 19 is the battle of Armageddon.
 - ❖ In Revelation 19, there are no believers being gathered. They are already in heaven and waiting for the marriage supper of the Lamb to take place which is at the end of the 7 seals being opened and the 7 trumpets judgements and the 7 vial judgments.
 - ❖ So in Revelation 6 the believers have already been gathered after the tribulation but before the wrath of God is poured out, which it was also spoken of in Matthew 24's events.
 - ❖ Also how can there be peace as the pre-tribbers say, that will take place during the first half of the 7 tribulation period that they speak of, when the scriptures say that during the opening of the 2nd seal in Revelation 6, that peace it take from the earth as the antichrist is waging war on the earth?
 - ❖ (See Revelation 12 & 13).
 - ✚ 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.

²That 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 adds these short statements in the verse.
 - 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 (an angel) try and change what is factual and true.
 - ✓ Whether they come with another word or gospel. 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.
 - ❖ 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. It's 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 its 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. The bible also tells us that the 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 explains it, and the Lord explains it again 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 they will listen to preachers which make everything sound good and believable.
- ✓ Therefore verse 3 is repeating what verse 2 just said, and verse 4 sums up the reason why it is so.
 - ✓ 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....
 - ❖ Yet a lot of people who teach that are just mislead.....are not trying to be deceptive.....they just repeating the lies what they have heard and it is false.....it's a false doctrine.
 - ❖ So 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.

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.

- ✓ Its a day of rejoicing and a reunion, and it is a day of salvation.
- ✓ 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, 2Thessalonians 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 can be at any time, and therefore place the rapture before any tribulation that 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 make 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 moment.
- ✓ So Paul is saying to the believers.....you will see these things happen first.....that the antichrist must set himself up as God, and be worshipped.....so don't get all worried and shaken that Jesus is coming at any moment.

- ✓ Again this is why Paul said to the Thessalonian church in verse 5.

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.

1. According to Paul these things must happen first before Jesus will return.
2. And the way in which Jesus will reveal himself is when the sun and moon are darkened as mentioned in Matthew 24, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Acts 2, and Luke 17, Joel 2 and Revelation 6.
3. When the antichrist is revealed that is what starts the process of the revelation of Jesus.

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

1. Much confusion has been made over this particular verse, especially by the pre-tribulationists.
2. The Unknown secrecy, **(mystery)** of evil and wickedness **(iniquity)** is already at work.
3. We know that there is today just as much wickedness and evil today as there was in the days of Noah, and perhaps even more wickedness today than before.
4. But what is often misunderstood is the second half of this verse. And the reason it is misunderstood is because people will try and use this verse to justify their pre tribulation view. But in reality it is not speaking about what they say it is.

- ✓ Let me explain.

5. **only he who now letteth will let.** What does this mean?
6. Well if you read the scriptures again that we just read, it is clearly talking about a person that is involved in the wickedness. The scripture in verse 6 has just got though telling us that the **“he”** is the antichrist. (the **“he”** that might be revealed its said in verse 6).
7. So if it is the **“antichrist”** then why is the word **“letteth”** there in the verse? Would be the obvious question?
8. I'll tell you why. Because it does not mean what you think it means?
9. The word **“letteth”** and the word **“let”** does not mean what it does today for you and me.
10. We have to look what the bible says that this word actually meant. So check it out.

- ✓ The scripture to determine this word is found in Romans 1:13.

Romans 1:13 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.

- ✓ So in this verse of Romans 1:13, it teaches us that Paul wanted to often come and see the church at Rome (Corinthian church), but according to him he was “let” hitherto.

- ✓ In other words as Paul wanted to come and see the church at Corinth he was hindered from doing so?
- ✓ Don't believe me? Still not convinced? Then take a look a look at the word let.
- ✓ The old meaning of the biblical text right up to the Anglo Saxon times, this word let meant the following.

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

So Paul was obstructed and hindered to see the church at Rome.

- ❖ So when we look at our text this morning at verse 7, the **only he who now letteth will let**, is saying that the "he" which is the antichrist which will come, is resisting or obstructing this time to come. (see Revelation 12 &13).
- ❖ There first needs to come the falling away for this to take place.
- ❖ But there will come the time when the he will.... **until he be taken out of the way.** (the human being)

So the "he" is not the Holy Spirit either, because you cannot take God out of the picture. He is omnipresent.

Psalm 139:7-10 ⁷ Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? ⁸ If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; ¹⁰ Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

- ✚ Then according to the scriptures when the antichrist is revealed the Lord will deal with him as we see in verses 8-12.

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:**

1. These events begin in Revelation 6 and culminate at the end of the 70 weeks mentioned in Daniel 12 after the abomination of desolation which is after the 1260 days and the additional 1290 days (7yrs).
2. This is the time of Revelation 19. This is when Jesus returns at the battle of Armageddon.
3. This is what ushers in the 1000 year millennium reign of Jesus.
4. This is after Satan and his angels are cast out permanently from the presence of God in heaven. This is when they have no more access to God to accuse the saints day and night before God.
5. Revelation 12:7-10.

Revelation:12:7-10 ⁷ And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. ⁹ **And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **Now is come salvation**, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the

power of his Christ: **for the accuser of our brethren is cast down**, which accused them before our God day and night.

1. So first you have the **tribulation**.
2. Then after the tribulation is the second coming of Jesus which is the **rapture**.
3. Then after the rapture is the battle of Armageddon and the **millennium reign**.
 - During the 1000years Satan is bound in the bottomless pit. (Revelation 20).
 - After the 1000yrs Satan is loosed for a season, and then there is the battle of Gog and Magog. (Ezekiel 38; 39). (Rev 20:8).

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

1. The antichrist is given power by Satan and therefore he is able to perform all these signs and lying wonders.
2. This we see in Revelation 13. Where Satan is giving the Antichrist his power.

Revelation 13: 13 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. ² And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: **and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.**

3. This is the reason why the antichrist could do the lying signs and 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.

1. This is why with the powers of lying wonders the people would not believe in the truth of God.
2. They had been spiritually blinded by Satan's power that was given to the "antichrist".
3. Therefore God said in verse 11, because of that they would not believe the truth he would send them a strong delusion that they should believe a lie.
4. They would carry on believing the lies of Satan given to the antichrist.
5. Therefore they would perish God said.

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.

1. In contrast to the lies of Satan and the antichrist, Paul said that Gods people, who are the ones that believed the gospel would not perish.
2. But that they would obtain the glory of Jesus Christ.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....