

# “Antidote for The Anxious”

## 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2

Paul had writing one letter to the Church in Thessalonica. But upon hearing the condition of persecutions, false teachers and a resulting poor behavior, Paul is writing them again about a year after the first letter.

1. Natural Questions Arose from the New Church
2. Zealous Jews and Angry Greeks coming against the New Church
3. Possibly, some counterfeit letters appeared affecting the New Church

(see introductory notes on 1 Thessalonians chapter 1 for time and setting)

### 2 Thessalonians Outlined

Chapters 1	Encouraging the Thessalonians	(Discouraged Believers)
Chapters 2	Explanation for the Thessalonians	(Disturbed Believers)
Chapters 3	Exhortation to the Thessalonians	(Disobedient Believers)

### Paul Rebuilds Hope by Explanation. He Explains...

2Th 2:1 **1) ...The Sequence** vs 1-5

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,

2Th 2:2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

- The Day of the Lord is from the “Rapture” of the church to the End of the Millennium. It includes the time of the “Great Tribulation”.

#### Day of Lord - Great Tribulation

- Isaiah 13:9 “Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, **cruel** both with **wrath** and fierce **anger**, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.”
- Joel 1:15 “Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a **destruction** from the Almighty shall it come.”
- Joel 2:11 “And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and **very terrible**; and who can abide it?”

#### Day of Christ - The Coming

- Phil 2:16 “Holding forth the word of life; that I may **rejoice** in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.”
- The Thessalonians were disturbed because they started to believe the Day of the Lord had already come and that they had missed the “rapture” (the gathering together) (see 1 Thess. 4) and that they were in the “Great Tribulation”. This would disturb most people.
- We are not sure of what caused this disturbance but Paul lists a few possibilities
  - 1) a spirit - prophesying
  - 2) a message - false teaching
  - 3) a counterfeit letter.

2Th 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for {it will not come} unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

2Th 2:4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

- The Day of Lord does not come until two things come first:

#### 1. The apostasy comes (the falling away)

1 Timothy 4:1 “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons”

- Why does this falling away happen?
  - a. Not having ROOT in themselves (firm/solid commitment to Jesus in their heart)
 

**Mark 4:16-17** "In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away."
  - b. Having SPIRITUAL PRIDE
 

**Mark 14:29** "But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not.""
  - c. We are poised for a GREAT APOSTASY. The church is today assembling more for their own fulfillment and satisfaction than a commitment to the Lord Jesus.

## 2. Man of lawlessness is revealed

- One common thought of this "Man of Lawlessness" is that it is not an individual but a system of religion or a particular office. Protestants are the biggest proponents of this idea. The Catholic Church or the Pope is the "Man of Lawlessness" Calvin taught this.
- But the Scriptures point to an individual.
 

**Daniel 9:26+27** "the prince who is to come"; "he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering"

**Daniel 8:23** "A king will arise, Insolent and skilled in intrigue."

**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** Paul is describing an individual not a system of belief.
- What is this "Man of Lawlessness" like?
  - a. Son of perdition (destruction) He destroys
  - b. He Opposes God and any other religious belief system
  - c. He Exalts himself above God
  - d. He takes his seat in the temple
  - e. He displays himself as God
  - f. **Daniel 11:37** "He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all."
 

Jewish possibly (no regard for the gods of his fathers)

Some say homosexual, but this is an incorrect reading. It says "no regard...for the desire OF women" not FOR women. What it is implying is that women will desire him but this is not his goal.
- I have seen countless efforts to bring peace to the Middle East. Nothing and no one has success. How could a man bring unity to all the religions and nations? Possibly a global event that leaves people with no hope and seeking for any answer. A man with an answer could. What is the global event? The Rapture of the Church.
- **Daniel 9:27** tells us that he will make a covenant with the Jews but will break that covenant and put an end to the sacrifices and offerings.
- **Matthew 24:15-16,+21** Jesus said that when you see the abomination of desolation set up in the temple, God's wrath will come.

2Th 2:5

Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

- These things Paul taught to New Believers. (Paul was only with them 3 weeks)
- Also, Paul taught these things years before John wrote the book of Revelation speaking about the Antichrist.

2Th 2:6 **2) ...The Sovereign** vs 6-12

And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed.

2Th 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains {will do so} until he is taken out of the way.

- Currently there is a restraining on the "Man of Lawlessness" He is not in control.
- "*The mystery of lawlessness is already at work*" One could see open sin. Theft, Murder, Bigotry, Adultery. But there is another lawlessness that doesn't seem lawless, piety, a little doctrinal error, tolerance, self help, denying the truth. These are nurtured today so the man of lawlessness can exploit these for his own power.
- WHO IS THE RESTRAINER?
- Israel No! The Church No! Who can restrain the antichrist and Satan?
- This restrainer is the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is taken out of the way. NOT REMOVED. There will be people saved during the Great Tribulation. (Revelation 7:9 multitudes)
- This is the work of the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit restrains the activity of the lawless in our age.

2Th 2:8 Then that lawless one will be revealed

- We try and try to determine who the antichrist is. He will not be revealed until the Lord wants him to be. It will be when the restrainer is out of the way.

whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

- As we read about the influence and destruction the antichrist has, the Lord with only a breath can slay him.
- God also puts an end to his manipulation and deception.

2Th 2:9 {that is,} the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

- Powers signs and wonders are not enough to prove someone is from God

2Th 2:10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

2Th 2:11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

2Th 2:12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

- Notice the word "they" in verses 10-12. This is not the Church. It is the Christ Rejecting World.
- Why are these people influenced by the antichrist? Why will they Perish?
  - First - There is a deceiver desiring to destroy God's creation. YOU! Vs 9-10
  - Second - They DID NOT love the truth couldn't be saved. Vs 10
  - Third - God gives them over to their desires. Blind to the truth. (Judgment) Vs 11
  - Fourth - They took pleasure in wickedness rather than the truth. Vs 12
- Romans 1:20-31 God's judgment upon those who love wickedness more than the truth is consistent. God will grant the desires of man's heart. If it is wickedness He will allow them to be given over to it.
- "This defiance of God will ultimately be the very thing that condemns them."

2Th 2:13 **3) ...The Strengthening** vs 13-17

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

2Th 2:14 It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Paul describes You the Christian:
  - God Loves You
  - God Chose You For Salvation
  - God Called You
  - God Gives You Jesus

2Th 2:15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word {of mouth} or by letter from us.

- Paul is talking about traditions not in terms of ancient practices of man passed down from generation to generation.
- But more of Eternal Truth / Doctrine that is from God and from the beginning.
- At the end of this chapter, he is telling the Thessalonians to stand firm and hold onto these things he taught. Not to let go. Not to move away from. This is speaking of the authority of Paul's speaking and epistles. You can stand on it. Count on it to be true, actually the Word of God.
- The beginning of this chapter he tells them they have been shaken by a FALSE word and a FAKE letter.

2Th 2:16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,

2Th 2:17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

- Paul prays for the church that they would know:
  - God's Love
  - God's Comfort
  - God's Hope
  - God's Grace
- From these truths we are able to:
  - Comfort Our Heart
  - Strengthen Our Heart
  - Put our Heart into Good Work
  - Put our Heart into the Word

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