

# Do Not Be Troubled

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*[2 Thessalonians 2:1-12] Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 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. 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.*

The world has been troubled with a pandemic, wars, violence, and natural disasters during the past years. And many Christian teachers have been issuing warnings about the impending Last Days and some are advising that we must be ready for the Tribulation period. I have written through this forum about the end-time about our hope in the coming rapture when the Lord will come back to take away His bride. Some of the Christians of the first century Thessalonian church were also troubled because they had heard of the impending second coming of the Lord Jesus. The apostle Paul, therefore, wrote to them about the events that must precede the Lord's second coming and admonished them not to be troubled or unsettled because of the coming end-times. This admonition applies to the Christian church today.

In verse 1, Paul cites the reason for the admonition of not being troubled. *"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..."* He is referring to the coming rapture event when the Lord comes back to take His church from this world to be with Him. This is the main reason why Christians should not be troubled or shaken about the end times. Paul then mentions in verse 3 the two events that must happen before the 'Lord's Day,' which refers to the end-time tribulation period.

*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*

In this verse, 'that Day' refers to the Lord's Day when the Lord will return as the King of kings to punish the evil world and to establish the Millennial Kingdom. This event of the Lord's second coming will come AFTER the rapture in an open manner, whereas His coming for the rapture event will occur privately, known only to the church. Thus, the two events of 'falling away' and 'the revelation of the man of sin' must occur before the Lord's Day.

There are two interpretations of the meaning of 'the falling away' in verse 3. Some theologians say it refers to the apostasy of the church from the truth of the Lord, whereas others believe that it refers to the rapture, that is, the removal of the church from this world to be with the Lord in the air. Based on Paul's intent in this letter, I believe the latter interpretation is correct. Here, the apostle Paul explains that the rapture event and the revelation of the antichrist must occur before the Lord returns to punish the evil world and establish His millennial kingdom. This implies that the church will be saved from the coming tribulation because they will have been removed from the world and be with the Lord as His bride and participate in the Lamb's marriage ceremony before His triumphant return to the earth as the Lord of lords and the King of kings. Therefore, the New Testament saints do not need to be troubled about the Lord's Day or the end-time tribulation period.

In verse 4, Paul explains what blasphemy the 'son of sin,' that is the antichrist, will perform in the third temple to be built in Jerusalem. Paul is quoting what Lord Jesus had prophesied about this act of antichrist.

*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.*

This antichrist will be the personification of Satan in the world, who has been opposing God and His truth, attempted to disrupt God's salvation plan, tempted Jesus to spoil His ministry, deceived Judas Iscariot to sell his Lord, and has been deceiving the church and the world to depart from God's truth and way. This agent of Satan will sit in the temple in Jerusalem and command the Jews to worship him instead of God by impersonating himself as the god [Daniel 9:27]. Lord Jesus prophesied about what the antichrist will do and the great tribulation the Jewish people will undergo during the tribulation period.

*[Matt 24:15-16] "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

Many people wonder who this antichrist might be. As the last days are approaching, people think the antichrist could be surfacing as one of the world leaders. Some have tried to guess possible candidates as the antichrist among the rising stars in the global political arena. But the apostle Paul clearly states that the identity of the antichrist will be revealed after the rapture event.

*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.*

In verse 6, Paul refers to the time of the antichrist's revelation. Since the first century, the Holy Spirit has been blocking the revelation of the antichrist. It is still the era of the New Testament church so the Almighty God, who rules the heavens and the earth, is suppressing the activities of Satan and his cohorts in the world to a limit set by Him. The lawless power of Satan has been in action since the first century until now. The evil forces of Satan have significantly gained the powers of the world during the past half a century. The Spirit of God, however, has been preventing the appearance of the antichrist. This barrier, however, will be removed once the church is taken out of this world to be with Christ in heaven. Then, the world will see the identity of the antichrist, who will gain massive popularity as the great, powerful leader and savior of the world. Nations will give their reigning powers to him, who will rule the world as Satan dictates. That will be the 7-year tribulation period. This end-time scenario will, however, occur after the church has been removed from this world.

We read the prophecy of this tribulation period in Revelation chapters 6 through 19. Those who live in this period will experience extreme calamities and tribulations. Those believers who are left behind and those who come to believe in Jesus Christ after the rapture will experience unspeakable persecutions and tribulations including many being beheaded. Lord Jesus prophesied about the tribulations they will come to face as follows:

*[Matt 24:21-22] For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

Toward the end of the tribulation period, Lord Jesus will return to the earth and destroy Antichrist and his followers, throw them into hell, and establish His millennial kingdom over the world. He will then rule this world as the King of kings for a thousand years. During the millennial reign of Lord Jesus, faithful saints will participate in His government.

*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.*

If you have not yet become a child of God yet, I urge you to come to Jesus Christ now in repentance and be saved from this unspeakable wrath of God that will be unfurled all over the world during the end-time period. Most people, except Noah's family, watched the ark of salvation completed, the massive horde of selected animals come and board the ark in Noah's direction, and finally watched Noah and his family enter the ark. Despite all such strong signs, they chose not to board the ark although Noah had preached to them about the impending great flood that would destroy the whole world. A similar event of God's wrath-filled destruction is coming soon. I strongly urge you to take a lesson from history and not repeat the same mistake. Believe and be saved!

And I encourage all saints of God to hold onto the hope of the coming rapture event, by living faithfully as true Christians, eagerly awaiting the day when the Lord will come to claim His bride. During the tribulation period, however, people will be deceived by the antichrist, miss God's promised salvation, and be subject to God's awful wrath.

*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.*

The antichrist will exhibit supernatural powers, perform miracles, and show signs, imitating what Lord Jesus did during His earthly ministry. He will deceive the people of the world through deceit and Satan's trickery. All those who rejected the love of the truth will thus be deceived by him and end up missing the salvation of God.

God has made available the revelation on His end-time plan and on how we can be saved from His wrath because of His mercy toward us. He wants us to be fully warned about the end-time and allows us to avoid going through the awful end-time tribulation period by repenting and coming to Jesus Christ, who has paid for our sins through His precious blood shed on Calvary. I strongly urge all to become God's blessed children and be saved from the coming wrath of God! Amen.

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