

2 THESSALONIANS SESSION 1

Review: Last week we finished up 1st Thessalonians, going through chapter 5. Paul spoke of the day of the Lord and said that it would come like a thief in the night. He told them that they were children of light and of the day meaning that spiritually they knew what was going on and to be looking for the appearing of Christ. He then warns them about going to sleep or being drunk so then that day catches them unaware. He finishes his letter with instructions to help them: rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all things, quench not the Spirit, despise not prophesyings, prove all things and hold fast to that which is good, and abstain from all appearance of evil. When these commands are obeyed, they help Christians stay connected to Christ and vigilant in their watching.

Background: 2 Thessalonians was written sometime in 51-52 AD by the apostle Paul. The reason for the letter is because there was another letter written and forged with Paul's signature that caused a lot of confusion and fear among the Thessalonians regarding the second coming of Christ. The rapture was revealed in the first letter and this second letter speaks on the events after the rapture that lead up to the second coming of Christ.

The differences between the rapture of the church and the second coming of Christ:

RAPTURE

Christ appears

Christ comes for his own in the clouds

Believers are taken up

No judgment on earth

Church is taken to heaven

Imminent (could happen any time)

For believers only

Before the day of wrath

No mention of Satan

Only his own will see him

No Signs precede

SECOND COMING

Christ is revealed

Christ comes with his own to earth

No one is taken up

Christ judges the peoples of earth

Christ sets up his kingdom here

Happens after the great tribulation

Affects all mankind

After the tribulation of those days

Satan is bound for 1,000 years

Every eye shall behold him

Signs in the sun, moon and stars

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *This is the salutation of Paul who was with Silas and Timothy. Paul always begins with grace and peace to those he is addressing.*

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: *Paul gives high praise to this church for their faith, charity and patience. He does this without building up their pride by giving God thanks for their progress. The Christians in Thessalonica withdrew from the culture of idolatry which easily marked them and made them a target of persecution.*

2 Thessalonians 1:5-6 *Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; It is a repeated truth that tribulation accompanies the kingdom of God because the kingdom of darkness wars against it on the earth. It is also a repeated truth that God allows his to suffer tribulation, then he pays back tribulation to those who made his suffer.*

Examples:

Haman hated Mordecai and all the Jews. He planned to hang Mordecai on gallows 75 feet high and manipulated the king into decreeing that all Jews be destroyed. Esther interceded on behalf of her people and they were spared. Haman was exposed and hung on his own gallows while Mordecai was honored by the king.

Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego were bound up and thrown into the midst of a burning fiery furnace for not worshipping Nebuchadnezzar's golden image. The three Hebrews were unharmed in the furnace because of the fourth man that met them in there, but the men that threw them in were killed by the intense heat and flames.

Daniel was arrested and placed into a den of lions overnight for praying to his God. An angel shut their mouths, and he came out unscathed the next day but the men that plotted his demise were thrown in with their wives and children. They were destroyed and Daniel got a promotion.

Herod Agrippa 1 had killed James and arrested Peter intending to kill him as well. An angel rescued Peter from prison, but Herod gave an oration in royal apparel, and the people proclaimed him to be a god. An angel of the Lord smote him, and he was eaten by worms and died.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: *In his first letter, Paul writes about the rapture of the church to comfort the grieving. In this letter he writes about the second coming to comfort the afflicted. The rapture will bring joy to the saints, and the second coming will bring punishment to the lost. People can reject the gospel, but they will suffer the vengeance of God for doing so.*

2 Thessalonians 1:9-10 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. *Here's an interesting passage of scripture from the Isaiah touching on the Lord's vengeance -* **Isaiah 63:1-4** Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of *his* goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. *When God is at work in us and through us, then Christ is glorified. To be glorified means that He is both exalted and becomes manifested.* **John 11:4** When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. *When he raised Lazarus after being dead 4 days, many believed on him as the Son of God. He showed them who he was and was glorified for doing it.*