

A blue-toned mountain landscape with a large white number 2 in the center.

2

THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 1

2 THESSALONIANS OUTLINE

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1

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2 THESSALONIANS INTRODUCTION

- ☀️ **Paul wrote this letter from Corinth a few months after writing 1 Thessalonians.**
- ☀️ **Just a few months after writing 1 Thessalonians, word came from Thessalonica that some had misunderstood Paul's teaching about the Second Coming.**
- ☀️ **Paul has to address two mistaken issues (1) That Jesus could come at any time; (2) Persecution (from man or Satan) is not the same as God's judgment.**
- ☀️ **Paul tells them not to listen to rumors and reports that the day of the Lord has already begun (2Th.2:1-2).**



2 THESSALONIANS MEGA THEMES

1 Persecution

2 Steadfastness

3 Great Apostasy

4 Christ's Coming



THESSALONIANS' DEFECTIVE ESCHATOLOGY

1 *Thessalonians*

THEY WERE TROUBLED BY BELIEVING...

THEIR LOVED ONES

...WOULD MISS THE *PAROUSIA*

2 *Thessalonians*



THEY WERE TROUBLED BY BELIEVING...

THEY THEMSELVES

...WOULD MISS THE *PAROUSIA*

**Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the
Thessalonians in God our
Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ:**

2 THESSALONIANS 1:1



“Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:” (1Th.1:1)

- SILAS traveled with Paul on his second missionary journey and was imprisoned and set free with Paul in the Philippian jail (Ac.16:19-24).**
- When Paul first came to Thessalonica, Silas came with him (Ac.17:1-9), so the Thessalonians knew Silas well.**
- TIMOTHY was a resident of Lystra, a city in the province of Galatia (Ac.16:1-3).**
- Paul sent TIMOTHY to the Thessalonians on a previous occasion (1Th.3:2).**



**Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.**

2 THESSALONIANS 1:2

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (1Th.1:2)

- **The Greek makes it plain that the Father and Christ are one source.**
- **The Son is placed side by side with the Father as the source of divine grace without any need of comment.**
- **Paul desires for them to experience all the resources of God's grace provision**



but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen. (2Pe.3:18).




A scenic landscape featuring a field of green wheat in the foreground, a rocky path leading through it, and a sunset sky with orange and purple clouds. The background shows rolling hills and trees.

Paul's Encouragement


(2 Thessalonians 1:3-4)

**We are bound to thank God always
for you, brethren, as it is fitting,
because your faith grows
exceedingly, and the love of every
one of you all abounds toward each
other,**

2 THESSALONIANS 1:3



“We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,” (1Th.1:3)





- **For Paul, the giving of thanks for God’s great work was an obligation - he was bound to do so, and it was fitting, because of the work God did in them.**
- **“Grows exceedingly” (*huperauxanō*) is only used here and gives the thought of a vigorous growth.**
- **How to grow faith: Do all you can, and then do a little more. When you can do the more find even more to do.**
- **Always have something in hand that is greater than your present capacity. Grow up to it, and when you have grown up to it, grow more.**



**so that we ourselves boast of
you among the churches of God
for your patience and faith in all
your persecutions and tribulations
that you endure,**



2 THESSALONIANS 1:4



“so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,” (1Th.1:4)

- The idea is that though it was unusual for someone who planted a church to glory in its success, Paul was so impressed by what God was doing among the Thessalonians even he took the liberty to glory in that work.**
- “Tribulation” [G2347 *thlipsis*, means pressure]. This is not something new or strange to the church.**





“so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,” (1Th.1:4)

...We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God (Ac.14:22)

For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake (Ph.1:29)

¹²Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. (1Pe.4:12-13)





A scenic landscape featuring a vibrant green field in the foreground, a path of smooth, light-colored rocks leading through it, and a sunset sky with warm orange and red hues. The background shows rolling hills and a line of trees.

Paul's Exhortation

(2 Thessalonians 1:5-12)

**which is manifest evidence of the
righteous judgment of God, that
you may be counted worthy of
the kingdom of God, for which
you also suffer;**



2 THESSALONIANS 1:5



“which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;” (1Th.1:5)

- The persecution and tribulation of the Thessalonians set the righteousness of God on display.**
- God’s righteous judgment was at work among the Thessalonians, with the result of showing them worthy of the kingdom of God.**
- The “manifest evidence” was that God was good in allowing them to suffer the persecutions and tribulations (v.4).**
- We usually think that God is absent when we suffer, and that our suffering calls God’s righteous judgment into question.**





“which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;” (1Th.1:5)

- The fires of persecution and tribulation were like the purifying fires of a refiner, burning away the dross from the gold, bringing forth a pure, precious metal.**
- The idea behind “counted worthy” is not “seen as worthy” but “reckoned as worthy” as in a judicial decree.**
- Paul wants the worthiness of Jesus to be accounted to them.**



**since it is a righteous thing
with God to repay with
tribulation those who
trouble you,**

2 THESSALONIANS 1:6



“since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,” (1Th.1:6)

- Paul states here the certainty of God's repayment to those who are the persecutors of believers.**
- On the one hand God is paying back something to the persecutors, and on the other hand, he is paying back something to the believers.**
- God will give affliction to the unbelievers by pouring out his wrath upon the world.**






“since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you,” (1Th.1:6)

- Where suffering is coupled with righteous endurance, God’s work is done.**
- Many people question the righteousness of God’s judgment. They believe that God’s LOVE and His JUDGMENT contradict each other.**
- God is righteous. He will repay ALL EVIL, and it will all be judged and accounted for either at the cross or in hell.**
- The tribulation upon these persecutors of God’s people is not like a purifying fire. It is the fire of a pure and holy judgment.**




**and to give you who are
troubled rest with us when
the Lord Jesus is revealed
from heaven with His
mighty angels,**

2 THESSALONIANS 1:7





“and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,” (1Th.1:7)



- A day of rest is promised for every believer, WHEN Jesus is revealed from heaven with His angels.**
- Those for whom the Lord comes at the Day of the Lord, will be given relief from the affliction that they are experiencing at that time.**
- The time when this deliverance or REST will be given to the afflicted believers is at the revelation of the Lord Jesus.**
- Not only will Jesus deliver His elect, but also He will begin judgment on those who are left on the earth.**





“and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,” (1Th.1:7)

- These all refer to the very same arrival of Jesus at which time He will be revealed IN GLORY to believers and the world of unbelievers (Mt.24:30; Lk.21:25; Rv.6:15-17).**
- Pre-Tribbers take this very vivid church promise away from the church and make the REST that is in view, totally meaningless to those who are going through the afflictions.**
- At that time He will gather to Himself all the living believers and give them REST.**



“REVEALED” — (G601, *APOKALUPTO*) — **Verb**

“REVELATION” — (G602, *APOKALUPSIS*) — **Noun**

- Has The Idea of a Veil Being Removed
- As Noun, it is best translated as “at the revelation”

VERB

Lk.17:30 “Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed”

NOUN

1Co.1:7 “so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ”

NOUN

2Th.1:7 “and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels”

NOUN

1Pe.1:7 “that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ”

NOUN

1Pe.1:13 “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ”

NOUN

1Pe.4:13 “but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy”



DO BELIEVERS GO IMMEDIATELY INTO HEAVEN?

- 1. There is NO REVEALED NEED for the believers to remain with Jesus as He administers judgment on the world.**
- 2. There IS NEED to undergo "cleansing" through the evaluation and reward of each believer's works. This occurs in heaven BEFORE Christ's physical descent into Israel.**
- 3. Comparing Revelation 6 and Revelation 7:9ff the believers are seen gathered out from the earth and seen in heaven.**



**in flaming fire taking vengeance
on those who do not know God,
and on those who do not obey
the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ.**


2 THESSALONIANS 1:8




“in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1Th.1:8)

- For the persecutors, who do not know God and do not believe the gospel, it will be a day of vengeance.**
- The word “Vengeance” has no associations of vindictiveness. It is a compound based on the same root as 'righteous' (v.5-6). It is a firm administration of unwavering justice. The idea is the application of FULL JUSTICE on the offender.**
- When Jesus returns and delivers His people out from the tribulation (the affliction), He will begin to administer judgment upon the unbelievers who are left on the earth.**





“in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1Th.1:8)



○ How is it possible for believers to be taken unaware as in Luke 21:34?





But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly (Lk.21:34).

- The campaign of the beast will begin in Jerusalem, and although having both the divine permission to control all the world (Re.13:7), he will not actually reach that far.**
- There will apparently be believers scattered throughout various places in the world, who will be untouched by the oppression of the beast.**



**These shall be punished with
everlasting destruction from
the presence of the Lord and
from the glory of His power,**

2 THESSALONIANS 1:9





“These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,” (1Th.1:9)

- **“From the presence of the Lord” sums up Scripture's picture of hell.**
- **Hell will be completely devoid of God and every aspect of His character, except one: His unrelenting holy justice.**
- **“Everlasting destruction” is eternal as the blessings of heaven are eternal. The penalty of hell lasts forever!**
- **The word, "destruction," has led some to the false doctrine of the annihilation of souls. The word is *olethros*, and means destruction in the sense of RUIN; that is, a total ruination of one's existence.**



when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.



2 THESSALONIANS 1:10



“when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.” (1Th.1:10)

- For the persecuted saints, those who believe, they will have God glorified in them on that Day.**
- To raise up such a number of poor, sinful, despicable worms out of the dust into such a sublime state of glory and dignity, will be admirable.**
- We likely will say, ‘I thought my bliss would be great, but not like this!’**
- Those who look upon the saints will be startled with the surprising glory of the Lord’s work in them.**





“when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.” (1Th.1:10)

- There seems to be a distinction between “saints” [G40, *hagios*, 'holy ones' or angels] and “all those who believed” (the elect). If holy ones refers to believers, then there is an awkward redundancy by referring to the believers directly in the next phrase.**
- When Jesus comes back, arriving in the clouds of the sky, He first uses the angels who attend Him to gather together His elect ones from all over the world (Mt.24:31; Mk.13:27).**
- Those who look upon the saints (“admired”) will be startled with the surprising glory of the Lord’s work in them.**



“when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.” (1Th.1:10)

THE ANGELS (HOLY ONES) GATHER BELIEVERS

- ♥ Mt.16:27, “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels”
- ♥ Mt.24:31, “He will send His angels... and they will gather together His elect”
- ♥ Mt.25:31, “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him”
- ♥ Mk.8:38, “when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels”
- ♥ Jd.1:14, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints”

* See also (Da.7:10; Mt.13:39,41,49; 2Th.1:7-10)



“when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.” (1Th.1:10)

THE ANGELS (HOLY ONES) GATHER BELIEVERS

- ♥ Using angels to gather saints is a common theme throughout Scripture.
 - ♥ 2Ki.2:11-12, Elijah goes up to heaven in a chariot of fire by “horsemen” who were angelic beings.
 - ♥ Lk.16:22, When the beggar died he was “carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom.”
 - ♥ Mt.13:38-39, In the parable of the wheat and tares, the “reapers are the angels.”
- ♥ Angels are associated with gathering believers (Mt.24:31) and ushering them to heaven (Lk.16:22).



ANGELS - SAINTS - HOLY ONES

“when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed” (2Th.1:10)

- 🔥 Paul distinguishes between “His saints” (G40, *hagios*, 'holy ones') and “those who believe,” otherwise it would be an awkward redundancy.
- 🔥 ‘Angels’ (G32, *aggelos*) and ‘Saints’ (G40, *hagios*) are the “holy ones” (see 2Th.1:7-10 for fuller context of our being rescued)
- 🔥 Saints clearly refers to Christian believers in many passages. But here these 'saints' (lit. 'holy ones') refer to angels at the Lord's Coming.

“COME” (G2064, *ERCHOMAI*) IN THE N.T.

• Focus: Anticipated New Testament Theme

Mt.16:27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels

Mt.24:30 they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory

Mt.24:42-44 ⁴²not know what hour your Lord is coming... ⁴³what hour the thief would come... ⁴⁴Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect

Mt.25:31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him

Jn.14:3 I will come again and receive you to Myself

Jn.21:22 If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me

Ac.1:11 will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven

1Co.4:5 judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes

1Co.11:26 you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes

2Th.1:10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints

Rv.1:10 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him

“when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.” (1Th.1:10)

SUMMARY CHRONOLOGY

- 1.** He will bring REST to the living believers by removing them out of the world via the rapture.
- 2.** He will begin to pour out His judgments via the trumpets and bowls upon the unbelievers who remain behind.
- 3.** The ultimate destiny of these unbelievers who are judged will be the lake of fire, which will not be meted out to them until after the millennial reign of Jesus.



Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,

2 THESSALONIANS 1:11



“Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,” (1Th.1:11)

- **Since the Thessalonian Christians were in the midst of persecution and tribulation, they needed prayer. Here, Paul assured them that he and his associates pray always for them.**

- **WAYS TO FULFIL THIS CALLING:**



Fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness (living lives touched by His goodness, and displaying it)

Fulfill the work of faith with power (believing on Jesus and seeing His work done all around us by faith)



**that the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ may be glorified in you,
and you in Him, according to the
grace of our God and the Lord
Jesus Christ.**

2 THESSALONIANS 1:12



“that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (1Th.1:12)

- This great work of living worthy of His calling can only happen according to the grace of God.**
- It happens by His power, favor, and acceptance in working in us, moving along our will and cooperation.**
- This is a prayer that the Thessalonian believers would be consistent in their growth and service so that they might fulfill the reason for being left here on earth, which is to glorify the name of our Lord Jesus.**



**Now, brethren, concerning the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
and our gathering together to
Him, we ask you,**

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1



**“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,”
(2Th.2:1)**

- Paul moves into the identification of the REVELATION of Jesus mentioned at 1:7, 10, as the ‘COMING’ or PRESENCE (*parousia*) of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- He identifies the REST mentioned at 1:7 with "our GATHERING together to Him.**
- The word *parousia* occurs 12 times in the epistles and always in reference to the PRESENCE of Jesus at His second coming to the church.**
- *Parousia* is used four times by Jesus at Matthew 24 (verses 3, 27, 37, 39) to refer to this very same presence or COMING of the Son of Man.**



“COMING” (G3952, *PAROUSIA*) OF CHRIST

- Focus: Jesus Spoke of His COMING to Gather His Elect From the Earth
- Focus: The Epistles Speak of the PRESENCE of Jesus With His Church

Mt.24:3 What shall be the sign of thy Coming

Mt.24:27 As lightning east and west so shall the Coming of the Son of man be

Mt.24:37 As the days of Noah, so shall the Coming of the Son of man be

Mt.24:39 Knew not until the flood came...so shall the Coming of the Son of man be

1Co.15:23 Christ the firstfruit and afterward they that are Christ's at His Coming

1Th.2:19 “Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his Coming?”

1Th.3:13 Establish your hearts unblameable at the Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

1Th.4:15 We which are alive and remain unto the Coming of the Lord

1Th.5:23 Spirit, soul, and body preserved until the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ

2Th.2:1 The Coming of the Lord Jesus and our gathering together unto Him

2Th.2:8 The wicked one revealed and destroyed with the brightness of His Coming

Jm.5:7 Be patient unto the Coming of the Lord

Jm.5:8 Establish your hearts unto the Coming of the Lord

2Pe.1:16 The power and Coming of our Lord

2Pe.3:4 Where is the promise of His Coming?

2Pe.3:12 Looking for the Coming day of God

1Jn.2:28 Abide in Christ with confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His Coming