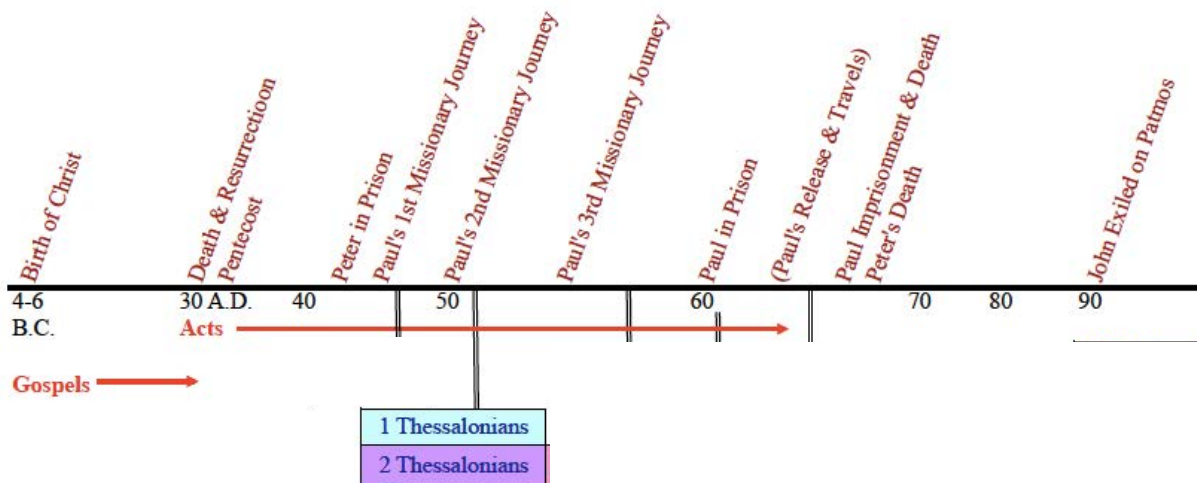


SECOND THESSALONIANS

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New Testament Chronology



2 THESSALONIANS

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- * Book Title

- * Second of two letters — Written from Corinth ca. 51 AD

- * Author:

Apostle Paul and Silvanus and Timothy

Silvanus = Silas — a key leader of Jerusalem church

2 THESSALONIANS

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- * Recipient (1:1)

Thessalonians — Church at Thessalonica (modern: Thessaloniki aka Salonica in Greece)

- * Conversion: Ac 17:1-4 (Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey)

- * Church Composition:

Jews + Greeks (pagan background);
mostly Gentiles (1:9)

2 THESSALONIANS

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

I. Situation

- I.1. After receiving I Thessalonians letter, the church had a misunderstanding concerning the Day of the Lord. They were also confused by a false report that the Day of the Lord had already occurred (2:1-2).
 - I.2. Possibly increased idleness (cf. I Thes 4:11-12) due to misunderstanding, which resulted in an embarrassment for the church (3:6-11).
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2 THESSALONIANS

PURPOSE

1. To correct erroneous understanding concerning the Day of the Lord and
 2. To exhort believers to work for their living and not be idle.
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2 THESSALONIANS

CONTENT

1. Eschatology: More revelation concerning the signs of the Day of the Lord
 - 1.1. Apostasy
 - 1.2. “man of lawlessness”
 - 1.3. “Restrainer”
 - 1.4. Delusion among unbelievers
 2. Exhortation to maintain faith & a productive lifestyle
 3. Other Themes
 - 3.1. Justice of God
 - 3.2. Gospel Testimony & Suffering
 - 3.3. Work
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2 THESSALONIANS: KEYWORD

Worthy of Calling

2 Thes 1:11 (NRSV)

“... We constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.”

2 THESSALONIANS

Time: 51 AD from Corinth

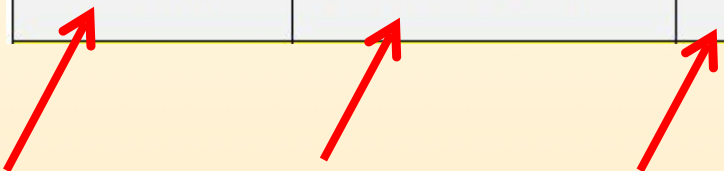
Salutation & Thanksgiving		Retribution on Persecutors		Day of the Lord: Signs		Comfort & Prayers		Concerning the Disorderly and Lazy		Benediction	
1:1-4	1:5-12	2:1-12	2:13-3:5	3:6-15	3:16-18	Encouragement		Correction of Teaching		Correction of Behaviour	
Worthy of Calling in Affliction		Worthy of Calling in Knowledge		Worthy of Calling in Lifestyle							

2 THESSALONIANS STUDY



2 THESSALONIANS

Salutation & Thanksgiving	Retribution on Persecutors	Day of the Lord: Signs	Comfort & Prayers	Concerning the Disorderly and Lazy	Benediction
1:1-4	1:5-12	2:1-12	2:13-3:5	3:6-15	3:16-18
Encouragement	Correction of Teaching		Correction of Behaviour		



2 THESSALONIANS

1. Encouragement (1:1-12)

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to persevere in the midst of their persecution and to live worthy of God's calling (1:11-12) because God will righteously judge their persecutors (1:5-12).

- 1.1. *worthy of calling* (1:11-12 cf. 1:5 *worthy of the kingdom of God*)
- 1.2. Perspective on persecutions and afflictions: not permanent, not ignored by God. Persecutors and oppressors will suffer retribution.

2 *THESSALONIANS*

2. Correction of Teaching (2:1-3:5)

In this section Paul gives further clarification on the signs concerning this Day (2:1-12 see notes below) and exhorts the Thessalonians to hold fast to apostolic teaching (2:5, 15). He closes this segment with prayers for them (2:16 – 3:5).

- 2.1. Paul's prayer (2:16-17) and request for prayer (3:1-5) — evaluate our prayers
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2 *THESSALONIANS*

3. Correction of Behaviour (3:6-18)

Similar to I Thessalonians, Paul ends the epistle by exhorting those who had lapsed into disorderly and lazy behavior – to engage in a disciplined life, and to work for their own living (3:11-15).

Application Discussion

1. What does it mean for a Christian to live “worthy of God’s calling”? (2 Thes 1:11-12)
2. On a scale of 1 to 10 (very important), how important is diligence and hard work to Christian testimony?



1 & 2 THESSALONIANS **THE DAY OF THE LORD**

1. The phrase “Day of the LORD” typically connotes God’s special intervention in human history, whether past or future.
 - 1.1. Includes elements of terrifying judgment on the wicked or mighty deliverance of the righteous
 - 1.2. Not necessarily a “24-hour” period
 2. Narrow reference: An event
Broad reference: A series of events over a period of time
 - 2.1. In Bible History: God’s intervention in Israel’s history
 - 2.2. Eschatologically — includes Great Tribulation, 2nd Coming, Millennium
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1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

THE DAY OF THE LORD

3. The phrase Day of the Lord was mentioned in 1 Thess 5:2-4.

- 3.1. Not a new topic for the Thessalonians as they had previously received teaching from Paul personally.
 - 3.2. In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Paul gives further instruction as a false report had confused the Thessalonians.
In 2 Thessalonians this phrase refers to the 2nd Coming of the Lord Jesus.
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1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

THE DAY OF THE LORD

4. Consolidated: Signs & Sequence

- 4.1. Timing is unpredictable, like *a thief in the night* or like *birth-pangs* amidst a false sense of peace and security (1 Thes 5:2-3)
 - 4.2. Increasing apostasy/rebellion in the period leading to His Coming (2 Thes 2:3a).
 - 4.3. A strong leader will arise – Paul describes him as a ‘man of lawlessness’ and a ‘son of destruction’ (2 Thes 2:3b-4). This person is not revealed in the present age because of the presence of the ‘Restrainer’. Meanwhile, the hidden power of lawlessness will be at work (2 Thes 2:7a).
-

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

THE DAY OF THE LORD

4. Consolidated: Signs & Sequence

4.4. The full revelation of the 'man of lawlessness' will only happen when the 'Restrainer' is removed (2 Thes 2:6-7).

a. Who/What is the Restrainer?

* 2 Thes 2:6 – the Restraint (neuter)

* 2 Thes 2:7 – the Restrainer (masculine)

b. 2 Thes 2:9 indicates that the 'man of lawlessness' is empowered by Satan, so this indicates that only God's power can hold back this person. Possible identity of the Restrainer — the Holy Spirit working thru the Church.

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

THE DAY OF THE LORD

4. Consolidated: Signs & Sequence

4.5. Removal of 'Restrainer' and the full revelation of 'Man of lawlessness'

a. He will exalt and promote himself to be an object of worship in the temple of God (2 Thes 2:4).

b. He is empowered to perform counterfeit wonders and miracles. Unbelievers will be deluded and believe what is false (2 Thes 2:9).

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

THE DAY OF THE LORD

4. Consolidated: Signs & Sequence

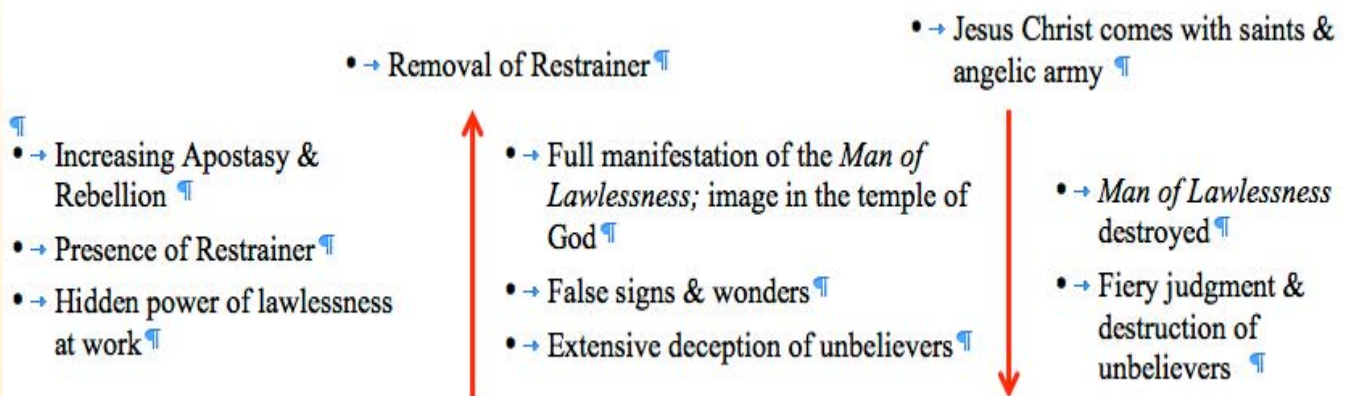
4.6. The Lord comes with His angelic army (2 Thes 1:7a; cf. 1 Thes 3:13b *with His saints*)

4.7. The Lord's Judgment

- a. He will destroy the 'man of lawlessness' (2 Thes 2:8b);
- b. Fiery judgment and destruction of unbelievers (2 Thes 1:7b-10, 2:12)
- c. This event is described as one of great glory and vindication for the Lord (2 Thes 1:10).

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

THE DAY OF THE LORD



1 & 2 Thessalonians

Application Discussion

1. How should the knowledge of Christ's 2nd-Coming impact a believer's life?
2. What does the 2nd-Coming of Christ mean to you?

