

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, [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**. *The KJV says as that the day of Christ is at hand. The Greek is to be upon, impend, threaten* [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, [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.

The coming of Christ. Paul now 'touches' or speaks concerning the subject of the coming of Christ. He says as to the coming, there is something that He needs to correct. Paul had written about the nature of the second coming of Christ in 1Thes 5:1-11. The message had been wrongly understood, For the Apostle spoke of His **sudden coming** and they interpreted it as **His immediate** coming.

we see in V2 they are shaken in mind or troubled. Tossed by a great storm in their minds, the sea and the waves roaring, unsettled and thrown off balance. The believers were behaving like ships that had become the victim of waves and wind and are being blown here and there. People were losing their heads, and no longer in a normal state of mind. Some had just stopped working thinking the second return was any moment. Misunderstanding and wrong opinions had been circulating. It's possible some thought that Christ had already come and the day of grace was now closed.

The Apostle says I beseech you brethren. He is gentle He is not ordering them. We urge you how you ought to walk, **we urge you not to be suddenly shaken**, and not to as a result of these things you are hearing to be constantly disturbed, especially not to be alarmed so easily that is, *either by spirit or by word or by letter*. There were many that had heard, and had their own interpretation of what they heard and would spread it. Perhaps they said things like, 'I'm sure Paul meant this.' Others claim they knew from a letter Paul had sent. There is a view that we can't totally dismiss that forged letters were circulating. The circulating view was **that the day of the Lord has arrived**. That in a very short time that they were going to see Jesus Christ arrive in the clouds.

Paul says let no one deceive you in any way. They were being deceived and led away, the apostle warns and corrects them, by telling them that the day of the Lord will not come **until two events first take place.** **1The Apostasy the great falling away,** great and open rebellion against God. Hatred towards God.

All through Church History there has been a falling away from truth. When the Apostle Paul taught the false teachers came in quickly behind Him bringing wrong teaching- you can't be saved by believing Jesus Christ only You need to obey the Jewish laws and customs. **Then came the Gnostics** who claimed God didn't make the world. That a lesser being, made the world. That the world was divided into natural which was seen as evil and Spiritual the good. Well, it undermined Gods Holy Word. Caused people to question the Creation account as written in God's Word as unreliable. That's what Satan does attacks the truth. **Then in about the 6th Century the great departure from the Doctrines of Grace and Faith in Jesus Christ** with the teaching of Rome. **Then in the 19th Century Theological Liberalism** which is an attempt to modernise Christianity to be more acceptable to our age. To focus on the moral side of the Gospel things like Justice rather than the Eternal side. **So all along Satan is trying to get the church to depart from Truth .** He is trying to get a great falling away. He is attacking the foundational doctrines of the Church. **When you think of this, apostasy, don't think of, people simply fading in their Christian belief, or losing heart, or drifting away.** Think of divorce, as it is in the world. **Think of a complete forsaking, with great bitterness and opposition.**

We must keep in mind it is not saying that Gods genuine children will fall away. The good shepherd knows His own sheep, and no one shall snatch them out of His hands. John 10:28 But it does mean those not truly born again who serve God only with their lips, who say Lord Lord but their hearts are far from Him. **Their Christianity is merely a short-lived formal activity in their lives.** Many shall stumble- Many shall fall away. Many false teachers shall arise and deceive them- many shall wax cold- **What we think is the Church,** what even looks like the church outwardly with so many people - will at large forsake the faith - Yet God has a people who will remain faithful. God always has a remnant - **Romans 11:5** Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Next is **the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,** - who opposes and exults himself against everything that is called God or worshiped. **Some scholars say that the**

antichrist is a movement, and it very well may be, but if a movement it will soon have a leader, **the leader is the man of lawlessness**. He is empowered by the energy of satan, he is not the devil incarnated as a man. This man of lawlessness opposes God, Yet when Christ appears he will suffer total defeat. Already there are many Antichrists in the earth, but this antichrist will become embodied in one man who will be far worse than what we now see. This physical man of Lawlessness will be revealed before the coming of Christ.

What is His Goal The aim of the man of sin is to oppose Christ. **He does not simply despise the Christian message; he opposes it.** ‘And exalteth himself’ He will be the supreme height of human arrogance. Look how the many antichrists have opposed God already. **Children are taught in the schools now, man is not evil.** There was a time when people followed teachers like Augustine and his theory of sin. well, It was not his theory of sin, it was Gods Word. **He talked about depravity and the fall, man being sinful by nature.** Away with all that! No, we don’t want to hear that. Everybody is good at heart. According to the new way and view embraced today, there is no binding moral standards given to us by God; it is up to us to write the creed that suits us, that works best in our society.

Man exalts himself: ‘I know best. I determine and decide. I am not fallen, I am not evil, I have authority, I have knowledge, I am free to do as I decide best. **Richard Dawkins, is a British evolutionary biologist who argues that belief in God is irrational and harmful to society.** **They oppose God** - did you know that Evolution is taught in schools and Universities as a compulsory part of the curriculum, in most countries, and the teaching of biblical creation or even intelligent design as a scientific alternative to Evolution is mostly illegal in public schools in USA. While in UK it is not as strict, but if you fail the compulsory subject, it will reflect badly upon you. **Can you see the downward trend the opposition to God.** Even now among us there are many antichrists. Even now in kenya this subject of Evelotion is being taught.

I read how Not long ago Professor Dawkins venting his views against holidays for Christians, Bible camps and conferences for children. **He called it brainwashing saying It should be made illegal.** Thankfully it has not happened yet, but it will, because this is the domineering manner of scientific humanism. In all this we see

and get a fortaste but its not the actual Antichrist – He is yet to be revealed. **Until these 2 events take place Christ will not return.**

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.*

Then When Christ Returns It will be visible for all to see. He will come in great power and glory; the Dead shall raise, the just and the unjust. **Judgement will them take place, and the world will be destroyed.** We do not find two "days" of the Lord at the end of time, **one for the righteous and one seven years later for the wicked** (2Th 1:7-9). Notice also the order of the events. The coming of Christ (including His coming for Christians) happens **after the apostasy and after the man of sin the man with utter disrespect for law, appears and not before.** **This man of Sin will be utterly destroyed by the blast of the Lord's breath.** It won't be a long drawn out conflict, the issue will be settled in a moment. The Lord will blow upon Him, so swift will be his destruction. He will be utterly defeated. The very appearance of the Lord, the first gleam of His appearance will put him out of commission.

Let no man deceive or beguile you. We see an illustration in *1 Thessalonians 5:3* *While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.* When a woman is with a child she may not know the exact hour, the child will come. Yet the mother to be, knows its soon, she knows it can't be long now, She may not know the exact day or hour but for sure she knows it will be soon. **The Believer no believer knows the day or the hour** but we can know it can't be much longer when we see the signs. We know when we see these two very clear events that will proceed the second coming.

In **1Thessalonians 4:13** Paul says concerning the coming of Christ, he doesn't want you to be uninformed, and we learn something of the sequence ch 4 : 13-17. **The coming of Christ the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, and the dead in Christ will rise first. The gathering of all the believers those who died in Christ and those alive at His coming will be caught up together with them and meet Him in the clouds.** In flaming fire, He will come inflicting vengeance on those who do not know the Lord. They will suffer Eternal destruction and punishment. **So this then is the nature of the coming of Christ.** There's going to be the revelation of Christ. There's going to be the rapture of the saints. There's going to be the wrath of God against the wicked. There's going to be the casting of them into

hell. There's going to be the destruction of the Antichrist. There's going to be the final judgment. There's going to be the new heavens and the new earth all described under this language of the day of the Lord.

But none of this will happen before there is a tremendous falling away. Many people have thought that this passage alludes to the great apostasy of the Church of Rome. It may not, however, be the man of sin, or the son of perdition; for there have been dozens of popes.. it may be that general spirit which springs up again and again, **one of the many anti-Christ's that were already in the world even in John's day.**

There are many such spirits that are constantly rising up, **not outside the Church**, if it were outside, we could deal with them more easily, **but inside the Church, using and twisting the words of truth**, to mean something far away from the truth of God. **This error is the great rock that threatens destruction.** Oh, that God's Church might always be kept from being shipwrecked upon it! But there is this rock or error which would, if it were possible, wreck the very essence of Christ's elect vessel.

V8-12 We won't attempt to explain all this all in great detail. The Mystery of lawlessness already at work, The polluting of the house of God, The dreadful horror of this man of lawlessness, who is in total rebellion, a son of Hell opposed to God's people and to God's Law.

I read that this Epistle and chapters are the most difficult to understand one of the old church fathers, St. Augustine of Hippo, said of this passage, I frankly confess, I do not know what Paul means.

Another theologian said It will be well for us, to bear in mind that we do not possess the key to everything that is here said and accordingly to maintain some reserve in our interpretation.

Yet we have confidence in the sufficiency of Scripture. We have everything in **Scripture that we need to know**, not everything that we possibly could know. We trust what we have is sufficient, **Paul reminds us, to make us wise unto salvation.** As I always say, let us always compare Scripture with Scripture and gain a richer understanding. **But what we can understand without a doubt**, the Church has to always be on her guard against that which comes as an angel of light, but is really a spirit of darkness.

The true believer must never be afraid of belonging to the minority. It is the remnant that shall be saved. All the deluded shall be destroyed.

As we begin to close *2 Thessalonians 2:13 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:*

Only damnation awaits satans followers, For us the Children of God - the richness of Salvation is developed in the rest of this chapter. We are the objects of His special love. Because of the immutable election of God, from the beginning He chose us unto salvation. An inheritance reserved for Gods Children. A salvation that becomes our possession through the work of the Holy Spirit, that is sanctification of the Spirit, A process causing us to become increasingly unchained from the World, and attached to Christ, until His image is completely formed in us.

V15 as the Apostle is summing up and drawing to conclusion – the Exhortation is, **so then brothers stand Firm.** Cling to what you have been taught. **Cling to and keep on clinging to the authoritative teaching's that have been handed down to you.**

Whether orally or whether by letter. *1 Corinthians 11:2 Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.* **Cling to - be watchful, - keeping a tight grip upon TRUTH.** Being fully convinced that God has chosen us, to bring forth fruit to His honour and glory.

Gratitude for salvation should flow from every breath. Thanksgiving is the duty of every Christian, May we grasp the greatness of our salvation so freely given May praise ever roll off our tongues . The Chapter Closes *2 Thessalonians 2:17 comfort your hearts and stablish them in every good work and word.* May our lives be comforted and stablished by the unshakable unchangeable good word of God. Our foundation and our Rock. Let us cling to and never let go amen.