

Avoiding Deception About the Second Coming

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a

Verse 1a

Paul employs language taken from the teaching of Jesus.

Matthew 24:30-31

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18

Verse 1b-2

First, Paul urges them “not to be quickly shaken from *your* mind.”

Matthew 24:29-30

Second, Paul urges them not to be “troubled.”

Matthew 24:4-6

There are three means by which they had been shaken and troubled.

1. They should not be shaken or troubled “by spirit,” or “by *a spirit*,” as it is rendered in both the ESV and NASB.

1 John 4:1-3

1 Thessalonians 2:13

2. They should not be shaken or troubled “by word.”

As Gary Shogren aptly observes, “It is a scriptural truth that when Satan is unable to harm the saints by persecution (1 Thess. 3:3), he tries to neutralize them by confusion” (ECNT, p. 272).

3. They should not be shaken or troubled “by letter, as if from us.”

2 Thessalonians 3:17

Verse 3a

The same Greek word translated as *deceive* here was used by Paul on a couple of other occasions to warn believers in others churches as well.

Romans 16:17-18

2 Corinthians 11:2-4; 12-15