#### II Thessalonians Lesson 02

II Thessalonians Chapter 2

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Memory verses for this week: *Psa 46:4 There is a river, the streams whereof* shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Introduction: Last week in Chapter 1, Paul taught the church to expect tribulation as they served the Lord. But if they were done wrong, they were not to retaliate but let God provide the vengeance. Jesus is coming back soon and he will be the perfect righteous judge. Chapter 2 focuses on the "The Day of the Lord." We are given many signs that will indicate that the day of the Lord is at hand.

## I. The Day of the Lord

2 Th 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,

2 Th 2:2 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.

God wants his children to Stand fast no matter what happens as we await on the soon coming of Jesus Christ. We are not to fear, but know that there is "Everlasting Consolation" to the child of God. We find that the 'day of the Lord' is mentioned in other parts of the bible.

2 Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Most of Chapter 12 and 14 of Zechariah deal with the day of the Lord. We will just read just 2 portions for the sake of time.

Zec 12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

Zec 12:2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

Zec 12:3 And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

Zec 12:4 In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.

## ... skipping down to verse 10

Zec 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Zec 12:11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

Zec 14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

Zec 14:2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Zec 14:3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

Verse 1 speaks of the Rapture when Jesus returns and takes out the believers who are alive here on earth and also raise the bodies of the dead from the grave.

1 Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1 Th 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Verse 2 speaks of the day of the Lord, as does verse 7 in chapter 7 of Zephaniah.

Zep 1:7 Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.

Zep 1:8 And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.

The prophet Zephaniah described what the day of the Lord will be like in verses 14 to 18 of Chapter 1.

Zep 1:14 The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

Zep 1:15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

Zep 1:16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.

Zep 1:17 And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.

Zep 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

John tells us of the day of wrath over in Revelation.

Revelation 5:12-14 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

### II. Signs of the Day of the Lord

2 Th 2:3 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;

2 Th 2:4 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.

Who is this mentioned in Verse 4? It is the Anti-Christ who will be made manifest. He will be the next world ruler, and he comes on a platform of peace and prosperity for all.

Daniel 11:36-39 And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things

against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. 37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. 38 But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. 39 Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

As the days pass and we come closer to the time of Christ's return, there will be a continual falling away from God's true teachings. Things will grow worse and worse, and apostasy will be prevalent.

2 Timothy 3:1-8 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

# Does this not sound like the days we are now living in?

*Revelation 3:14-22 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write;* These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Satan's desire since he was created has been to dethrone God and to become the supreme ruler of the universe.

Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isa 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

J. Vernon McGee made some good comments about the day of the Lord in his commentary.

The Day of the Lord is a technical phrase that speaks of the period beginning with the Great Tribulation and continuing through the Millennium. It is a day that begins with judgment. Joel describes the Day of the Lord in some detail in chapter 2 of his prophecy, and Peter quoted him on the Day of Pentecost. His listeners knew that there was a day coming when the Spirit of God would be poured out—but it was the coming Day of the Lord of which they knew. In Acts 2:20 Peter says, "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come." Certainly that had not happened at Pentecost. At the crucifixion of Christ there had been an earthquake and darkness, but on the Day of Pentecost there was nothing like that at all.

There was a rushing sound like a mighty wind, and it had the appearance of tongues of fire as it rested upon each of those present. There was no wind, but it sounded like a hurricane when it hit the town, and it caused everybody to rush up to the temple area to see what had happened. Peter is saying that the Day of Pentecost was similar to the day Joel described: "You think these men are drunk? They are not; they are filled with the Holy Spirit." Because of Joel's prophecy, the orthodox Jews in that day believed there was a day coming when God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh—but on the Day of Pentecost it was not poured out on all flesh. The Day of the Lord is yet future. i

2 Th 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

2 Th 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2 Th 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

Verse 7 speaks of how the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the way one day that the man of sin may be revealed. This is another convincing reason to take a Pre-tribulation stand on when the rapture will take place. Where does the Holy Spirit dwell today? Inside the saved believer of Jesus Christ. How will he be taken out of the way? When the church is raptured, the Holy Spirit is taken up with us.

5

*iJ. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible commentary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System,* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997, c1981 by J. Vernon McGee.

2 Th 2:8 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 coming:

2 Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

At the beginning of the Tribulation, the Beast will appear as the great world leader. And his power will be given by Satan himself. It speaks of this in Revelation Chapter 13.

Revelation 13:4-5 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Note the mention of 42 months. That is exactly 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years. At the middle of the tribulation, certain events happen that trigger the worse part of the tribulation which is the last 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years. Nothing has ever happened on earth to match up with what befalls man during this time. At the middle of the tribulation, at the 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  year point, the anti-christ will break his peace covenant with the Jews, and will go into the temple and take over saying he is God.

2 Th 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2 Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

2 Th 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The reason people will believe the anti-christ is because they are given strong delusions, and they believe a lie rather than the truth. God is not a liar, but Satan is the father of liars.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

In these days after the rapture, people will get what they desire spiritually, and that is not the truth of God's Word, but sweet words that tickle their ears. Even today people do not like to hear preaching on sin, but would prefer flowery speakers that soothe the mind and soul. God's Word does bring soothing to the soul, but the man of God has a responsibility to preach the whole counsel of God, and that means to speak out against sin, and to show that the sin has a price that someone has to pay. Praise the Lord for Jesus Christ and how we can have salvation through His Name... a name above all others. And that

salvation comes by repenting of our sins, and by faith turning to Christ for forgiveness.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 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.

## III. The Comfort for God's People

2 Th 2:13 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:

2 Th 2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise the Lord, we that know Jesus as Lord and Savior are a chosen people. A called out people who are peculiar and different from this world.

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Some people are upset by this verse or use it to teach Calvinism. But we were all chosen in Jesus Christ at the foundation of the world. All that will come to Jesus can be saved. Jesus' blood was shed for all mankind that all might have forgiveness of sin. Unfortunately, not all will turn to Christ for salvation.

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Romans 1:15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

2 Th 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

We hold to the traditions we have been taught by faith. When we know Christ as Savior, and we walk by faith, we come to know that God is faithful to us. And when we reach that point, it is easier to stand fast.

Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you

that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

1 Cor 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

1 Cor 16:14 Let all your things be done with charity.

2 Th 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

2 Th 2:17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

We need to really focus on these last two verses. We do have an everlasting consolation and hope through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have the comfort of being firmly established in His Word and work.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

We can clearly tell that the day of the Lord is upon us. Ezekiel told us there would be a falling away before that day. Peter warned of the falling away as did Enoch. So we should not be surprised when our church does not grow in big numbers when we preach the truth from God's Word.

Ezekiel 34:1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks? 3 Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. 4 The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. 5 And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. 6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them. 7 Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; 8 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; 9 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; 10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more;

for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Jude 14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saving. Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. 16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.