

2 Thessalonians

Lesson #6, Chapter 2:1-12

1. What is Paul's purpose in this section as stated in verses 1-2?
2. When will Christ come and believers be gathered to Him? See 1 Thess. 4:13 - 18 and Jn. 14:1-3.
3. Why would the idea that the Day of the Lord had already come disturb some of the believers? Though we can't say for sure why they were so disturbed, we can surmise the reason from Paul's previous comments to the Thessalonians. For some help in formulating your answer see 1 Thess. 1:6; 2:14; 4:13-18; 5:4, 9-11; 2 Thess. 1:4.
4. The new teaching the Thessalonians were receiving was purported to be from Paul or to have his approval. Why would that have been so upsetting to the Thessalonians?
5. When will the Day of the Lord come (verse 3)?
6. Apostasy is described as a falling away from the faith by professed believers. See 1 Tim. 4:1-3 and 2 Tim. 3:1-5 for a closer look at the characteristics of apostasy.

7. From verses 3-4 what do you learn about the specific apostasy committed by the man of lawlessness? Note that it is called *the* apostasy, rather than *an* apostasy. This indicates that though there may be *other* apostasies, there is *one specific one* that we can note.

8. What do you learn about the man of lawlessness (verses 3-10)?

9. Verse 4 describes the true heart of the lawless one. What is his goal?

10. What do you learn about the man of lawlessness being revealed and restrained from verses 3, 6, 7, and 8.

11. No matter how powerful the man of lawlessness is, he will never come on the scene of history until it is the appointed time for him to do so. What do you learn about God and the timing of events in history from the following verses: Dan. 9:27; Mark 1:15; Acts 1:7; Gal. 4:4?

12. How does the Antichrist (man of lawlessness) gather devotees for himself (verses 9-10)?

13. What description is given for those who follow this man of lawlessness (verse 10)?

14. How do men respond to the truth of God according to verses 10 and 12; Matt. 13:13-15; Jn. 3:19; and Rom. 1:18?

15. What is the result of their rejecting the truth of God's message after so many opportunities to believe (verses 11-12)?

16. What do the following Scriptures teach about God's intentions toward unbelievers? See Ezek. 18:32; Jn. 3:16-17; 1 Tim. 2:4; Titus 2:11; 2 Pet. 3:9.

17. In verse 3 Paul urges the Thessalonians not to be deceived and in verse 5 he reminds them that he has already taught them about the timing of these end time events. The details of these events were not meant to scare the Thessalonians, but were to be a source of information about the final events of history. Paul had already encouraged the Thessalonians with the truths of the rapture (4:13-18), and now reminds them again in verse 1 that they will be with Jesus when events described here take place. How can those truths be a source of comfort for you as well? How does understanding the order of events described here in our text benefit you in your walk with the Lord?

18. How does the knowledge that God orders and appoints all these events for a specific time and place comfort and encourage you?

"Apostasy has always occurred. As we have seen from I Tim. 4:1-5, apostasy is something that is happening and is promised for the future. As time heads towards the tribulation "last days" or "last times" it will become more prevalent. In II Thess. 2 there is a definite article in front of the word apostasy. It is not apostasy in general but "THE apostasy." Just as there have always been antichrists so there is "THE antichrist." So the apostasy is definite and happens in the tribulation period. I think the best way to understand it is this:

The believers are raptured out before the tribulation begins, then during the first 3 ½ years things are for the most part fine on earth. There is a false church. Many liberal churches will hardly know any change in population after the rapture. Not being believers and not having the Holy Spirit, they will have a hard time trying to figure out what happened. They will be convinced that it doesn't have anything to do with Christianity, because after all, they are Christians and they didn't get raptured. But later, when the antichrist turns against the false church, people will then gladly apostasize to save their skins. Those who are not believers, who don't have the Holy Spirit, who are into Christianity for what they can get out of it, will not have the grace or the faith to stand up and be persecuted for Christ. So, there will be a great apostasy when the Antichrist does reveal himself and commit war on the saints. Those who are not really saints will show their true colors.” ~ Dr. Jack Hughes