

Episode 12 - 2 Thessalonians 2

The gathering together and the man of sin

'Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.'

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

'Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.'

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Two things before Day of the LORD

- ◆ Thing 1 - Apostasy

- ◆ Thing 2 - Man of Sin must be revealed .

'He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. ''' Daniel 9:27 NIV

Apostasia

- ◆ Falling away of believers in Christ as stated in Matt. 24, 1 Tim. 4:1, 2 Peter 3:3
- ◆ Jews falling away as in Acts 21:21 and under Antiochus Epiphanes as recorded in Maccabees.
- ◆ Apo - outside, Stasia - standing. Standing outside as in the gathering together.

Apostasia - is not the rapture

“In Moulton and Milligan’s, *The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament Illustrated from the Papyri and Other Non-Literary Sources*, it is demonstrated that this term is only used in the political or religious defection sense—again, never used in a spatial departure sense (pp. 68–9).

Lidell & Scott page 203 state that apostasia is a form of apostasis and Meaning 2 of apostasis is departure.

(this is one usage from 500 B.C.)

Apostasia - is not the rapture

Further, even pretribulationist scholar Paul Feinberg admits, "If one searches for the uses of the noun "apostasy" in the 355 occurrences over the 300-year period between the second century B.C. and the first century A.D., one will not find a single instance where this word refers to a physical departure."

Kurschner, Alan, various podcasts.

'Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.'

2 Thessalonians 2:5-7

'Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ' Acts 17:1-4

Who or what restrains this?

- ◆ Pre-trib often says “the Holy Spirit”. They say rapture is before the 70th Week. When the believers with the Holy Spirit are gone and nothing restrains the coming of the antichrist.
- ◆ The church. “Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.” When the believers with Christ in them are gone and nothing restrains the coming of the antichrist.
- ◆ What about principalities and powers? Michael, protector of Israel.

'For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.'

1 Corinthians 1:18,27-29

'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.'

Ephesians 6:10-12

'Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!'" Revelation 12:7-9,12

'Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.' Revelation 12:17

'And the beast [antichrist] that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. '

Revelation 13:2

'And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for **forty-two months**.

Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.

And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. If anyone has an ear, let him hear: If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the **endurance** [**hupomeno**] and faith of the saints. ' Revelation 13:5,7-10

'Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come." '

Daniel 10:12-14

'“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. ’

Daniel 12:1

'And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.'

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

'For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.' ' John 3:17-21

2 Thessalonians 2 - Conclusions

- ◆ They were under attack with deception that the Day of the LORD had come, that they had missed the gathering together.
- ◆ Before the DL comes, 1. apostasy, and 2. abom. of desolation.
- ◆ It was important for them to understand this in 1st 3 weeks.
- ◆ Restrainer is angelic forces, not the Spirit of Christ in the Church.
- ◆ Antichrist is empowered by Satan and will gather the wicked for the final battle in rejection of Jesus Christ.

'But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.'

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17