

What Is This World Coming To?

An In-depth Study of Bible Prophecy
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Lesson 5

Introduction: In today's lesson we will be diving deeper into *The Day of The Lord*. We defined *The Day of The Lord* back in Lesson 4. Let's refer back to that definition.

The Day of The Lord is that extended period of time beginning with God's dealing with Israel after the rapture at the beginning of the Tribulation Period and extending through the second advent (coming) and the millennial age unto the creation of the New Heavens and New Earth after the Millennium.

1. Understanding What Happens Before (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

- It's critical that we examine what the Bible is teaching us here.
- That word **shaken** in **verse 2** lets us know what happening to the saints in Thessalonica.
- Some of the saints in Thessalonica had some serious questions and concerns in their minds
- They were experiencing persecutions and in their minds that's what the prophet of God had predicted when they wrote about the great troubles that would come upon God's people and the world in "*The Day of The Lord*"

2. Always Rely On The Word Of God (1 Thessalonians 5:2)

- Notice what Paul does with these troubled, confused saints.
- **He takes them back to the Word of God!**
- In Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, he had taught them that *The Day Of The Lord* would come as a thief in the night.
- Saints, here's a quote that I've come up with for my personal life;

"Troubles do not change truth".

- Pastor Wallace

3. False Teachers Were Busy (2 Thessalonians 2:2)

- False teachers were busy back then; false teachers are busy right now.
- There were these false teachers and prophets going around telling saints that the Tribulation Period had begun. There were false letters going around saying the same thing.
- Here's a verse that I want you to stamp in your minds (2 Peter 2:1-3)
- These saints in Thessalonica were getting this false teaching that they were experiencing the judgments of *The Day of The Lord*
- Here's an important point:
 - * There were false letters (written)
 - * There were false prophecies (spoken)
 - As a matter of fact, these saints had received a letter that claimed to have come from Paul that taught this error. **No wonder they were shaken !**
- **Doesn't that sound a lot like today?**

- So many saints, who aren't grounded in the truth of God's Word, are gullible, easily shaken by false teaching and false teachers.
- **Paul teaches us that the opposite of gullible is grounded** (**Ephesians 4:14; Ephesians 3:17; Colossians 1:23**)
- Saints we've got stop being misled by;
 - o Impressive personalities (**2 Peter 2:2-3**)
 - o Spectacular appeals

4. Truth Liberates (**1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9**)

- **Saints, we should rejoice that we have the truth!**
- These two verses let us know that God has promised that the saints will not see or experience this Day of Wrath.
- We also looked at **Revelation 3:10**.

5. Three Events Before The Day of The Lord (**2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**)

- o First Event (**2:3**) – Rebellion; *literally the falling away from the truth that God has revealed in HIS WORD*
Many will abandon the position they once professed about Christ; who HE is; what HE did.
This will take place within the professing church.
- o Second Event – the revelation or revealing of **the man of sin** (**2:3-4;8-10**)
- This will be a decisive act that will take place at a definite moment in history
- Note also he is described as a man doomed to destruction **...son of perdition.** (**v.3**)
- *His destiny is opposite of salvation (deliverance); his destiny is everlasting torment.*
- As I mentioned before, he will make a covenant (agreement) with Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation, but after 3 and one-half years, he will break that covenant. (**Daniel 9:27**)
- When he breaks the covenant 3- and one-half years later, he will be recognized for who he really is (v. 3.... **that man of sin be revealed...**)

(2:4) One cannot overstate this point:

- He is described as the adversary of God
- - He will seek to replace the worship of the TRUE GOD with the worship of himself; (**(2:4...shewing himself that he is God.)** As a matter of fact, he will claim that he is God.
- He will tolerate the worship of no one or nothing else but himself (**Revelation 13:5-8**)
- **He's even gonna set himself up on God's throne in the inner sanctuary of God's temple.**
- This man is called *the beast coming out of the sea* in **Revelation 13:1-10**
- This man is called *a scarlet-colored beast* in **Revelation 17:3**
- This man is called **the beast** in **Revelation 17:8, 16** and **Revelation 19:19-20; 20:10**
- He is the *Antichrist* in 1 John 2:18.
- **He is a real being not some system.**

In next week's lesson we're gonna look at the third event.

The Mystery Of Lawlessness **2:6-12**

The emphasis shifts to what is presently restraining the revealing of the Man of Sin

Verse 7 explains and expands on verse 6

Here Paul is reminding the saints at Thessalonica and you and I that the secret power of lawlessness was already at work.

- A mystery in the New Testament is a new truth previously unknown before Paul revealed it.

Verse 6 lets us know who is restraining this Man of Sin and this movement against God's Law.

The Holy Spirit of God is the only Person with sufficient (supernatural power) to do this restraining.

It is through the CHURCH, Christians whom HE indwells that GOD uses to hold back the tide of lawlessness.

(v. 8) After the removal of restraint the world will plunge headlong into lawlessness. He is referred to in **Daniel 9:26-27**

(v. 12) This powerful person will be destroyed by the mere breath of the Lord Jesus.

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