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**The Coming of the Lord, the Day of the Lord,**

**and the Man of Sin**

**II Thessalonians 2:1-12 (Lesson #2)**

**It appears that three things motivated Paul to write II Thessalonians:**

1. To clarify and provide reassurances about the Day of the Lord, since some had started to believe that that day had already come.

*“1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.” (2Th 2:1-2 ESV)*

1. To strengthen the believers who continued to face unrelenting persecution.

*“Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.” (2Th 1:4 ESV)*

1. To once again address the problem of church members who were able to work, but not working.

*“6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.” (2Th 3:6-8 ESV)*

*“For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.” (2Th 3:10 ESV)*

***1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.***

Paul here refers to Jesus as “the Lord Jesus Christ.” Now this is fairly common with Paul. This is how I Thessalonians 1:1 opened:

*“1 ¶ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. 2 ¶ We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1Th 1:1-3 ESV)*

The word translated Lord is the Greek word is **κύριος** (koo’-ree-os). It means lord or master. But there is more to the story. When the Old Testament (Hebrew) was translated into Greek (language of the New Testament). The word they used for God’s name was**κύριος! This is not “sir” Jesus the Messiah. This is Yahweh, who is Jesus, the Messiah**

Here in chapter 2, Paul picks back up a familiar topic with the church in Thessalonica. Namely the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He states it directly! Now brothers, as it pertains to, as it is about, as it concerns, the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Vs 1 -** So what Paul is about to elaborate on, in context, appears to be about the **“coming”** of the Lord. The Greek word is: **παρουσία** (par-oo-see’-ah).If you remember Paul mentioned the **παρουσία** of the Lord, four times in I Thessalonians:

*“For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?” (1Th 2:19 ESV)*

*“12 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, 13 so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.” (1Th 3:12-13 ESV)*

*“15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.” (1Th 4:15-17 ESV)*

*“Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1Th 5:23 ESV)*

**\*\* Paul is picking up with new concerns about the “coming of the Lord.”** In putting down the first error a second error has emerged.

**Vs 2 -** Paul pleads with them to not be shaken in mind or alarmed.

**Shaken:** This is the word for shaking, the way strong winds shake a tree of even to **agitate** or **scatter**. They were being shaken in mind, in their thoughts, and in their understanding.

**Alarmed:** Used three times in the New Testament, it means to be **frightened**, **troubled**, or **alarmed**!

Now notice something a little surprising, it seems that possible candidates for the sources of this shaking of their minds, this alarm, include:

1. By Spirit
2. By spoken word
3. By a letter, seeming (claiming) to be from us

With all or some, making the claim that the **“day of the Lord”** has already come.

**Two points:**

**Point #1) The possible source or sources of this error:**

**By Spirit** - It seems that “by spirit” is likely someone claiming to have received this word by the Spirit of God, and as you consider this, I would remind you of one of the things Paul told them in the first epistle:

*I Thes 5:19-20 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies*

I would remind us that Paul had also told them and us to:

I Thes 5:21 but test everything; hold fast what is good.

**By word –** This appears to be teaching that came in the normal form of discourse and dialogue.

**By letter from us** – Here it appears to be that some were claiming Paul, Silas, Luke, and Timothy were the source of this teaching, namely that the **“day of the Lord”** had already come!

**Point #2)** It seems that Paul in one sentence just connected the **“coming of the Lord”** the **παρουσία and our gathering to him (rapture/resurrection)** with the **“day of the Lord.”**

The subject, of which Paul is about to speak is either:

1. The coming of the Lord and the Day of the Lord.
2. The Day of Lord

**Let me say two quick things:**

1. Other than Jehovah Witnesses or Seventh Day Adventist, I know of no one teaching that the coming of the Lord or the Day of the Lord has already occurred. Good news, that is not an error that is prevalent today.

1. But, if believers living in the first century, sitting under the teaching of the apostle Paul himself, can be confused. Let’s not think that we cannot fall into error. That would be extremely vain. Rather, although we do not have the same error, let’s follow Paul’s points and logic to ensure we do not have any errors. At least as best as we can.

The error seems clear enough. There were those who taught the **Day of the Lord** had already come and that they were possibly living in the Day of the Lord.

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***3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.***

**Vs 3a –** We can see that Paul was worried about these external influences and potential deception.

Here he is saying, regardless of the source, we do not want you to be deceived.

**Vs 3b –** Then Paul provides us with **two things** that must happen before the **“day of the Lord”** or if these are both the same event **(the coming of Jesus and the Day of the Lord)**. Now we must confess, in context, Paul seems to be saying they are the same.

1. The first thing that must happen, before the **“day of the Lord”** is what Paul describes as: **“the rebellion comes first.”**
2. Paul uses the **definite article** in the Greek and you can see how the ESV translators have translated it using the definite article in English, **“the rebellion.”**
3. Paul does not mean one of many rebellions but “the” rebellion or as many other translations, **the falling away**.
4. “Rebellion” – This is the Greek word, **ἀποστασία** (ap-os-tas-ee’-ah). This is where we get our English word apostacy. In the Greek this word means to **fall away**, to **defect**, to **abandon**, to **apostatize**.

This Greek word is only used here and one other place:

*“18 On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. 19 After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. 20 And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law, 21 and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.” (Ac 21:18-21 ESV)*

It “seems” one of three things is in view:

1. Many leaving the visible, professing church, thus the numbers shrinking (apostacy or rebellion).
2. Many in the visible church rejecting the truth claims of the Bible (apostacy or rebellion)
3. Both

2) But there is a second thing that according to Paul must take place before the **“Day of the Lord”** comes. **Vs 3c – The man of lawlessness is revealed.**

Here we meet a person who is provided with two different tiles or descriptions:

1. **The man of lawlessness**
2. **The son of destruction**

Most believe that a single person is in view and that the “man of sin” the “son of perdition” is the person we most often refer to as the “antichrist.”

Now there have been many small antichrists, but there is one final, one still yet coming, ultimate antichrist. John explained it this way:

*“Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.” (1Jo 2:18 ESV)*

The day of the Lord cannot come**… Until the man of sin (antichrist) is revealed.** The Greek word is: **ἀποκαλύπτω** (ap-ok-al-oop’-to). It means to **uncover,** to **unveil**, to **make known**, to **make manifest**. So, the **Day of the Lord** will not come **#2**, until the **ἀποκαλύπτω** of the man of sin (antichrist).

Paul is going to use this word three times in rapid fire succession (verses 3, 6, and 8):

**In summation, the day of the Lord will not come unless first there comes the rebellion (the falling away) and secondly, the man of sin is reveled.**

\*\* Now as you think about these two things that must happen first, the rebellion and revelation of the Son of perdition… Would you agree that Paul’s point is they have not seen this happen yet, so the day of the Lord has clearly not happened? Even if we decouple these two days that is clearly his logic.

**Vs 4 - Of the man of sin,** he Opposes – sets himself against and **exalts himself** above all that is called God or that is worshipped.

**So that… He sits in the temple of God, showing Himself that he is God.**

Now, this has two very different interpretations.I will provide both along with a single strength and a single weakness of each claim.

1. This is when the antichrist “sits” in the reconstructed temple in Jerusalem and shows off as being God.

1. This is when the antichrist will somehow gain a position of great visible authority in the professing church.

**Position #1, he sits in the literal temple**. **Strength:**

On the face, this seems to be what the verse means. It is the clear use of the words.

**Weakness:**

Paul never uses the word **temple** to refer to the Old Testament temple, but instead the believer or believers as the temple.

The Greek word is **ναός** (nah-os’). Here are all the other places where Paul uses this word:

*1Co 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple <3485> of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

*1Co 3:17 If anyone defiles the temple <3485> of God, God will destroy him. For the temple <3485> of God is holy, which (temple) you are.*

*1Co 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple <3485> of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

*2Co 6:16 And what agreement has the temple <3485> of God with idols? For you are the temple <3485> of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”*

*Eph 2:19-21 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple <3485> in the Lord,*

**Position #2, he takes a position of power and authority in the visible church of God. Strength:**

This is in line with how Paul uses the Greek word for temple.

**Weakness:**

 This is not what comes to mind when you initially read the verse.

**Whatever the exact meaning, the context seems to indicate a concrete and observable act of defiance against God, and likely aligns with the abomination of desolation.**

**Side note:** If you want to see option II on a smaller scale, please watch the mini-series on Netflix called “Keep Sweet, Pray, and Obey.” It is about Warren Jeffs and the FLDS. He is clearly a type of the final antichrist.As you will see he clearly set himself up as God.

**Vs 5 -** So although Paul’s teaching time in Thessalonica was brief, it was packed, and he is reminding them that he had told them “these things” while he was with them.

**Vs 6 –** These are a tough couple of verses. Since we do not havePaul’s original teaching, we are left working with the Scriptures to understand who/what is restraining and who/what is being restrained.

The two most likely persons who are restraining are either the Holy Spirit, or Michael the archangel. I believe it is the Holy Spirit.

One of these persons is restraining the **full blossoming of the antichrist**. Notice though, the antichrist, the man of sin, will be revealed in his own time. But this revealing, will not occur as long as the restraint remains in place**.**

The Greek word for revealing is: **ἀποκαλύπτω** (ap-ok-al-oop’-to). It means to **uncover,** to **unveil**, to **make known**, to **make manifest**. So, the **Day of the Lord** will not come **#2**, until the **ἀποκαλύπτω** of the man of sin (antichrist). **We saw this earlier.**

**The word translated “restraining” is the Greek word κατέχω** (kat-ekh’-o) – It means to **hold back**, to **restrain**, to **detain**, to **hinder**. The revealing of the man of sin is being held back.

**Vs 7 -** This harkens back to what John said. Little antichrists and the Spirit of the antichrist has been at work throughout history. The mystery of lawlessness was working in 51AD when Paul wrote this. It is working today. But the one restraining was doing so in 51 AD and He is doing so today.

And it will continue, like this, until the restraint is “taken out of the way.” This phase is very difficult and means one of two things:

1. Steps out of the way
2. Until it comes of the midst

**Let me show you this in the Greek, in my Interlinear (Power Point):**

The idea seems to be that the mystery of lawlessness is already at work in the first century, he who restrains will continue to do so, until “out of the midst it comes” or until “he steps out of the way.”

**Vs 8 - Revealed - ἀποκαλύπτω** (ap-ok-al-oop’-to) – The lawless one will be **uncovered.** This is Paul’s third use of this word.

Then without pomp or grandeur, Paul tells them that Jesus will **kill** the man of sin, the son of destruction, with the breath of his mouth, and he will bring him to nothing by the **appearance** or **brightness** of his **coming!**

Now this graphic picture of killing with the breath of his mouth has its foundation in the Old Testament:

*“but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.” (Isa 11:4 ESV)*

Jesus will bring him (the antichrist) to nothing by the appearance or the brightness of his **coming**

**παρουσία** (par-oo-see’-ah).

OK, now we **definitely have a connection**. We said the **παρουσία** (par-oo-see’-ah) of the Lord, was when he comes to rapture the church. Here we are clearly told the **παρουσία** (par-oo-see’-ah) is also when the Lord Jesus will **destroy**, **overthrow**, **do away with**, **bring to nothing** the antichrist with the appearance or brightness of His **coming**!

Below is every place where Paul uses **παρουσία** in reference to the “coming of Jesus”:

*“****22*** *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.* ***23*** *But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.” (1Co 15:22-23 ESV)*

*“For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?” (1Th 2:19 ESV)*

*“****12*** *and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,* ***13*** *so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.” (1Th 3:12-13 ESV)*

*“****15*** *For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.* ***16*** *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.* ***17*** *Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.” (1Th 4:15-17 ESV)*

*“Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1Th 5:23 ESV)*

*“****1*** *¶ Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers,* ***2*** *not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.” (2Th 2:1-2 ESV)*

*“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.” (2Th 2:8 ESV)*

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***9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***

**The “coming” παρουσία** (par-oo-see’-ah) of the lawless one is according to the working and power of Satan. He will come with power, signs, and lying wonders.

For all that this means, it **for sure means** that the man of sin (antichrist), will come with **power**, **signs**, and **lying wonders**.

**Vs 10** – He will come with **unrighteous deception**, **but only to those who are to perish.** Because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved.

If you are a child of God, you will not be deceived and ultimately perish, in fact, just the opposite:

*“who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1Pe 1:5 ESV)*

*“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Php 1:6 ESV)*

*“****38*** *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,* ***39*** *nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Ro 8:38-39 ESV)*

**Vs 11 -** This is very sobering, men and women reject God, reject His message of love and one day, during the time of the antichrist, God sends those ones who have rejected Him strong delusion.

They have rejected God, in some cases over and over again, and now God sends then a strong delusion.

**Vs 12 -** Ultimately, we see where this lie leads… That they might all “believe the lie” that they would ultimately be condemned.

The Greek word is **κρίνω** (kree’-no) – it means **to be judged**, **to be determined**, or **to be separated**.

The word itself can be used in a **positive**, **negative**, or even a **neutral** (like making a decision) sense.

*Mat 7:2a “For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged…”*

The context determines which way we should translate, here we see it is **negative**. It is the judgment of God, thus the ESV translators translated the word (in the negative “condemned”. Other translations translate this to words like “damned” – NKJV, “judged” – ASV, “condemned” - Holman

**Vs 12b –** It appears thetruth that Paul has in mind is the gospel. Here is what he says in verse 13:

*“13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2Th 2:13-14 ESV)*

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**Lessons in Faith from 2:1-12:**

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