

2 Thessalonians 2.5-12

Chapter 2 - Main Teaching - About the 2nd coming of Jesus

WISE TO USE BALANCE AND CAUTION IN OUR INTERPRETATION

2.1-3 False Teaching / 2.4-12 Correct Truth / 2.13-17 Confidence in Them

2.1 - SUBJECT OF CONFUSION - Jesus return & our gathering with Him

1 Thess- Believers worried Christ NOT coming - 2 Thess - ALREADY came

FALSE MESSAGE - "Day of Lord" - came already - YOU MISSED IT!

2.3 - 2 SIGNS OF HIS COMING - Event must happen / Person must come

EVENT - "the rebellion" - something known by Paul's readers

PERSON - "man of lawlessness" // "the anti-Christ" of John's letters

CHARACTERISTICS of this Person - AGAINST LAW & AGAINST GOD

SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW - 3 distinct events

1) Restraint v. 6,7

2) Rebellion vs. 3,4,9

3) Retribution v. 8,11,12

2.5 - "Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you..."

Do Not Know

Letters of NT // One Side of Telephone Conversation - Background

2.5 - Paul had taught them these things /DO NOT KNOW WHOLE STORY
WRITING CONTAINS MANY REFERENCES TO HIS ORAL TEACHING

1. Identity of the Man of Lawlessness

DO NOT KNOW IDENTITY OF ANTI-CHRIST / OR ANTI-CHRISTS

2. Identity of Restrainer

DO NOT KNOW- RESTRAINER v. 6 “what” THING/ v. 7 “who” PERSON

VARIOUS GUESSES / INTERPRETATIONS -

- 1) Holy Spirit & Church
- 2) Paul & preaching of Gospel

NOT 1/ 2- 1) Will not leave God’s people in world 2) Why “code” language?

- 3) Roman Empire/Law & Emperor

WHY DO I THINK THIS?

- 1) Purpose of Gov’t - Restrain Evil / ROMAN EMPIRE / LAW & ORDER
- 2) Paul - Roman Citizen - Took advantage of this for his own protection
- 3) v. 6 “what” THING = Empire / v. 7 “who” PERSON = Emperor
- 4) CAUTIOUS LANGUAGE USED TO PROTECT BELIEVERS
Paul himself was forced out of the city / Believers were vulnerable

PROBLEM - No Roman Empire now and Man of Evil is Restrained
IS THIS A PICTURE OF HUMAN GOV’T IN GENERAL ??

PRAY FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY / balanced view
Rom 13 - Obey Gov’t // Rev 13 - Gov’t power is from the Devil

SAFEST INTERPRETATION - “We really do not know exactly”

PRINCIPLE PREACHING - Be strong on what is clear / open on what is not

3. The Rebellion

v. 7 - “already at work” - AGAINST GOD & AGAINST GOVERNMENT

SPIRIT OF SELF-CENTERED ANARCHY - breakdown of society, morals

v. 9 “work of Satan” - he is the force behind man of lawlessness / rebellion

v. 9 “counterfeit miracles”

GOD IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO MIRACLES

Magicians of Egypt copied the works of God through Moses

PROOF OF GOD TODAY - Not miracles, but Truth

Matt 7 - Lord we did prophecy, drive out demons, miracles - YES?
BUT THEY NEVER WERE KNOWN BY JESUS e.g. Judas

v. 10 “deceives those who are perishing” THOUSANDS BELIEVE
Good job - Read fortunes in the Market - So many believe

v. 11 “believe the lie” - WHAT IS LIE? WHO IS LIAR? = Devil

LIE? I do not need God, I can be God! - PRIDE / constant attack in ministry
GOOD SERMON! “I know it was good, devil told me when I was done”

4. Judgment of Rebellion

SHORT TIME OF EVIL - v. 7 “restraint removed” / v. 8 “lawless revealed”

WHOM THE LORD JESUS WILL OVERTHROW - VERY SHORT TIME

NOT CLEAR - who is this man? what is restraint? what kind of evil?

VERY CLEAR! - Jesus is Sovereign God and King

Lawless one cannot stand before Jesus for one moment / Word overthrows

COMING IN SPLENDOR // contra - Sneaking like a thief in darkness

BASIS OF JUDGEMENT - v. 10 “refused to love the truth and be saved”

VERY EXCITING THAT KAZAKHSTAN CAN NOW HEAR TRUTH

Bibles are being made available / Churches opening / Gospel spreading

MANY PEOPLE LISTEN TO TRUTH / OPEN TO IT / AGREE W/

NOTICE WHAT PAUL SAYS - "Love the truth" / Love most of all
Love to give your whole life for / Love to die for / Love God, God alone

NO MIDDLE GROUND - Either love the truth / believe the lie

STRONG WORDS - v. 10 love truth / v. 12 delight in wickedness

GOD OF HISTORY - working out perfect plan

GOD OF SALVATION - protecting His people, destroying enemies

GOD OF TRUTH - Truth in Jesus / Love Him, love His truth