

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” (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).**

**“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).**
- **The Thessalonians were concerned for friends and family who had already died (1Th.4:13), that somehow they would not be resurrected because they would not live to see the rapture.**

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)

“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”).**

“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)

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

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

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]”—

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

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

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



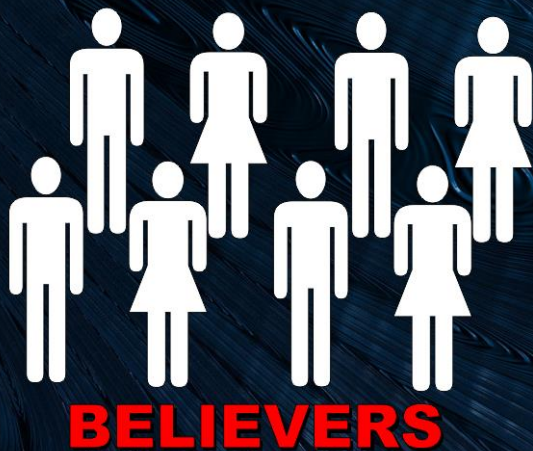
PROXIMITY

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>aspotasia</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.
	ORIGINAL GREEK WORD	<i>apostasia</i> ἀποστασία (G646, 2Th.2:3)

“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.**



“Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?” (2Th.2:5)

- **When Paul was still with them he taught about persecution, the rapture, and the antichrist. However, there was contradictory (2:2-3) teaching which described the persecutions they were enduring as the Day of the Lord.**
- **They confused persecution of man or satan with the wrath of God. That distinction is still confusing to some today.**
- **Paul taught them that they will not see the wrath of God poured out. We often need to be reminded of Biblical truth.**

“And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.”
(2Th.2:6)

- **They knew what was restraining the open manifestation of the man of sin, and what would continue to restrain him until the appointed time.**
- **Because Paul does not clearly tell us who or what is the restrainer, we must look for Biblical examples of Satan being restrained. Scripture will help us interpret Scripture.**

“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.” (2Th.2:7)

- **The mystery of lawlessness does not mean it was not known that lawlessness existed prior to this time. It existed then but will climax in the future**
- **There is a specific period of time when restraint will be removed (“taken out of the way”) which will allow the Antichrist to be revealed.**

“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.” (2Th.2:7)

1

**RESTRAINER Taken
Out of The Way (v.7)**

2

**ANTICHRIST Revealed (v.8)
Abomination (Mt.24:15)**

3

**CHURCH
Raptured (v.1)**

“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.” (2Th.2:8)

- **When the lawless one is revealed it will begin the Great Tribulation Period (3½ Years, 42 Months, 1,260 Day) which occurs at the mid-point of the Week (Da.9:27; Mt.24:15).**
- **This is a unique period unlike any other (Da.12:1; Je.30:7; Mt.24:21). There is only one unparalleled time of trouble.**
- **Persecution and Hiding of Israel in Wilderness (Rv.12:14)**
- **Period Antichrist will persecute Saints (Da.7:25; Rv.13:5-7)**

**“And then the lawless one will be revealed,
whom the Lord will consume with the breath
of His mouth and destroy with the brightness
of His coming.” (2Th.2:8)**

- **The lawless one will be revealed before Jesus returns to destroy him.**
- **Jesus cannot destroy Antichrist when He returns if Antichrist is not yet present**

“⁹The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

(2Th.2:9-10)

- The Antichrist will have the power of Satan backing him (v.9). He will deceive many unbelievers (v.10).**

“¹¹And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹²that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (2Th.2:11-12)

- **Because many will not love the truth to be saved, God will send a strong delusion so that they believe “the lie” (v.11). Their love of sin or “pleasure in unrighteousness” will condemn them.**

CHRONOLOGY SUMMARY

**RESTRAINER Taken
Out of The Way (v.7)**

**CHURCH
Raptured (v.1)**

1

Once the restrainer is removed, then the Antichrist will be revealed for who he is

— Unknown Duration —
The Great Tribulation is “cut short” for the sake of the elect (Mt.24:22).

3

2

ANTICHRIST Revealed (v.8)

- Abomination (Mt.24:15)
- Begin Great Tribulation (Mt.24:21)