



2 Thessalonians 2

Lesson 2

The purpose of Bible prophecy is not for us to make a calendar, but to build character. Paul emphasized this fact in both of his Thessalonian letters. Jesus wanted us not to set dates for His coming. Date setters are usually upsetters. The believers in Thessalonica had been shaken and troubled as they questioned statements that were contrary to Paul's teachings about the Day of the Lord. Had God changed His plan? To calm their hearts and stabilize their faith, Paul explained that they were not in the Day of the Lord. The reason was simple: that Day could not arrive till certain events had taken place. Paul then stated for them the prophetic events that make up God's timetable.

OBSERVATION: Read 2 Thessalonians 2

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God/Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit*.
Key Words: *God, Jesus, Spirit* (when referring to the Holy Spirit), *work(ing), destroy/perish, love, believe, gospel, glory, hope, grace, and Satan*. Also mark the phrase *man of sin* and any words that refer to or describe him.
3. The contrasting word *but* is used two times in these verses. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion *therefore* was used in verse 15. Mark the word; record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1,2 - Shaken in Mind

1. What subject did Paul begin to address in these verses?
2. What was Paul's concern?
 - a. What three ways might they (and we) be *shaken in mind or troubled*? Note: *spirit* refers to someone who claims to have knowledge from God that does not.
 - 1.) What is the warning of 1 John 4:1?
 - 2.) In what ways might this be a warning to all believers regarding many subjects?
 - a.) What is an example of something that you have heard or read that caused you to be *shaken in mind or troubled* regarding something Biblical?
3. What should you do when you hear or read something that causes you to question what you have been taught?
 - a. What are some ways we can we practically research a Biblical truth?
4. According to the last phrase of verse 2, what were some of them believing?
 - a. Put yourself in their place. What thoughts and fears might you have if you thought that the rapture had already occurred and you had been left behind?

2 THESSALONIANS 2:3-10 - The Man of Sin

1. To calm the concerns of the believers, Paul told them that the Day of the Lord could not have occurred yet. According to verse 3, what two things had to happen for them to be in the Day of the Lord?
2. Record what 1 Timothy 4:1-3 teaches about this *falling away*.

- a. This *falling away* or *departing from the faith* will occur within the church. This is happening in a smaller degree today. What are some essential truths that we must adhere to?

3. ...and the man of sin is revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:3). What are some synonyms for the word *revealed*?

4. Using verses 3-10, describe the nature and activities of this *man of sin*.
 - a. What does Daniel 7:25 reveal about this *man of sin*?

5. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 parallels Daniel 11:36,37. What do these verses in Daniel teach us about this *man of sin*?

6. In this section of 2 Thessalonians 2, Paul uses the phrases *do you not remember, I told you, and you know*. Why do we sometimes forget what we have been taught?

2 THESSALONIANS 2:10-12 – The Fate of the Deceived

1. Verse 10 refers to *those who perish*. According to this verse, why will they experience this fate?
 - a. What could they have experienced if they had *received the love of the truth*?
 - 1.) For what purpose did God send His Son? John 3:17

2. What will God do to those who refuse the *love of the truth*?
 - a. What does Psalm 81:11,12 teach us about those who refuse God's *truth*?

3. Not only will these people refuse the *love of the truth*, 2 Thessalonians 2:12 reveals something else about them. What is it?
 - a. Record the sad words of Isaiah 66:4.

4. What did Jude *remind* us of in Jude 1:5?

5. Consider the fate of those who reject the *truth*. What are your thoughts?

6. List a few things you *love* about God's *truth*.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:13,14 - The Fortune of the Brethren

1. Verse 13 begins with the glorious word *but*, contrasting the fate of the unbeliever with the destiny of the believer. What does Paul call these brethren?
 - a. What are some of the benefits of being *beloved by the Lord*?

2. Describe a person that is *beloved*.
 - a. What thoughts are provoked within you when you think about being God's *beloved*?

3. In contrast to those who do not *receive the love of the truth*, what does verse 13 declare about God's *beloved*?

4. According to verse 14, what is the believer called to *obtain*?
 - a. Reflect upon this by recording the words of:
John 17:22,24

- 1.) Express a few thoughts regarding these wonderful truths.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:15-17 - Therefore

1. In response to the contrast of the destiny of unbelievers and that of believers, Paul states his conclusion. How are we to walk because of our destiny?
2. Using synonyms define *stand fast*.
 - a. What are some antonyms for *stand fast*?
3. What does 1 Corinthians 15:58 exhort regarding the call to *stand fast*?
4. Describe a life that *stands fast*.
 - a. Describe a life that fails to *stand fast*.
5. In addition to *standing fast*, we are told to *hold the traditions which we were taught*. What does Jude 1:3 tell us Paul knew was necessary to write about?
 - a. Why is this so important, especially in times of trials and persecutions?
6. Using 2 Thessalonians 2:16, describe what God has done for the *beloved*.
7. What two prayer requests did Paul share in verse 17?
 - a. Describe the word *comfort* as you consider the times you have needed *comfort* in your life.

1.) In what ways has God met your needs to be *comforted*?

b. In verse 15, Paul commands to *stand fast*. In verse 17 he prays that God would *establish*.
What is our part?

What is God's part?

REVIEW:

1. How can deception cause a believer to be *shaken in mind or troubled*?

2. What do you do to prevent being *shaken or troubled* by deception?

3. In what ways were you encouraged by 2 Thessalonians 2?

4. In what ways were you challenged by 2 Thessalonians 2?

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

- 1 Corinthians 16:13

Observation Worksheet

2 Thessalonians 2

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, **2** not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **3** Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, **4** who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. **5** Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? **6** And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. **7** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. **9** The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, **10** and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **11** And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, **12** that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. **13** But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, **14** to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. **15** Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. **16** Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, **17** comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.