

Analysis of

2 THESSALONIANS

"END-TIME ENCOURAGEMENT"

“For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, {7} and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, {8} dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”

2 Thessalonians 1:6-8

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2 Thessalonians 1:6-8

A1 THE SALUTATION TO THE CHURCH 1:1-2

B1 The Authors 1:1

- C1 Paul
- C2 Silas
- C3 Timothy

B2 The Recipients

- C1 Their location: The church of the Thessalonians
- C2 Their situation: In God our Father and the Lord, Jesus, Christ

B3 The Blessing 1:2

- C1 The **nature** of the blessing
- C2 The **source** of the blessing

A2 THE ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE CHURCH: In Light of Their Persecution 1:3-12

B1 Paul's Thanks for Their Faith, Love, and Endurance of Persecution 1:3-5

- C1 His obligation of his thanks 1:3a
- C2 The reason for his thanks 1:3b-5

B2 God's Vengeance on Their Persecutors 1:6-10

- C1 The **justice** of God's paying people back 1:6-7a
- C2 The **occasion** of God's pay-back: The unveiling of the Lord, Jesus 1:7b-8a
 - D1 The unveiling ¹ of Jesus from heaven
 - D2 With his mighty angels clothed in flaming fire
- C3 The **description** of God's pay-back [to unbelievers]: Giving full vengeance to those 1:8b
 - D1 Who do not know God
 - D2 And to those who do not obey the gospel ² of our Lord Jesus.
- C4 The **description** of those being paid back 1:9-10

B3 Paul's Prayer for Them 1:11-12

- C1 The **time** of prayer: always 1:11
- C2 The **request** of the prayer
- C3 The **motive** for the prayer 1:12
- C4 The **leverage** for the prayer

¹ 1:7 - unveiling: When Jesus is revealed from heaven, His true might and power and glory and holiness will be unveiled. The word Paul uses here is *apokalupsis*, the same word used in Revelation 1:1 and the title of the book of Revelation. It means the taking off of the veil. In His first coming Jesus veiled his might and power as the Creator / Son of God. He will take off the veil when He returns to this earth to reign, and He will deal out retribution to those who persecute believers. Those who persecute the followers of Jesus will "pay the penalty of eternal destruction" (1:9). Take advantage of God's love in Jesus now (Romans 5:8), before it is too late!

² 1:8 - obey the gospel: God command all men everywhere to repent and embrace the Good News that Jesus has come to die to pay for their sins. When men refuse to take God's gracious gift of forgiveness, He has no choice but to destroy them. Evil cannot continue to exist in God's purview. Jesus came the first time as a sacrificial lamb. He will come the second time as a Sovereign Lion who will destroy all His opponents. Now is the time to trust in Jesus and receive God's gift of eternal life (John 3:16-18, 36).

A3 THE REASSURANCE TO THE CHURCH: Concerning Christ's Return and The Day of The Lord 2:1-17

B1 Paul's Exhortation Not to Fear That the Day of the Lord Has Already Come! 2:1-2

C1 The **basis** for the request: The true view -- "with regard to the coming³ of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him" 2:1

C2 The **substance** of the request: ["Don't be afraid"]

B2 Paul's Exhortation Not to Let Anyone Deceive Them: in view of the true sequence of events surrounding the Day of the Lord 2:3-12

C1 The warning against deception 2:3

C2 His setting forth **the true sequence of events** surrounding the Day of the Lord 2:3-5

D1 The arrival of the apostasy 2:3

³ 2:1 - coming (of our Lord Jesus): The Greek "*parousia*" (3952) is translated "coming" 22x and "presence" 2x in the AV. It is the participle of the verb "*pareimi*" (3918), literally, "alongside -- to be."

"*Parousia*," (coming, presence), is used in the N. T. in relation to the coming or presence of humans, a Satanically-controlled being ("Antichrist"), and a new era. With reference to Christ it is used of His first coming, His return for the Church, and His second coming in power. It is altogether possible that some of the passages refer generally to His Second Advent, in contrast to His First Advent, without specifying whether it is specifically His return to take the Church to heaven (the Rapture) or His return to reign upon the earth.

In this instance (2 Thess. 2:1) *parousia* seems unquestionably to refer to the rapture, for the event is qualified as "our gathering together unto Him."

- D2 The revelation of "the man of lawlessness,⁴ the son of destruction"⁵ 2:3
 - E1 His exaltation of himself above all other religious entities
 - E2 His occupation of the Jewish temple as God⁶
- C3 The **existence** of a restraining force⁷ 2:6-7a
- C4 The **removal** of the restraining force 2:7b
- C5 The **unveiling** of the "Lawless One: 2:8

⁴ 2:3 - man of lawlessness: This is the world ruler arising out of a revived Roman Empire (European Union?) spoken of by Daniel (9:26-27), who will seem to bring peace to the Middle East by securing a peace treaty with Israel guaranteeing her the right to exist. He will evidently placate the Muslim nations in some way, perhaps by temporarily adopting Islam as the religion of his empire (Revelation 17). He is a lawless individual, making himself the standard of right and wrong and gaining incredible financial control over the world (Revelation 13).

⁵ 2:3 - son of destruction: The point here is not that this individual destroys, but that he himself is so assured of being destroyed that his father is destruction, and that is his essence as well, being the son of destruction (684 *apoleia*)! NIV translates it "the man doomed to destruction;" KJV = "son of perdition." *Apoleia* is a noun presumably derived from the verb (622 *apollumi*) used in John 3:16 "should not perish." That he is a man doomed to destruction is borne out by the fact that in 2:8, Christ is said to devour (355 *analisko*) him by the breath of His mouth and to invalidate him or make him obsolete (2673 *katargeo*) by the splendor of His coming!

⁶ 2:3 - takes his seat in the temple of God: Evidently this man of lawlessness has gained favor with Israel by giving them a seven year peace treaty (Dan. 9:27), which also authorizes Israel to rebuild the Jewish temple. How would the Muslims ever let this happen? Revelation 17 seems to provide a clue. There a prostitute is described as sitting astride a beast. The beast evidently represents a revived Roman Empire (see Daniel 9:27 and symbolism in Daniel 2 and 7). But the beast is controlled by the prostitute Babylon, which evidently represents a combined government and religion. It is my view that, to gain his purposes, for a time, this world ruler will require all of Europe to submit to Islam. In any event, this ruler, having obtained his political objectives, will double cross both Israel and the Arab world. He will take over the Jewish temple and declare himself to be God. He and his national representatives in the Revived Roman Empire will turn on the Arab / Islamic world with devastating results (Rev. 17:15-18; 18:1-24).

⁷ 2:6 - you know what restrains him now: The man of lawlessness cannot emerge now because he is being restrained. Only God is powerful enough to restrain him. The Holy Spirit in the Church is the restraining force which prevents evil from gaining control over the whole world. When Jesus comes to snatch up His church (John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), all restraint will be removed from the earth. Then the man of sin will emerge and gain control over the entire world.

C6 The **destruction**⁸ of the "Lawless One" 2:8

C7 The **power**⁹ of the "Lawless One" 2:9a

C8 The **deception** of the "Lawless One" 2:9b-10

C9 The **judgment** of God 2:11-12

B3 Paul's Gratitude for Their Salvation from the Judgment of the Day of the Lord 2:13-17

C1 The call for **thanks** 2:13-14

C2 The call to **steadfastness** 2:15

C3 The request for **blessing** 2:16-17

A4 THE EXHORTATIONS TO THE CHURCH 3:1-16

B1 The Request for Prayer 3:1-5

C1 The exhortation to pray 3:1

C2 The items of request 3:1-2

C3 The confidence in request 3:3-4

C4 The final request: That the Lord may direct their hearts 3:5

B2 The Command to Withdraw from Undisciplined Brothers 3:6-15

C1 The command to the church 3:6

C2 The example of the apostle 3:7-9

C3 The prior command of the apostle 3:10

⁸ 2:8 title - destruction: "The Lord will slay [him] with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming." When Jesus returns, He will execute this evil Antichrist, this false Messiah merely by commanding his annihilation (see Rev. 19:20).

⁹ 2:9 title - power: The incredible power of this false Messiah comes from Satan, who empowers him to perform miracles (just like Jesus did) in order to deceive the people of the world into following him to their own condemnation (2:10-12).

- C4 The occasion for the present command: His hearing of reports concerning some among them 3:11
- C5 The command to the undisciplined 3:12
- C6 Further instructions to the church 3:13-15

A5 THE CLOSING COMMENTS TO THE CHURCH 3:16-18

B1 Prayer for the Church 3:16

- C1 The object of the prayer: The Lord of peace
- C2 The requests of the prayer:

B2 Greetings to the Church 3:17

- C1 Personalized greeting: The greeting by my hand: *Paul*
- C2 Authenticated greeting: Which is a sign in every letter -- this is how I write

B3 Blessing upon the Church: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you! 3:18

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