"THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NOT IMMINENT"

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

7-1-2026



INTRODUCTION: Verses 1 - 2

***Observe the two conditions that must precede the Day of the Lord.**

I. Condition # 1 - THE APOSTASY (v. 3a)

"For that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first…"

II. Condition # 2 - THE REVEALING OF ANTICHRIST (v. 3b)

"For that day shall not come, except … that man of sin be revealed"

"THE DAY OF THE LORD

IS NOT IMMINENT"

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

7-1-2026

INTRODUCTION: Verses 1 - 2

***Observe the _____ that must precede the Day of the Lord.**

I. Condition # 1 - THE _____ (v. 3a)

"For that day shall not come, except there come a _____ first…"

II. Condition # 2 - THE REVEALING OF _____ (v. 3b)

"For that day shall not come, except … that _____be revealed"

"THE DAY OF THE LORD

IS NOT IMMINENT"

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

7-1-2026

INTRODUCTION: Verses 1 - 2

SEE: Wiersbe, Paragraph 1 and 2, page 137

The Thessalonians, who were experiencing *"persecutions and tribulations"* (1:4), thought perhaps they were in the Great Tribulation.

They knew that persecution would precede the Rapture and therefore thought that the Rapture was *"at hand."*

V. 1

"Brethren" - It is only saved people who can benefit from what Paul is about to say.

The *"brethren"*, who are not in darkness, will not be caught by surprise when the Day of the Lord arrives. But the lost world will (I Thess. 5:3-4).

"By the coming" - lit. concerning (*huper*) the coming. The coming of Christ is the subject Paul is about to deal with.

"The coming" = the presence; the personal arrival

"coming" - singular. There are not two separate comings at Christ's return. There are two facets to His one coming: Rapture and Return.

"Our Lord" - The Lord is our personal Savior. For the believer, He is not merely the Lord, He is our Lord (showing the close, intimate, personal relationship we have with Him.

"Lord Jesus Christ" - the fullest title for Him.

"Lord" - shows His deity and sovereignty

"Jesus" - shows that He is Savior (deliver) - Mt. 1:21

"Christ" - shows that He is the anointed Messiah, the King of Israel.

God is coming back! The Savior is coming back! The Messiah is coming back!

Christ's coming and gathering are tied together int his verse, pointing to the same event.

"And our gathering together unto Him" -the subject at hand is not only Christ's personal arrival (*"coming"*), but also the saints' gathering (meeting, assembling [cp. Heb. 10:25], collecting) together unto Him.

The word *"gathering"* unquestionably points to the Rapture.

This verb form is used elsewhere in reference to the Rapture (Mt. 24:31; Mk. 13:27). Mark 13:26-27 - *"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven."*

"Unto him" - This gathering does not describe believers randomly shooting all over outer space; but rather all aimed at one focal points: The Groom, Jesus Christ.

V. 2

"The verb *"shaken"* denotes a rocking motion, a shaking up and down, like a building shaken by an earthquake (Acts 16:26), or a ship tossed on a stormy sea. The passive voice points to an outside force; they were being shaken by the false eschatological teaching being promulgated there by some false teacher (v. 3)" (Hiebert, p. 301).

"Soon shaken" - hastily or quickly caused to waver or move back and forth

"in mind" - lit. away from your mind. Paul is saying: "Don't allow yourself to be hastily agitated and moved from sound reasoning or proper understanding of an important doctrinal truth.

"Troubled" - the same word was used of the disciples when they were *"terrified and affrighted"* when they saw the resurrected Christ, thinking they were seeing a Spirit (Lk. 24:37). This word was also used of people who in an eschatological context (first half of Trib) are troubled because of *"wars and rumors of wars"* (Mt. 24:6; Mk. 13:7).

"Troubled" - to be inwardly disturbed or frightened.

The Thessalonians were in danger of being suddenly moved from the understanding Paul had given them regarding the Rapture and the result of being startled by wrong teaching was a "jumpy" anxious tense feeling in their stomachs.

These believers needed to "have their mental equilibrium restored" (Hiebert, p. 301).

"Troubled" refers to a nervous excitement (like the feeling you get when you are about to do something big that you have never done before).

"Spirit" - a message supposedly from the Holy Spirit

"Word" - a prophetic utterance, or sermon, or any verbally communicated message

"Letter" -A written epistle which was forged with Paul's name on it

"The day of Christ" - (KJV) Every time this phrase occurs in the Bible, it refers to the Rapture.

Phil. 1:6 , 10 - *"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. . . That ye may approve things that are excellent, that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ."*

Phil. 2:16 - *"Holding forth the Word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain."*

I Cor. 1:8 - *"Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

"The day of Christ" - the Critical Text reads: "the day of the Lord."

These phrases are practically synonymous, since the Day of Christ (i.e. the Rapture) kicks off the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord begins with the Rapture, then proceeds with God's wrath.

NOTE: It is helpful to understand the revelation that the Thessalonians already had regarding the Day of the Lord. Notice the vital link between the Rapture (I Th. 4:13-18) and the Day of the Lord (I Th. 5:1-4).

NOTE: The Bible teaches that the Rapture will immediately precede the Great and dreadful Day of God's wrath (SEE: Luke 17:24-30; 34-36).

Can the "Day of Christ" be imminent (occur at any moment) if two events must occur first? NO!

The Bible does not teach that Christ could return at any moment, but that He could return during any one's generation. Paul expected the possibility of Christ returning in his day (I Th. 4:17 - *"we"*), but that did not negate the reality that certain events would be fulfilled first.

Technically the Scriptures teach expectancy, not imminency.

"at hand" - the perfect tense of this verb most likely means to be "in place," "present" "already here."

V. 3

Paul is saying: You should not let anyone deceive you by any <u>method</u> or <u>way</u> (i.e. whether by spirit, word or epistle -v. 2). Satan uses different means to deceive.

"that day" - implied from v. 2 - "that day of Christ" (i.e. the Rapture followed by God's wrath).

Verse 3 gives <u>two conditions</u> that must be met before the Day of Christ can take place. Two events must be fulfilled before the Rapture will occur.

***Observe the two conditions that must precede the Day of the Lord.**

I Condition # 1 - THE APOSTASY (v. 3a)

"Falling away" - lit. apostasy (Greek *apostasia*)

It means to no longer stand where you once stood; to rebel against and abandon what you once held to. To forsake truth you once professed.

In classical Greek the word *apostasia* was used to "denote a political or military rebellion; in the Septuagint it was used of rebellion against God (Josh. 22:22)" (Hiebert, p. 305)

Many attempt to interpret falling away as "departure" (meaning Rapture). Paul has just referred to the Rapture (v. 1). Why would he say that the Rapture will not occur (v. 1-2) until the Rapture [departure] takes place??

The word is never used in the sense of "catching away" as some would like to say.

It refers to a forsaking of God's word (Acts 21:21).

"A falling away first" - lit. the falling away. The definite article points to a specific apostasy.

Throughout church history, there are always been apostasy. It is on the uprise today.

However, God is speaking about a particular apostasy; a great apostasy; an enormous apostasy; whereby professing Christians abandon Christianity by the droves!

God warned about such a departure to occur in the Last Days. SEE: I Tim. 4:1-3

Mt. 24:9-10 - *"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another."*

This particular reference to "the apostasy" is not being fulfilled today, butt will be fulfilled in the future.

When will it occur? Most likely at the same time as the Mark of the Beast is enforced upon every man, woman, boy and girl. Such intense pressure to give in or die (Rev. 13) will cause the false professors to manifest their true colors. Not all of professing Christianity possesses Christ and salvation.

When the heat is turned up, not all will stand true like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did (Dan. 3).

II. Condition # 2 - THE REVEALING OF ANTICHRIST (v. 3b)

The second condition that must be fulfilled before the Day of Christ will happen, is *"the man of sin"* must first be revealed.

"man" - The Antichrist will not be Satan or some demonic spirit but a "man" A man who will receive authority and power from Satan (Rev. 13:2).

A man who will be thrown into the Lake of Fire 1,000 years before Satan (Rev. 19:20; 20:10)/

"That man" -

***"That"* =** the particular man. There is a specific Antichrist.

The Apostle John recognized the presence of many Antichrists in his time, and one Antichrist that *"shall come"* (I Jn. 2:18) in the future (Rev. 11:7; 13:1-10).

"the man of sin" - the man of lawlessness (cp. Dan. 7:25; 11:37). The Antichrist is one who will live contrary to God's Law (particularly at the mid-point of the Tribulation).

Sin will have such absolute domination over him that he seems to be the very embodiment of it (hiebert, p. 307).

"Revealed" - unveiled; disclosed; uncovered; clearly manifested.

The timing of this "revealing" from the believers' standpoint is when he signs (Dan. 9:27) a 7 year peace treaty with Israel. However, from Israel's viewpoint, his true identity will not be revealed until the mid-point of the 70th week of Daniel 9:27, when he breaks the covenant, abominates the Jewish temple (Mt. 24:15), and sets himself up in it to be worshipped as God (II Th. 2:4).

"the son of perdition" -- the son destined for doom, destruction, and ruin (like that of Judas Iscariot - Jn. 17:12).

CONCLUSION:

Why aren't guillotines dripping with the blood of saints today? Why isn't the Mark of the Beast enforced on people globally? Why isn't the one world order in place? Why isn't the dictator Antichrist at the helm of the kosmos?

Because of the restraining work of God.

(SEE v. 6-8). What is preventing the Antichrist from being revealed? Answer - Two views:
The Holy Spirit
Michael the Archangel

- Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.
- Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

NOTE: v. 7 - The Holy Spirit will be "*taken out of the way"* in the sense of His restraint being removed. His ministry of hindering will end.

It is a false unprovable assumption for pre-tribulationalists to say that He is removed at the Rapture. He is not removed at the Rapture. He exists in the world in more ways than simply "in the believer." He restrains sin in more ways than "through believers."

How could it be possible for believers (even with the Spirit) prevent the revelation of Antichrist?

The Day of Christ happens <u>after</u> the great apostasy and <u>after</u> the Antichrist is revealed.

This message is a call to <u>readiness</u>. To get ready for the greatest testing ever to face the church.

To get ready for a time of apostasy and the time of the Antichrist. And in doing so, get ready for the day of Christ’s return!