

2 Thessalonians

Week 3 The Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ part 1

January 24, 2024

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

In this section of the letter, God reveals through Paul's letter a sequence of events leading up to Christ's return. This information is agreed with in other parts of the Bible, and Paul is writing to them so that they will not be deceived into believing Christ has already returned.

Can you give an example in your life when someone gave you a reassuring word that helped you to remain calm? _____.

Paul's words were to help calm the fears of the Thessalonian believers.

1. The Thessalonians are to be secure. Vs. 1,2,3a

The *gathering* is the rapture of the church. 1 Thes. 4. That's what the rapture involves- Jesus gathering his people unto himself. The gathering of God's people for worship is a foretaste of the gathering in heaven.

Apparently, some had come in the name of Paul and his companions and instructed the church that they had already entered the tribulation. God does not want his people to be terrified of anything. He wants them to be secure in Christ. Matt. 24:4-6; John 14:1-4

The *Day of the Lord* is the 2nd coming of Christ.

The desire to deceive is everywhere in this world. Satan is at the heart of it.

2. The Antichrist must come before the return of Jesus. Vs 3-6

The *rebellion*- a great apostacy or falling away from true religion. A Departure from faith. Widespread defections.

The *Man of Lawlessness*- This is the antichrist. 1 John 2:18-19. John writes that this is the last hour. The better translation is the KJV the last time. The word for *time* in this context means *season*. The verse says that there will always be apostates.

The antichrist will exalt himself over all and demand to be worshipped by all inhabitants of the earth. Vs. 4 He will make himself the center of worship in the Jewish Temple- which will be rebuilt in Jerusalem.

This idolatrous demand for worship is prophesied in Daniel 9:24-27, Rev. 13:1-3,8,11-18

3. The Power of Antichrist is already working in the world. Vs 7-8

Secret Power is already at work! There is a conspiracy! There are disobedient "gods" that are leading the world astray. But there is a power holding it back to keep it from completely taking over. This power is the Holy Spirit of God present in all Christians. The church is to be a restraining force against evil. John 14:16-17.

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The Popular Bible Prophecy Commentary, Tim LaHaye and Ed Hindson. Harvest House Publishing

