

What if I am Left Behind?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

The question of being left behind after Jesus raptures His Church is not the paranoid concern of sensational fiction, but a grave matter that demands one believe and receive Jesus today.

- I. Don't be _____ by what you are hearing (1-3a).

- II. Don't be _____ of what you've been taught (3b-5).
 - A. _____ of apostasy precedes the Day of the Lord (3b).

 - B. _____ of the man of sin precedes the Day of the Lord (3c-4, 8a).

- III. Don't be _____ of the lawless one who is coming (6-10b).

- IV. Don't _____ for the lies that will be told (11-12).

The terrifying reality is that God will seal the fate of those who hate the gospel by sending upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false. [The] Antichrist will deceive people with satanically empowered false miracles, signs, and wonders, his deception only will succeed because it fits into God's sovereign purpose. He will sentence unbelievers to accept evil as if it were good and lies as if they were the truth. Those who continually choose falsehood will be inextricably caught by it. In the words of Proverbs 5:22, "His own iniquities will capture the wicked, and he will be held with the cords of his sin." They will be abandoned by God to the consequences of their choice to reject the gospel.

The story of Pharaoh is a grim reminder that God will judicially harden the hearts of those who persist in hardening their hearts against the truth. Because Pharaoh hardened his heart (Ex. 8:15, 32; 9:34; 1 Sam. 6:6), God hardened Pharaoh's heart, fixing him in a path from which he could never return (Ex. 4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8).

- John MacArthur