

**Edgemont Bible Church**  
**Pastor Al Osden**  
**2 Thessalonians 1:6-10**

Mar. 12, 2017

**Intro:** The Second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is the climax of Human History. There are several motives for Christ to return. He will return for His bride to take her to the wedding feast. He will not continue to permit the usurper, Satan, to rule the world, He will take back what is His. The humiliation of His first coming cannot be the last view the world had of Him, He will come back in Glory.

When Paul referred to the second coming in relation to believers, he used the word **Parousia**, meaning a being near, coming, presence. When he wrote, “when the Lord Jesus is revealed,” he used **Apokalupsis** (revelation, unveiling, uncovering). It has the idea of manifesting which was previously hidden or secret. It views the return of Christ in relation to unbelievers.

Paul describes the *apokalupsis* using three prepositional phrases. First, “*from heaven.*” Christ ascended to Heaven, Acts 1:9-11. He sits at the right hand of the Father, Heb 8:1. From there, He intercedes for His people, Ro 8:34. And from that throne, He will return one day to judge His enemies, Mt 16:27; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Ro 2:16; 2 Tim 4:1.

Second, Jesus will not return alone, but *with His mighty angels*. Jesus delegates His power to accomplish His purpose to His angels, in this case judgement.

Third, *in flaming fire*. Fire described here is the fire of judgement – Isa 66:16; Mt 3:12; 13:30; Heb 10:27; 2 Pet 3:7,10.

Paul describes a twofold nature of Christ’ return. Relief, rest, refreshment, and peace for believers. Retribution, judgement, punishment, and vengeance for unbelievers. Christ’ second coming would affect believers and unbelievers differently – Mt 13:40-42; 24:31.

### III. The Vengeance of the Lord Jesus – 2 Th 1:6-10

#### A. Retribution - vs 6,8-9

##### 1. Retribution

- a. Retribution - **ekdikesis** - vindication, retribution, avenging a wrong, to give full punishment.
  - i. Stephen talks of Moses taking vengeance on the Egyptian - Acts 7:24
  - ii. Government is sent by God for the punishment of evildoers - 1Pe 2:14
  - iii. The Bible repeatedly forbids believers from taking vengeance - Le 19:18; De 32:35; Ro 12:19; Heb 10:30
- b. The Bible repeatedly teaches that God will deal out retribution to sinners
  - i. the imprecatory prayers in the Psalms 7; 6,9,11; 35:5-6,8,17,22-28; 40:14-15; 55:3,9-12,19; 58; 59; 69; 79; 109; 137; 139; 144 presupposes and exalt God’s retribution
  - ii. Jeremiah’s prayer and God’s response - **Jer 11:20, 22-23; 18:19-23, 19:3-9**

c. Some have created a false dichotomy of an OT God of vengeance, but a NT God of love, but

- i. Paul speaking of Alexander the coppersmith - 2 Tim 4:14
- ii. The martyrs crying out from under the throne of God - Rev 6:10
- iii. John the Baptizer speaking of the Lord's winnowing fork - Mt 3:12

d. Jesus taught the God will take vengeance

- i. The Parable of the wicked vinedressers that killed the son of the owner referring to those who reject God's Son - Lu 20:15-18
- ii. The Parable of the unrighteous judge showing that God will avenge the elect that cry out day and night - 18:7-8;
- iii. Jesus refers to the events surrounding His 2nd coming as days of vengeance - Lk 21:22
- iv. He taught
  - He will say unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire - Mt 25:41,46
  - there will be a resurrection to judgment of all unbelievers - Rev 20:11-15

2. Why? - vs 6a

a. since it is a righteous thing with God to repay

- i. **dikaïos** - equitable (in character or act); by implication, innocent, holy (absolutely or relatively):--just, meet, right(-eous).
- ii. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? - Gen 18:25
- iii. God Deals Justly with those who reject Him - Is 45:20-25; 55:6-7; Ezek 33:17-20

b. **Antapodidomi** - to requite (good or evil):--recompense, render, repay.

- i. conveys the idea of a full and complete repayment
- ii. do you think that they were worse sinners than all others, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish - Lk 13:2-5
- iii. The threat of God's repayment is designed as a warning and deterrent on the way to hell, those who ignore it are without excuse - Ro 1:18-20

3. Who? - vs 6c, 8b

a. those who trouble you,

- i. All those who attack the people of God - Gen 12:3
- ii. All those who touch the apple of god's eye - Zech 2:8
- iii. All those who cause a little one to stumble - Mt 18:6-10

b. Paul's description of them

i. those who do not know God

- no relationship with God - Jo 17:3; Eph 2:12; 4:17-18; Tit 1:16
- not due to ignorance, but wickedness - Suppressing the truth - Ro 1:18-21
- Everyone knows that there is a God - Ro 1:20-21
- He has written His law on their hearts - Ro 2:14-15

ii. those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- intensifies their guilt b/c they reject innate knowledge
- Heb 10:26-31 (29) Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

c. though salvation is a gift to be received, the gospel is a command to be obeyed

4. How? -vs 6b,9

a. with tribulation

i. **thlipsis** - pressure:--afflicted(-tion), anguish, burdened, trouble persecution, tribulation.

ii. **aionios** - perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as well):--eternal, for ever, everlasting, world (began).

- as used in the NT - endless duration

- describes God - Ro 16:26; the Holy Spirit - Heb 9:14; Heaven - Lk 16:9; salvation - Heb 5:9; redemption - Heb 9:12; the Gospel - Rev 14:6; the Kingdom of God - 2 Pet 1:11; Hell - Mt 18:8; 25:41,46; Heb 6:2; Jd 7 and eternal life - Mt 19:16, 29; 25:46; Mk 10:17, 30; Lk 10:25; 18:18,30; Jo 3:15-16,36; 4:14,36; 5:24,39; 6:27,40,47,54,68; 10:28; 12:25, 50; etc

iii. **Olethros** - ruin, death, punishment:--destruction,

- not annihilation

- the loss of all that makes existence worthwhile

b. The conditions of the eternal sentence

i. away from the presence of the Lord - Mt 7:23; 25:41; Lk 13:27; Rev 22:15

ii. Away from the glory of His power

- a place of darkness - Mt 8:12; 22:13; 25:30; 2 Pet 2:17; Jd 13

- a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth - Mt 8:12; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Lu 13:28;

- shared with the devil and his angels - Mt 25:41; Jd 6

B. Relief - vs 6a,7a-b, 10

1. Relief

a. **anesis** - relaxation or (relief:--eased, liberty, rest.

b. Three kinds of Rest in the bible

i. the rest that salvation brings - Mt 11:28-29

ii. Millennial rest after the tribulation - Rev 19:11-20:7

iii. Eternal rest the redeemed enter after death - Rev 21:4

2. Why? - vs 6a, 7a

a. since it is a righteous thing with God

i. just as it is just to bring tribulation on those who afflict believers, it is just to give rest to the afflicted ones,

ii. b/c Christ already paid for our sins on the cross through the shedding of His blood, God is now Just and our Justifier - Ro 3:26

b. and to give you who are troubled rest with us

i. after you have suffered a while - 1 Pet 5:10

ii. count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience - Jas 1:2-3

iii. I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong. - 2Co 12:10

iv. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. - Ro 8:18

v. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, - 2Co 4:17

vi. but not necessarily in this life

3. Who? - vs 7a

a. All believers can expect to be afflicted - 2 tim 3:12

b. Suffering is a mark of a true Christian - Mt 13:20-21

c. it is part of the cost of following Christ - Lk 9:23

4. How? - vs 10

a. when He comes, two things will happen

i. in that Day, He will be glorified in His saints

- Presently we are to do all to the glory of God - 1 Co 10:31

- Then the revealing of the sons of God - Dan 12:1-3; Ro 8:18-19; 1Co 13:12; 15:49; 2Co 4:17; 1Pe 1:6-7; 1 Jo 3:1-3;

ii. He will be admired among all those who believe,

- **thaumazo** - to wonder; by implication, to admire:--admire, have in admiration, marvel, wonder.

- Since only the redeemed enter the kingdom - Mt 25:31-46; Rev 20:6, the redeemed (living saints on earth) will marvel at the glorified Christ revealed in the resurrected, glorified saints

b. because our testimony among you was believed - you will be there among the glorified ones