

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Do not be Shaken

There are 774,747 words in the Bible – I counted them all **And yet the most comforting word in the Bible is found only in one place**

A) There at the end of 1 Cor 16 there in v.22 – is the word Maranatha

- Aramaic word: **It simply means the Lord comes!**

B) In fact you need a KJV or a ASB Bible to see it – most modern translations put only the English translation of this Aramaic word

1) **Lord come or the Lord comes**

C) That really is our comfort today – it puts everything in perspective

Jesus is coming back again – **I believe - Sooner than later**

When the apostle Paul wrote his first letter to the church in Thessalonica – The Lord's coming was a major theme.

A) We noted in our recent study of 1 Thessalonians that Paul mentions the Lord's coming in every chapter!

B) And in Chapters 4-5 He spoke in great detail about the rapture of the church and the 2nd coming of Christ.

The Rapture – Our Gathering to Him – Jesus comes for His Church – takes us to Heaven – John 14

A) THE 2ND COMING – Jesus comes **with His Church** – to set up His Kingdom on earth 1,000 years...

B) The Day of Christ – also known as the Day of the Lord - NOT A SPECIFIC DAY – **time period** He

1) Begins with the Rapture – includes the Great Tribulation and culminates with the 2nd coming

Paul made it very clear in 1 Thessalonians 4-5 that the rapture would precede the tribulation time – {Time God's wrath poured out ..**shortened or no survivors**

A) Paul made it very clear that believers would escape that time because we are not appointed unto wrath but unto Salvation

B) It's why Paul ended those teachings in 1 Thess chapter 4 and chapter 5 with the same exhortation:

Therefore comfort one another with these words.-
1 Thessalonians 4:18

1 Thessalonians 5:11- **Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.**

C) These teachings about the rapture and Christ's 2nd coming are meant to comfort and encourage us!

But about a year after Paul started the church there

A) False teachers came into the church in Thessalonica – promoting the idea that – THE DAY OF CHRIST HAD COME

B) They had **missed the rapture** and were in the great Tribulation.

1) The reason they were teaching that is the Church was experiencing great persecution Romans

C) This message was very disturbing to the Believers there. – Troubled – shaken

D) Imagine being told – Missed the rapture and you were in the Tribulation

E) Paul writes 2 Thessalonians to clear up that confusion.

1) He doesn't want them Shaken – describes a ship out at sea in the midst of a storm.

It is important to note that **the only reason** the Thessalonian believers would be shaken or troubled by the thought of being in the Great Tribulation

A) Was if Paul had taught them that they were going to **escape the wrath and time of Judgment** through the rapture.

B) If Paul had taught them that they were going to go through the Great tribulation – **or experience part it**

1) They would have seen the Tribulation as a necessary prelude to the Second Coming.

C) The fact that they were shaken and confused in being told they were in the tribulation – is clear evidence – Paul taught rapture = Escape.

So here in Chapter 2 Paul gives them 3 signs that will mark that coming day – The Great Tribulation.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 8 **And then** the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

3 Signs marking the coming day!

#1 There would be a falling away first – great apostasy

#2 The man of sin (Antichrist) would be revealed

#3 The one who restrains would be removed

Break this down today.

#1 There would be a falling away first – great apostasy - 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first

A) The ancient Greek wording for falling away indicates a *rebellion* or a *departure*.

B) Bible scholars debate if it refers to an apostasy among those who once followed God, or a general worldwide rebellion

C) Paul the apostle actually wrote of both.

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will **depart from the faith**, giving heed to

deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

In the last days – believers would be departing from the faith. Turning from the truth.

A) How many of you know someone right now who once walked with Jesus – currently backslidden.

B) See that more and more –

1) False teachings creeping into the church –

C) Me centered gospel - “This is all about what Jesus can do for me”

1) My happiness

So Paul wrote that in the last days – Many departing from the faith –

A) Also wrote of a general apostasy – Culture in General turning from the truth of God’s word.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous {dangerous and troubling} times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵**having a form of godliness but denying its power.**

Talking spiritually – no power no evidence

2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

So in those two passages Paul states that the last days would be marked by a time when people would be departing from the faith – Faith in Christ

A) No longer enduring sound doctrine – turning aside after false teachers

And they would be marked by a time of general apostasy – culture in general turning from the truth.

A) We are living in that day and age now!

B)Barna Poll – 80% of Americans express a concern about our nations moral condition.

1)Recognize that the direction we are headed in is not right .

C)This is what the breakdown looks like –

- Elderly (89%)
- Baby Boomers (87%),
- Gen-Xers (75%)
- Millennials (74%)

Practicing Christians (90%)

Defining Morality is another issue:

A)What is it based on? Where does it come from?

B)How can someone know what to do when making moral decisions?

C)We used to believe it was the Bible –

1)Judeo Christian ethic – not a doctrine – because we have always espoused freedom of religion

D)But our code of ethics and morals were taken from God’s word!

1)Why 10 commandments – Schools / classrooms

Not any more:

A)57% American adults believe that right or wrong is a matter of personal experience.

B)This view is much more prevalent among younger generations than among older adults.

- ❖ 74% Millennials agree strongly with that statement,

C)Now here is what is really alarming about this idea that knowing what is **right or wrong is a matter of personal experience.**

- ❖ 41% of practicing Christians agree with that statement – meaning only 59% disagree. –

Then here is where the issue starts to break down even more 65% of American’s see morality as a matter of cultural consensus.

A)In other words – every culture must determine what is acceptable morality for its people.

B)These statistics are the growing evidence of the Apostasy that is taking place in our country.

C)As well as in many other nations of the world

But notice here in V. 3 Paul calls this the falling away.

A)The article speaks of a specific falling away – a specific time when people in mass would be turning away from God!

B)After the rapture – 2 responses – those who turn to the Lord {Rev. 7 – innumerable amount of people who will be martyred

1)Those who turn way to follow the Antichrist

C)So during the tribulation an even more pronounced apostasy occurs

1)Right now the stage is being set

2nd Sign – #2 The Man of sin is revealed! and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

The man of sin

A) Revelation 6 – White horse rider false Christ
He comes as a self appointed Messiah

B)Lots of speculation over the years – Who is the Antichrist

1)Reagan – Ronald Wilson Reagan - 6 letters each Name – 666

C)Gorbachev – Birth Mark

1)Clinton – Hillary was the false Prophet

E)Obama and now Trump. -

I don’t think any of them are the Antichrist

A)Characteristics of the man of sin.

v.9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

B)According to the working of Satan: Inspiration and backing

1)Called the son of perdition

C)The only other person in the Bible given that title was Judas –

1)Interesting that the Bible declares that Satan himself entered Judas

D)Satan will enter the one known as Antichrist.

Great power signs and wonders – he is going to have answers for the problems of the world

A)Miracles are not a sign that something is from God

B)Need to pay attention to the message

C)Sobering – we did miracles, cast out demons...

1)Depart from me I did not know you.

The Antichrist is going to have Great power!

A)He is going to be a man of great influence

B)Charismatic leader – with movie star looks

C)Great orator –

D)He is going to have answers to the world's problems – especially economic problems

The world is being primed right now to embrace such a leader.

A)Move of the UK – to break from the European Union – **want something else** – away from the Status quo of Govt

B)The growing popularity of Donald Trump in our country is another example people's longing for something different – fresh

C)I believe are paving the way – for the world to say we are tired of our Govt systems –

1)We want something new and fresh.

People all over the world are concerned about the economy – over morality – Last 6 elections – issue

A)The book of Revelation tells us that he will set up a one world economy

B)This resurfaced – last week – 1988 the economist predicted – A one world economy by 2018

It is interesting when you look back Historically to when a Dictator would take over a nation – it was rarely done w/ Brute force

A)Instead Dictators usually come to economically troubled nations / at a time when a nation is weak, vulnerable economically

B) Ex. When Rome First rose to Power the nations around the Romans were in dire straights –

C)The Romans showed kindness & Benevolence

1) They got their foot in the door to the point where they eventually conquered their surrounding countries – demanded Emperor worship

When Hitler came into power in Germany / the nation was in dire economic straights

A) Inflation was so bad that 10,000's of people were starving on the Streets / Riots

B) Then Adolph Hitler appeared on the scene – a seeming voice of Authority in the midst of Chaos

1) He told Germany they were a **people of Destiny**/He Promised to return the nation to Glory

C) That Germany would rule the World / under the Banner of the third Reich W/ Hitler as its head!!! –

1)They bought into the Lie – Hitler was very slight at first – He came w/ words of peace – he said that he wouldn't be a threat to the Jews or the Christians

He met w/ the Church leaders in Germany – (State run Churches – Pastors are paid by the Govt.

A) The Pastors were concerned about this new form of Govt. under Hitler – would there be any Provision for them ?

B) Hitler met w/ them – to ensure them that they would be taken care of

1)They liked his Charisma / Charm / Economic plans

C) One bold Pastor asked him – what about the Soul of Germany to which Hitler simply replied : *The soul of Germany, now you leave that to me*

1) And they did – **THE REST IS HISTORY !!!!**

D)Synagogues were burned to the ground / but so were Churches that didn't support Hitler's

views {Swastikas replaced Crosses in the Churches

E) My Point is that Hitler came w/ overtures of Peace & Promises of Prosperity & glory / He had Flare / Charisma / Master Deceiver

1) Once in Power – he set out on a rampage to eliminate Jews Antichrist will do the same {Make Hitler look like a Lightweight

So he comes according to the power of Satan
He comes with great power to do signs and wonders

He comes with Lying wonders V.10

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

A)He is the ultimate deceiver

B)Note that phrase in v10b - because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

C)Leading up to this time there is going to still be opportunity for people to be saved.

D)But Paul says – they did not receive the love of the truth –

1)They gave no welcome to the truth – reject it

So God is going to give them over to a strong delusion – meet them in their rebellion

A)Sort of like with Pharaoh – Hardened his heart – over and over –

B)God hardened Pharaoh's heart -

C)Listen there is still time to be saved – trust Christ today.

D)Antichrist is going to be a great Deceiver
He is even going to deceive Israel – they will embrace him as their Messiah –

A)Help them rebuild their temple – Ask orthodox Jews today – Messiah temple

B) Temple research institute – everything is in place

They just need permission – Arabs

C)The Antichrist will come up with a solution to the most debated piece of real-estate on the planet

That will all come to a head when in the middle of the tribulation He will desecrate their temple.

v.4 - who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

C) Tribulation time is divided into Two 3 & 1/2 year periods – separated by this event
According to Dan 9 – 7 year - Treaty with Israel

D) In the middle of that treaty he does what Daniel calls and Jesus refers to in the Gospel of Matthew – as the Abomination of desolation

1) Temple declares himself to be God – and demands to be worshipped as God

E))Jesus referred to this as the Abomination of Desolation – Matthew 24

1)Spoken of by Daniel the Prophet – Daniel 9 and Daniel 11

So Paul says here how you can know you are not in the tribulation yet.

#1 There will be a great falling away – great apostasy

#2 The Man of sin – the Lawless one will come into power

#3 The one who restrains will have to be removed first.

A)Before the Antichrist comes into power - there is a restraining influence that has to be removed first.

B)What is the restraining influence? – Not a what but a who!

6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

C)Some have thought – this is reference to the Holy Spirit being removed –

1)Triune God..... Omni-present

D)Because people come to Christ during the tribulation – the bible makes it clear that can't happen unless the Holy Spirit draws

The Restraining influence in the world right now is the Holy Spirit in the Life of His Church.

A)Jesus said – You are the salt of the earth – Salt in that culture was used as a preserving element – MEAT

B)Jesus was saying that is what you are to be – that Voice of Morality –

1)Voice that stands up and says – We still know what Morality is – BIBLE TELLS

C)We are not going to let culture dictate our morals

1)God already gave us the guidebook

D)We Know what gender is – Male and Female

1)We know what marriage is – Man and Woman

Now imagine a culture where you could believe anything you want – no restraints

A)That day is coming when the Antichrist comes into power and opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped

B)But right now the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church is restraining – standing in the way.

C)And we will continue to do so until – V.7 **we are taken out of the way.**

1)When are we taken out – RAPTURE –

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Caught up – Harpazo = SNATCHED AWAY – taken out!

A)This is our Hope!

B)Hope – Absolute expectation of coming good.

C)Paul says – Don't be Shaken -

V. 15 ¹⁵Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

Stand Fast – Next week