

The Man of Lawlessness and the Return of Jesus

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12

Purpose of 2 Thessalonians

- Correct false teaching about the return of Jesus and remind the Thessalonians to wait well.

1 Thes 5:2–3

“You know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”

Shaken

- Luke 6:46-49 Jesus compares people who hear his words and do them to someone who builds a house on a deep foundation of rock —“And when a flood arose, the stream came against that house and ***could not shake it*** because it had been well built.”
- Acts 16:26, Paul and Barnabas had been jailed for preaching the gospel and “immediately there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison were ***shaken***.”

Alarmed

Mark 13:7 Instructing His disciples about the end times, Jesus said, “When you hear of wars and rumors of wars do not be *alarmed*. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.”

3 Possible Sources of Confusion

- A Spirit ... seems to indicate a word of prophecy that was invalid
- A word ... a teaching or a report that was false
- A letter seeming to come from us ... possibly forged.

2 Thes 3:17

“I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write.”

Major Takeaways

- It appears He gave us this information for two reasons:
 - So that we would not be shaken and alarmed when horrible things happen while we wait for Jesus to return.
 - So that we would not be deceived by false Messiahs

The Big Idea

- Peace and assurance don't come from knowing the times and seasons of Jesus' return but from a personal knowledge of the God who rules the times and seasons

Mark 13:22

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

Parousia/Coming

- 2 Thes 2:1 with “the parousia/coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- 2 Thes 2:9 – “The parousia/coming of the Lawless One” parallels

apocalyppto/revealing

- 2 Thes 1:7 – “The Lord Jesus is *revealed* from heaven with his mighty angels.”
- 2 Thes 2:3, 6, & 8 – The Man of Lawlessness *revealed*.

1 John 2:18 & 22

- Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour ... Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.

Mark 13:22

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

The Breath of Jesus

- Isaiah 11:4 – “but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth, and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.”
- 2 Thes 2:8 – “the Lord Jesus will kill [him] with the breath of his mouth and bring [him] to nothing by the appearance of his coming.”

The Big Idea

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A Mighty Fortress

And though this world, with devils filled,

Should threaten to undo us,

We will not fear, for God hath willed

His truth to triumph through us.

A Mighty Fortress

The Prince of Darkness grim,

We tremble not for him;

His rage we can endure.

For lo! His doom is sure.

One little word shall fell him.