
The Thessalonian Epistles 23

The Day of Christ and the Man of Sin

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2Thessalonians 2:1-5

The church at Thessalonica was once again confused about Bible prophecy and it had a negative effect on them, and so it will with any who would stray far in regards to things to come.

To gain a fuller understanding of **The Day of Christ and the Man of Sin**, it would be necessary to give a full exposition of large portions of the Book of **Daniel 2, 4, 7-12, Matthew 24**, and **Revelation 4-20**, along with our text and many others could be included as well, both Old and New Testaments.

There has been a barrage of anti-religious activity over the last few years, from no need of organized religion, to a disregard of any religion, to a worship of man as the supreme alien race. All these recent and growing trends are paving the way towards the Day of the Lord.

Before we get started let me read to you an interesting nine comparisons between the Rapture (the first phase or stage of Christ's Return) and the Day of the Lord (the revelation, the second or last phase or stage of Christ's Return:

Rapture

1. Christ comes in the air
(1Thess.4:16-17)
2. Christ comes for His saints
(1Thess.4:16-17)
3. The rapture is a mystery, not
not known in the OT (1Cor.15:51)

Revelation

1. Christ comes to
the earth
(Zech.14:4)
2. Christ comes
with His saints
(1Thess.3:13; Jude
14)
3. The revelation is
not mystery,
well-known in

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| | OT (Ps.72; Isa.11;
Zech.14) |
| 4. Christ's coming <u>for</u> His saints is never described to be preceded by signs in the heavens | 4. Christ coming <u>with</u> His saints will be heralded by be will be heralded by celestial signs (Mt.24:29-30) |
| 5. The rapture is identified with usually, as the day of Christ (1Cor.1:8; 2Cor.1:14; Php.1:6,10) | 5. The revelation is usually referred to as the day of the Lord, esp. in OT (Acts 2:20) |
| 6. The rapture is presented as a time of blessing (1Thess.4:18) | 6. The main emphasis of the revelation is on judgment (2Thess.2:8-12) |
| 7. The rapture takes place in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, strongly suggesting it will not be witnessed by the world (1Cor.15:52) | 7. The revelation will be visible worldwide (Mt.24:27; Rev.1:7) |
| 8. The rapture strongly indicates an event taking place during the Church Age (Jn.14:1-4; 1Cor.15:51-58; 1Thess.4:13-18) | 8. The revelation involves Israel, primarily, then also the Gentile nations |
| 9. Christ comes in the rapture as the Bright and Morning Star (Rev.22:16) | 9. Christ comes in the revelation as the sun of righteousness with healing in His wings (Malachi 4:2) |

Let us first consider the *The Day of Christ* as our text begins with that.

I. The Day of Christ



1 ¶ Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, this urgent plea is to calm their concerns over missing the Rapture and having to go through the Great Tribulation.

1 **Now we beseech you, brethren,** once more, we observe that Paul and his co-laborers do not come with the authoritative manner, though at times it may be needful, they were directed to rather, plead with them as brethren, with warmth and tenderness with pastoral care.

2 **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and by our gathering together unto Him,** this is to be taken together according to the structure and construction of this verse, and thus, refer to the same event, the Rapture.



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. The Thessalonian church had been deeply disturbed that they had missed the Rapture and that they were going through the Great Tribulation, and that the Revelation of Christ would come soon.

1 **That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled,** they were very worried that they missed the Rapture, possibly, because of some deficiency in their spirituality or possibly their salvation. Hence, Christ is coming soon to judge those who are not saved, and they had no assurance. Their mental state was unstable and their spiritual state was

tossed to and fro. It was an unwarranted fear that they held.

2

neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, they were told not to be moved from what was originally told them, whether it is ***by spirit***, or one supposedly speaking under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, ***nor by word***, that is, by their teaching, no matter how dynamic, caring, convincing and eloquent they may seem to be, ***nor by letter as from us***, here would be the most deceptive and authoritative, that one would forge an epistle as though it were written by Paul or any of his co-laborers in the faith.

3

as that the day of Christ is at hand. This signifies Christ's deity, the liberal Alexandrian copies have, *day of the Lord*. It is obvious they thought they missed the rapture and were in the Tribulation period. Therefore the need to clarify such as was done in the last epistle is unnecessary. Remember that they were being persecuted primarily by the Jews who denied Christ's deity.

ⓐ) We are living in the last days, and have been since Peter revealed that we are in his sermon in ***Acts 2*** on the Day of Pentecost, and this will extend until the Rapture, all of which is a time of grace and blessing.

ⓑ) The Day of Christ, here, or Day of the Lord, is referred to in the Old Testament and in the New Testament as beginning with the Great Tribulation until the end of

the Millennial Reign of Christ on the earth, all a time when Christ shall deal with sin, a time of judgment.

- e) We dealt with this in more detail in chapters 4-5 in the First Epistle to the Thessalonians.

II. The Man of Sin

A. 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; Here are two events that must take place before the revelation of Christ.

1. Let no man deceive you by any means: Satan and his ministers have many devices whereby they seek to deceive souls unawares.

2. for that day shall not come, there are some conditions that must be met first.

a) except there come a falling away first, first, there will be a great apostasy which shall take place and we see evidences of it already, but the rapture will certainly make it much easier as all the saints will be gone for the time being.

(1) *apostasias* *apostasias* *ap-os-tas-ee'-ah*, AV-to forsake + 575 1, falling away 1; 2, 1) a falling away, defection, apostasy

(2) 2Timothy 3:13, 4:3-4, ¹³ But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

³ 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.

b) **and that man of sin be revealed,** second, and connected with that falling away, the antichrist will be revealed as the antichrist. This is a man, not a principle or a system, and thus not figurative.

c) **the son of perdition,** the son of destruction, ruination, in line with the destroyer, Satan, to be the reason for destruction of the earth by promoting of sin, and they both shall suffer eternal ruination.

(1) Based on previous phrase and following verses this cannot be Judas Iscariot, or Nero, as preterists may surmise.

d) **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, shewing himself that he is God.** The antichrist if further described as no one else in history thus far.

e) **Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped;** in his mind, all known deities are his enemies and he deserves the preeminence.

2. **so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God,** he will be so adamant in this that though he will promote himself as a friend of the Jews, he will turn on them and will sit in the very temple of God, in the holy place.

3. **showing himself that he is God.** He will continue in his foolish arrogance by the hideous claim that he is God manifest in the flesh, the messiah, the Christ, the antichrist, the world's saviour, the embodiment of Satan.

a) The New Age Movement, which is old age heathenism with a new name, saying, *we are God*, pantheistic Hinduism, will make this more palatable and acceptable.

b) The emerging thought that we are a supreme alien race and our ancestors created this world, thus, we have deity in our blood, makes this more acceptable as well, Mormons hold a similar view as well.

c) **5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?** We should not let any emotional, physical or spiritual matters sidetrack us from what we know to be true as it is revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

1. **Remember ye not,** we see Jesus, Paul, Peter, and others having to repeat themselves due the forgetfulness that we incur due to one reason or another. In this case, the worrisome state they were in due to the persecutions they

were suffering and deceptions from Satan, and his servants.

2 ***that, when, I was yet with you,*** This refers to the time that the Lord saved these believers through their preaching of the gospel, and them being baptized, the church being established, and taught for anywhere from six months to a year at best.

3 ***I told you these things?*** The word ***told***, *legw lego leg'-o*, is in the imperfect tense generally represents continual or repeated action in the past. Where the present tense might indicate "they are asking," the imperfect would indicate "they kept on asking." In this case, *I kept on telling you these things.*

a) In the case of the verb "to be," a state of being verb, however, the imperfect tense is used as a general past tense and does not carry the connotation of continual or repeated action.

b) This was something Paul had personally told them. The indictment against this church was that this is expressed in the imperfect tense, meaning it was interwoven in throughout his teachings repeatedly, while he was there.

The Day of Christ and the man of sin, are legitimate concerns for us today as we see events unfolding that are moving in that direction, and thus are our hearts comforted in knowing that Christ's return for His people, our gathering together unto Him, is evidencing itself as drawing closer and closer. But, for those of you who have not received Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and/or have not publicly confessed

your sins and your faith in Christ alone to save you, this should bring great distress to your soul, for your eternity hangs in the balance—an eternity in everlasting bliss, love, joy, and peace so magnificent that human words fail to express it fully, or an eternity in everlasting unrest, hatred, sorrow, and torment, so awful that human words fail to express it fully.

May we take heart and be encouraged that though we don't know how bad it will get before Christ's comes in the clouds to gather His saints, we shall not go through the Great Tribulation if we have trusted in Christ to deliver us from our sins through His sacrificial, substitutionary, and sufficient sacrifice on the cross.

During the Fourth of July celebrations people look in awe of the glory of the fireworks, but how much more glorious will be the rapture for those who look for Christ to come in the air and we first see His face!

In a similar fashion, fireworks and bombs both explode in the air, but bombs produce no celebrating, but dreading of judgment, so it shall be for those who reject the King of kings and Lord of lords, our Lord Jesus Christ at His return to the earth.