

Now or Then?

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Persecution of believers now and judgment of unbelievers hereafter (at Christ's coming).

A. A Special Greeting (1:1-3)

1. A spiritual greeting (1)

God the basis for the greeting

2. A blessed greeting (2)

God the provider for the greeting

2 Corinthians 9:8

3. A thankful greeting (3a)

Based on answered prayer

1 Thessalonians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:12

4. A hopeful greeting (3b)

Based on spiritual fruit

2 Peter 1:8

Now or Then?

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Persecution of believers now and judgment of unbelievers hereafter (at Christ's coming).

B. Current Persecution of the Thessalonican Believers (1:4-7)

1. An encouragement to other believers (4)

Acts 5:40-41

2. A sign of being a child of God (5)

Romans 8:16-18

3. An instrument of the righteousness of God (6-7)

a. To the persecutors (6)

Romans 12:9

b. To the persecuted (7)

Revelation 2:10

Now or Then?

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Persecution of believers now and judgment of unbelievers hereafter (at Christ's coming).

C. Future Judgment of the Wicked (1:8-10)

2 Peter 3:10-14

1. A fiery judgment (8)

2. An eternal punishment (9)

3. At Christ's coming (10)

D. Paul's Prayer for the Thessolanic Believers (1:11-12)

1. That they would fulfill God's purpose (11)

2 Timothy 1:9

2. That they would bring glory to God (12)

1 Thessalonians 2:12

The Great Apostasy

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

**Events and timing of these events during the
Day of the Lord (Tribulation Period)**

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

I. A Crisis Concerning The Day of The Lord (2:1-2)

A. Confusion concerning the rapture (1-2a)

B. The Spirit of Anti-Christ at work now (2b)

1 John 2:18

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

II. Correction Concerning The Day of Lord (2:3-12)

A. Conditions preceding The Day of the Lord (3-4)

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

1. A falling away - Religious rebellion (3a)

2. The Anti-Christ revealed (3b-4)

Abomination of Desolation

Matthew 24:15-22

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

Matthew 24:15-22 - continued

19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

II. Correction Concerning The Day of Lord (2:3-12)

B. Believe the Word of God (5)

2 Thessalonians 2:5

**Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told
you these things?**

II. Correction Concerning The Day of Lord (2:3-12)

C. The Day of Lord is Currently Restrained by God (6-7)

2 Thessalonians 2:6-7

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

II. Correction Concerning The Day of Lord (2:3-12)

D. The Anti-Christ will be revealed in God's Timing (8-12)

2 Thessalonians 2:8-9

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

1. The end shown with the beginning (8)

2. The imitation miracles from Satan (9)

II. Correction Concerning The Day of Lord (2:3-12)

**C. The Anti-Christ will be revealed in God's Timing
(8-12) – continued**

3. For condemnation of unbelievers (10-12)

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

III. Comfort Concerning The Day of The Lord (2:13-17)

A. Salvation spares believers from God's judgment (13-14)

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Comfort Concerning The Day of The Lord (2:13-17)

B. Stand fast in the faith because of hope in God (15-16)

2 Thessalonians 2:15-16

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace.

III. Comfort Concerning The Day of The Lord (2:13-17)

C. Show God's righteousness in your life (17)

2 Thessalonians 2:17

Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

- 1. From your heart**
- 2. By your good words**
- 3. By your good works**