



# A Brief Overview of 2 THESSALONIANS

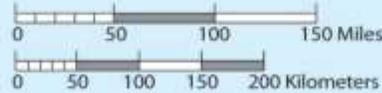
*Introduction & the  
Lord's Righteous Return*

## 2 Thessalonians – Background

- **AD 51/52** – Paul begins 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey (**Acts 15:36-40**).
- Paul travels through Syria, Cilicia, Lyconium, Phrygia, Galatia, Mysia, Macedonia, and Achaia to **Corinth**, where Silas and Timothy eventually catch up (**Acts 15:41-18:5**).
- **AD 51-53** – After hearing report about the Thessalonian church, Paul writes the **first epistle to the Thessalonians**, from **Corinth** (**Acts 18:5**).
- **AD 51-53** – After hearing follow-up report, Paul, probably almost immediately – within a few weeks or months, writes the second epistle to the Thessalonians, still from Corinth.
- **2 Thessalonians** continues themes from **1 Thessalonians**.



- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ≡ Mountain pass
- LYCIA Roman provincial name
- Second Missionary Journey: Paul and Silas



# Outline – 2 Thessalonians 1-3

- I. **Perseverance:** Reckoning of the Thessalonians' persecution at the Lord's return (1:3-12)
  - A. **Greeting:** A request for grace extended (1:1-2).
  - B. **Patience:** Thessalonians' remarkable endurance of persecution (1:3-4).
  - C. **Reckoning:** God's just vengeance & reward at Christ's return (1:5-10).
  - D. **Glory:** Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians' ultimate salvation (1:11-12).
- II. **Consolation:** Quieting erroneous fears that the Lord's return had been missed (2:1-17).
- III. **Adherence:** Command to follow apostolic tradition and withdraw from disobedient (3:1-18).

# “Have You Considered My Servant?”

so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for **your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure**, which is **manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God**, that you may be **counted worthy of the kingdom of God**, for which you **also suffer**; (**1:4-5**)

1. [Chris D.] How might our endurance of “persecutions and tribulations” give proof to the “righteous judgment of God”?
  - Vindicates God’s favorable judgment toward the Thessalonians (**Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6; Zechariah 3:1-7**).
  - And toward us, when we suffer persecution (**Titus 2:12; 2 Timothy 3:12**).

# “Let God Be True and Every Man a Liar”

... for your patience and faith in **all your persecutions and tribulations** that you endure, which is **manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God**, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, **for which you also suffer**; since it is a **righteous thing** with God to **repay with tribulation** those who **trouble** you, and **to give you who are troubled rest** with us **when the Lord Jesus is revealed** from heaven ... (**1:4-7**)

2. On Christ's return, why will God “repay with tribulation those who trouble you”? How does this reflect upon God's character?
  - Just as the Thessalonians endurance proved God's righteousness in granting them entrance, their countrymen's violent persecution warranted God's destruction of them (**Romans 12:17-21**).
  - Beware Devil tricking you into second guessing God and doubting His justice (**Genesis 18:25; Romans 3:4; James 4:11-12**).

# Ignorance No Longer Overlooked

3. [Brent] What will be the fate of those who are ignorant of the gospel and those who merely believed it? How does this affect the faith-only doctrine?

*“... when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1:7-8)*

*“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:3-4)*

*“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” (Acts 17:30-31)*

- Disobedience is separately condemned (**Jm. 2:14-26; Gal. 5:6-7; Rm. 1:5; 2:8**).

# “Everlasting Destruction”

4. [Paul G.] Does verse 9 suggest that the condemned will be annihilated or spend eternity in hell? Will they suffer forever in hell, or will the Lord simply terminate their existence all together?

*These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. (1:9)*

- **aionios olethros** – eon spanning **destruction, ruin, death**

*“And these will go away into **everlasting** (Gr., aionios) **punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal** (Gr., aionios) **life.**” (Matthew 25:46)*

*In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, **deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh**, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1 Corinthians 5:4-5; see also, 11; ruined, not dead)*

- See also: **1 Timothy 6:9; 1 Kings 13:34; Revelation 20:11-15; James 2:26**

# “What Manner of Love!”

when He comes, in that Day, to be **glorified in His saints** and to be **admired among all those who believe**, because our testimony among you was believed. **(1:10)**

5. [Cody] What will be different in “that Day” so that we may then “admire” the Lord Jesus Christ? Can we not admire Him now?

- “We shall see His face” (**Revelation 22:1-5**)
- We will be changed to be like Him, so we can see Him as He is!

Behold **what manner of love** the Father has bestowed **on us**, that we should be **called children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, **now** we are children of God; and it has **not yet been revealed** what we shall be, but we know that **when He is revealed**, we shall **be like Him**, for we shall **see Him as He is**. (**1 John 3:1-2**)

- His glory, our glorification, His love will provoke profound awe!

# “For Your Good Always ...”

when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed. **(1:10)**

6. [David F.] Atheists accuse our God of being a sort of ego-maniac. Does verse 10 indicate that the Lord **needs** our admiration and glory of Him?
  - No, He does not **need** us (**Psalms 50:10-23; Isaiah 40:16**).
  - To be near God is the ultimate goal – and ultimate well-being, need, and good of the faithful (**Ecclesiastes 3:11; 12:13; John 17:23; 1 John 5:11**).
  - Is it good for children to be separated from their Father (**Mat. 7:7-11**)?
  - Even His commands are for our own good (**Deu. 6:24; 1 John 5:3**).
  - Recall what He has sacrificed for us out of love (**John 3:16; Rom. 8:28-39**).

# “I Will Also Confess before My Father”

Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the **name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him**, according to the **grace** of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (**1:11-12**)

7. [Rick] How could our name ever be glorified in Christ? And, by what means will it be achieved?

- Recognized by Jesus (**Romans 14:10-12**):

“Therefore whoever **confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven**. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” (**Matthew 10:32-33**)

- Ultimately glory is acceptance and reception (**Eph. 5:22-32; 2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:6-9; Luke 15:11-32; Matthew 25:21-23**).



## 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8

*“But the end is not yet ...”*

# Outline – 2 Thessalonians 1-3

- I. **Perseverance:** Reckoning of the Thessalonians' persecution at the Lord's return (1:3-12)
- II. **Consolation:** Quieting erroneous fears that the Lord's return had been missed (2:1-17).
  - A. Admonition to not be troubled by error that Lord had already returned (2:1-2)
  - B. Return preceded by coming of the lawless man of sin and perdition (2:3-8).
  - C. Successful deception of unrighteous pleasure seekers by the lawless one (2:9-12).
  - D. Thanks for salvation and prayer to stand fast in apostolic tradition and consolation of the Lord (2:13-17).
- III. **Adherence:** Command to follow apostolic tradition and withdraw from disobedient (3:1-18).

# “Do Not Be Deceived”

8. [Jonathan] What possible sources of misleading influence does Paul anticipate and cut off?

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, **not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by <sup>1</sup>spirit or by <sup>2</sup>word or by <sup>3</sup>letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; ... (2:1-3)**

- Shows that early church was aware of apostolic measures and took counter-measures to verify authenticity.

The salutation of Paul **with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle**; so I write. (3:17)

- Critical to avoid error, being deceived (**Matthew 15:14; 2 Timothy 2:18**).

**But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:8)**

# The Apostasy and Man of Sin

9. [David H.] What events will precede that great day, when the Lord returns?

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the <sup>1</sup>falling away comes first, and the <sup>2</sup>man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 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. (2:3-8)

- The amount of people “falling away” must have been unprecedented to be called “the falling away”.
- Likewise, this “man of sin” must have also been significant beyond all sinners to demand singular treatment.
- These preceding events were so significant they could be so easily recognized to assuredly prove Jesus had not returned!
- Already at work: **Acts 20:29-31; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; Jude 1-13; 1 John 2:18-22; 4:3**
- Possibilities: Papacy, Roman Emperor worship, or apostasy personified