

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

2

THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 2:1-4

2 THESSALONIANS OUTLINE

CHAPTER

God's Righteous Retribution (1:1-12)

1

Paul's Encouragement 1:3-4

Paul's Exhortation 1:5-12

Why are we suffering?

PERSECUTION



CHAPTER

The Man of Sin (2:1-17)

2

Prophetic Correction 2:1-12

Pastoral Comfort 2:13-17

What will occur?

PROPHECY



CHAPTER

Disciplining the Disorderly (3:1-18)

3

Regarding Prayer 3:1-5

Regarding Undisciplined Living 3:6-15





Paul's Benediction 3:16-18

How do I respond?

PRACTICE



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).



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*


2 THESSALONIANS CONTEXT

The Problem Bringing Tension

- The Thessalonians understood that the Day of the Lord will be a time of God's great wrath (Is.22; Je.30:1-17; Jl.1-2; Am.5; Zp.1).
- They were undergoing persecution coming from unbelieving men.
- They had an overly simplistic view:
 - The DOTL is a time of God's wrath which is “**bad stuff**”.
 - They were experiencing persecution from man or Satan which is “**bad stuff**”.
- They began to think they were in the Day of the Lord.

**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 (*apokalupsis*) 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



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

- Paul refers to two distinct ideas, namely, (1) “the coming” and (2) our “gathering together”. These are governed by one Greek article (Grandville Sharp Rule), which indicates two aspects of a single event.**
- This is the rapture of the church. Christ comes down and we go up to meet Him in the air (1Th.4:16-17).**



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

Heaven



JESUS
Coming

Clouds



Gathering
BELIEVERS



2 THESSALONIANS 2:1 — GRANDVILLE SHARP RULE

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you
'Ερωτῶμεν δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, ὑπὲρ τῆς παρουσίας τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ ἡμῶν ἐπισυναγωγῆς ἐπ' αὐτόν

The Rule in Brief: “When the copulative *kai* connects two nouns of the same case, if the article *ho*, or any of its cases, then the latter always relates to the same noun that is expressed or described by the first noun.”

RULES

1. Two distinct nouns of the same case

2. Governed by one Greek article (*tēs*)

3. Two or more nouns separated by a (*kai*)

4. They are two aspects of a single event.

TEXT

the
τῆς

coming
παρουσίας

and
καὶ

gathering together
ἐπισυναγωγή

Thus, the coming and gathering together refer to the same event*

*Pre-tribbers call this 2 aspects of Jesus' Second Coming separated by a period of time.

TITUS 2:13 — GRANDVILLE SHARP RULE

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ
προσδεχόμενοι τὴν μακαρίαν ἐλπίδα καὶ ἐπιφάνειαν τῆς δόξης τοῦ μεγάλου Θεοῦ καὶ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ

The Rule in Brief: “When the copulative *kai* connects two nouns of the same case, if the article *ho*, or any of its cases, then the latter always relates to the same noun that is expressed or described by the first noun.”

RULES

1. Two distinct nouns of the same case

2. Governed by one Greek article (*tēn*)

3. Two or more nouns separated by a (*kai*)

4. They are two aspects of a single event.

TEXT

the
τὴν

blessed hope
μακαρίαν ἐλπίδα

and
καὶ



glorious appearing
ἐπιφάνειαν δόξης

Thus, the blessed hope and glorious appearing are referring to the same event

*Pre-tribbers call this 2 aspects of Jesus' Second Coming separated by a period of time.

**not to be soon shaken in
mind or troubled, either
by spirit or by word or by
letter, as if from us, as though
the day of Christ had come.**



2 THESSALONIANS 2:2



“not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.” (2Th.2:2)

- The day of the Lord is the time when Jesus COMES back, is PRESENT in the clouds of the sky so that He is REVEALED in glory, brings relief to His believers by gathering them together to Him through rapture and resurrection.**
- Their fears centered on the idea that the day of Christ had ALREADY come.**
- Perhaps they were troubled by a misguided prophecy ('spirit or by word') or that some leader wrote them a letter saying they were in the day of the Lord, and so missed the rapture.**





“not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.” (2Th.2:2)

- When the Day of Christ occurs we go to be with Christ, then what follows is the Day of the Lord judgments. The DOTL is when God intervenes in human history to dispense judgment upon the ungodly (Is.22; Je.30:1-17; Jl.1-2; Am.5; Zp.1).**



OCCURRING BEFORE THE DOTL

- **Sun, Moon, Stars Signs (Jl.2:30-31)**
- **Elijah the Prophet (Ml.4:5)**
- **The Falling Away (2Th.2:1-3)**
- **Man of Sin Revealed (2Th.2:1-3)**
- **Man of Sin Declares To Be God (2Th.2:1-4)**
- **Peace And Safety (1Th.5:2-3)**
- **Believers Mocked For Believing The Lord's Coming (2Pe.3:3-4,9-10)**

**DAY
OF
THE
LORD**

MAN'S PERSECUTION IS NOT GOD'S WRATH

Though we may think of them both as “bad stuff” they are certainly **NOT** the same.

PERSECUTION OF MAN

- **SOURCE:** Man or Satan
- **PURPOSE:** Satan wanting to compromise mankind
- **BELIEVERS:** We will endure persecution from the world or Satan (2Tm.3:12)

WRATH OF GOD

- **SOURCE:** God
- **PURPOSE:** God's wrath of judgment poured out upon unbelievers
- **BELIEVERS:** We will not endure the wrath of God (1Th.1:10; 5:9)

2 THESSALONIANS CONTEXT

The Problem Bringing Tension

- The Thessalonians understood that the Day of the Lord will be a time of God's great wrath (Is.22; Je.30:1-17; Jl.1-2; Am.5; Zp.1).
- They were undergoing persecution coming from unbelieving men.
- They had an overly simplistic view:
 - The DOTL is a time of God's wrath which is "bad stuff".
 - They were experiencing persecution from man or Satan which is "bad stuff".
- They began to think they were in the Day of the Lord.



Signs Preceding the Coming Day

(2 Thessalonians 2:3)

**Let no one deceive you by
any means; for that Day will
not come unless the falling
away comes first, and the
man of sin is revealed, the
son of perdition,**

2 THESSALONIANS 2:3

FOR BELIEVERS

**RETURN
OF
JESUS**



BLESSED HOPE

TWO SIDES
OF
ONE COIN

FOR UNBELIEVERS

**DAY
OF
THE
LORD**


THIEF




“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,” (2Th.2:3)

- Before the Day arrives the apostasy must first occur.**
- This is not A falling away, but THE falling away, the great and final rebellion.**
- The man of sin will be an individual (aka, Antichrist) who will come to prominence in the latter days.**
- Perdition means destruction. It is the opposite of salvation. Essentially it means the doomed one.**





“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,” (2Th.2:3)



- **The Greek word for “falling away” is *apostasia* which means to stand away from [something], or a departure. Paul provides a clue as to what this departure is by encouraging them to hold to what they were taught (2Th.2:15).**
- **Jews in Jerusalem heard that Paul taught all Jews in foreign lands to forsake Moses and the law (Ac.21:21, *apostasia* “forsake”).**



⁷And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?

LUKE 18:7-8



“⁷And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Lk.18:7-8)

- The extent of this apostasy is such that Jesus suggests there will be very little practice of true Christianity on the earth when He comes back to take the elect to Himself.**
- The issue is not the presence of believers ON the earth, but the presence of believers functioning "in fellowship" with God ("abiding in Him," 1 John 2:28).**
- The promise of justice will be kept when Jesus returns at the Day of the Lord (2Th.1:6-7).**
- It is the acceptance of beast worship that defines THE apostasy.**





“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,” (2Th.2:3)

ἐὰν μὴ

“unless [ean mē] ...w/o [proton]” Same Greek Construction Examples

Mk.7:4, “unless [ean mē] —

“When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash”

They don't eat unless they cleanse themselves

Jn.3:3, “unless [ean mē] —

“I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”

Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.

1Co.15:36, “unless [ean mē] —

“Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies”

That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies





“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,” (2Th.2:3)

ἐὰν μὴ ... πρῶτον

“unless [ean mē] ...first [proton]” Same Greek Construction Examples

Jn.7:51, “unless [ean mē] ...first [proton]”—

“Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing?”

Before “condemnation” two events must happen first. (1) hear the accused; (2) learn what he is doing

Mk.3:27, “unless [ean mē] ...first [proton]”—

“No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.”


Strong man must be tied first, before the house is plundered (the “then” [tote] confirms this)

2Th.2:3, “unless [ean mē] ...first [proton]”—

“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition”

Before DOTL begins two events must happen first (1) apostasy; (2) revealing of man of sin. Only after then can the DOTL begin.





“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,” (2Th.2:3)

- The context gives us a clear chronological order of events. There are two prerequisites that must occur before Christ comes to receive His own.**

1st

PREREQUISITES

2 Events

- 1. Falling away first (v.3)**
- 2. Man of sin is revealed (v.3)**

2nd

DAY OF CHRIST = RAPTURE

1 Event
Rapture

- 1. Coming of Christ (v.1)**
- 2. Gathering together unto Him (v.1)**



WORD STUDY WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE

Weak
Weight of
Evidence



Strong
Weight of
Evidence

EXTERNAL CONTENT	ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000+ years removed from the original Greek word. The focus is on the meaning of an English word, not the original Greek. • COGNATE & ROOT FALLACY: Rapture idea is not based on <i>aspostasia</i> (noun) but on <i>aphistmi</i> (verb)
	CHURCH FATHERS	Some church fathers who expected the church to directly feel antichrist's persecution include Epistle of Barnabas, Shepherd of Hermas, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, and others.
	KOINE GREEK AT THE TIME	There is no example of “physical-spatial” meaning of <i>apostasia</i> in the koine Greek period
INTERNAL CONTENT	OTHER NT BOOK	“but they have been informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to <u>forsake</u> Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs” (Ac.21:21)
	AUTHOR	Paul was accused of “forsaking” (<i>apostasia</i>) Moses (Ac.21:21)
	SAME NT BOOK	Only used one time by Paul (2Th.2:3)
	CONTEXT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical setting, grammatical usage, and lexical meanings. • The context refers to the “rejecting truth” idea (2Th.2:15).
	ORIGINAL GREEK WORD	<i>apostasia</i> ἀποστασία (G646, 2Th.2:3)



A landscape photograph featuring a field of green crops, likely wheat or corn, with a rocky path leading through them. The background shows rolling hills and a sunset sky with orange and red clouds. The text is overlaid on the image.

What The Man of Sin Does

(2 Thessalonians 2:4)

**who opposes and exalts
himself above all that is
called God or that is
worshiped, so that he sits
as God in the temple of
God, showing himself that
he is God.**

2 THESSALONIANS 2:4



“who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” (2Th.2:4)

- The man of sin demands worship for himself that belongs to God only.**
- This is the “abomination of desolation” spoken of by both Daniel and Jesus (Mt.24:15).**
- This event is the trigger point for the beginning of the period Jesus called the Great Tribulation (Mt.24:15-21).**
- The man of sin is Satan’s parody of the true Messiah.**



“who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” (2Th.2:4)

- The antichrist will reveal himself when he sits in the Temple of God saying he is God (Da.9:27; Mt.24:15; Rv.13:15). This occurs at the mid point of Daniel's 70th Week. Paul is saying this is something believers will see occur before Christ returns.**



SUMMARY CONTEXT OF 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-4

- ◆ **The context is the coming of Jesus when He gathers (raptures) us to Himself (v.1)**
- ◆ **Someone falsely taught that the day of Christ had already come (v.2)**
- ◆ **Paul clearly tells us of two prerequisites, namely, (1) the “falling away” and (2) the “revealing” of the man of sin (v.3) These must occur BEFORE the day of Christ begins.**
- ◆ **When the man of sin is “revealed” he will exalt himself claiming to be God in the temple of God (v.4)**
- ◆ **This “revealing” of the man of sin occurs at the mid-point of Daniel’s 70th Week (Da.9:27; Mt.25:15; Rv.13:15)**

TRIBULATION AND WRATH ARE NOT THE SAME

The Tribulation period and God's wrath are two different things. People tend to confuse the Tribulation period with the wrath of God. Scripture does not promise believers protection from the Tribulation period. However, we have been promised protection from God's wrath (1Th.1:10).

1 POINT 1

✦ Matthew 24:29 tells us the ***sun and moon event*** is AFTER the ***Tribulation***.



"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (Mt.24:29)



2 POINT 2

✦ Revelation 6:16-17 tells us the ***Wrath*** of God is AFTER the ***sun and moon event***.



"¹²And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood... ¹⁶And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: ¹⁷For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rv.6:12, 16-17). [Reference from Isaiah 2:10-22]



"³⁰And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. ³¹The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come." (Jl.2:30-31)



= SUMMARY

✦ The ***Tribulation*** and God's ***Wrath*** cannot cover the same timeframe.



If number 2 is after number 1, and number 3 is after number 2, then number 1 and number 3 are not the same.

PRE-TRIBBERS ARE VULNERABLE TO DECEPTION

- 1** Pre-tribbers do not have to think about the Antichrist because they will not be here.
- 2** Pre-tribbers are left with no fear of any deception (Mt.24:4,11,24).
- 3** Pre-tribbers will try to imagine what the world will think after the secret rapture occurs. They chase their own imagination independent of Scripture for theories.
- 4** Pre-tribbers do not distinguish between Antichrist's persecution and God's Day of the Lord wrath.