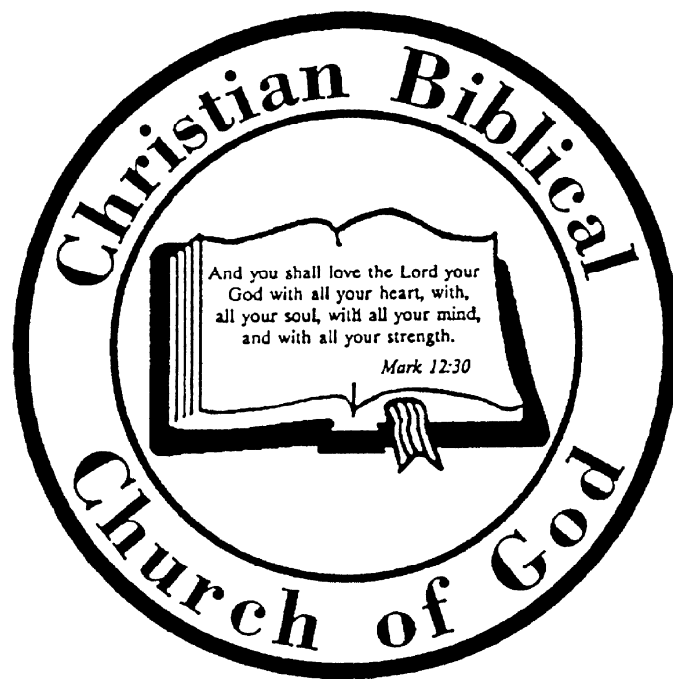


# Epistles of the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians



**Transcript Book**

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## Compact Disc

*[When included]*

Tracks 1 & 2 Epistle to the Thessalonians I

Tracks 3 & 4 Epistle to the Thessalonians II

Tracks 5 & 6 Epistle to the Thessalonians III

Tracks 7 & 8 Epistle to the Thessalonians IV

# Thessalonians

## Foreword

Fred R. Coulter, a minister of Jesus Christ for over 50 years at the time of this writing, has put together a 43-page transcript of Bible studies that he has held on I and II Thessalonians.

First it is noted that the letters that Paul wrote to those in Christ in Thessalonica were personal and loving. Additionally, noted was that the Jews had a synagogue in Thessalonica and these Jews were openly hostile to any preaching about the salvation of Jesus Christ. Paul, during his ministry in Thessalonica, had to deal with this hostility towards the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Secondly, it is seen that I and II Thessalonians teach that the brethren must never ever give up loving God or their brethren in Christ. They had to have faith, they had to have hope, and they had to have love for each other.

Thirdly, another important thing mentioned in Paul's letters to the Thessalonians was the very core of the Gospel. That is that Jesus Christ was going to return to remove Satan and Satan's demons from ruling over mankind. And just shortly before Jesus Christ again stands upon the earth as Lord of all the earth God is going to resurrect from the dead all those who received the Holy Spirit of God and who remained faithful to Jesus Christ during their lives. They will not be resurrected as a mortal physical body as they were before but as an immortal spirit body. After these dead in Christ have been resurrected then those who are alive and who have received God's Holy Spirit and have remained faithful to Jesus Christ will also be transformed into spirit beings. These now immortal beings will rise to meet Jesus Christ in the clouds prior to returning to earth with Christ to rule the earth with Christ.

Fourthly, also taught, is what the Book of Revelation says to mankind. Mr. Coulter shows what Revelation actually says about Satan the devil, the False Prophet, and the two Witnesses. There is much that is said about the book of Revelation in this transcript book. There is also much coverage about other important teachings of the Bible besides those found in the Book of Revelation.

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# Epistles to the Thessalonians I

## 1-Thessalonians 1-3

Fred R. Coulter

I was writing a letter and found something in 2-Thess. that changes the complexion of how we look at the things at the time of the end. Each of these small epistles are very personal and loving from the Apostle Paul's point of view of writing to the brethren.

The whole translation is not quite six pages long. 1-Thess. is supposed to be the first one written as epistles to the Churches. Then 2-Thess. is even shorter. Yet, in it is contained the key important events that tell us what we need to look for before the return of Christ.

The thing that got me was in 2-Thessalonians 2:1: "Now, we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our **gathering together to Him**... [an interesting phrase, and we'll cover that in 1-Thess.] ...that you not be quickly shaken in mind, nor be troubled—neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by epistle, **as if from us, saying that the day of Christ is present**" (vs 1-2).

The *King James Version* reads a little differently: "...the day of Christ **is at hand**." When you read it, you don't get the same meaning and feeling that you do with this proper translation: "...**the day of Christ is present**."

"...**at hand**" gives the meaning that it's almost there, but that's not the meaning of the Greek. The meaning of the Greek is that it "...**is present**." Also, notice something very important about it. Why is this phrase different from other things concerning "...**the day of**..."? What do you hear "**the day of**" called most of the time? *The Day of the Lord!* This doesn't say *The Day of the Lord*. It says: "...**the day of Christ is present**." We're going to see that that is a really big key when we get there. It's going to have an awful lot of meaning for us. That was the major thing!

This all was translated into study translations with the goal of translating the New Testament. I was really surprised how touching and how personal 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. is to the brethren, and how it applies so much to our little Christian Biblical Church of God group. We're scattered, troubled and we have difficulties and problems. We don't have the persecution like they did there, and what a reception the Apostle Paul had when he came to Thessalonica. Let's see a little bit of background of what happened there.

- You talk about dynamic preaching!

- You talk about a lively congregation!
- You talk about walking into the 'lion's den'!

When Paul went preaching, he walked into the 'lion's den' and it ended up in a riot almost every time!

Acts 17:1 "And after journeying through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica... [Greek: 'Thessalonike'] ...where *there* was a synagogue of the Jews. And as was the custom with Paul, he went in to them and for three Sabbaths..." (vs 1-2). You have to understand that Paul was the most hated person on the face of the earth by Judaism, because he was a traitor. He had renounced all of Judaism. That's why:

- there were false brethren
- those out to kill him
- robbers after him

His life was in peril all the time!

"...reasoned with them from the Scriptures, expounding and demonstrating that it was necessary for Christ to suffer and to rise from *the* dead, and *testifying*, 'This Jesus, Whom I am proclaiming to you, **is the Christ**.' Now, some of them were convinced, and joined themselves to Paul and Silas, including a great multitude of devout Greeks, and of the chief women not a few" (vs 2-4).

What Paul was accused of was that he was stealing for Christianity the universal religion that the Jews were ready to bring on the world. If anyone thinks that I'm too hard on the Jews, go online and go to [jewsforjudaism.org](http://jewsforjudaism.org) and you will get your eyes and ears filled with their attitude toward Christianity.

Verse 5: "But the unbelieving Jews became envious and took to *them* certain evil men of the baser sort; and when they had gathered a huge crowd, they set the city in an uproar..." The way that they solved their problem was with a riot. How do the Jews in Jerusalem solve their problems today? *They have a riot!* They were using the same tactics back then. So, they thought that if they could stop Paul and those with him then they could preserve their synagogue, but it was never to be.

"...and they assaulted the house of Jason, looking for *Paul and Silas*, to bring them out to the people. And when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and certain brethren before the city

magistrates, crying out, ‘Those who have set the whole world in confusion have come here also!’ (vs 5-6). The preaching of the Gospel was a tremendous and profound change.

I’ve watch on Discovery Channel *Terror X* and was about the religion of the Egyptians. Absolutely amazing! We don’t understand how these people were given over to demonism and idolatry and sex-worship of the absolute worst and basest kind. I was shocked that they were bringing those things out on public television. Absolutely the basest kind of religion, phallic worship of the worst kind. Now they’re bringing this out with these Eastern/Oriental religions. They’re bringing in the aspect of sexual love and bringing demon sex into America in a big, big way through these Eastern/Oriental religions.

The Gospel always turned the world upside down wherever it went, because it brought:

- truth
- morality
- dignity
- salvation

When they first came to the Jews and then to the Greeks they were turning the whole world upside down. Now they have to leave their idols, smash their idols, get rid of them. Remember that in Ephesus it caused such an economic depression—because of the Temple of Diana—that no one was buying the idols and the books in the Temple of Diana any longer.

What happened? Verse 7: “‘Whom Jason has received; and these all do *what is* contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying *that* there is another king, Jesus.’ And they caused *great* agitation among the people and the city magistrates, who heard these things. But after taking security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.... [here’s how bad it was]: Then the brethren immediately sent away **by night** to Berea both Paul and Silas...” (vs 7-10). They didn’t have streetlights and the local bus you could get on and get them out. They had to walk out! So, they sent them down to Berea.

1-Thessalonians 1:1: “Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church of *the* Thessalonians, *which is* in God *the* Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ...” Notice how Paul always pointed them to God the Father and Jesus Christ. This is how you are going to know who a teacher of God really is. Not by his proclaiming that he is one, but by what he teaches.

We are seeing that God is separating and scattering and dividing today, and getting rid of those who use Scriptures to have a ‘religion’ to manipulate people to politick them or merchandise

them, and their end is going to be very short. I don’t think God is going to put up with it very much longer, especially those who are trying to manipulate back into the one-world religion. That’s what’s happening! You can be guaranteed that!

You will notice that Paul didn’t bring in any notoriety to himself. Always to God the Father and Jesus Christ!

“...Grace and peace *be* to you from God our Father and *the* Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God always concerning all of you, making mention of you in our prayers. Without fail, we remember your **work of faith, and your labor of love, and your endurance in the hope** of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father” (vs 1-3).

Notice that right away he starts out with *faith, love and hope!* Note those key words as we go along, because you will see that filters through everything that the Apostle Paul does. It’s very personal and touching, very tender how he deals with the brethren.

A *work of faith* is something that ***you believe to the depth of your being that you act upon!*** That’s why if you believe God and His Word and you believe that the Sabbath is *His day*, keeping the Sabbath is *work of faith!* You ***believe God,*** and that’s the most important thing that there is. It produces the *work of faith* and your *labor of love*. Love is difficult; you have to work at it. There are always obstacles in the way, whether it be personally between husband and wife, family and children, or whether it be between brethren that you know well and those you don’t know well and people you work with. You’re always confronted with something that is imperfect! All of these things come along ***to see whether you really love God*** or not, and that you’re willing to *express that love*.

- If it’s never returned to you, now what are you going to do?
- Are you going to take a position then?  
*If you take a position, you’ve lost love.*
- What do I mean by that?

Suppose you feel that you are giving and loving as much as you can, and it’s never, *never, never* returned? So, you say, ‘I am going to wait until I am loved back.’ You have just taken a position and you have lost love. *You think on that!* Christ never did that; He always loved the Father, and in spite of everything that went on, He always loved God and humankind.

Right when He was being crucified, what did He say? *Father, forgive them, they know not what they do!* Jesus never lost love, because He never took a position contrary to love. That’s

important to understand.

It's the same way in your relationship with God. 'God, I will love you if you bless me.' You just lost love.

- What if God's blessing to you is a trial?
- What if God's blessing to you is tribulation?

I don't mean the Great Tribulation, *just tribulation, anguish and affliction in life.*

- Are you going to love God less because that comes?

What Paul was doing here with the Thessalonians was showing them that in spite of all this persecution that they were going through—and they had a harder time of it than we have had—they had to come out of a completely pagan society.

Here is about Christ; everything the opposite of the success story of men, Isaiah 53:1: "Who has believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?" That's a very interesting question.

Verse 2: "For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground; He has no form nor comeliness that we should look upon Him, nor beauty that we should desire Him." Everyone wants to follow the handsome, the beautiful, the great and the marvelous. God came plain and ordinary, nothing outstanding. Yet, He could have come the most beautiful, handsome and so forth.

God wants you to have love based from your heart to Him, not based upon a physical view or some carnal thing.

Verse 3: "*He is* despised and rejected of men..." yet, still loved God. As we go through this, remember that He still loved God the Father. **When all else fails, remember that God still loves you!** Regardless if you suffer, even if you're in pain, agony, persecuted or rejected, **God still loves you!** That's why God called you, because He loves you! Christ set the standard for us:

"...a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from Him..." (v 3). Oh yes, everybody turns aside from Christ; 'that doesn't meet our fancy.'

"...He was despised, and we esteemed Him not" (v 3). What did He do in His love? Why did He do that?

Verse 4: "Surely He has borne our infirmities, and carried our sorrows..." When you have a trial or difficulty, just like the Thessalonians—they had persecution—you don't go screaming to God and say, 'God, why is it that I

have this?' *It's to develop Godly character in you!* Don't ask Him why. It's there! That's why it's important that when you pray, you don't seek a position, or seek a benefit per se. You seek God! Seek His love, then you'll understand.

I think that in it then, we can come to understand how the Apostle Paul even rejoiced in his afflictions. He loved us so much that "...He has borne our infirmities, and carried our sorrows..." Think of it this way: All the grief and all the sorrow of all humankind of all history was born by Christ all at once.

There's no sorrow, no pain, no grief, no anguish, no persecution that God cannot intervene to help and strengthen you. Even if it is 'God, make me faithful unto death.' Even if that is the last thought.

"...yet, we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted" (v 4). That's what they said: 'If you be the Christ, come down off the cross. You've healed others, heal Yourself; show us!'

Verse 5: "But He *was* wounded for our transgressions; *He was* crushed for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace *was* upon Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed." That's what Christ wants to do with all of this.

Verse 6: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned each one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." You talk about an unfair circumstance. Have you ever suffered for something that you didn't do? *Those are the toughest ones*—aren't they? *But all of our iniquity was laid upon Him!*

Verse 7: "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted; yet, He opened not His mouth.... [not a complaint; not one] ... He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth."

Verse 10: "Yet, the LORD willed to crush Him and He has put Him to grief: You shall make His life an offering for sin. He shall see His seed... [the whole plan of God; through that is redemption] ...He shall prolong His days, and that the purpose of the LORD might prosper in His hand."

This is the whole example for us. Keep this in mind as we go through what the Thessalonians were going through and what Paul was bringing to them.

1-Thessalonians 1:3: "Without fail, we remember your work of faith, and *your* labor of love... [we just covered the labor of love that Christ had for us] ...and *your* endurance in *the* hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father." That's all with ***faith and hope and love.***

Verse 4: “Knowing your election, brethren, *as you are* beloved by God.” What does that mean? *God has called every one! God the Father Himself!* I think the more we think on that and the more we ask God to help us understand that, the greater that that becomes.

Who are we? Here we are in this little room, and if you would take a point of view from God looking down on the earth and here’s the earth going by and everybody traveling or in their homes and cars—whatever they’re doing—and God reaches down and says, ‘I’m calling you!’ He didn’t call the mighty, the great. That’s for sure, all you have to do is just look at us and we know that—don’t we?

There’s a reason for it. The mighty and the great would demand that God call them, because after all they’re so important. God couldn’t possibly get along without them. So, Paul is showing that, ‘yes, we’ll get along without them.’ This is why everything has to be based on:

- what God does
- the Truth of God
- the love of God
- the understanding God’s way

God is the One Who is involved in it. That’s how God is going to separate all these difficulties and problems. God is fully in charge! He knows what He’s doing! He’s given us all free choice that we can come to Him.

John 6:44: “No one can come to Me...” It’s not going to be an effort that a person makes toward God. God is the One Who has to do it. Look at all of the people down here in all of the Christian-professing churches. They go to church on Sunday so they can be better people. They go to church on Sunday so that God will have to accept them. They are good enough to come to God. They’re not because it’s on the wrong day, and *no one is going to come to God to force God to do anything!*

That’s why Jesus said, v 44: “No one can come to Me unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him...” God had to do something in each one of our lives, to draw us!

What it was in your life or my life is a little different in each of the circumstances as we go along. But certainly we can look back... I can look back and remember that day. I didn’t have a clue when it was happening, but I can look back and remember that day.

“...and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’...” (vs 44-45). That’s what’s happening when we study the Word of God, when we go into it in depth, *and with God’s Spirit God is*

*teaching us!*

- It’s His Word!
- It’s His Spirit!
- It’s His way!

The Father is teaching us!

“...Therefore, everyone who has heard from the Father, and has learned, comes to Me” (v 45). That’s why our calling, our election, is so profound! That’s why it’s so magnificent, brethren. That’s what Paul was telling them.

1-Thessalonians 1:4: “Knowing your election, brethren, *as you are* beloved by God. For our Gospel did not come to you in word only...” (vs 4-5). Of course, it’s the Gospel of the Salvation of God.

“...but also in power and in *the* Holy Spirit, and **with great conviction...**” (v 5). There’s something that happens when there’s trial and trouble and duress. It gives you *conviction!* That’s what God wants you to have, *great conviction!* In spite of every obstacle, in spite of everything, *you have conviction of the Truth, that it is right!*

“...even as you know what sort of men we were among you for your sake. And you became **imitators** of us and of the Lord...” (vs 5-6). The *King James* says *followers*, but to be imitators is quite different. We’re to be as children.

Our granddaughter Sarah was about a year old and was walking around, and it was a perfect example of open innocence of a little baby learning by imitating. Whatever Sarah saw us do she would do. Hands on the head, hands over the eyes, bow the head and say, ‘Amen.’ Imitating, not just following. Imitating means a willful desiring of wanting to soak in all that there is. With a little baby, that’s the way that they do and walk around for approval. That’s what it means to be imitators.

How many times have we heard, ‘Follow me as I follow Christ.’ The Greek means *imitate me as I imitate Christ!* Here is the ultimate of what we are to do. At this point Paul did not say ‘imitate me as I imitate Christ’; here’s what he said:

Ephesians 5:1 “Therefore, **be imitators of God...**” Can you imagine that? You talk about a high goal, a tremendous standard! *Imitate God!* That’s a tall order! How do you do it?

“...as beloved children” (v 1). Just like little Sarah. That’s why with this kind of attitude toward God and toward each other that teaching and shepherding the brethren becomes a tremendous and wonderful thing. It takes away all of the trappings of what we have known as a minister in the past and puts it in that we are all working together with God.



- God is doing His work
- God is doing His way

That's a wonderful thing for us to understand. That's why the Sabbath becomes so important. We fellowship with God the Father and Jesus Christ on the Sabbath Day. God has said that for all from creation, remember the Sabbath, because:

- God is going to be there
- You keep it Holy because *I* made it Holy
- You fellowship *with Me* because *I'm* going to fellowship with you

When we understand that and put that all together, it just really means so much more.

Verse 2: "And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us... [we saw that, and how He did it] ...and gave Himself for us *as* an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor."

Here's the ultimate and here's where it's all pointing to; here's what it's going to be. God is going to do it; Christ is going to do it; He's going to make it happen. It's nothing that we can do on our own, it has to be done with the Spirit of God, with the Word of God, all of this being taught of God.

Matthew 5:48: "Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who *is* in heaven is perfect." That's the full and complete standard.

- that's what all of this is all about
- that's why we exist
- that's why we live
- that's why God has given His Word
- that's why it's so important that we have it and follow it the way God wants us to

If you have that there isn't going to be anything that's going to hold us back. There's going to be nothing that is going to stop us.

1-Thessalonians 1:6: "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, having accepted the Word in much persecution with *the joy of the Holy Spirit*." When you understand the things that I have just covered, ***then you have the joy of the Holy Spirit:***

- in the midst of persecution
- in the midst of sorrow
- regardless of the circumstances around you

*Because God will give it!*

Verse 7: "So that you became examples to all those in Macedonia and Achaia who are believers." That's what we are to the rest of the Church, brethren. There aren't very many people around anywhere to be an example to those who are wondering: What on earth is happening? You can be

an example and you can help them. But I tell you that God is going to show that it's going to be those who really love God and He's going to deal with them. That's what's going to happen.

Verse 8: "For the Word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every *other* place also your faith toward God has spread abroad, so that there is no need for us to say anything; because they themselves are relating how readily you received us when we *first* visited you, and how **you turned from idols to God, to serve the living and true God**, and to await His Son from the heavens..." (vs 8-10). They were waiting for Him to return.

When we get to some of these other prophecies, they did not understand. We are living in a time that is going to be so unique, that even in these epistles that Paul wrote we are going to see that God inspired him to write some things in there that we can only understand today. Isn't that amazing?

The Word of God is so living and powerful that he could write this over 1800 years ago and it will be for us today. They were waiting for Christ to return.

"...Whom He raised from *the* dead—Jesus, Who is delivering us from the coming wrath" (v 10). He *is* going to deliver us from the coming wrath. I don't know exactly how everything is going to fall out, but a little later I will present some things to you that may give us a different perspective on how the end-time is coming about.

- Has any of the end-time prophecies happened the way we thought?
- Does that make the prophecies not true?
- *NO!*

It means that our understanding of them was not correct.

- Why was our understanding not correct?  
*Because we were trying to tell God what to do!*
  - ✓ In 1972 we flee! *Ut oh! We're many years late!*
  - ✓ In 1975 Christ is going to return! *No! He's going to return precisely on time in the time that He has set with the events that He has set and they're going to be done that way!*

God is the One Who is going to give us the understanding. That's how it's going to be.

1-Thessalonians 2:1: "For you yourselves, brethren, know that the visit *we had* with you was not without effect." I am trying to relate that to all of you today.

Verse 2: “But before *we came*, we had suffered and had been insulted at Philippi, even as you know; **but we were bold in our God to speak the Gospel to you...** [that’s what it’s going to take, courage in God because we’re going to be confronting some desperate times] ...*even* in much conflict.” There are those difficulties and problems that go on. Notice Paul’s attitude and how he came to the brethren:

Verse 3: “For our exhortation *was* not out of error... [it was right according to the Truth of God] ...nor from uncleanness, nor with guile... [he didn’t come in with a hidden agenda] ...but even as we were approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel, we speak in this manner: as *those* who please not men, but God, Who proves our hearts” (vs 3-4). That’s quite a thing!

- look at how Paul understood his relationship with God
- look at how he understood the relationship with the Gospel

Paul said that **he was approved of God to be entrusted** with the Gospel!

(go to the next track)

God let Saul, who became Paul, be all lifted up in *vanity, importance, pride, power and authority* and take the Christians to bind them, to shackle them, to throw them in prison, and to just make a total mess of his life. *Then God called him!* When God got done with him He said, ‘Paul, I want you to preach the Gospel. You understand that there wouldn’t be one single word that he would say contrary, without a doubt.

1-Timothy 1:6: “From which some, having missed the mark, have turned aside unto vain jangling.” Isn’t it amazing how we’re reliving all of these things today. Never at a time in the whole history of my being in the Church of God have the Scriptures been more meaningful, almost every word, wherever you turn. We cannot keep up with the false prophecies and heresies fast enough to defend ourselves.

Verse 7: “Desiring to be teachers of *the* law...” Scores of them, you just can’t keep up with it: websites, Internet, phones, faxes, newsletters and booklets, etc.

“...neither understanding what they are saying, nor what they are strongly affirming” (v 7). What they ought to do is stand up and say, ‘Brethren, I affirm to you that I know absolutely nothing, though I’m totally convinced that I’m right.’ It’s that bad!

Verse 8: “Now we know that the law *is* good, if anyone uses it lawfully.... [there’s a right way to use the Word of God] ...understanding this:

that law is not enacted for a righteous man...” (vs 8-9). You’re not going to get a speeding ticket if you’re going the speed limit.

“...but for *the* lawless and disobedient, for *the* ungodly and sinful, for *the* unholy and profane, for slayers of fathers and slayers of mothers, for murderers, for fornicators, for homosexuals, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers...” (vs 9-10). Sounds like we’re talking about the ministry; sad indictment—*isn’t it?* Sad that it’s so sick that we can even laugh at that!

“...and for any other thing *that* is opposed to sound doctrine; according to the Gospel of the glory of the blessed God, **with which I was entrusted**” (vs 10-11). God has committed something to our trust, to each one of us: *His Holy Spirit and His Word!*

I’m sure that Paul knew Deut. 18, every word of that! He’s going to speak the Word of God and that alone. He’s **entrusted** with it! Isn’t it interesting that Paul has more epistles preserved in the New Testament than any other apostle? We’ll see why in just a minute.

Verse 12: “And I thank Jesus Christ our Lord, Who has empowered me, that He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, who was previously a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent person; but **I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief**” (vs 12-13).

Do you think that Paul can convince people that God can forgive their sins? Without a doubt! Look at what he did *and God forgave him!*

Verse 14: “But the grace of our Lord abounded exceedingly with *the* faith and love that *is* in Christ Jesus. *This is* a faithful saying, and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (vs 14-15). He let that memory burn deep within him, that he would remain loving to God and faithful to always preach the Gospel.

Verse 16: “But for this reason I was shown mercy in order that in me first Jesus Christ might demonstrate all long-suffering, for an example to those who would afterwards believe on Him unto eternal life.”

If there’s any one thing that Paul did not have is political ambition. He could care less, because he didn’t have a position. He wanted the Truth. Always remember this: **In any difficulty, it is not who is right, it is what is right!** Even if you are right, does that make you any less of a sinner by nature? *No!*

It’s not who is right—**God is always right**—it’s what is right! That way then you don’t get

involved in politics, and you don't get involved in trying to please men. If you please God you will please all of those who are also trying to please God.

How many times have I said, concerning a position, that because the Christian Biblical Church of God is structured so that the whole congregation, or fellowship group—wherever it is—has input together to run things in decency and order the way that God wants it run. No one seeking power can stay in those fellowship groups!

Example: Someone came in and the congregation all got together and confronted this man and the congregation together took care of it in a wonderful way. That position of authority could not be exercised over them and squelch them. It's the same way with Paul; notice how he starts out:

Galatians 1:1: "Paul, *an* apostle, not *sent* from men... [that's the theme all the way through] ...nor *made* by man, but by Jesus Christ and God *the* Father, Who raised Him from *the* dead; and all the brethren who are with me..." (vs 1-2). All the brethren were involved in this letter; that's quite something to understand.

- he didn't say all the apostles
- he didn't say all the ministers

he said, "...all the brethren who are with me, to the Churches of Galatia: Grace and peace *be* to you from God *the* Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for our sins, in order that He might deliver us from the present evil world, according to the will of our God and Father" (vs 2-4). That's the most important thing: ***We must do and fulfill the will of God, and let it be done within us!***

Verse 5: "To Whom *be* the glory into the ages of eternity. Amen. I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to a different gospel" (vs 5-6). Aren't we amazed at all that today? How many people so soon removed? Why? *Because they all sought a position rather than God!*

Verse 7: "Which *in reality* is not another *Gospel*..." There can't be, there's only *one Gospel*, *there cannot be another gospel!*

"...but there are some who are troubling you... [we've all experience that] ...and are desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ" (v 7). It didn't take him long to get right to the heart and core of it—did it? What a way to open a letter; not even a nice thank you in the first part. Then he really lays it out:

Verse 8: "But if we, or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!" That's how much he trusted in the

Gospel of Christ. Do you think Paul would dare try and please a man in spite of God? *No way!* He took on Peter one to one (Gal. 2)—the 'chief' apostle?

Verse 9: "As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED! Now then, am I striving to please men, or God? Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ" (vs 9-10).

That, brethren, is the simplest answer as to what happened to all the ministers and the WCG. They sought to please men in were no longer the servants of Christ. This is the way that the Apostle Paul always did. That's why you will find that his epistles are here. *He was faithful to God!*

Verse 11: "But I certify to you, brethren, that the Gospel that was preached by me is not according to man"—right at the beginning of the epistles that he was writing.

1-Thessalonians 2:4: "...we speak in this manner: as *those* who please not men, but God, Who proves our hearts."

- God is going to test the heart!
- God is going to prove the heart!
- God wants to know what's in your heart!

God is going to do it. That's why all the physical things that are done out here are of no consequence. Here's what Christ is doing now, and this is an ongoing thing that He is always doing.

Revelation 2:23—to the Church at Thyatira and all the false doctrines they had because of the false prophetess Jezebel: "And I will kill her children with death..." Why? *Because eternal life and the Truth of God is not going to be mixed with error and sin!*

"...and all the churches shall know..." This is what we have to learn and what we need to know today.

"...that **I am He Who searches *the* reins and hearts...**" The reins are likened unto God using the Holy Spirit to test us and try us to see how we're doing, to know what is in our heart. Now notice what He's going to do:

"...and I will give to each of you according to your works" (v 23). That's why the heart is so important. *Works motivated from the heart because you believe.* That comes back to the labor of faith and love. So, ***Christ is going to render according to what's in your heart!*** That is we need to know and understand. God is going to prove the heart. You can be, in many ways, a total failure, as people would

view things, but a complete success before God because your heart is right.

1-Thessalonians 2:5: “For neither at any time did we use flattering words *with you*, even as you know, nor a cover for covetousness... [they didn’t come in to merchandize, take and steal] ...God *is our* witness; nor were we seeking glory from men, neither from you nor from others...” (vs 5-6). Talk about independent! But that is good because he can serve God in Truth!

“...*though* as Christ’s apostles we had *the* power to be burdensome... [had the authority to take tithes and offerings from the brethren] ...but we were gentle among you, as a nursing mother cherishes her own children” (vs 6-7). Isn’t that something?

That’s how the ministry needs to be. We need to be persuaded because of love. Leadership in the ministry needs to be leading with the Word of God like Paul did. That’s how it is to be! I’m convinced that God is going to raise up elders from among us that are going to be far superior to anything we have ever known in the past. They will be taught the same way, and that’s the way it has to be. “...as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.”

Isaiah 40:11—this is the way the Church needs to be: “He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry *them* in His bosom, *and* shall gently lead those with young.”

- You know what that will affect? *The greatest change within the brethren of God!*
- Why? *Because it gives the love, the desire!*
- Did you ever really change when you were attacked and ‘beat’ upon when you came to church?
- Did you go home with a loving desire to serve God? *No!*

If it’s like Paul does it here, you’ll want to; you’ll desire to because it will come from the heart, from your choice. That’s what God wants. God doesn’t have to come down and smash anybody. He’ll come down and save us.

As I’ve said before, *power cannot be in that environment*. Through all of this, what are we learning to do? *We’re learning how God wants us to run the Kingdom of God!* This is how God is going to heal the earth, but you can’t understand that unless you yourself have been loved of God.

Matthew 11:25: “At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed

them to babes. Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing in Your sight *to do* this. All things were delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son personally chooses to reveal *Him*. Come to Me, all you who labor and are *overly* burdened, **and I will give you rest**” (vs 25-28)—regardless of what the trial is.

Verse 29: “Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy, and My burden is light” (vs 29-30). If we can learn that, then that’s the greatest thing we can understand.

Notice how Paul felt about them, 1-Thessalonians 2:8: “Yearning over you in the same way, we were willing to impart to you not only the Gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you were beloved to us.” Notice *the whole attitude of service* toward the brethren:

Verse 9: “For you remember, brethren, our labor and *our* toil; for we were working night and day so as not to be a burden to anyone among you, *while* we proclaimed the Gospel of God. You *are* witnesses, and *also* God, how holily and righteously and blamelessly we conducted ourselves with you who believe; even as you know how we were exhorting and consoling each one of you, as a father *does* his own children, and *earnestly* testifying, **that you may walk worthily of God, Who is calling you to His own kingdom and glory**” (vs 9-12).

I want you to notice how the Apostle Paul always does this. He’s going to have a few things that he needs to say later on. But he always points the brethren *toward Christ and God the Father*, and to get your mind on that first. Then if there’s any correction that needs to come—which he has later—you understand it. So, he points them toward that, and it’s really quite a thing.

Peter did the same thing, and I’m convinced that the Apostle Peter learned some things from the Apostle Paul with their encounter in Gal. 2. Here in 2-Peter we have the same thing concerning the calling, calling you to His own kingdom and glory. Peter was talking about that very thing, how precious and great the calling is that God has given us.

2-Peter 1:3: “According as His Divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and Godliness...”

After seeing the Library of Congress on one of my trips, it had exactly the reverse effect upon me than my host thought it would. I was so impressed

that God could put everything in one book. You can stand there in a building with millions of volumes of books on everything under the sun, **but God put it in one book!**

“...all things that *pertain* to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by *His own* glory and virtue; through which He has given to us the greatest and *most* precious promises, that through these you may become partakers of *the* Divine nature... [That’s what God wants us to have, to be like Him! To be in glory as He is; to see Him as He is.] ...having escaped the corruption *that is* in *the* world through lust” (vs 3-4).

Verse 9: “But the one in whom these things are not present is *spiritually* blind—so short-sighted *that* he has forgotten that he was purified from his old sins. For this reason, brethren, **be even more diligent to make your calling and election sure...**” (vs 9-10).

That’s what God is doing with us now; it is sure; it is being perfected. That’s why the Word of God is so important.

“...because ***if*** you are doing these things, you will never fall at any time” (v 10). You are guaranteed success!

1-Thessalonians 2:13: “Because of this, we give thanks to God without ceasing: that when you received *the* Word of God, which you heard from us, you did not accept it as the word of men, but even as it is in truth—*the* Word of God, which is also working in you who believe.” This becomes a very important thing to understand.

You need to know the Word of God, and with the Spirit of God let the Word of God work *in you* so that it changes:

- your heart
- your mind
- your attitude

***That’s the work of God, the inner working of the Spirit of God in you!***

Verse 14: “For, brethren, you became imitators of the Churches of God in Judea which are in Christ Jesus; because you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they also *suffered* from the Jews; who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and drove you out, and do not please God, and *are* contrary to all men, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles so that they might be saved...” (vs 14-16). Can you imagine that, that they didn’t want to share the Word of God with other people.

“...in order to fill up their sins always. But

the wrath has come upon them to the uttermost. Now we, brethren, having been separated from you for a short time, but not in heart, are making every effort to see you *again*, with much desire. For this reason we sought to come to you, even I, Paul, both once and twice; but Satan hindered us. For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?...” (vs 16-19). Notice what Paul focused on. He knew that if he taught them and they responded to God, that it would be!

“...*Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?” (v 19). Can you imagine what joy it’s going to be to see the brethren that are going to be there at the resurrection?

Verse 20: “For you are our glory and *our* joy.” That’s something! Coupled with our calling and with what God has given us, we need to always glorify God for everything that is done.

Let’s notice, again, *hope, joy, crown, glory, joy and encouraging.* Now he builds on this:

1-Thessalonians 3:1: “Accordingly, when we could not bear to wait any longer, we thought *it* best *for us* to be left in Athens alone; and we sent our brother Timothy, a servant of God and our fellow worker in the Gospel of Christ, in order to establish you and **to encourage you** concerning your faith” (vs 1-2). Notice the encouragement!

Verse 3: “So that no one might be unduly shaken by these persecutions.... [they were coming after them tooth and nail] ...(For you yourselves know that we are appointed to this very thing; and also, when we were with you, we told you beforehand *that* we would suffer persecutions, exactly as it also came to pass; and you are aware *of this.*)” (vs 3-4). And ‘yea, you sent us away at night.’

Verse 5: “For this reason, when I could not wait any longer...” No telephones! We are living in an age and time that is something! Imagine trying to operate with no phones, no fax, no computers, no electricity. Every book had to be hand-written. Getting together for the Sabbath as we do today would have been an absolutely utter impossibility.

Now I can just get on an airplane and it’s a routine thing. There’s a tremendous miracle going on every day. Then you get up in the plane and look down and here are all the cars, trucks, buses and people, and it’s going on everywhere in the world. What a time we live in. Paul didn’t have that.

“...I sent *Timothy*, in order to know your faith, lest perhaps the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain” (v 5). The temptations are going to come, and the arguments are going to be slick.

Verse 6: “But now, after Timothy came to us from you and told us the good news of ***your faith and your love***, and that you always keep us in mind, *and* are longing to see us, even as we also *long to see* you; through this *report* about you we were **encouraged**... [Paul needed to be encouraged] ...brethren, in all our persecution and trouble—**because of your faith**; for now we live... [Paul was really rejoicing] ...if you stand firm in *the* Lord. For what thanksgiving are we able to offer to God concerning you, for all the joy with which we rejoice before God because of you” (vs 6-9). This was his way of saying, ‘Thank you for the offering that you sent.’

Verse 10: “Praying day and night fervently that we might see you *again*, and might perfect the things *that are* lacking in your faith? But may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. Now may the Lord make you to exceed and to abound in love...” (vs 10-12). Notice how Paul is focusing on growing in love.

- What is the greatest? *Love!*
- What never fails? *Love!*
- What brings us to God? *The love of God!*
- What brings us together? *The love of God and each other!*

The love of God can never be preached enough, taught enough or exercised enough, because it is the greatest thing and it is to exceed and grow! That’s what he was encouraging them to do.

Verse 12: “...abound in love toward one another and toward all, even as we also *abound in love* toward you, that your hearts may be established blameless in Holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints” (vs 12-13).

We saw where we were commanded to be perfect (Matt. 5:48). That’s the ultimate goal. However, you are blameless. Did you ever think of that? ***You are without blame before God!*** Why does God give His grace to put you in this condition? *To inspire you!* That:

- ***if*** God—Who is perfect—called us who are imperfect, which He did
- ***if*** God the Father is the greatest Being of all that there is and there is no fault in Him at all
- ***then*** you look at us and we have all kinds of faults and weaknesses and carnal nature and things like this

God looks at you and you have ***no blame!*** That is all through Christ!

This will help you: I have letter from a man who wrote one of the saddest, most pathetic letters I

have ever read from one of the brethren. I’ll just sort of summarize it; he said:

I have never felt worth anything, nor loved, nor counted worthy of anything, and I see no hope. I don’t know why God has called me.

That’s a tough letter to answer, but I wonder how many brethren out there feel the same way. If they just knew one thing: ***that they are blameless before God!***

- that doesn’t mean that you don’t have time
- that doesn’t mean you don’t have to repent
- that doesn’t mean you don’t have more to overcome

*You’ve got lots, and so do I.* But it’s to inspire you that if God would put you in that relationship just think how much you want to overcome. Just think how much you want to get rid of all of the things that hold you back.

Ephesians 1:3: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly things... [not in heavenly places; you’re not in heavenly places] ...with Christ.” Everything you need for eternal life!

Verse 4: “According as He has personally chosen us for Himself... [God did the choosing] ...before *the* foundation of *the* world... [God had His plan all worked out] ...***in order that we might be Holy and blameless before Him in love.***” Let that sink in! *Without blame!* That’s how God considers you, so you can be inspired—to grow and overcome in love!

Verse 5: “Having predestinated us for sonship...” It’s not an adoption, which is when you take someone from another family and bring that person into your family. This is sonship because we have the very seed of God the Father in us and we will be His children; called *His children!*

“...to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His own will” (v 5). Have you ever thought that God had His own good pleasure and delighted in calling you.

We may look at ourselves and say, ‘God, what for?’ If He could answer back He would say, ‘I know.’ His very own will and desire is why He has called you. Notice for what:

Verse 6: “To *the* praise of *the* glory of His grace...” That’s what Paul was saying, that you are our glory at the coming of Christ.

“...wherein He has made us objects of *His* grace in the Beloved *Son*” (v 6)—Christ.

***It's very important that we understand that  
we are blameless!***

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful  
Version* by Fred R. Coulter (except where noted)

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2
- 2) Acts 17:1-10
- 3) 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3
- 4) Isaiah 53:1-7, 10
- 5) 1 Thessalonians 1:3-4
- 6) John 6:44-45
- 7) 1 Thessalonians 1:4-6
- 8) Ephesians 5:1-2
- 9) Matthew 5:48
- 10) 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10
- 11) 1 Thessalonians 2:1-4
- 12) 1 Timothy 1:6-16
- 13) Galatians 1:1-11
- 14) 1 Thessalonians 2:1-4
- 15) Revelation 2:23
- 16) 1 Thessalonians 2:5-7
- 17) Isaiah 40:11
- 18) Matthew 11:25-30
- 19) 1 Thessalonians 2:8-12
- 20) 2 Peter 1:3-4, 9-10
- 21) 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
- 22) 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13
- 23) Ephesians 1:3-6

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Deuteronomy 18
- Galatians 2

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Transcribed: 5-15-15

## Epistles to the Thessalonians II

### 1-Thessalonians 4-5 & 2-Thessalonians 2

Fred R. Coulter

We're going to find a very interesting section in 1-Thess. 4 having to do with the return of Christ and meeting Christ in the air.

1-Thessalonians 4:8: "Accordingly, the one who rejects *these commands* is not rejecting man, but God, Who also gave His Holy Spirit to us."

It doesn't matter who it is. If this is the Word of God, which it is, and someone opens the Word of God to Exo. 20 and reads the Sabbath command, it's very important to get a concept that is true: *If it is the Word of God, which it is, then it really doesn't make any difference who reads it!* In other words, just because you may not like the messenger, does that mean that you reject the message? That's why, in spite of all the troubles with our past church experience, there was still an awful lot of success in it when they relied on the Word of God, because that *was the Word of God!*

Exodus 20:8: "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God..." (vs 8-10). It belongs to Him!

"...In it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter; your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your livestock, nor the stranger within your gates; for... [the reason, because]: ...*in* six days the LORD made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath Day and sanctified it" (vs 10-11). We can take that as a principle:

- Does it matter who reads the Word?
- Whose Word is it? *God's Word!*

Therefore, Paul coming along and teaching God's way, he can tell them that:

1-Thessalonians 4:8: "Accordingly, **the one who rejects these commands is not rejecting man, but God.** Who also gave His Holy Spirit to us." That's what's so important.

What becomes a problem is when a man comes along and presumes to sit in the seat of God, as if these words were the man's. That's where the trouble comes.

Concerning brotherly love, v 9: "Now concerning brotherly love, you have no need *for me* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another." Right here in 1-Thess. 4 we have:

- abound in and increase in love
- love toward one another
- sanctification
- brotherly love
- taught by one another

Verse 10: "And you also practice this toward all the brethren who *are* in all of Macedonia; but we exhort you, brethren, to abound *even more in love.*" I think the closer we get to more of the troubles that we have today, the more we need to abound in that love.

Verse 11: "And to aspire to live *a quiet life*, and to tend to your own business, and to work with your own hands, exactly as we have instructed you; so that you may walk honestly toward those *who are* without, and may not need *anything* from anyone" (vs 11-12).

#### **The return of the Lord and the resurrection:**

Verse 13: "But I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep..." That's how God views death. Although He views it that way, death is still miserable, painful and an enemy. That's why it has to be destroyed.

"...that you be not grieved, even as others, who have no hope. For if we believe..." (vs 13-14). This is the central belief that people are trying to get rid of now.

"...that Jesus died and rose again, in exactly the same way also, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say to you by *the Word of the Lord*, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall in no wise precede those who have fallen asleep" (vs 14-15). So, the dead in Christ are going to rise *first*.

Verse 16: "Because the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with *a* shout of command, with *the* voice of an archangel and **with the trumpet** of God... [notice, not plural] ...and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in *the* clouds **for the meeting** with the Lord in *the* air..." (vs 16-17). We're going to see that we're going to meet Christ in the air.

Wherever you find things concerning the resurrection it is **the seventh** trump. Keep that in mind. The Feast of Trumpets is not when the seventh trump is to be blown. Let's see what's going



to happen; it's going to be something! It's hard to say who is going to be alive and remain until the return of Christ, but being carried up into the heavens by the angels is going to be quite an experience either way.

Matthew 24:31: "And He shall send His angels with a great sound of **a trumpet**..." You have to remember that the trumpet was always blown on every one of the Holy Days.

"...and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (v 31). Notice when that is going to happen. Let's see what has to happen first.

Verse 30: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven..." What is the sign going to be? I'll tell you what I think the Scriptures say it's going to be, and it's going to happen suddenly. It's going to be up there in the heavens and there it will be.

"...and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (v 30). What is this sign? This is way before the resurrection!

Verse 27: "For as the light of day, which comes forth from the east and shines as far as the west..." This is not talking about bolts of lightning as in a storm. This is talking about a light of day. Lightning can go from the ground up, from the clouds to the ground, it can go north, south, east, west or diagonally—however you want it.

What shines from the east to the west? *The sun!* That's the only thing that we can see every day that goes from east to west. This is going to be like all of a sudden the appearance of a sun right up in the heavens, that it's going to be seen rising in the east and setting in the west. I believe that it's going to come closer and closer to the earth as Christ is returning.

When it gets down close to the earth—all the armies are going to be like the fighting in movies, preparing for those coming from outer space. They are preparing the world to fight Christ. That's what they are doing. Let's see what's going to happen. They are going to be convinced that they are going to be invaded from outer space, and that will be true, because they will be.

If Christ comes from heaven, is He going to come from outer space? *Yes!* Therefore, it will be an invasion from outer space. Then it gets down to the clouds, because we're going to meet Christ in the air, in the clouds. What happens when you have an object that comes down and comes into the gravitational pull of the earth? *It will lock into orbit!*

I believe that the sign of the Son of man will be seen in heaven coming closer, *closer, closer* to the earth and then lock into orbit right over Jerusalem, right in the clouds.

That's going to set the world on edge! All the demons will be saying that this is Satan. Satan is going to be calling Christ *Satan* right at that time. Then the resurrection is going to take place, before the seven last plagues. That's why it has to happen before the Feast of Trumpets, because the Feast of Trumpets pictures the beginning of the final battle on the earth. All this has to happen before Trumpets.

Revelation 14:14: "And I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and *one* like the Son of man sitting on the cloud, having a golden crown on His head; and in His hand *was* a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him Who was sitting on the cloud, 'Thrust in your sickle and reap, because the time has come for You to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe'" (vs 14-15).

What are we called? *Firstfruits!* We are to be harvested. How many churches are there in Rev. 2 & 3? *Seven!* In counting to Pentecost, how many weeks are there to the harvest? *Seven!*

You have seven continuous weeks to the harvest and you have seven continuous churches in Rev. 2 & 3. So, when it comes to the end, then they will be harvested so they can rise and meet Christ in the air. Then we have to get all organized before we come back down.

Have you ever thought about what kind of chaos it might be if you you're resurrected on Trumpets, rise up in the air; 'Hi, Christ, what do I do?' *You do this and that!* There would be no organization and we have 15 minutes to get back down to the earth. *No!*

It's going to be organized! Just like before they went into the 'promised land,' what did they have? *They had a big meeting!* Moses got up there and read all of the book of Deuteronomy. It's going to take quite a while to get things done after we meet Christ in the air, before we come back down on the earth.

This first one is the harvest of the Church. "...for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

Verse 16: "And He Who was sitting on the cloud thrust forth His sickle upon the earth, and the earth was reaped. Then another angel, who also had a sharp sickle, came out of the temple that *is* in heaven. And out from the altar came another angel, who had authority over fire; and he called with a loud cry to the one who had the sharp sickle, saying, 'Thrust in your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters

of the earth... [this is something entirely different; this is not the Church] ...because her grapes are fully ripe.' And the angel thrust his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *its fruit* into the great winepress of the wrath of God" (vs 16-19). This is the Battle of Armageddon; this is a preview of what it's going to be like.

Verse 20: "And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood spewed out from the winepress as high as the horses' bridles, to the distance of a thousand six hundred furlongs."

Rev. 15—this where we're going to meet Christ in the air, this is where there's going to be this big sea of glass. All the world is going to be gathering their armies together to fight this big enemy up in the clouds. I image that they're going send off rockets and things like this, and they won't be able to penetrate anything.

Revelation 15:1: "Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and awesome: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is filled up. And I saw a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who had gotten the victory over the beast..." (vs 1-2). Who is the power of *the beast*? *Satan the devil!*

Rev. 12 talks about the beast with seven heads and 10 horns, 'that old serpent called the devil and Satan.' Everybody has to get victory over him!

"...and over his image..." (v 2). Whether it is image of *the beast* today or as it was during Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, makes no difference.

"...and over his mark, *and* over the number of his name, **standing on the Sea of Glass**, having *the lyres of God*" (v 2).

- we're going to sing there
- we're going to learn these songs
- the marriage of the Lamb is going to take place at that time
- the giving of the rewards is going to be given at that time

Where do you think it's going to be 'Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord, be you over five cities, three cities or two cities'? *The Sea of Glass is where it's going to be!* That's going to be quite time up there.

Verse 3: "And they were singing the song of Moses, *the* servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, 'Great and awesome *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty; righteous and true *are* Your ways, King of the saints. Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You* only *are* Holy; and all the nations shall come and worship

before You, for Your judgments have been revealed'" (vs 3-4). All of that is going to occur while the angels are preparing for the seven last plagues. Then while we are on the Sea of Glass, we are going to see:

- the angels pour out the seven last plagues
- God's judgment on Babylon the Great
- the battle of Armageddon
- all the armies gathered together to fight against Christ

Then we will come back to the earth *with* Christ. The first part of Rev. 19 is the marriage of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:11: "And I saw heaven open; and behold, a white horse; and He Who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He does judge and make war. And His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns; *and* He had a name written that no one knows except Him. And *He* was clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is The Word of God. And the armies in heaven were following Him on white horses... [the saints] ...*and* they were clothed in fine linen, white and pure" (vs 11-14). How do we know they are the saints?

Verse 7: "Let us be glad and shout with joy; and let us give glory to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.' And it was granted to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, pure and bright; for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints" (vs 7-8). We're clothed in fine linen clean and white. ***We will be the army of God!***

What did Jesus say to Pilate? *If My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight!* That's when we're going to fight. It will be a battle! That fills out the rest of the story that is brought in 1-Thess. 4.

1-Thessalonians 4:17: "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in *the* clouds for ***the meeting with the Lord in the air***; and so shall we always be with *the* Lord." That's one of the key reasons I did the translation of the New Testament. I thought that this one particular section was so very important in relationship to understanding the prophecies.

We're going to have from Pentecost unto Trumpets for all the things to take place. It's going to take some time for the armies to be gathered around Jerusalem for the Battle of Armageddon. We're going to see that. We're going to have an absolutely spectacular view of what's going on, on the earth, and then we're going to help execute the vengeance of God.

"...and so shall we always be with *the* Lord"

(v 17). If Christ comes back to the earth, where are we going to be? *On the earth!*

Verse 18: “Therefore, encourage one another with these words.” As we’ve seen in everything, ***keep your eye on the goal! Always on the plan of God!***

They discussed an awful lot about prophecy—didn’t they? *They had to!* We will also see in 2-Thess. that people were coming around saying that it was ‘happening now.’

1-Thessalonians 5:1: “Now then, concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, there is no need that I write to you; for you yourselves understand perfectly that **the Day of the Lord**...” (vs 1-2). Notice that this is different than the day of Christ.

2-Thessalonians 2:2: “...*saying that the day of Christ is present.*” We’ll find out the difference, but I wanted you to notice the difference.

1-Thessalonians 5:2: “...**the Day of the Lord** will come exactly as a thief *comes* by night.” In this case this is talking about all the events at the end.

How long is the Day of the Lord? *It depends on the context that you are reading!* Is it talking about all the end-time? A single day? A time called the Day of the Lord? The 6,000 years we have for man is called *the day of man*, but it’s longer than one day. The Day of the Lord is going to be longer than one day! But the final Day of the Lord, when we come down with Him from heaven to the earth, will be one day. So, in reading and understanding about the Day of the Lord, you have to determine exactly how it fits.

Verse 3: “For when they say, ‘Peace and security,’ then sudden destruction will come upon them, as travail *comes* upon a woman who is with child; and they shall by no means escape.”

I remember when Rachelle was born, we went out to a restaurant in Pasadena called *The Salt Shaker* and as we were eating Delores says, ‘We’ve got to get home, it’s coming.’ We just got home and called the midwife and she came over and just ten minutes after she got there Rachelle was born. We had gone out just as if it were another day.

That day is going to come BAM! and all the events are going to come together. Everything is going to trigger, and that’s what’s going to be at the end-time.

Verse 4: “But you, brethren, are not in darkness that the day of *the Lord* should overtake you as a thief. *For* you are all children of *the light* and children of *the day*... [that’s what we need to be: as lights and understanding] ...we are not of *the*

night, nor of *the darkness*. So then, we should not sleep, as others *do*; but we should watch, and we should be sober.” (vs 4-6).

Unfortunately, there are a lot of people sleeping, v 7: “For those who are sleeping sleep in *the night*, and those who are drunken get drunk in *the night.*” *It can come upon you when you get really sleepy and tired!* When I drive, I stay awake, but when I ride I go to sleep.

Ephesians 5:6: “Do not let anyone deceive you with vain words; for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.” If anyone is listening to these foolish things, ***warn them!*** God is not going to hold back; it’s coming! It’s going to be bad news!

Verse 7: “Therefore, do not be joint partakers with them. For you were once darkness; but now *you are light in the Lord*. Walk as children of light, (because the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and Truth); proving... [by doing] ...what is well pleasing to the Lord; and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness...” (vs 7-11).

That’s what happened! They went and had “...fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness...” and began to drink in of *their* doctrines and *their* ‘religion’ and it took them away.

“...but rather expose *them*...” (v 11). When it comes along and there’s something wrong, you’ve got to expose it! That’s what it means.

Verse 12: “For it is shameful even to mention the things being done by them in secret. But all of these things being exposed by the light are openly revealed. Therefore, He says, ‘*You* who are sleeping... [arise from the spiritual dead] ...wake up, and arise from the dead! And Christ shall shine upon you.’ So then, take heed that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as those who are wise, redeeming the time... [buy it back while there is time] ...because the days are evil” (vs 12-16). ***Are they ever evil today!***

It’s a very deceptive kind of evil. All is quiet and all is nice and you can take it or leave it. You can come and go, and you’re going to be overtaken with evil! Just like that, and you won’t even know it, unless you’re alert!

1-Thessalonians 5:8: “But we who are of *the day* should be sober, having put on *the breastplate of faith and love*...” {note Eph. 6; overcoming Satan the devil with the breastplate of righteousness, the Word of God and so forth.}

“...and *for a helmet the hope of salvation*” (v 8). This tells us that “...*the hope of salvation*”

will always protect us.

Verse 9: “Because God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, so that whether we *remain alive until He comes* or we *fall asleep before that day*, together we may live *forever* with Him. Therefore, encourage one another, and edify one another...” (vs 9-11). Notice the emphasis is on how the teaching is to be, how the relationship with one another is to be. Completely different from what we have experienced in past years.

Encourage one another. If someone is down, lift up their spirits. Let them know that tomorrow may be better. If it's worse then the next day will be better. Don't worry about it; God will help you through it.

“...even as you are already doing. Now we beseech you, brethren, to acknowledge those who are laboring among you, and are overseeing you, and are instructing you in *the Lord*” (vs 11-12). Notice how the ministry is to be: *laboring, ministering, overseeing!*

I had a man come to a Bible study and I said, ‘Why don't you draw me a chart as to what you think church organization would be.’ You know the chart that we used to have:

- God the Father & Jesus Christ
- Herbert Armstrong
- Headquarters
- evangelists
- pastors
- preaching elders
- local elders
- local, local elders
- super deacons
- deacons
- not so super deacons
- then *you*

I said, ‘What I want you do is draw that here is the Church being one big block—all the brethren together—and here is God and everyone has direct connection to God the Father and Jesus Christ; nobody in between!’

He said, ‘How do you want me to draw the teachers and overseers?’ I said, ‘Kind of on the sidelines.’ So, he did that. He drew the teachers and overseers on the sidelines, and he took it from 1-Cor. 3. Instead of a block, he drew kind of a garden patch. All the brethren were plants, growing.

1-Corinthians 3:6: “I planted *and* Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.” He had the overseers on the sidelines like squirts. We have to water the crop of God! I thought that was the best diagram of how the Church should be structured. We

ministers are all water-boys.

Now we have a whole series of short admonitions, which are very encouraging but very straightforward.

1-Thessalonians 5:13: “And to greatly respect them in love for the sake of their work. **Be at peace among yourselves**.... [sometimes that's difficult] ...Now we encourage you, brethren, **to admonish those who are irresponsible**...” (vs 13-14). There were those who were not even working. They were saying, ‘We don't have to work, we're just going to wait for the Lord.’ That was a special problem at that time.

“...**console** the fainthearted, **support** the weak, **be patient** toward everyone. See that no **one renders evil for evil to anyone**; but **always be pursuing what is good**, both toward one another and toward all *men*. **Rejoice always! Pray unceasingly. Give thanks** in everything, for this *is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit*” (vs 14-19).

- let God's Spirit flow
  - let God's spirit motivate you
  - let God's Spirit lead you
- you quench it*
- by sinning
  - by the works of the flesh

Verse 20: “**Despise not prophecies. Prove all things. Hold fast to that which is good**.” I just want to mention one thing here: **Truth is always provable, and reproveable, and reproveable!** If you rightly put the Truth together, it will always come out the same.

Verse 22: “**Abstain from every form of wickedness**. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your entire spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful *is He* Who calls you, Who will also perform *it*” (vs 22-24). There's not one promise of God that He will not fulfill. He will fulfill every promise. Whether it be a blessing or a cursing! He will perform it.

Verse 25: “Brethren, pray for us. Greet all the brethren with a Holy kiss. I adjure you *by the Lord that* this epistle be read to all the Holy brethren... [we've just done it; you're the Holy brethren] ...The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be with you. Amen*” (vs 25-28). Written from Athens, the epitome of idolatry!

## 2-Thessalonians

2-Thess. 1—there are many Scriptures we could add to it, but much of what Paul says here is a repeating of some of the things in 1-Thess.

2-Thessalonians 2:1: “Now, we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken in mind, nor be troubled—neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by epistle, as if from us, *saying that **the day of Christ is present.***” (vs 1-2). This is *the day of the Christ*.

What does Christ mean? *Messiah!* It doesn't say the Day of the Lord. It says “...the day of Christ is present”—which means that someone is saying that Christ is here. Otherwise, they wouldn't say it “...is present.”

Verse 3: “Do not let anyone deceive you by any means because *that day will not come unless* <sup>[#1]</sup>**the apostasy shall come first...**” It's not a falling away as you've heard in the past, that people who leave the Church are falling away. The apostasy, I believe is this one-world religion “...**shall come first...**” That will be the first thing in place. Shall have come means a future completed event from when Paul wrote this.

<sup>[#2]</sup>“...and **the man of sin shall be revealed...** [it's going to be clear who the man of sin is]: ...—the son of perdition.” Let's look at the characteristics of this man and see what he's going to do. He's going to be some man.

Verse 4: “The one who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God... [the Word of God as well as anything that is called 'God.'] ...or that is an object of worship...” Greater than any Buddha, any statue of anything.

“...so that he comes into the temple of God...” (v 4). There will be a physical temple built again by the Jews. They already have the temple institute, many of the vestures, the clothing, the priests' hats, Urim and Thummim, the lots for the goats for the Day of Atonement, the candlestick holder; everything all ready to go.

What is it that the Jews say? *When the temple is built, Messiah will come!* Let's tie some of these things together.

When Paul wrote this, the temple of God was still standing. So, there could be no question that he means the temple of God. Would any other temple on earth be called the temple of God by Paul? *No!* This does not mean symbolically, spiritually standing in a Church of God. This means literally the temple of God.

“...and **sits down as God...**” I don't care how arrogant you may have thought some of the past leaders of the Church have been, none of them said that he was God! This does not apply to any of our church experiences.

“...**proclaiming that he himself is God**” (v

4). Those four verses are really powerful and really tell us a lot.

Let's put this together with some other Scriptures. Remember that it's talking about *the day of Christ is present*.

(go to the next track)

In 1978 or 79 there was a full-page ad in almost all the leading newspapers in the country: *The Christ is Here! Lord Maitreya is about to reveal himself!* When we saw that we wondered: What is this? It talked about ending famine and war, peace and prosperity for everyone.

Some of the things that I will bring out may have some speculation in it; that part is not dogmatic, but at least it gives us something to think on, which then can be adjusted as we view the fulfilling of these Scriptures as they come together in time down the road.

Matthew 24:24: “For there shall arise **false Christs...**” notice that it doesn't say *a false Christ*. It's plural! This tells us that there will be more than one. There will be 'messiah competition.' Won't that blow everybody's theories completely out of the water?

“...and false prophets, and they shall present great signs and wonders...” (v 24). They're all in 'miracle competition,' too: *Messiah competition* and *miracle competition*.

“...in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (v 24). This is going to be convincing because 'seeing is believing.' After all, by that time they're going to have so put down the Bible so that no one is going to believe it.

Verse 25: “Behold, I have foretold *it* to you. Therefore, if they say to you, ‘*Come and see! He is in the wilderness*’... [the day of Christ is present] **...do not go forth.** ‘*Come and see! He is in the secret chambers*’... [the day of Christ is present] **...do not believe it**” (vs 25-26). That's not how it's going to come. It is not going to be a human being. It is not going to be a man who will be the Messiah.

The Jews of Judaism believe that there is going to come a messiah. I believe there will be a Jewish messiah. The temple will be built, the Jewish messiah will come on the scene bringing miracles, signs and wonders.

Here is from the Noahide Code and the Messianic Era: the Jews have been working behind the scenes for years to bring this about. All of this, bringing all of the world's religions together, don't let it fool you that Judaism is not behind it. They allow all other nations to have their own religion *if* they have the seven universal laws called *The Noahide Laws*. As long as they honor the unity of

God and follow the seven Noahide Laws they will be part of the Kingdom of God.

Seven Noahide Laws ([jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://jewishvirtuallibrary.org)):

1. Do Not Deny God
2. Do Not Blaspheme God
3. Do Not Murder
4. Do Not Engage in Incestuous, Adulterous or Homosexual Relationships.
5. Do Not Steal
6. Do Not Eat of a Live Animal
7. Establish Courts/Legal System to Ensure Law Obedience

They already have the agenda for all the courts under Noahide Law to be enacted throughout the world. They will bring on *their* messiah called *Moshiach*, literally meaning the anointed one who will be a teacher and leader of the Jewish people.

from: The Noahide Code and the Messianic Era ([jewishprisoner.com/Noachide.aspx](http://jewishprisoner.com/Noachide.aspx))

He will teach ethics and morality to all mankind. Most importantly, he will establish peace for the entire world.

In the time of Moshiach, there will be neither famine nor war, neither envy nor strife. People will strive to help one another, and a spirit of love and brotherhood will flourish.

Most important of all, in the Messianic era, all mankind will acknowledge the unity of G-d, and recognize that He is the sole Ruler of the Universe....

The rest of the world will not be required to keep the Sabbath, because the Jews will retain *their* laws as a higher form, because *they* are 'god.' Anyone who tries to keep the Sabbath as they do is subject to death. Anyone who tries to keep the Holy Days or Feasts in the Bible, as they do, is subject to death.

Now you know why Worldwide Church of God was taken down within. The Jews do not feel anyone has a right to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days other than themselves. We are against an implacable enemy, and this is going to come headlong with, what I believe, the Catholic messiah.

...As the prophet Isaiah said, "The world will then be filled with the knowledge of G-d, as the waters cover the ocean bed" (Isaiah 11:9).

In the past months, we have witnessed unique and miraculous events taking place in the world, especially in Russia and its satellite regimes, and in the War in the Persian Gulf. We are indeed living in times

of miracles, and it is our hope that an increased interest throughout the world in the Laws of Noah will bring us significantly closer to the long awaited time of Redemption, where the world will truly become a dwelling place for G-d.

The Jews are going to build their temple and bring in a Messianic Era of *their own*. What is this going to do to the world? Will the world accept it? *No!* All ecumenism between Jews and Catholics will break down! There's another man called *The Vicar of Christ*, the pope, and there will be competition.

Here's what I think will happen (some speculation). Let's see how it fits; you can always adjust it a little bit. Since it says there will *false Christs*, that means there will be *false messiahs*. Why not have good old-fashioned 'messiah competition'? Miracle, miracle, who's got the greatest miracle?

Using the charts in the Dan./Rev. sermon series, when I counted back the 1290 days from the time...

Daniel 12:9: "And he said, 'Go your way, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white and refined. But the wicked shall do wickedly; and **none of the wicked shall understand**, but the wise shall understand.'... [however it's going to be, *we will understand it*] ...And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away..." (vs 9-11).

- Why will the daily sacrifice be taken away?
- Where is the daily sacrifice offered? *At a temple in Jerusalem!*

"...and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days" (v 11). Who is going to go in and stop the sacrifices? *2-Thess. says that it's going to be man who says that he is God!*

Now then, what is going to happen with the Jewish messiah? *I think the hatred between the Catholics and Jews will come to an absolute fever pitch again!* There's going to rise up in Europe a messiah who will be the King of the North, there will be the pope who will come along who is going to endorse him as truly the messiah on earth (Rev. 13). What does the King of the North do?

Daniel 11:40: "And at the time of the end, the King of the South shall push at him. And the King of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind with chariots and with horsemen and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries and

shall overflow and sweep through. He shall also enter into the glorious land..." (vs 40-41). Why would he want to go there to Palestine? There's another Jewish problem. The sacrifices have to be stopped. That's what he's going to do. He's going to go and do it.

If you count back 1,290 days from the time that the beast and false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19), you come back to Nisan 10. What is Nisan 10? *That's when they select the Passover lamb!* Think on this: The Jews finally have:

- their temple
- their priesthood
- their sacrifices
- their messiah to bring peace to the whole world

Now the King of the North comes down and comes into the 'Holy Land' and goes into the temple and kills the Jewish messiah and says, 'I'm God, not him!' He stops all the sacrifices on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan.

We don't know how long the sacrifices were going; let's just say for the sake of discussion, at least two years. Can you imagine what kind of Passover the Jews are going to have with the first time they're able to have Passover lambs at the temple? You wait and see, they'll build all kinds of other altars, because there's not enough room at the temple to do it.

Then to have that stopped! Can you imagine stopping the Jewish plan dead in its tracks and killing their messiah? Stopping the sacrifices, and a Gentile of all things, going into the temple of god and say, 'I am God!' The pope saying, 'He is God!' Pretty powerful commendation! That's not what most people are looking for! Just think of that. I think that is a distinct possibility.

- How do you think the Jews are going to react when the Jewish messiah is killed? *There will be war!*
- What kind of war? *They won't be able to come against the King of the North, because he's going to have already occupied them!*
- What are they going to do to *the beast*?
- What did they do when they found Paul in Jerusalem, whom they hated? *They sought to kill him!*

As a matter of fact, 40 men took a vow of fasting until they would kill Paul. They didn't! We've always wondered about this, so let's see if we can look at a little differently. (speculation):

Revelation 13:1: "And I stood on the sand of the sea; and I saw a beast rising up out of the sea,

having seven heads and ten horns..." This is the coming final beast of Babylon the Great, which will encompass the whole world.

"...and on his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads *the* name of blasphemy. And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, and his feet like *the feet* of a bear..." (vs 1-2). All of these go back to Dan. 7 and a combination of all of the beasts together.

"...and his mouth like *the* mouth of a lion; and the dragon gave him his power, and his throne and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as if *it were* slain to death..." (vs 2-3). Why would he receive a wound unto death? Have you ever thought about that? *He killed the Jewish messiah and stopped the sacrifices! The Jews went after him!* Think of that as a possibility.

'If you're God, come back to life. You killed our messiah, now see if you can come back to life.' *And he does!* I've never heard any other explanation to satisfactorily explain about the 'deadly wound' and it being healed.

This has nothing to do with God the Father, this is all on the earth and it's the Jewish temple revived. It's the Jewish messiah killed. There will be a Jewish messiah, without a doubt. They've got him somewhere ready to bring on the scene.

Here is the final beast: "...but his deadly wound was healed..." (v 3). I just imagine that these suicide squads going after *the beast* to get him are really going to be vicious.

Remember how affective the Mossad is, how affective their spy systems are. Now they final get him and kill him and then he's resurrected back to life. Now what is he going to do?

"...and the whole earth was amazed *and* followed the beast. And they worshiped the dragon, who gave *his* authority to the beast. And they worshiped the beast, saying..." (vs 3-4).

I want you to understand how absolutely fantastic that the end-time culture is going to be, all wrapped up in satanism and demonism, the occult and all of that. They are going to openly worship Satan! We don't even have a grasp of the magnitude of this, I don't believe! This is going to sweep the world like you have never seen. We are going to be left out in the cold and cut off as stupid and ignorant because we believe the Word of God.

"...And they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who *is* like the beast? Who has the power to make war against him?' And a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies... [ties in with 2-Thess. 2] ...was given to him; and authority was given to him to continue *for* forty-two months" (vs 4-5)—after the

wound was healed; this is the beginning of the Great Tribulation:

- he's going to come with wrath
- he's going to come with power

Verse 6: "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God... [think of the magnitude of what is being said here] ...to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. And he was given *power* to make war against the saints... [literal war; to come after us] ... and to overcome them; and he was given authority over every tribe and language and nation. And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from *the* foundation of *the* world" (vs 6-8).

This is an awesome event. That's why it says that *that day of Christ shall not come unless there come the falling away—or the apostasy—first, and the man of sin—the son of perdition—be revealed!* There's going to be *no doubt!* We're not going to have to guess or wonder, *we will know!*

Verse 9: "If anyone has an ear, let him hear." When you get to something very important, Christ inserts that statement!

Verse 10: "If anyone gathers *into* captivity, he shall go into captivity. If anyone kills with *the* sword, he must be killed with *the* sword..." This is an admonition for the true saints of God. Don't raise a weapon or gun, because that's not the time.

"...Here is the endurance and the faith of the saints.... [they don't get involved in it] (here is going to be the cement to put it together): ...And I saw another beast rising out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon" (vs 10-11).

- Why do you think the pope says that it's now okay to 'believe in evolution? *So he can bring all the other religions of the world together!*
- Why do you think that the pope says that the seeds of salvation is contained in all the religions of the world? *He's going to mount his own position as leader of all religions!*
- Who stands out on the side as a sore thumb on one hand, and as a sore thumb on the other hand? *The Jews on one hand, and the true Christians on the other hand!*

Verse 12: "And he exercises all the authority of the first beast before him; and he causes the earth and those who dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." After all:

- He proved he was God—didn't he?
- He came back from the dead—didn't he?
- He went into the temple of God and killed the false Jewish messiah—didn't he?

Verse 13: "And he exercises all the authority of the first beast before him; and he causes the earth and those who dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed."

This is not going to be virtual reality where everyone is running around with goggles and say, 'Oh, I see fire coming down from heaven.' This is going to be the real thing! This is going to be real fire! Satan is going to send it down and deceives them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles even so much that even the elect could be deceived (Matt. 24:24).

I can see where there would be former brethren in the Churches of God that we know who have so gone back into the world they're going to lap this up like there's no tomorrow when it comes on the scene.

"...saying to those who dwell on the earth that they should make an image **for** the beast, which had the wound by the sword, yet was alive" (v 14).

There's also going to be another miracle that God is going to intervene and do. This is not going to be without a witness from God. Because I believe the Jewish messiah will be coming and will be killed, and just prior to the time that he is killed, God is going to raise up, call and convert the high priest at the temple—just like He did the Apostle Paul—and the governor of Judea and they will be the two witnesses. The drama of this is going to be stunning! God is not going to let Satan have his day without a witness.

Can God call anyone and convert them instantly? even from the brink of satanism? *Yes, He can!* Did He do it with Paul? *Yes, He did!*

Zechariah 3:1: "And He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said to Satan, 'May the LORD rebuke you, Satan! May even the LORD Who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! *Is this not a brand plucked out of the fire?'*" (vs 1-2).

What does that mean? *I think that means that here is a man right out on the verge of being so involved in the wrong thing that he was ready to go into the Lake of Fire and God says, 'I'm going to call you.'* God can do that. That's pretty tough. "...Is this not a brand plucked out of the fire?"

Verse 3: "Now, Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And He



answered and spoke to those who stood before him, saying, 'Take the filthy garments from off him.' And to him He said, 'Behold, I have caused your iniquity to pass from you, and I will clothe you with ceremonial robes.'" In this case, the first Joshua—the high priest—was given the high priest attire. Then it blends into the coming of Christ.

Verse 8: "Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your fellows who sit before you; for they *are* men wondered at, for behold, I will bring forth My Servant the Branch [Christ!]" The second return of Christ.

Where is the Church? *The Church will flee, those who go to a place of safety, right before the two witnesses come on the scene!* The part of the Church that is left behind is going to be martyred.

As we've said concerning the place of safety, if you don't know where it is and you make it, you'll find out when you get there. If you know where it is and don't get there, then it doesn't do you any good. If your sole purpose is to get to the place of safety instead of the Kingdom of God, you aren't going anyway! God's got it all worked out.

Who is going to be around to be doing this? All of us are getting old and creaky! Where are the younger ones? *God isn't done yet!* God can call them. They'll be right on the scene and see it, they won't have to have speculation like we're having now in trying to understand prophecy. It'll be a different thing. God is not done, yet.

I think God has some surprises for the Church in store. I don't even think we've begun to start. We're just getting straightened out. How is America and Britain going to be taken down? *God knows exactly how it's going to happen! We don't know!* It can happen one of a half-dozen different ways. I think when that begins to happen a lot of them will convert. There's going to be a lot of converted children of Israel who are going to respond to God at that time. They know that they are going to be martyrs. I believe that those who are going to a place of safety will be there; those who remain behind will be behind. Those of us who are old and gray will be buried; we'll be safe in the grave.

God is not going to put us through all of this hellishness, because God is God of love and mercy. I know that some of these things I'm bringing here are a little new to you. They're new to me and I'm trying to understand what's going on. It has worked out the way we figured before, so that means we'd better figure something else. That's why this is speculation, but I think we can be certain that one of the two witnesses is going to be the high priest and the other one is going to be 'the Zerubbabel' the

governor of Judea.

Zechariah 4:11: "And I answered and said to him, 'What *are* these **two olive trees** on the right side of the lampstand and on its left side?' And I answered again and said to him, 'What *are* the **two olive branches** beside the two golden pipes, emptying the golden *oil* out of themselves?' And he answered me and said, 'Do you not know what these *are*?' And I said, 'No, my lord.' And he said... [here's a Bible definition that puts it together]: ...**These are the two anointed ones who stand by the LORD of the whole earth**" (vs 11-14).

*That could not be Joshua back then and Zerubbabel back then, but the two witnesses at the end-time!* We will see that the two witnesses are the two olive trees and the two candlesticks.

Revelation 11:1: "Then *the angel* gave me a measuring rod like a staff, saying, 'Arise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it. But leave out the court that is within the temple *area*, and do not measure it because it has been given *up* to the Gentiles; and they shall trample upon the Holy city *for* forty-two months'" (vs 1-2).

They now know that the Mosque of Omar does not sit on the Holy of Holies place. It sits to the south of it. The Jews have two plans for a temple:

1. obliterating the Mosque of Omar, which they cannot and will not do lest they be annihilated
2. a smaller temple built right alongside the Mosque of Omar

And I think that's where it's going to be.

Verse 3: "And I will give *power* to My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." The reason that one is 42 months and the other is 1,260 days is because they begin and end at different points. These are not exactly overlaid times exactly the same. {note sermon series: Dan./Rev.} That's the thing that started me on this whole thing.

- Why is a year in prophecy 360 days?
- Does it say so in the Bible? *No!*
- Why is the 1260 *days* for the two witnesses?
- Why is it 42 *months* for the temple?
- What is the difference?

Then you begin tying that in with the first resurrection ending with the two witnesses and you count back 1,260 days and you come at a different beginning point than you have when you count from the destruction of the beast and you count back 42 months from Trumpets. You have a different beginning point. Besides, 42 months may not be 1,260 days exactly. Why? *Because you could have*

28 days of one month and still be counted a month!  
That's why they're different.

Verse 4: "These are **the two olive trees**... [Zech. 4] ...and *the* two lampstands that stand before the God of the earth." No other two people in the entirety of the Bible are said to stand up before the God of the earth. It has to be Zech. 3 & 4 to be the two witnesses.

Notice what's going to happen: *the beast* comes down, kills the Jewish messiah and probably the two witnesses are saying, 'You're not the messiah!' So, they will have that going on. Then *the beast* goes into the temple of God and is confronted with two nasty men, the two witnesses. *The beast* can't get rid of them. Whatever they say happens.

Verse 5: "And if anyone attempts to harm them, fire will go out of their mouths..." You want to call down fire from heaven, 'fire comes out our mouth' says the two witnesses. 'You want to show a miracle? Come and stand before us and do it.' This is going to be something!

"...and devour their enemies..." Can you imagine the television report: 'I'm standing by the ashes of these men who resisted these two men, and there they are, yes, even their teeth are all burned up.'

"...For if anyone attempts to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have authority to shut heaven... [awesome power] ...so that no rain may fall in *the* days of their prophecy; and they have authority over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they will" (vs 5-6).

They're going to bring all the plagues that were brought against Egypt, only in a great manifold manner! Tie that in with Rev. 8-9 and put all of this together. These events at the end-time are going to be so absolutely mind-boggling. They're going to be so dynamic and great! "...and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they will" Whatever they decide! That's awesome power, and that's why they stand before the God of the earth.

Verse 7: "And when they have completed their testimony, the beast who ascends out of the abyss will make war against them, and will overcome them, and will kill them." God always lets the enemy think they're going to win—*always!* But they never do.

Verse 8: "And their bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified." In Jerusalem! What a confrontation this is going to be.

I want you to stop and think, brethren, how

stupid, dumb and presumptuous was it for us (as a church) to say that certain men that we knew, we thought would be the two witnesses! *Think!* Don't anyone volunteer me for anything! I'm not Elijah! I'm not one of the two witnesses! Nor am I both of them. I don't want to be volunteered to be an apostle. I don't want to be volunteered to be anything other than a teacher. That's it, and let God do the rest. We've had enough of all this stupidity.

When you think of what it's going to be here. We all sat there and heard those sermons and said, 'Yeah!' We're we not dumb? There are some that are still praying to this day that Herbert Armstrong will be resurrected so that he can be one of the two witnesses. They go out and stand at his grave and pray to God to raise him back. God should probably send them a message, 'I had enough trouble when he was alive, don't try it.'

Verse 9: "Then those of the peoples and tribes and languages and nations shall see their bodies three and a half days, for they will not allow their bodies to be put into tombs.... [there will be new coverage on this like you have never seen] ...And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and will make merry..." (vs 9-10). Imagine the great pontification of *the beast* and *the false prophet*, 'Yes, we were finally able to get rid of the enemy,' standing over their dead bodies.

"...and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets had tormented those who dwell on the earth. Then after the three and a half days, *the* spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood on their feet... [Surprise!] ...and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a great voice from heaven, say, 'Come up here!' And they ascended into heaven in a cloud; and their enemies saw them *rise*" (vs 10-12). That's going to be an awesome event. They're the very first resurrected!

Verse 13: "And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and seven thousand men were killed in the earthquake. And the rest were filled with fear, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming immediately. Then the seventh angel sounded *his* trumpet..." (vs 13-15). That's when we're going to be resurrected and we'll look around and see all this going on.

I suppose the first two we're going to meet will be the two witnesses; then Moses and Elijah. We'll see Christ and all the apostles. It's going to be a marvelous thing to see what the Apostle Paul looked like. Can you imagine what the Apostle Paul is going to say when God says, 'Paul, I put 14 of your epistles in the New Testament. Paul is going to say, '**Ah, Lord God!**'

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 4:8
- 2) Exodus 20:8-11
- 3) Thessalonians 5:8-17
- 4) Matthew 24:31, 30, 27
- 5) Revelation 14:14-20
- 6) Revelation 15:1-4
- 7) Revelation 19:11-14, 7-8
- 8) 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18
- 9) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2
- 10) 2 Thessalonians 2:2
- 11) 1 Thessalonians 5:2-9
- 12) Ephesians 5:6-16
- 13) 1 Thessalonians 5:8-12
- 14) 1 Corinthians 3:6
- 15) 1 Thessalonians 5:13-28
- 16) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
- 17) Matthew 24:24-26
- 18) Daniel 12:9-11
- 19) Daniel 11:40-41
- 20) Revelation 13:1-14
- 21) Zechariah 3:1-3, 8
- 22) Zechariah 4:11-14
- 23) Revelation 11:1-15

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 2; 3; 12
- Ephesians 6
- 2-Thessalonians 1
- Revelation 19
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- [Seven Noahide Laws](http://jewishvirtuallibrary.org) (jewishvirtuallibrary.org)
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Sermon Series: *Daniel/Revelation*

FRC:bo  
Transcribed: 5-15-15

## Epistles to the Thessalonians III 2-Thessalonians 2-3

Fred R. Coulter

Let's go back to 2-Thess. and finish up chapter two. There are some things that we need to understand, etc. I found that whenever I translate I always find that there are some very important and vital things that are not really conveyed in any other translation.

When I did Galatians I was shocked when I found out that the English word translated 'setting forth' actually meant *a written record* of it. To me a 'setting forth' does not mean a written record in my little ole pea brain. But when I saw in the Greek that it was 'prographo' I knew that had to do with writing.

The New Testament began to be written immediately. It didn't wait till 50 years afterward for all the lying traditionalists to begin to compile the New Testament. I think we're going to find that very, very profound. Let's look at some other prophecies and put some of these things together in a way that will give us a little better picture. This is going to be quite an event. Let's review:

2-Thessalonians 2:1: "Now, we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him." This is the whole goal of every Christian, the whole purpose of why we are here.

Verse 2: "That you not be quickly shaken in mind, nor be troubled—neither by spirit..." There will be demon spirits bringing false messages. And if there's anything that sounds very convincing it is when you have an idea that comes from a familiar spirit, you feel so exhilarated that you are right, that you are even going to defy the Word of God. You become convinced because it's from an extra source that's not human. We have seen all of those things, and there are even some right now with their own ideas that are cavorting with 'familiar spirits.'

"...nor by word..."—message, hearing a message from someone. The Greek here is 'logos,' which can mean *message*, as well as *word*.

"...nor by epistle..."—letter. Notice that Paul is covering every aspect of communication to get to you. The Greek for letter is 'epistole.'

"...as if from us..." Counterfeit and can be done very handily on the Internet, putting it under your name and stick it out there as if you said so.

"...saying that the day of Christ is present" (v 2). We noted that this is *not* the Day of the Lord. But it is the day of the Messiah is present; that's

what it's talking about. There will be *false messiahs*—plural—at the end-time. That's where we're able to learn from that, that there will be 'messiah competition.' Who is the greatest, the most miracles, the most converts.

Verse 3: "Do not let anyone deceive you by any means..." That's pretty all inclusive because now Paul is going to tell you something that you need to look for, that is going to key this event that's going to come:

"...because *that day will not* come unless **the apostasy...**" Not just a few people leaving church. This means the whole world leaving God!

Let's see a history or where there was *the apostasy* ready to begin. Let's understand how quickly that human beings can do things.

Genesis 11:1: "And the whole earth was of one language and one speech." We've got that today with the speed of light around the world. You'll be able to be anywhere on the earth, and I think we're going to end up with those Dick Tracy phones right on the wrist.

Verse 2: "And it came to pass, as they traveled from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar. And they settled there. And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar" (vs 2-3)—like asbestos. They were building a water-proof tower in case God would flood the earth.

Verse 4: "And they said, 'Come, let us build us a city and a tower, *with* its top reaching into the heavens....'"

There was an IBM ad showing a partially destroyed Tower of Babel, and it says, 'We now have the power to finish what they started.' This is big, bold and brash! That's why one of the most difficult things is to be innocent, believing, trusting human beings and never educate yourself; you can be duped so easily.

"...And let us establish a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered upon the face of the whole earth.' And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men had built. And the LORD said, 'Behold, the people are one and they all have one language. And this *is only the beginning of* what they will do—now **nothing which they have imagined to do will be restrained from them**'" (vs 4-6).

What I'm saying is that the Tower more represented the civilization they wanted to build, and now through computer technology they can finish what they started there. That's what they are saying. They can build the world-civilization that they started here. Now there are computers that can compute billions of calculations in split seconds.

Verse 7: "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they cannot understand one another's speech.' So, the LORD scattered them abroad from that place upon the face of all the earth. And they quit building the city" (vs 7-8). The rest of the story is the two Babylons; that religion went in all different forms throughout the whole world, all based on Nimrod, Semiramis and their son Horus or Tammuz.

This is where we are coming back to. If you analyze the last 100-plus years, we started with electricity and everything went from there.

There is going to be the apostasy, the one-world religion, and this means that people are leaving everything that represents the true God. That's what this man—the beast—is going to do: he's going to be worshiped as God (Rev. 13) by the whole world. This is what the apostasy means. That's why all of this nicey-nicey things concerning the one-world religion and all getting together; it's all part of it.

We can't be fixated on one part here and say this is the biggest deal, or another little part of it over here and say this is the biggest deal. We have to look at the whole picture and know that we've got religion, politics, economics, and down through all of those we have various degrees of things that they are doing at that level. This is going to be something when it comes.

2-Thessalonians 2:3: "Do not let anyone deceive you by any means because *that day will not come unless the apostasy shall come first...*" It's going to be a completed fact, but it's not completed, yet.

"...and the man of sin shall be revealed—the son of perdition" (v 3). That will be a completed fact; that has to come on the scene *before*. Then we are going to have this great religious movement.

Verse 4: "The one who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God... [King Nebuchadnezzar was a type of it (book of Dan.)] ...or that is an object of worship; so that he comes into the temple of God and sits down as God, proclaiming that he himself is God."

We will see every bit of that happen, because when he does that, that's when the Great Tribulation will begin. Everything else leading up to it will be what is called 'the beginning of sorrows'

or the throws and difficulties that people will be going through. A lot of these crises are created for control so that they can gain more control.

Remember, the whole goal is to reach this pinnacle and bring the whole world into subjection under Satan the devil. When you watch the news and television programs, read the newspapers or magazines, watch religionists, listen to the economic reports—whatever it may be—just ask yourself: Are they still marching toward the overall goal? *You will see that, yes, everything is step-by-step-by-step, every day!*

You can check anything: religion, education. There's going to be a whole generation of children that will have been program into accepting this as the greatest thing that has ever happened. That's coming! Wherever you look, there it is.

Verse 5: "Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things?" This is so gigantic they couldn't understand this. We can sit here and we can nod our heads with affirmation that we can understand how it's going to happen. Can you imagine what the brethren in Thessalonica were doing to try to figure this out? *This was a prophecy for our day!* Even though Paul told them, how could they imagine any of this? It took them weeks to get to Jerusalem from Greece, so how could they imagine that this thing would happen like this?

Daniel 8:27—after the vision: "And I, Daniel, fainted, and was sick certain days. Afterward I rose up and did the king's business. And I was astounded at the vision but did not understand it." Even Daniel didn't understand it. That is an amazing thing—isn't it?

When the apostles were taught of Christ, and they wrote the New Testament, they had a whole lot more understanding than those of the prophets who prophesied in the Old Testament, up to that point. Here we are 1800 years further removed from the apostles and we still have the Word of God, but a lot of the things that they wrote are for us today.

We can take any credit for any great smarts. If we read the Bible and see something happening in the world, we have done nothing great except believe God and see it happening.

1-Peter 1:10: "Concerning which salvation the prophets who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you have diligently searched out and intently inquired, searching into what *way* and what manner of time the Spirit of Christ *which was* in them was indicating, testifying beforehand of the sufferings of Christ, and these glories that would follow" (vs 10-11). That has not only to do with Christ, but it has to do, in principle, with all of the prophesies.

Verse 12: “To whom it was revealed that, not for themselves, but to us...” And we can say to Peter that ‘it was not revealed unto you, but unto us.’ It’s still the same God doing it!

“...they were ministering these things, which now have been announced to you by those who have preached the Gospel to you by *the* Holy Spirit, sent from heaven—into which things the angels desire to look” (v 12). God has even told the angels. That’s something! How God does that, I don’t know, don’t ask me, but He does!

Verse 13: “For this reason, be prepared in your minds...” That’s what we need to do today. Don’t let your mind be carried away by someone else.

“...be self-controlled... [serious minded] ...*and* be fully hoping in the grace that will be brought to you at **the revelation of Jesus Christ**” (v 13). You can project that forward in type to the book of Revelation.

Dan. 12 helps us understand 2-Thess. Here’s the final thing that Daniel said: Daniel 12:8: “And I heard, but **I did not understand**. Then I said, ‘O my lord, what shall be the end of these things?’” We don’t even know. We have all this knowledge, and we understand some of the technologies that we have, and we can begin to grasp what it’s going to be like. But even for us to fully understand it is a big task when it’s right at hand.

Imagine how Daniel felt. He was probably standing there, an old man, gray-headed, and probably his joints were kind of creaking. You know how it is. One time we had a man up Boise, Idaho, and he was 82-years-old and he was a mountain man all of his life. He was big and tall, and had big hands. He was kind of decrepit, but he was happy and cheerful and when he would come to Sabbath services I would shake hands with him and you could hear his bones rattle.

When I think of Daniel being old and having all of these prophecies given to him, and he didn’t understand it, I think of this man; Daniel was wanting to know. He was one of the greatest prophets of God, and God said, ‘Sorry about that.’

Let’s understand that how stupid and foolish it is for people to come up with their own ideas concerning prophecies and proclaim themselves better than God and better than Daniel. I ring a cowbell when I speculate, so that I don’t get carried away with the ideas of men.

Daniel was told, v 9: “And he said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white and refined....’” (vs 9-10). I think that’s what the Church is going through right now.

“...But the wicked shall do wickedly; and **none of the wicked shall understand...**” (v 10). That makes you think, ‘If God is going to reveal some of these things to us, we better take heed and hear and fear!’

“...but the wise shall understand” (v 10). That’s why we study, so that God will reveal in His time what we need to know. Some of the things we know. That’s why in studying the Bible, one of the first rules is to begin with what you know and then go from there.

I will just have to tell you, brethren, I do not know the full correct interpretation of the 2300 days, or the 1150 morning and evenings, I have never been able to make it fit anything. You will see on the two charts of the Dan./Rev. series that I couldn’t find anywhere where the 2300 days fit that made any sense. The only thing that has ever made any sense is the 1150 and Antiochus Epiphanies in cutting off the sacrifices at the time he desecrated the temple. That comes the closest to it, so exactly how all this fits, I don’t know.

Daniel 8:17: “So, he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was terrified and fell upon my face. But he said to me, ‘Understand, O son of man, for the vision *is* for the time of the end.’” We just read that in Dan. 12. We’re closer to the time of the end than we have been, but how long is the time of the end. I don’t think any of us can truly say—can we?

Verse 18: “Now, as he was speaking with me, I fell into a deep sleep, my face toward the ground....”

That’s why Joseph Smith is a liar. When I was in Salt Lake City pastoring that area, it was right in the middle of the Mormon country. They say that God told Joseph Smith that the Church died out and that He was going to start the Church through Joseph Smith. Smith fell on his back and worshiped God, and got the message. **When you worship God, you fall on your face!** When confronted with some missionaries on one of my visits, one man invited me to visit and I didn’t know it was a trap. He had two Mormon bishops there to argue religion.

I said when I found out that’s what it would be, ‘You say that God told Joseph Smith that the Church died out, and therefore, it was raised up through Joseph Smith.’ *Yes!* ‘The way I read my Bible, Jesus said that He would build His Church and the gates of hell would never prevail against it. Now, I’m stuck with a problem: you either have to believe Christ or Joseph Smith. So, I believe Christ and Joseph Smith is a liar.’ That was a very short visit, trust me! That’s what I said to him; why should I say anything else? There’s nothing else to say.

“...But he touched me and set me upright. And he said, ‘Behold, I will make you know what shall happen in the latter time of the indignation... [the apostasy] ...because it belongs to the appointed time of the end’” (vs 18-19). If we can all learn this one verse. When will the end be? *At the time appointed!* Isn’t that simple?

Verse 20: “The ram which you saw having two horns *are* the kings of Media and Persia. And the shaggy goat *is* the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king” (vs 20-21). So, He started out with what Daniel would understand.

Verse 22: “Now, that being broken, then four stood up in its place; four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not with its power. And in the latter time of their kingdom...” (vs 22-23)—right down to our day today. You’ve got to go through and study history and know that that whole religious system was transferred over to Rome.

Now then, *it’s going to spread to the whole world in a whole new form.* The man of sin is going to come up out of this to lead it.

Verse 23: “And in the latter time of their kingdom when the **transgressors have come to the full...**” In other words, when the whole world is sinning grievously to God. I believe that this also has to be the conspirators and their plans finally have brought it all together. They are the chief transgressors.

“...a king, fierce of countenance and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty... [this is going to be a man of great charismatic power that will make Hitler look like sandbox] ...but not by his own power... [satanic power] ...And he shall destroy marvelously...” (vs 23-24). Who is able to make war against the beast? (Rev. 13).

“...and shall prosper and *do his own will*, and destroy the mighty and the Holy people.... [the people of Christ] ...And also through his cunning he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand...” (vs 24-25). There’s going to be witchcraft and satanism, demonism, just everywhere!

“...And he shall magnify himself in his heart...” (v 25). Ties in with 2-Thess. 2. If you say you are God, how much greater can you magnify yourself? *You can’t!*

“...and in time of security shall destroy many....” (v 25). False peace, prosperity and insecurity; when they say ‘peace and security, then sudden destruction comes.

“...He also shall stand up against the Prince of princes....” (v 25). The beast of Rev. that fights

Christ. You have the beast and false prophet that fights Christ; can’t be any other one. No other human being in the history of the world has stood up to fight against God, in this way. Using all the demonic forces of Satan the devil, and all the weapons that they have created. I truly believe that a lot of these new high-tech weapons that we have are designed, in hopes by Satan the devil, that he can actually kill God. That’s an impossibility, but if Satan could kill God, who would be *God? Satan!*

That’s why these things are so awesome and powerful! It’s not just to kill human beings. I mean, you can burn them with fire, but to disintegrate them into ashes, just a little poof and their gone! What Satan is really trying to do is get something powerful enough to kill God. After all, he said, ‘I will be like the Most High, which means, ‘I want to have that same power.’ Everything he’s doing is to try and develop that power to kill God. They’re going to fight against Him!

God’s got a few secret weapons as you find in the book of Revelation, and He’ll take care of that! *No contest!*

“...But he shall be broken without a human hand.... [without a human hand; God is not going to have a human being do it; God is going to do it] ...And the vision of the evening and the morning, which was told *is* true. But you shall shut up the vision, for it belongs to many days to come” (vs 25-26).

How would you like to carry that around in your head, and all the other visions that Daniel had? All coming to the end-time, every one of the prophecies of Daniel come to the end every time.

- in days of those kings the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed (Dan. 2)
- the kingdom shall be given to the saints of the Most High (Dan. 7-9)
- talking about ending up at the same place, at the end (Dan. 10-12)

What is the book of Daniel telling us? *About the end!*

2-Thessalonians 2:5: “Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things?” Even though Paul told them, it was a prophecy for us.

Verse 6: “And now you understand what is holding *him* back in order for him to be revealed **in his own set time.**” We read the *appointed* time and the *time of the end*. There is a set time! Who set the time? *God did!* No man is going to speed it up.

Remember how many years we ran the gun-lap and all we did was shoot ourselves in the foot?

‘Brethren, we don’t have much time, send in all you have to send in; we’ve got to get this message around the world.’ It’s like the man who wrote the book *88 Reasons Why Christ is Going to Return in 1988*. It didn’t happen so he put out an amendment: *89 Reasons Why It’s Going to Happen in 1989*.

*It’s going to be God’s set time and we’re going to see it!* God has His time schedule, and He told Daniel that it’s closed up until the time of the end, and then He’s going to open it.

Verse 7: “For the mystery of lawlessness is already working...”—the whole Babylonian system, always working. Satan is trying to bring the end as quickly as he can, but it’s not time.

“...only *there is* one Who is restraining at the present *time* until *it*... [these end-time events] ...arises out of *the* midst.”

Revelation 13:1: “And I stood on the sand of the sea; and I saw **a beast rising up out of the sea...**” Out of the midst of this Babylonian system. That agrees with 2-Thess. 2.

2-Thessalonians 2:7—Christ is restraining it: “...until it arises out of *the* midst. Then the lawless one will be revealed...” (vs 7-8)—the man of sin, the son of perdition. He’ll be manifest and will be known. The world will think he’s a hero, and ***we will know*** he’s of Satan the devil.

Verse 8: “...(whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth...”—ties in with Dan. 8; he’s going to stand up against the Prince of princes; destroyed without human hand.

“...and will destroy with the brightness of His coming)” (v 8).

Let’s see what’s going to happen. As one of the seven last plagues, and this is why it takes time for the seven last plagues to be poured out, it can’t happen all instant. God is going to take His time destroying this system. After all the five plagues are poured out:

Revelation 16:12: “And the sixth angel poured out his vial into the great river Euphrates; and its waters were dried up, so that the way of the kings from the rising of *the* sun might be prepared.”

There are going to be many armies coming from the east; multiple armies. We’re talking about a population of 4-billion by the time you count China and India, and throw in the nations of the former Soviet Union. They’re going to want to fight Christ! They’re going to be inspired to do it.

Verse 13: “Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth

of the false prophet.” You can’t get any higher authority as far as human beings would be concerned.

Verse 14: “For they are spirits of demons working miracles...” They’re going to convince them with the miracles. Isn’t it interesting how they are all deceived with miracles?

“...going forth to the kings of the earth, even of the whole world, to gather them together to *the* battle of that great day of the Almighty God” (v 14). They are going to come, the greatest mass movement of troops and equipment.

Verse 15: “Behold, I come as a thief. **Blessed is the one who is watching and is keeping his garments,** so that he may not walk naked and they *may not* see his shame.” Right there are the Laodiceans!

Verse 16: “And he gathered them together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.” The Battle of Armageddon is *not* nation against nation. ***It’s the nations of the world against God!***

Remember when Saddam Hussein started out. There were many books: *Babylon is Here*; the *Battle of Armageddon is Coming*. Even one man wrote, who was supposed to be one of the ministers in the Church of God, and said, ‘Brethren, I have women who are prophesying that this is the end of the world, and atomic weapons are going to be used. We all need to draw close to God—and *send me your money, by the way.*’

I wrote him back a scathing letter, and called him on the phone and said, ‘If you were sincere you would not ask for one penny.’ It wouldn’t do any good anyway. If it were really the end, and you really believe it, what money is going to do any good? What does it say of money in Isa. 2? *When Christ arises to shake the earth, they’re going to take their gold and silver and throw it away!* Hypocritical manipulation of the brethren of God to get money!

We’re talking big time stuff here. I don’t think we can fully grasp it. We can sit here and say, ‘Yeah, I get an inkling of what’s going on.’ But this is worldwide. They’re all coming to *fight God! All deceived!*

All the armies can’t be gathered there all at once. You’re going to have armies staging all the way back to the east. You’re going to have a first echelon of armies come up. Then you’re going to have the reserve troops behind them, and troops behind them. This is going to take some time. This is the beginning of the battle:

Revelation 19:14: “And the armies in heaven



were following Him on white horses; *and* they were clothed in fine linen, white and pure. And out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations..." (vs 13-15). That ties in with Isa. 2.

When Christ finally comes on the earth, and we're here with Him, we've just started. There's going to be some more battles. There are going to be more wars and casualties that are going to happen. Not everyone is going to be convinced.

If you don't believe me, watch some of these Eastern Oriental 'religion' narrations that they do. How are you going to convince these people to give up their gods and demons except to kill them, destroy all of their idols and temples.

That's why every mountain is going to be brought down to a valley and every valley exalted to a mountain. It's going to take all of those temples that they have and crush them and destroy them, get rid of every vestige of this whole thing that's on the earth of Babylon the Great. This is something that's going to happen!

"...and He shall shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury and the wrath of the Almighty God" (v 15). Tie that in with:

(go to the next track)

Revelation 14:20: "And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood spewed out from the winepress as high as the horses' bridles, to the distance of a thousand six hundred furlongs." Eighteen hundred miles of blood! There's has never been a battle like that.

Revelation 19:16: "And on *His* garment and on His thigh He has a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords." Not Satan the devil or the great beast on the earth, *but Christ!*

Verse 17: "Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in *the* midst of heaven, 'Come and gather yourselves together to the supper of the great God so that you may eat *the* flesh of kings, and *the* flesh of chief captains, and *the* flesh of mighty men, and *the* flesh of horses, and of those who sit on them, and *the* flesh of all, free and bond, and small and great'" (vs 17-18).

The question was asked in either Zephaniah or Amos: What is the Day of the Lord to you that you desire the Day of the Lord? These are awesome events. You want to claim the Day of the Lord for your own manipulation, to gain your own thing?

Zechariah 14:1: "Behold, the Day of the LORD comes, and your spoil shall be divided in your midst, 'For I will gather all nations to battle

against Jerusalem... [the same battle we just read] ...and the city shall be taken, and the houses plundered, and the women raped. And half of the city shall go into exile, and the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city.' And the LORD shall go out and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle. And His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall split in two, from the east and to the west..." (vs 1-4). It's going to be a huge, mammoth event!

"...and make a very great valley. And half of the mountain shall move toward the north, and half of it toward the south. 'And you shall flee to the valley of My mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah.' And **the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with You**" (vs 4-5).

It's recorded that this earthquake of Uzziah was the one that destroyed the million-man army of the Egyptians. The way that God did it: that was such a powerful earthquake that it sent a four to six-foot wall of earth rolling right down the battlefield and killed every one of them. There's no weapon against that. What are you going to do if you're standing there and all of a sudden the earth rises up and BAM! six feet of earth knocks you over dead? That's what's going to happen.

Verse 9: "And the LORD shall be King over all the earth; in that day there shall be one LORD, and His name shall be one."

Verse 12: "And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will smite all the people who have fought against Jerusalem. Their flesh shall consume away while they stand on their feet..." That's this calling all the birds and fowl that come and eat the flesh of men. What can you do against that? *Nothing!* That's the Feast of Trumpets (Rev. 19) when we come back to the earth.

"...and their eyes shall consume away in their sockets. And their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall be in that day *that* a great panic from the LORD shall be among them. And they shall each one lay hold of his neighbor, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbor" (vs 12-13).

They're going to end up fighting against each other. There's going to be many things going on. There's going to be a whole group that the flesh is falling off. There are going to be others running away from it. There are going to be others killing each other saying, 'You duped me into coming.' God is just going to eliminate all of these demon-

worshippers and Satan-followers.

Verse 14: “And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem...” There’s going to be some Jews that won’t be convinced.

Now then, here’s what’s going to happen to *the beast* and *the false prophet* to fulfill the prophecy to be taken without human hand:

Revelation 19:19: “And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, gathered together to make war with Him Who sits on the horse, and with His army. And **the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet** who worked miracles in his presence, by which he had deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. **Those two were cast alive into the Lake of Fire, which burns with brimstone**” (vs 19-20). Christ is the One Who is going to do this.

Verse 21: “And the rest were killed by the sword of Him Who sits on the horse, *even the sword* that goes out of His mouth; and all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

This being the Feast of Trumpets, I believe this battle is going to continue on right down to the day before the Day of Atonement. Satan is not yet bound at this point. There are still going to be other armies out there fighting. There are still going to be those that God has to execute in this way. It’s not going to happen just in one day, but day after day after day.

Then on the Day of Atonement the angel comes down from heaven and takes Satan and casts him into the bottomless pit. All of these events are going to be awesome! They’re going to be gigantic indeed.

2-Thessalonians 2:7: “For the mystery of lawlessness is already working; only *there is* one Who is restraining at the present *time* until it arises out of *the* midst. And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming); *even* the one whose coming is according to ***the inner working*** of Satan...” (vs 7-9). That’s as close as I can translate that to the Greek—‘en ergon,’ which means *in*.

“...with all power and signs and lying wonders... [there are going to be miracles and things that are going to be breathtaking] ...and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness... [cover the whole earth] ...in those who are perishing because **they did not receive the love of the Truth**, so that they might be saved” (vs 9-10).

- What is the most important thing?

- *The Truth!*
  - What is more important, who is right?
- or
- What is right?
  - *What is right!*
- You have to love the Truth!
  - You have to love the Truth of God!

Which means that *you will not bring any lie into the Truth of God!* You won’t try and misinterpret the Word of God for your own benefit.

Now do you understand what is happening to the brethren? *They’ve lost their love for the Truth! They’re blind, naked and don’t understand!* That’s why we have to be blunt and direct to them. It’s kind of like the king who was standing naked was convinced that he was clothed with invisible clothes. Finally, a kid said, ‘Look at the king, he’s naked.’ That’s the way we have to deal with some of the brethren, and say, ‘Hey, you’re standing there naked.’ They didn’t love the Truth “...so that they might be saved.”

Because you don’t love the Truth something happens, v 11: “And for this cause, **God will send upon them a powerful deception...** [the people love to be lied to] ...that will cause them to believe *the* lie, so that all may be judged who did not believe the Truth...” (vs 11-12). That judgment is going to come upon all—everyone! No one is going to escape!

“...but who took pleasure in unrighteousness” (v 12). There’s the full story; vs 1-12 tells it all. There are many warnings in here for us, and we can say this of the brethren who are, hopefully, with us:

Verse 13: “Now, we are duty-bound to give thanks to God always concerning you, brethren, who are beloved by *the* Lord, because God from *the* beginning has called you unto salvation through sanctification of *the* Spirit and belief of *the* Truth.” It’s combined together.

What is Truth? John 17:17: “...**Your Word is the Truth.**”

What is the Holy Spirit called? John 14:17: “*Even* **the Spirit of the Truth...**”

Will any lie come from the Spirit of Truth? *No!* 1-John 2:21<sup>[transcriber’s correction]</sup>: “...**not one lie comes from the Truth.**”

John 16:13: “However, when that one has come, *even* **the Spirit of the Truth, it will lead you into all Truth...**”

How are we going to understand the Word of Truth? *By putting Truth with Truth! Letting the*

*Spirit of God lead us!* When we don't understand it, we don't understand. There's nothing wrong with saying that you don't understand something. That's the first step that God may be opening your mind to understand it. ***It's going to guide us into all Truth!*** What does that mean? *It means it's going to guide us into all Truth!* But you have to *love the Truth first!*

2-Thessalonians 2:13: "...through sanctification of *the Spirit* and belief of *the Truth.*" You have to:

- love the Truth
- believe the Truth

notice how all of this circles around the *love of God!* That's why it's important that we study the Word of God. Not talk about it, but study it!

Verse 14: "Unto which He called you by our Gospel to *the* obtaining of *the* glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, **stand firm...**" (vs 14-15). That's what trouble and persecution does; it gives you conviction that you *stand!*

"...and hold fast the ordinances that you were taught, whether by word or by our epistle" (v 15). That's why it's so important that the Truth is taught. Not what *we decide or think*, but the Truth!

Verse 16: "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God—even our Father, Who loved us and gave *us* eternal encouragement and good hope through grace. Encourage your hearts and establish you in every good word and work" (vs 16-17).

There's a special blessing that comes when we all sit down together and study the Word of God together, and God's Spirit *with us to lead us, to uplift us, to encourage us!* That's why it's important that when we get together that we do this. God adds something to us. Let's hope that it increases the measure of the Holy Spirit within us.

What it does is gives us a greater love and desire for His Word, and a greater love and desire for God and for His kingdom, so that we can do as the Apostle Paul said: ***There is nothing that is going to separate us from the love of God! Not a thing ever!***

But you can't come to that unless you have the Truth and the Spirit of God, unless you study the Word of God and have the conviction that comes with it. Then you can sit back and see how foolish it is for people to play religion in church. ***This is eternal life that God is talking about!***

That's why Paul wrote so impassionately when he wrote.

### **2-Thessalonians 3**

2-Thessalonians 3:1: "As for the rest, brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly and may be glorified, in the same way that *it has been* with you." He wasn't seeking his own glory, but the glory that alone comes from God.

Verse 2: "And that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked men... [that sure is a prayer for today] ...for all *are* not of the faith." Isn't that true? And it seems as though we run into those daily now.

Verse 3: "But the Lord is faithful, Who will establish you and keep *you* from the evil one." He will keep us! If we love God, will He not keep us? ***Yes!*** If we love the Truth, will He not open our mind? ***Yes!***

Verse 4: "Now concerning you, we trust in *the* Lord that you both practice and will be practicing the things that we command you." In other words, they have the spiritual maturity to love God and obey Him when someone isn't looking.

Philippians 2:12—this is how our behavior is to be: "So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed..." If you believe God you can obey Him; if you love God, you're going to follow Him. Then you establish the Law of God within you, because you desire to do it, because you love God.

"...not as in my presence only... [not as eye-service to men] ...but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (v 12). If you love the Truth then you'll be doing that.

Verse 13: "For it is God Who works **in you**..." This combines together with:

- the love of God
- the love of the Truth
- the Spirit of God

***God dwells in you:***

- He gives you the desire!
- He gives you the will!
- He gives you the longing!

***It's God longing over you to do that!*** He imparts it to you. That's tremendous!

"...both **to will and to do** according to *His* good pleasure" (v 13). That's the point of spiritual maturity that God wants us to come to. That's the whole purpose in all of it.

Verse 14: "Do all things without complaints and disputes; so that you may be blameless and without offense, innocent children of God in *the* midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom **you shine as lights in the world**" (vs 14-15). There we are, brethren.

2-Thessalonians 3:7: “For you yourselves understand that *you* should do exactly as we have done because we have not behaved irresponsibly among you, nor did we eat food at someone else’s expense, but *we were* working day and night with labor and toil so that we would not be burdensome to anyone among you. *We were* not *obligated to work* because we did not have authority...” (vs 7-9). They could have, but they were more concerned that they stay steadfast with Christ.

“...to receive from you; rather, we chose to work in order that we might personally give you a pattern to imitate. For indeed, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: that if anyone is not willing to work, he should not be allowed to eat” (vs 9-10). There were some just sitting around saying that the Lord is going to return any day, why work?

How are you going to eat? *You feed me! I’m waiting for the Lord and I’m spiritual!* Paul came along and said, ‘Look, I’m going to fix your ‘cookie,’ I’m going to go work and since I’m working and you’re not working, you’re not going to eat.

Verse 11: “For we hear that some among you are walking irresponsibly, not working at all, but are behaving as busybodies.” That sounds like a problem in the Church today, too.

Verse 12: “As for such individuals, we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ that with quietness they work...” Apparently, they were going around preaching and upsetting everybody. ‘Give me some of your food. I’m so spiritual I haven’t had time to eat.’ Paul is working with his hands day and night and says, ‘You can’t say I’m not working.’

“...in order that they may eat their own food. But you, brethren, do not lose heart in well doing” (vs 12-13). We can sure say that today. Sometimes you think: What’s it worth? All this fight? All this battle? That’s all part of endurance, meaning that you are *standing against something!* You’re enduring!

***The one who endures to the end shall be saved!*** Not the one who *almost* endures to the end, but the one who endures to the end. Don’t lose heart in well-doing! If no one else knows, doesn’t God know? Isn’t that the most important thing, *that God knows?* What good does it do if I know or you know what other people are doing or not doing. That’s fine, but the ultimate reward is... What did Jesus say when they pray? *They blow the trumpet and here’s this prayer, everybody watch!* Toot! Toot! *Tinkle, tinkle in goes the money!* They have their reward, because they weren’t doing it from the heart

willingly. So, don’t lose heart in well-doing!

Always do right, even when you have a carnal moment and you feel really nonplused and frustrated and you don’t want to. After all, that person may not deserve it! You don’t know whether they do or not. Who knows, maybe your kindness will help them. Maybe you’re not being carnal will bring them to repentance, that they will change. That’s how Christ was able to operate with the whole world against Him. He loved the Father and knew that in time He would take care of it.

Verse 14: “Now if anyone does not obey our word by this epistle, take notice of that man and do not associate with him so that he may be ashamed.” That’s totally different than what we have done in the past.

Verse 15: “But do not count *him* as an enemy; rather, admonish *him* as a brother.” They had their own internal problems there that they had to deal with.

Verse 16: “Now, may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all. The salutation of Paul by my *own* hand, which is *the* sign in every epistle—so I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen” (vs 16-18).

Both of these epistles had two very important profound prophetic applications for us to understand.

1. the resurrection and meeting Christ in the air
2. the timing of the events at the end

God has a set time when these things are going to take place, and these events will happen when God determines that it is time.

***That’s why these two little epistles are so important in the New Testament!***

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3
- 2) Genesis 11:1-8
- 3) 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5
- 4) Daniel 8:27
- 5) 1 Peter 1:10-13
- 6) Daniel 12:8-10
- 7) Daniel 8:17-26
- 8) 2 Thessalonians 2:5-7
- 9) Revelation 13:1
- 10) 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8
- 11) Revelation 16:12-16

- 12) Revelation 19:14-15
- 13) Revelation 14:20
- 14) Revelation 19:16-18
- 15) Zechariah 14:1-5, 9, 12-14
- 16) Revelation 19:19-21
- 17) 2 Thessalonians 2:7-13
- 18) John 17:17
- 19) John 14:17
- 20) 1 John 2:21
- 21) John 16:13
- 22) 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
- 23) 2-Thessalonians 3:1-4
- 24) Philippians 2:12-15
- 25) 2 Thessalonians 3:7-18

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Daniel 2; 7; 9-11
- Isaiah 2

Also referenced: Sermon Series: Daniel/Revelation

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Transcribed: 5-15-15

## Epistles to the Thessalonians IV The Beast, the False Prophet & the Two Witnesses (2-Thessalonians 2) Fred R. Coulter

We just read from Texe Marrs' *Flash Point* newsletter, and I think he takes it too far too fast, though ultimately it may reach the point that he says. There are many plans and schemes in action, and Satan has many of them working:

- economic front
- technology front
- government front
- religious front

all working within the organizations, businesses and so forth. It is coming, but what is it going to be?

We have had a lot of false alarms on prophecies. Not that the Scriptural prophecies were not true. *The Scriptural prophecies are always true!* What happened? *It was the interpretation of those prophecies!* Everyone was wanting to make the Day of the Lord come *in their way* of looking at it, and *in their version* of doing it.

That's led to a lot of problems, but they've overlooked something very major. They have overlooked because of misunderstanding and misapplying Scriptures that would have helped them to understand what was happening.

Let's look at 2-Thess., again. Let's get rid of the misapplied interpretations and let's see what it is really actually telling us. Let's look at and read what it says from the Greek.

2-Thessalonians 2:1: "Now, we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken in mind, nor be troubled—neither by spirit, nor by word... [message] ...nor by epistle... [letter] ...as if from... [written by] ...us... [and actual *forged* letter] ...saying that **the day of Christ is present**" (vs 1-2).

That is entirely different than the *King James Version*:

v 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**.

What does it mean "...at hand" to you? What does it mean to you if I had not read from the *Faithful Version* "...is present"? *Real close!* Is present means something entirely different.

Notice that this does not say *the Day of the Lord*. "...the day of [the] Christ..." It is significant that it does not say *the Day of the Lord*. Why should it be translated "...is present"? "...the day of Christ is present"—what does that mean?

It doesn't mean that God has already come. In their opinion that qualifies it. It means the messiah is here. *The Christ means the Messiah*. Let's see what Jesus said. I don't think we have a clue—compared to what we understood in the past—I don't think we really understood anything.

Matthew 24:23: "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here *is* the Christ,' or, '*He is there,*' do not believe *it*.... [here's why you're not to believe it]: ...For there shall arise **false Christs**..." (vs 23-24)—plural; more than one. What does this means other than more than one? Could it be that we will have 'messiah competition'? Each one proclaiming that *their man* is the messiah and the day of God's rule on earth has come?

On the back of this text, Texe Mars Is saying:

In April 1982 Los Angeles, New York, London, Tokyo and other cities were shocked by a full page ad proclaiming "the Christ is in the world."

Just what Paul was writing about, that it is present.

The ad described the Lord Maitreya is the great world teacher for people of every religion and no religion.

Isn't that wonderful?

Readers were told that the Christ—Lord Maitreya—was in hiding, but was ready to assume his rightful place on the throne of global power. Soon the ad assured that Maitreya would make himself known to the whole world and every eye would behold him.

In 1987 news reports came out of Africa and trumpeted mystic healings. The mystic heals thousands and then vanishes into thin air.

Even magicians can make that happen before people's eyes; this is no great thing.

Benjamin Crème head of the Share International—claimed that Lord

Maitreya—the Christ and messiah for the New Age—appeared before 6,000 worshipers at the Church of Bethlehem near Nairobi, Kenya, addressing the crowd in perfect Swahili, their native language and announcing that he was Jesus Christ returned to the earth in another form.

Maitreya is said to have healed 20 cripples, then POOF! he vanished into thin air. Who is the mysterious Lord Maitreya? Why does Benjamin Crème, his forerunner and spokesman, claim that he is the messiah long expected by Jews, Christians, Muslim, Buddhists and the like? Is Maitreya a real person or a mystical concoction from the fertile mind of Mr. Crème? Is the antichrist about to be revealed?

In 1988 Texe Mars debated Benjamin Crème on radio in Austin, Texas; phone lines were jammed.

It's going to happen again. What if the Catholics have *their* messiah? and the Jews have *their* messiah? and the Muslims have *their* messiah? and the Buddhists have *their* messiah? There's going to be competition; who is the greatest? But it will come down to one person, one man!

Verse 24: "For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and they shall present great signs and wonders..." It's going to be something! I don't think we've seen anything like it! I don't think we have seen or have an inkling as to the magnitude of the great occult society that is coming on this world.

"...in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have foretold *it* to you. Therefore, if they say to you, '*Come and see! He is in the wilderness*'; do not go forth. '*Come and see! He is in the secret chambers*'; do not believe *it*' (vs 24-26). That's not how Christ is going to come.

There are some people who said that the Great Tribulation is going to start in 1997. Didn't happen! An event must first take place. So, we can look into the Scriptures and know when the Great Tribulation begins.

2-Thessalonians 2:2: "...the day of Christ is present. Do not let anyone deceive you by any means because **that day will not come unless the apostasy shall come first...**" (vs 2-3)—finished, completed, *first*.

In the *King James* it says that there is a 'falling away first,' which is interpreted as *all who leave the Church have fallen away, therefore, 'if you stay with the Church you won't fall away.* How are you going to square that with the fact that most of

the Church has fallen away? That was misapplied.

What we're talking about here is not just a falling away from Truth; it's a falling away from anything of God to everything from Satan. That is the *great apostasy!* What is the ultimate of the apostasy going to be? *It is going to be the worship of Satan the devil openly and willingly!* It's going to be something! Let's see what's going to happen and how these events come up to it.

Revelation 13:1: "And I stood on the sand of the sea; and I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads *the* name of blasphemy." Are there going to be seven major religions involved? *I don't know!*

Verse 2: "And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, and his feet like *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth like *the* mouth of a lion; and the dragon... [the devil] ...gave him his power, and his throne and great authority." He gets all three from Satan the devil! This is the whole system that has to develop. This is bringing together the best of all the civilizations of the world.

Read Dan. 7 and see how these are parts of all of them together. The beast is the one whom Satan sends; it ends up being one man. Out of all the false Christs it's one man!

Verse 3: "And I saw one of his heads as *if it were* slain to death, but his deadly wound was healed..." There have been many interpretations of this, but I believe that it is actually a wound to a physical man, which then 'proves' that he is God because he's brought back to life.

- How about if it's after three days?
- How about if he's resurrected on an Easter Sunday morning?
- Why does he get the wound?

A lot of people think that *the beast* is going to be the pope. *It's not!* He's going to be the *false prophet*. Will this wound be the result of competition between *the beast* and Judaism, and Judaism's false messiah? *I would say, yes!* You have to make some guesses in it, but you can't be dogmatic in it.

{note sermon series: Dan./Rev.} When I did the chart and counted back 1,290 days from the stopping of the sacrifices, and the day that *the beast* and *false prophet* are cast into the Lake of Fire—assume it was the Feast of Trumpets. You count back 1,290 days, what day do you come to? *To the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan!* What day is the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan? If there is a temple in Jerusalem, which there will be, and

they're going to offer sacrifices again, which will happen, what will the 10<sup>th</sup> of Nisan represent to the Jews? *The day when the Passover lambs are selected!*

If the sacrifices are stopped then, what do you think the Jews are going to do? Roll over and play dead? *No!* We'll add a little more to it with this 'messiah competition,' Remember, what has to happen is this:

"...but his deadly wound was healed, and **the whole earth** was amazed..." (v 3). This is going to be a worldwide occurrence. This is a huge and gigantic event.

"...and followed the beast. And they **worshiped the dragon**... [That's where the apostasy is going to come. They're going to openly worship Lucifer!] ...who gave *his* authority to the beast. And they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast? Who has the power to make war against him?'" (vs 3-4). The deadly wound was healed!

How do I think that this is going to happen? We have go by events; we cannot go by setting a date:

1-Thessalonians 2:3: "Do not let anyone deceive you by any means because *that day will not come unless **the apostasy shall come first**...*"

Let's see what happens right after that. As we see, there's going to be no doubt about it. We're going to see a whole union of all religions. That will come *first!* There is going to be an element of Judaism here that is mixed into the whole thing.

"...and the man of sin shall be revealed—the son of perdition" (v 3). He's going to be revealed! There's going to be no doubt about it!

The Tribulation cannot start until after the deadly wound is healed. There's going to be a time of great peace and prosperity leading up to it. How are you going to have *the day of the Christ present* if you don't have peace and it looks like the world is finally going to get along? *There's going to come that great peace!*

1-Thessalonians 5:1: "Now then, concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, there is no need that I write to you; for you yourselves understand perfectly that the Day of *the Lord* will come exactly as a thief *comes* by night. For **when they say, 'Peace and security,**' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as travail *comes* upon a woman who is with child..." (vs 1-3). There's going to be peace and prosperity. Watch the economic reports. What do they say? *Peace and prosperity!* How long

will it be? *I don't know!* But how about if we end up with so many year after year of peace and prosperity, that it's going to seem like, yes, they're really right.

The apostasy is much bigger. All the religions together, it's going to be humongous! This is going to be Satan's grand finale; it's going to be marvelous to be old. If you don't know the Truth, you're going to be deceived.

If there's going to be so much peace and happiness, why is the Tribulation going to come? *I'll see if I can answer that!*

The apostasy, all the world's religions functioning together, which will be under the *false prophet without a doubt*... By the way, the Catholics are already paving the way for this by accepting evolution. They've already said that men can, in these other religions, have a part of Christ, so they can be led to salvation. Things are being twisted and turned so much so that it's amazing!

Here's the man of sin, the son of perdition, meaning a particular person. Who is the only other one in Scripture called 'the son perdition'? *Judas Iscariot!* He betrayed and resisted Christ. He was possessed by Satan the devil.

Notice what he's going to do, and a time when he's going to do this. Let's put this together, and some thoughts into it, to suppose to bring it together, but I think you will see how it possibly can be that way.

2-Thessalonians 2:4: "The one who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God..." Greater than any other god that has ever been; greater than **GOD!** (Isa. 14) It was Lucifer who said, 'I will ascend into the heights and I will become like the Most High.'

"...or that is an object of worship..." (v 4). That's why they're going to make an image **for the beast**. They'll now have a new one.

"...so that he... [as God] ...comes into the temple of God and sits down as God, proclaiming that he himself is God" (v 4). How is he going to get into the temple of God?

What temple was Paul referring to? *The one in Jerusalem, because the temple at that time had not been destroyed!* There will be another temple built in Jerusalem. They already have many of the artifacts made. They have the uniforms and the Urim and Thummim made. They have the lots for the goats of Azazel. They are looking for the red heifer so they can have the ashes to clean it. The Temple Mount Institute is all ready to go with it, but it's not God's time to do so. That will come! And there will



be a temple that will be built! They will offer animal sacrifices! When the temple is built, that's when the Jewish messiah is to come. Every prophecy of Judaism says that when they rebuild the temple, 'the messiah will come.' All of the 'stupid Christians' say, 'Well, isn't that wonderful, they're waiting for Christ.

***No they're not! They're looking for a man! They're looking for a human messiah!*** They're not waiting for Christ; they hate Christ.

Let's look at the 'messiah competition' for just a minute. Let's see something in Dan. 11. I have to put a little 'what if' in here, but I think it will make sense. Let's see what's going to happen at the end-time.

I want you to imagine what's going to happen with say three years of offering sacrifices, pilgrimages by many people in the world coming to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices. The spread of Judaism will spread like wildfire. What is that going to do for the Catholics? *It's going to dawn on them, because there's great hostility between them!*

Let's suppose there's a Jewish messiah in Jerusalem. Now creating all kinds of problems.

Daniel 11:40: "And at the time of the end, the King of the South shall push at him. And the King of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind..." I'm sure this is coming out of Europe. The King of the North, I believe, will be the Catholic messiah. A messiah is always king.

"...with chariots and with horsemen and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries and shall overflow and sweep through. He shall also enter into the glorious land..." (vs 40-41).

- What is he going to do in the "...glorious land..."?
- What is he going to do in Jerusalem?
- *He's going to come and get rid of the messiah!*
- How is he going to prove that he's 'God' and the Jewish messiah is not 'God'?
- *He's going to kill him and then enter into the temple and say that he is 'God.'*

'Obviously, I have to be 'God' because I killed the Jewish messiah.' Whoa! Now then, the 'suicide squads' go after *the beast*. In this case, the Jewish messiah is not resurrected.

The Jewish 'suicide squad' goes after *the beast* and they wound him unto death. When that happens, guess how he's going to come when he comes back to life. Let's see what happens. This is going to be something! We need to get the two

witnesses in the mix, too. I'm sure that the two witnesses are going to witness even against the Jewish messiah.

Revelation 13:5—after the deadly wound was healed: "And a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies was given to him ..." That's exactly what the man of sin, the son of perdition, does when he goes into the temple. He's saying that he is God. There can't be any more blasphemous statement than a Satan-possessed man claiming he is God.

"...and authority was given to him to continue *for forty-two months*" (v 5)—after what? *After the deadly wound was healed!* This is the beginning of the Tribulation, right here!

Daniel 12:1: "And at that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands for the children of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even until that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered—every one who shall be found written in the book." There's going to be the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 6:1—the second seal; notice the same identical parallel that I just covered: "And I looked when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard..." Who is going to make these things occur? *Christ is! No man! No misinterpretation of prophecy! Christ is going to do it!*

Notice what comes first, "...one of the four living creatures say, like the sound of thunder, 'Come and see.' And I looked, and behold, *there was a white horse...* [a counterfeit Christ] ...and the one who was sitting on it had a bow, and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer. And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, 'Come and see.' And another horse went out *that was red*; and *power* was given to the one sitting on it to take peace from the earth..." (vs 1-4).

Remember? *Peace, peace, then sudden destruction!* The beast comes back to life and there is 43 months of...

"...and *to cause* them to kill one another; and a great sword was given to him. And when He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, 'Come and see.' And I looked, and behold, *there was a black horse...*" (vs 4-5)—famine and death with plagues and things that come right on the heels of war.

Then who are they going to blame? *All the Christians who never went along with the system and received the mark of the beast!* They are the enemies that are causing all of this and must be executed. That's when the martyrdom of the saints

occurs.

Revelation 13:6: “And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. And he was given *power* to make war against the saints and to overcome them...” (vs 6-7). That means WAR! A physical war to overcome them.

“...and he was given authority over every tribe and language and nation” (v 7). When is he given this exclusive dictatorial authority over the whole earth?

- after he’s revealed
- after he receives the deadly wound—which is healed
- after he sits in the temple of God and says, ‘I am God!’

Then all the nations come and give all their power and authority *to the beast!*

Verse 8: “And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from *the foundation of the world*. **If anyone has an ear, let him hear**” (vs 8-9).

- hear the events
- hear the Word of God

I think it’s interesting that wherever you go in the New Testament where it says, ‘He who has an ear let him hear’ God has some pretty powerful messages.

Who are the saints? *The only ones who have the Holy Spirit!* There will be no such thing as a ‘professing Christian’ as we know it today. All the Protestant churches are going to change and conform. All of the Catholics are going to change and conform. We are talking about a tremendous ‘religious’ revolution that is coming, the likes of which I don’t think we are even prepared to understand; though we do understand a little bit of it.

When we read *The Shofar* from Bethel Temple, the Jewish community center in Santa Cruz, California, here is a rabbi who comes back and says, ‘What I have learned from Buddhism and how to save Buddhism.’ He learned it from going to be a Buddhist! I don’t think we understand how far these ‘religions’ are going to go to come together.

Remember the Catholics that are working with the Buddhists. This is going to be awesome stuff! Huge! If Satan makes war against the saints, should the saints fight back? *There’s a message!* That’s why God says, ‘He who has an ear let him hear.’ What did Jesus say that you are to do to your enemy? *Love your enemy!* What did Jesus do when

He was taken? *He didn’t resist!* He was killed! We are, however, to give a witness to them, which will hasten our death!

I don’t think God is going to put a lot of seniors through this, because they won’t have the strength to do it. I think God is going to take a lot of them, tuck them safely in the grave, and then the rest of us who are alive are going to have to face this. Here’s what’s going to happen:

Matthew 10:17: “But beware of men...” This happened to the apostles immediately when they started preaching, and it’s going to happen again. We’re going to have a repeat of the first century, again.

“...for they will deliver you up to councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and you shall also be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a witness to them and to the Gentiles” (vs 17-18). You tell them exactly a message from God.

Verse 19: “Now, when they deliver you up, do not be anxious *about* how or what you should speak; for in that hour it shall be given to you what you shall speak.” That’s why it’s imperative to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Verse 20: “For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father that speaks in... [or through] ...you.” It’s going to be a powerful testimony. This is going to be so awesome and great, and so satanic a thing that’s going to come. Even the smallest, most insignificant saint who is hauled before one of these councils is going to give a dynamic and powerful witness, just exactly like Stephen did (Acts. 7). The Father *in us* is going to do it.

- Do you think He’s going to give a little ‘I’m ok, you’re ok’ thing? *No way!*
- How bad is it going to get?

Verse 21: “Then brother will deliver up brother to death; and *the father*, the child; and children will rise up against *their* parents and *have* them put to death. And you shall be hated by all for My name’s sake...” (vs 21-22). Unless you understand how much they hate Christ...

“...but the one who endures *to the end*, that one shall be saved” (v 22). Then it talks about persecution. You’re going to be chased around before you’re delivered up, but eventually they will get you.

- Should we protect ourselves?
- What about those ‘professing Christians’

- who have guns and weapons stashed away?  
• Do you think you can kill someone in the name of Jesus Christ, even your enemy, and enter into the Kingdom of God?

*Some may try!*

Revelation 13:9: “If anyone has an ear, let him hear. If anyone gathers *into* captivity, he shall go into captivity.... [that’s going to happen] ...If **anyone kills with the sword**... [here is the endurance and faith of the saints]: ...**he must be killed with the sword**. Here is the endurance and the faith of the saints” (vs 9-10). What does that mean? *It means they don’t do it!* You don’t threaten back! When Christ was reviled, reviled back not again. When He was threatened against, He did not threaten.

That’s what we are to do. We are to give a witness! That’s it; let God take care of the rest.

(go to the next track)

Let’s come to the second part of the story: *the false prophet!*

Verse 11: “And I saw **another beast** rising out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb...” A *horn* symbolizes a king or person; this has two horns.

Could this mean that while *the beast* is on the rise, there will be the first one who endorses him and then dies in office and another one comes on the scene? Is that what it means? *I don’t know!* Even the Catholics are in a quandary. Is there one or two more popes to come? They have a little spot in St. Peter’s Basilica where they have a picture of every pope. When he is put in office they put a little round picture in this blank space. The pope is buried in a red Santa Claus suit: red and black belt. While he lies in state, however, he has on his vestures.

Do you know how they verify that a pope is dead? *They have a special ceremonial hammer!* A small one. They don’t bludgeon his head in. Don’t misunderstand what I’m saying. They take this little hammer and they tap him on the forehead: ‘Are you in there?’ They do this three times, and with no answer they pronounce him dead.

I’ve often thought that this would be something if there are two popes who overlap the final beast power. One who assures the world that he’s a wonderful man and he is really the one from God. Then this pope dies and another one comes on the scene and he starts performing great and wonderful miracles. Maybe both of them perform miracles. But notice what he does:

“...but spoke like a dragon... [speaking

Satan’s words] ...and he exercises all the authority of the first beast before him; and he causes the earth and those who dwell therein to worship the first beast...” (vs 11-12).

This has to happen at a time when the world is worshipping the first beast. But you have to, in writing put those in sequence, because you can’t crowd the words all together to make them fit in one. They cause them to.

“...to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed. and he exercises all the authority of the first beast before him; and he causes the earth and those who dwell therein... [in the sight of men that they can see it] ...to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by means of the wonders that were given to him to perform in the sight of the beast, saying to those who dwell on the earth (vs 12-14).

It deceives those on the earth by reason of these signs, miracles or wonders that it gives, and that it works in the presence of the first beast. This is going to be something!

What happened to some of Job’s possessions? *Fire came down from heaven and devoured it!* This is not going to be a high-tech virtual reality kind of thing. This is going to be the *real* thing.

“...that they should make an image for the beast, which had the wound by the sword, yet was alive” (v 14). That’s going to happen!

They are going to change the societal way of doing things at this time. This is when the *mark of the beast* is going to be put into effect. It will require choice to commit idolatry. Everyone is going to have to worship the image for the beast, which will probably be an image of the mother goddess; always has been! You won’t receive *the mark of the beast* unless you worship the image, or bow down to it.

Notice that it follows right after it. There’s going to be a special central image that’s going to be made. This second beast makes it come alive. It’s an idol, because image is from the Greek ‘icon,’ meaning *idol*. That’s going to be a real bona fide miracle. It’s not going to be a high-tech thing, I do not believe. Someone would come along and say, ‘That’s high-tech; we’ve proved it. We picked up the transmissions that made it move and speak.’ They’re going to make the thing really do it.

Verse 15: “And he was given power to give life to the image of the beast, **so that the image of the beast also could speak**; and he causes everyone who will not worship the image of the beast to be

killed. And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, **to receive a mark...**" (vs 15-16).

The beast was not, yet, is—that is healed—is going to give a mark "...in their right hands, or in their foreheads" (v 16). It's not going to be a thumb-print or an eye-print—God put those there. It's going to be *put upon!*

Verse 17: "So that no one may have the ability to buy and sell unless he has the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." It's going to be an airtight system. There's going to have to be idolatry first.

Verses 7 & 17 should be in parallel, if you put them together properly. That's correct because that's when it will take place. It's not one of these things that all of a sudden, in the dark of night, that they change the economic system and now you must have this card. That is all leading to it. It's identifying the system.

Verse 18: "Here is wisdom. Let the one who has understanding count the number of the beast; for it is a man's number, and his number is 666."

- Who is going to understand?
- When are we going to understand this?
- How are we going to understand it?

I submit that every thing, in the past, of trying to understand who the beast and what 666 really is and how it's going to come about has been a failure. The "...one who has understanding..." let him "...count the number of the beast..." Who is going to understand?

Daniel 12:8: "And I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, 'O my lord, what shall be the end of these things?' And he said, 'Go your way, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed until the time of the end'" (vs 8-9). Who is going to open the seals? *Christ!* That's Who is going to open.

Verse 10: "Many shall be purified, and made white and refined. But the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, **but the wise shall understand.**" When will we understand? *When God is ready and the time is right, He will make it known!* Two hundred years ago it couldn't be known because it wasn't the time. The man of sin, the son of perdition, must have come first, **before** we can understand the number of his name. He shall be revealed. God always has a few surprises in store.

2-Thessalonians 2:5: "Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these

things?" Paul understood it by *event*. That's how we are to understand it.

Verse 6: "And now you understand what is holding *him* back in order... [those events must come first **before** he goes into the temple of God] ...for him to be revealed in his own set time." There is a particular time when *the man of sin* is going to be revealed. God is going to make it known, and then we are going to have to preach it.

Verse 7: "For the mystery of lawlessness is already working..."—already working back then. How many people know that Judaism has wanted to set up a one-world religion headquartered in Jerusalem?

Let me tell you a little bit about the Bar Kokhba Revolution: The city of the Jerusalem was destroyed and virtually the face of the earth was scraped, the temple was demolished and all the Jews vanished from Jerusalem. If you were a Jew sitting out here in the hinterland, what could you look to in the Scriptures that would kind of give you a sign that maybe you would be coming back?

How long was the Babylonian captivity? *70 years!* 70<sub>A.D.</sub> plus 70 years is 140<sub>A.D.</sub> Some of the Jews were starting to come back in preparation for the 140<sub>A.D.</sub> event, but the Emperor Hadrian of the Roman Empire banished all Jews from even entering from 130<sub>A.D.</sub> They couldn't get there, so then Bar Kokhba with Rabbi Akiva—an Edomite—said that Bar Kokhba was the 'messiah' and he was going to recapture Jerusalem and rebuild the temple and usher in the Kingdom of God on earth.

They came against the Romans very swiftly and it looked like they were going to succeed. They even came up and it looked like they were going to take Jerusalem. Then the Roman Empire—because it was not time—sent troops in and killed, slaughtered, destroyed, and to this day the Jews view this as one of the worst setbacks they have ever experienced, which is true.

The remnant of the army escaped to what is called Masada, a fortress way up on the cliffs. The mountains are just straight up and it's very difficult to get up there and never conquered. The Romans were determined to get rid of every Jew that was up there. Hollywood made a movie of this and they showed how the Roman army spent two years building their causeways so they could get up to the top of Masada. They finally did it, but the Jews said they were going to deprive the Romans of their victory: 'We're all going to commit suicide. They drew lots as to who would make sure that everyone was dead. I think a woman and a couple children lived and got away.'

Every officer of the Israeli army must go to Masada and go through a special ritual and vow to never let the Holy Land to be taken out of the hands of the Jews again. We're talking about some pretty heady stuff that's going to happen. ***This man of sin must be revealed in his time!***

"...only *there is* one Who is restraining at the present *time* until it arises out of *the midst*" (v 7). Whoever this beast is going to be is going to come out the midst of the mystery Babylonian system.

Verse 8: "And then the lawless one will be revealed... [it's going to be known; God will reveal it] ...whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming); *even* the one whose coming is according to *the* inner working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders" (vs 8-9).

This is going to be awesome! We're talking about a jaded, cynical generation. It's going to take something to really move them.

Verse 10: "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness... [every trick in the book, every lie and twisting of Scripture and everything] ...in those who are perishing... [Why?]: ...**because they did not receive the love of the Truth, so that they might be saved.**"

That's a real key, "...the love of the Truth..." That's something that we always need to have.

- the love of the Truth—God's Word
- the love of the Truth—Jesus Christ

Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.'

Verse 11: "And for this cause, God will send upon them a powerful deception... [working in their mind] ...that will cause them to believe *the lie*"—that *that man* is God on earth.

Verse 12: "So that all may be judged who did not believe the Truth, but who took pleasure in unrighteousness." That may include some brethren that *we thought* were brethren. I pray that whomever can repent will repent. I don't want to try and preach any of the brethren into eternal death. I pray they all repent.

God is going to give His witness, and it's going to be a powerful witness. It is going to be something! I believe that the two witnesses are going to be the high priest of the coming temple, and the governor of Judea at that time—maybe a past governor of Judea. Their conversion is going to be just like the Apostle Paul's conversion—BAM!

Remember how Paul was called right in the

middle of going out with the authority of the high priest to arrest, imprison and bring back to torture and kill Christians. God took care of him, and it's going to be the same way with the two witnesses. Notice what they're going to do:

Revelation 11:1: "Then *the angel* gave me a measuring rod like a staff, saying, 'Arise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it.'" There's going to be the temple that is built. They have discovered that the Mosque of Omar does not sit where the altar of burnt offerings was. It is to the south, so there is room to build the temple, a small one. It's not going to be like the Temple Institute wants. They want to get rid of the Mosque of Omar and make a grand, huge and big temple like Rabbi Solomon wants.

In the area of the Temple Mount there is a tunnel underneath, and the Jews temporarily closed it down and Netanyahu opened it up. They say that's as close as they can get to worship. That's why Jesus said to the woman at the well:

She said, 'You said that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Verily, verily, I say to you that the hour is coming and now is that you shall neither worship in this mountain—Samaria—nor yet in Jerusalem. For the Father seeks those who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. For God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.'

The little room that they have under there has nothing to do with God. But the Jews feel that they must physically get there. That's why the deception is going to come. There will be eventually be a compromise. The Jews will understand that they can't get rid of the Mosque of Omar and the Arabs will understand that they can't get rid of the Jews, and they would have greater peace if they allowed them to build a small temple next to it. After all the Arabs would also benefit from it. There will be a temple.

Verse 2: "But leave out the court that *is* within the temple *area*, and do not measure it because it has been given *up* to the Gentiles; and they shall trample upon the Holy city *for* forty-two months. And I will give *power* to My two witnesses... [converted instantly and given that power] ...and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees... [see Zech. 3-4] ...and *the* two lampstands that stand before the God of the earth" (vs 2-4). There is going to be no one greater in power on the earth than those two!

Notice what they're going to do, I believe,

that they come on the scene just before the stopping of the sacrifices. They're going to be witnessing, first of all to the Jews. They're probably going to say to the Jews that 'this man is not the messiah,' referring to *their physical messiah*. They're going to witness for God.

Verse 5: "And if anyone attempts to harm them, fire will go out of their mouths and devour their enemies.... [this is awesome stuff] ...For if anyone attempts to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have authority to shut heaven so that no rain may fall in *the* days of their prophecy; and **they have authority over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they will**" (vs 5-6).

Can you see the intense battle that is going to happen here? I imagine that the King of the North is going to come against the King of the South, go into the Holy Land and kill the Jewish messiah and then he's going to try and do something to the two witnesses. He's not going to be able to lay a hand on them.

Verse 7: "And when they have completed their testimony, the beast who ascends out of the abyss will make war against them, and will overcome them, and will kill them. And their bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified" (vs 7-8)—right there in Jerusalem. These are events that are just mind-boggling!

Verse 9: "Then those of the peoples and tribes and languages and nations shall see their bodies three and a half days, for they will not allow their bodies to be put into tombs. And **those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, and will make merry**... [finally, we've gotten rid of them after all this time] ...and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets had tormented those who dwell on the earth" (vs 9-10).

They're going to have a heyday for three and a-half days, v 11: Then after the three and a half days, *the* spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a great voice from heaven, say, 'Come up here!' And they ascended into heaven in a cloud; and their enemies saw them *rise*. And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and seven thousand men were killed in the earthquake. And the rest were filled with fear, and gave glory to the God of heaven" (vs 11-13).

We have literally here *the last shall be first!* That's something! ***None of these events are going to***

***take place until the man of sin, the son of perdition, is revealed.*** It hasn't come, yet. You can take all of these prophecies that men write, you can read them, you can understand where they're wrong. They are misapplying Scriptures to make it fit their scenario.

There's one man who said that in 1997<sup>[corrected]</sup> the Great Tribulation would begin. It didn't happen, because the man of sin, the son of perdition was not revealed. We thought at one time that it was going to 1972. There was a man who wrote *88 Reasons Why Christ is Going to Return in 1988*. It didn't happen! He wrote a sequel: *89 Reasons Why Christ is Going to Return in 1989*. It didn't happen! After that he gave up.

***No man is going to schedule God's plan;*** He's going to do it! The beast will be revealed before he goes to sit in the temple. The great apostasy will happen first—the one-world religion.

2-Thessalonians 2:13: Now, we are duty-bound to give thanks to God always concerning you, brethren, who are beloved by *the* Lord, because God from *the* beginning has called you unto salvation through sanctification of *the* Spirit and belief of *the* Truth unto which He called you by our Gospel to *the* obtaining of *the* glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand firm, and hold fast the ordinances... [teachings] ...that you were taught, whether by word or by our epistle. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God—even our Father, Who loved us and gave *us* eternal encouragement and good hope through grace. Encourage your hearts and establish you in every good word and work" (vs 13-17).

***May He do that with us, that we are not the children of darkness, but the children of light!***

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

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- 1) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2
- 2) Matthew 24:23-26
- 3) 2 Thessalonians 2:2-3
- 4) Revelation 13:1-3-4
- 5) 2 Thessalonians 2:3
- 6) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4
- 7) Daniel 11:40-41
- 8) Revelation 13:5
- 9) Daniel 12:1
- 10) Revelation 6:1-5
- 11) Revelation 13:6-9
- 12) Matthew 10:17-22
- 13) Revelation 13:9-18

- 14) Daniel 12:8-10
- 15) 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12
- 16) Revelation 11:1-13
- 17) 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

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- Daniel 7
- Isaiah 14
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