

Lord Jesus Christ is speaking of His Second Advent as well as the Rapture (or taking away) of the Church.

1. (a) Two events precede the day of the Lord. What are they? (II Thessalonians 2:3-5; Study Guide p. 22,23)

(1) _____

(2) _____

(b) Which one of the two events do you think occurs before the Rapture? _____

(c) Which event occurs before the Second coming of Christ? _____

THE POWER OF THE ANTICHRIST (II Thessalonians 2:9,10; Daniel 8:24; Revelation 13:1-18; 19:20)

1. Describe the powers of the Antichrist according to II Thessalonians 2:9,10. _____

2. After reading the rest of the Scripture texts in this section, give more points that describe the Antichrist. _____

FIRST STUDY

II THESSALONIANS / ENCOURAGEMENT IN PERSECUTION

Grateful for the believers' faith, love, and endurance in persecution, Paul explains the purpose of this persecution, which refines believers for future glory and seals the doom of God's enemies. Christ's coming will reverse the present situation, bringing rest to the afflicted, and separation from God to their troublers.¹

THANKSGIVING FOR THEIR GROWTH (II Thessalonians 1:1-4)

1. Paul says in II Thessalonians 1:3, that they (Paul, Silas, and Timothy) are always giving thanks to God for the brethren. For what reason? _____

2. Paul also says they are glorying in them in the Churches of God for certain spiritual qualities. What are these qualities mentioned? (II Thessalonians 1:4) _____

It is easy to be a faith-walking-Christian in time of peace: but faith is always greater when tested in the furnace of affliction and persecution.

1. The Open Bible, study notes, p. 1127.

RIGHTEOUS TRIBULATION TO THOSE WHO TROUBLE YOU (II Thessalonians 1:5-12)

It is easy for us to fall into the trap of fighting our own battles. The Scripture reads, *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all*. So it doesn't say, we get ourselves out, it says the Lord delivers us: for . . . *it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation (repay trouble) to them that trouble you* .

1. Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to pay recompense tribulation to them that trouble us,
(a) What does Paul say the Christian is supposed to do in the meantime? (II Thessalonians 1:7)_____ (b) In whom do you think Paul means we are to rest? _____

Those who trouble us, may or may not be repaid during our lifetime; but payback will come. It will come: either in this time, or in the Great Tribulation, and maybe even in hell. If we will only rest in God and trust in Him to take care of our troubling experiences, we will see His glory revealed in us (ref. Psalm 37:7; Matthew 11:28; Revelation 6:11; 14:13).

2. (a) Who does Paul say will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power in II Thessalonians 1:8? _____

(b) When will the above punishment come? (II

Thessalonians 1:7,10) _____

3. What do you think is the major point of Paul's prayer in II Thessalonians 1:11,12? _____

DAY OF THE LORD INSTRUCTIONS (II Thessalonians 2:1-12)

As we are waiting and watching for the day of the Lord to come, we need to be educated to what the Scriptures have to say about this subject. These Thessalonian believers needed to be corrected because of a misunderstanding that they had missed the Rapture and the 2nd coming because the day of the Lord had already begun. So Paul begins to tell them what signs to look for concerning these events. (Ref. Matthew 24:31; Mark 13:27)

Falling away in the Greek, *apostasia*, means defection, revolt, and apostasy. There will be a desertion of one's faith. This is an aggressive rebellion. This is religious apostasy and rebellion against God. The forces of lawlessness were already working in Paul's days (II Thessalonians 2:7).

The Rapture will take place before the Antichrist is revealed (II Thessalonians 2:7,8).

Our gathering together unto Him is speaking of the Rapture of the Church, while the coming of our