

2 Thessalonians 2: Stand Firm and Wait

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The second chapter addresses specific questions the Thessalonian believers had for Paul (2:1). These questions involved the timing of Jesus' second coming and the gathering of believers to be with the Lord. In spite of present persecution and impending evil, Paul encourages the believers with God's election and calling, and commands them to persevere through God's grace.

Believers should not be deceived regarding the significance of their persecution (2:1-12).

Has the Day of the Lord already arrived (2:1-4)?

- The Day of the Lord will not begin until the rebellion occurs and the Man of Lawlessness, the "son of destruction" (cf. John 17:12), is revealed.
- This revelation will include worldwide signs that have been prophesied (Dan 9:27; Matt 24:15).

What is empowering the current persecution (2:5-7)?

- The "mystery of lawlessness," Satan's empowering work, is currently operational.
- It is being restrained and will continue to be until the restraint is removed.

How will the Day of the Lord end (2:8-12)?

- Satanic deception (2:9-10) and judicial blindness (2:11) will combine to cause many to follow the Man of Lawlessness.
- Jesus Christ will return and destroy the Man of Lawlessness (2:8; cf. Rev 19:15, 20).
- God will judge all who believed Satan's lie and delighted in unrighteousness (2:12).

Believers should stand firm through persecution (2:13-17).

God sovereign election of us to salvation comforts us (2:13).

- God chose us for salvation in eternity past (cf. Eph 1:4).
- God ordained both the ends and means of our salvation.
- God's election is what keeps us from being condemned (cf. 2:12).

God's effective calling of us to glorification encourages us (2:14-17).

- God's work in our lives began at salvation, continues today, and will ultimately end in glorification (2:14).
- God's work in our lives motivates us to persevere in faith and good works (2:15).
- God's saving love for us grants us eternal comfort (2:16).
- God's continuing grace to us grants us ongoing hope (2:16).
- God's comfort motivates our pursuit of Christlikeness (2:17).