

## Second Thessalonians and the Day of the Lord

I want to address this issue of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians that Paul wrote for correction to the “Church” there. But first of all I am going to quote Grant Jeffrey in his prolog to this letter in his Prophecy study Bible and acknowledging that John Hagee concurs in his study Bible. Why? Because it is important for the CONTEXT of what Paul was addressing!

From Grant Jeffrey’s Prophecy Study Bible:

“Paul wrote this second epistle to the church at Thessalonica shortly after his first letter to these believers. Paul was ministering in Corinth during his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey when news reached him that some of the believers in the church at Thessalonica had misunderstood the message about THE SECOND COMING (emphasis-mine) that he had shared in his first letter. These believers mistakenly concluded that the SECOND COMING (again, emphasis.-mine) of Christ was so imminent that they failed to live with a balanced perspective!....

In this brief letter Paul reminds the believers in Thessalonica of what he had taught in his first letter to them and severely reprimands those who remain indifferent to Christ’s SECOND COMING (emphasis-mine)!”

Mr. Jeffrey recognizes that the time of contextual contention of these believers is that of THE SECOND COMING of Christ, and NOT the “rapture”! Yes, these believers thought that because of their persecutions under Rome that they had missed the “resurrection/ rapture” and were in the “Lord’s Day”, the time of “Great Tribulation” and therefore looking for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ! Paul will address this issue of “that day”, the Lord’s Day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ!

Mr. Hagee in his study bible is stating the same thing! So then, if the CONTEXT of Paul’s letter is addressing the “day of the Lord”, the “Lord’s Day”, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ, to which these believers are in turmoil about it being imminent, then let’s look at what Paul says to them concerning “that Day”!

But let me make a note of these believers who thought they were in the time of “Great Tribulation” because of the persecutions they were having to endure! There are many people who say that part of the reason that the

Thessalonians thought that they were in the Great Tribulation and that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ was Imminent was because that their persecution was from the “Romans” (see Daniel & statue of kingdoms to Nebuchadnezzar.) and that the Emperor was demanding to be worshipped as a god! They even go so far as to say that these Thessalonians KNEW by the “gematria” or numerical value of NERO’s name which is 666 that Nero was without a doubt the antichrist!

There is a BIG PROBLEM with people who try to purport such bad teaching as this in that, YES, Nero lived (Wikipedia- A.D 15-A.D. 68) during this time, BUT Christ did NOT give the Word to John in His Revelation concerning the “Mark of the Beast”, or the “Number of his name” until 90- 95 AD!! The Thessalonians had no knowledge of this teaching concerning the coming Antichrist! Can you see how such error can be taught without having or using the whole counsel of God! This is why Jesus told the disciples:

Acts 1: 6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt **thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

7 And he said unto them, **It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.**

**8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Why was it not for them to know the times or the seasons concerning the establishment of the kingdom of God here on earth? Because of two primary reasons! The first being of the preaching of the Gospel to the entire world! And secondly is that the whole counsel of God had not been given. This was completed with the Revelation of Jesus Christ! And the main point of His Revelation is that of preparation and execution of establishing the Kingdom to which the disciples were asking about in the first place! Remember that God said that He will do NOTHING unless He shows it to His servants the prophets! There was a lot to be shown and written about concerning His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming and Coming kingdom! On this note I will now quote John Hagee.

“The return of Christ is mentioned more times (318) in the New Testament than any other doctrine, and this is certainly the major concept in chapters 1 and 2 of this epistle (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians). The return of the Lord Jesus is a reassuring and joyful hope for believers, but His revelation from heaven holds awesome and terrifying implications for those who have not trusted in Him (1:6-10 & 2:8-12).”

I hope you can see just how important the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ and the coming of His Kingdom is! The “resurrection/ Rapture” pales in comparison as to the amount of times mentioned in the New Testament!

Now then, I’m going to continue with the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter and using the contextual reference to which Paul was addressing the Thessalonians about. And that is of their expectancy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming (not the “rapture”). I’m going to substitute “2<sup>nd</sup> Coming” for the references of “that day”, the Lord’s day”, the “day of the Lord” et cetera and see if then the passage makes sense to the context of what they were looking for. And then repeating it one last time with what it is that withholdeth, and what letteth and what is the “falling away”! I will put in **bold and red** the substitutions so that you can see and look up the differences.

2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the **2<sup>nd</sup> Coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,  
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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Coming** of Christ is at hand.  
3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Coming** shall not come, except there come a ***falling away*** first, and that ***man of sin*** be revealed, the son of perdition;  
4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.  
5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?  
6 And now ye know ***what withholdeth*** that ***he*** might be revealed in his time.  
7 For the ***mystery of iniquity*** doth already work: only ***he*** who now ***letteth*** will ***let***, until ***he*** be taken out of the way.  
8 And then shall that ***Wicked*** be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his **2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**:  
9 Even ***him***, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,  
10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.  
11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:  
12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.  
13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ok, yes this makes perfect sense. But, now I'm going to substitute certain words for what I believe the text is referring to, based upon the knowledge of the Advocacy of Christ (1<sup>st</sup> John) of which I have taught on for years and can be found taught at [www.godstimeline.net](http://www.godstimeline.net) which is part of the proof of the doctrine of imminence having been taught in error. And you can find this in the video portion at the website titled "Why Christ Can't Come"!

In the above scriptures, the words that are in ***italics and bold*** will be substituted for the following reasons. But first is a simple recap of what I had already stated in detail of these reasons in the commentary "Conspicuously Missing" at the website mentioned. And these are just (in my opinion) non-interpretive statements of fact and promise given by our Lord!

- 1- Jesus said that He will never leave us nor forsake us.
- 2- Christ's atonement on the cross washed us from all sin.
- 3- The Father will see our sin no longer, as far as the east is from the west.
- 4- If we do sin, we have an Advocate TO THE FATHER in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 5- Satan, the Accuser of the brethren, is accusing us day and night (continuously).
- 6- It is the Lord Jesus Christ HIMSELF that will descend with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first.

Now then, **I believe** these statements found in scripture! With these in mind, let me now take the black italicized words for defining.

Verse 3, ***falling away*** = departure from something or someone.

G 646. apostasia, ap-os-tas-ee'-ah; fem. of the same as G647; defection from truth (prop. the state) ["apostasy"]!--falling away, forsake.

Where else does the Lord refer to a forsaking or a defection from the truth concerning the "last days" unto the soon 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ?

1 Tim.1 9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be **any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;**

**11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God,** which was committed to my trust.

2 Tim.4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the **dead at his appearing and his kingdom;**

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine;** but **after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

4 And **they shall turn away their ears from the truth,** and shall be turned unto fables.

The last days are going to see a departing of the truth/sound doctrine/ THE GOSPEL on a wholesale basis! This age NOW is SICKENING to the Lord Jesus Christ! With the preaching of this “feel good Gospel” and NO PREACHING ON MANS SIN! How can the Holy Spirit convict the world of sin if it is NOT PREACHED! Oh, the church now days feel it is more important to “show the love of Christ” and not be judgmental about a persons life or lifestyle! Well guess what? All they are doing by NOT showing the REASON for God’s/ Christ’s LOVE is that they themselves are “loving these sinners right to HELL”! The “church” now days feel that it is more important to NOT OFFEND ANYONE WITH THE TRUE GOSPEL OF CHRIST so that they can amass BIG CONGREGATIONS/ NUMBERS!! And with this comes the propensity for pride, the love of the people’s money, power, and their arrogance.

So then, what is that “**falling away**”? It is the departing of the **truth of the gospel!** What else can it be when Paul himself says that God will send them a strong delusion...in verse 10 & 12, for not believing and accepting the TRUTH!! Take a look at the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter. Even in verse 8 the contention is that the people did not obey THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! Now to continue with the word substitutions and the verses involved!

Verse 3 = **falling away** = **departing from the Gospel TRUTH**

Verse 3 = **man of sin** = **Antichrist**

Verse 6 = **what withholdeth** = **restrains Christ’s Coming**

Verse 7 = **Mystery of iniquity** = **Satan accusing the brethren**

Verse 7 = **he** = **Satan**

Verse 7 = **letteth,** = **restraining by Satan/** the Mystery of Iniquity

Verse 7 = will **let** = **will restrain** or withhold

Verse 8 = **Wicked** = **Antichrist**

Verse 9 = **him** = **Antichrist**

2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the **2<sup>nd</sup> Coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,  
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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Coming** of Christ is at hand.  
3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Coming** shall not come, except there come a **departing from the Gospel TRUTH** first and that **Antichrist** be revealed, the son of perdition;  
4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.  
5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?  
6 And now ye know what **restrains Christ's Coming** that **Jesus** might be revealed in his time.  
7 For **Satan accusing the brethren** doth already work: only **Satan** who now **restrains Christ's Coming** will **restrain** until **Satan** be taken out of the way.  
8 And then shall that **Antichrist** be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his **2<sup>nd</sup> Coming**:  
9 Even **Antichrist** whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,  
10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.  
11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:  
12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.  
13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:  
14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now I'm quoting John Hagee in the Survey section on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. of his study Bible:

"This epistle is the theological sequel to 1<sup>st</sup> Thess., which developed the theme of the coming day of the Lord (1<sup>st</sup> Thess. 5:1-11). However, not long after the Thessalonians receive that letter, they fall prey to false teaching or outright deception, thinking the day of the Lord has already begun. Paul writes this brief letter to correct the error and also to encourage those

believers whose faith is being tested by the difficulties presented by persecution. He also **REPROVES THOSE WHO HAVE DECIDED TO CEASE WORKING BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THE COMING OF CHRIST IS NEAR** (caps emphasis mine). 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians deals with Paul's encouragement in persecution (1); Paul's explanation of the day of the Lord (2); and Paul's exhortation to the church (3)."

Now with all due respect to Pastor Hagee (and others) that Paul wrote 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians to correct the "error" of false teaching concerning his 1<sup>st</sup> letter to them, let me point out that a big part of the "clarification" of their belief that they were in the Lord's day, the "day of the Lord" (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ) is that of the following.

2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,  
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.  
3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;  
4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Now Paul wrote 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians only months apart from one another. And for anyone to think that Paul was writing this second letter to clarify the errors being taught of the 1<sup>st</sup> letter is wrong! Because to correct any error being taught of the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of the subject matters in verses 3 and 4 above, you have to find references to these in the first letter! BUT the following subject matters in verses 3 & 4 of: "a falling away", "that man of sin be revealed", the "exaltation of that man of sin", or "he sitting in the temple of God", and "showing himself that he is God"! These are NOT discussed at all by Paul in 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians!

In fact, Paul states that these subjects he now mentions were things that he told them **WHILE HE WAS STILL WITH THEM!**

2<sup>ND</sup> Thess.2:5 Remember ye not, that, **when I was yet with you**, I told you these things?

I don't know about you, but I don't sit down to write a letter to someone while I'm with them and able to speak to them directly or face to face! You need to write a letter/ epistle **BECAUSE**, you are not with them! Paul is reiterating

and clarifying that which he told them VERBALLY, and not that of his 1<sup>st</sup> letter.

Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> letter simply discusses the "resurrection" of the DEAD in Christ UNTIL or UNTO the Coming of the Lord, (Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming) of which, when the time of the resurrection happens, the revelation to him of those who are alive and remaining (the rapture) is mentioned simply as a matter of fact. WHY? Because it simply not as important as the "resurrection of the dead"!

Three to four years later, Paul shows just how important the "resurrection of the dead" is in comparison to that of the "rapture" in his letter/ epistle to the Corinthians when he said the following:

1<sup>st</sup> Corinth.15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But **every man in his own order**: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

I hope you can see the importance of the "resurrection of the dead" as compared to those who "are alive and remaining"/ or the rapture! The Lord through Paul here to the Corinthians (written after the letters to the Thessalonians) does not even mention those who may be alive and remaining AT ANY TIME!

But the Lord state that there is an "order" to which those in Christ shall be made "alive" or resurrected. And that order is then completed AT HIS (CHRIST'S) COMING! This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ being referred to as it is to the establishing of the Kingdom of which Christ will deliver it back to the Father AFTER the 1,000 year reign is completed. And the only "order of the "resurrection(s)" you will find in scripture is that of (1) the dead in Christ being raised and those who are alive and remaining prior to the time of "Great Tribulation" and (2) those who have followed the Lamb and have COME OUT OF GREAT TRIBULATION, and (3) the final resurrection of the wicked dead/ and the saints of the Millennial Kingdom and the short time thereafter. This resurrection is seen at the time of the Great White Throne of judgment! And then will come the ETERNAL KINGDOM! Praise God!

Now I want to go back to what Paul mentions and so does John Hagee (pg.5-6 above) in regard to the expectation of Christ's Coming. And that is of stopping of work and being dependant upon others while awaiting the Lord's return (whether it be pre- resurrection/ rapture or post- resurrection/ rapture). And I'm reminded of the thousands of Christians who quit working and their jobs etc. in 1988 and went and camped out on the Mt. of Olives in Israel awaiting the Lord's Coming! What good did that do?

Paul states:

2<sup>nd</sup> Thess.3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for **we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;**

**8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:**

9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

11 For **we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all**, but are busybodies.

**12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.**

13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

**15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.**

Remember that Paul wrote this letter to those who thought that the "day of the Lord"; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ was upon them. And it was the clarification of what Paul had told them in person of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ to expound on the "signs" (primarily the REVEALING of the A.C. with all power/ signs and lying wonders AFTER or FROM SATAN) of when they or anyone will know that the time of Great Tribulation to which they the Thessalonians were afraid they were in will be recognized!

Yes, this epistle/ letter of Paul's to the Thessalonians had NOTHING of context to do with the "Rapture" (of those who were alive and remaining, etc.).

Paul started out dealing with their fears that they had missed the "resurrection/ rapture" and that their focus was upon the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ

and they were in the time of Great tribulation. And these scriptures are going to be just as valid in fact more so shortly after the “resurrection/ rapture” for those who have been left behind. It will be them who will see this “man of sin” empowered by Satan with all power, signs and lying wonders.

To those who may read this after what is presumed to be the Coming of Christ for the saints at the resurrection/ rapture, and I say now “presumed” because it has not happened as many Christians have taught that it would. That being that at the time of the “rapture” (of those who are alive and translated) this event will be the cause of world wide catastrophes. And I’m talking about the LaHey- Jenkins “Left Behind” scenario in which so many airports, airplanes, road systems etc. are going to be decimated because of the paltry few truly “born of the Spirit- Christians” all of a sudden having disappeared. And as you have witnessed it also has to do with the “hour” globally in which this event has occurred.

If people would take an HONEST look at the world’s population and then the amount of people who are of a NON- Jesus Christ based faith or of no religious faith at all and then compare them to those WHO CLAIM to be “Christians” (and remember the 10 virgins- there will be those who thought they were saved/ Christ’s/ Christians, but at that time the door was shut, Jesus said to them, I know you not), and look and see just how small that number will be!

This is why I repeat the Lord’s intentions; repent, come to the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission (washing away) of your sins, FOR TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION! You may not have a tomorrow!

In Looking for the Coming of Christ and His Kingdom;

Phil Rogers