

Home Group Helps

2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

Living in the Light of His Return: The Return of the King – Part 3

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, ² that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. ³ Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. ⁵ Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? ⁶ And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. 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 that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹ *that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰ and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, ¹² in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. ¹³ But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. ¹⁴ And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us. ¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

I. Confusion Regarding the Day of the Lord (v.1-2)

II. What Signs Precede the Day of the Lord? (v.3-4)

1. The apostasy comes first (v.3a)
2. The man of lawlessness is revealed (v.3b-4)

III. What Restrains the Day of the Lord? (v.5-7)

IV. What Happens on the Day of the Lord? (v.8-12)

1. Launching Question(s):

- What motivates you to pray for the return of the King?

2. Observation Question(s):

- On previous Sundays, we looked at two signs that must take place before the *Return of the King*. They were (1) a world-wide apostasy in the church, and (2) the revealing of the “Man of Lawlessness” (Anti-Christ). Now Paul describes what will be the fate of the Anti-Christ and those who follow him.

- According to vs. 8, what happens to the Anti-Christ?
- According to vs. 10-12, what happens to those who follow him?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- According to vs. 12, what are the reasons given for the judging (condemning) of those who follow the Anti-Christ?
- Notice that vs. 11 places the emphasis on God's activity as the one who is sending a "deluding influence" upon the unbelievers, yet the unbelievers themselves are held accountable as those that "did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved" (vs.10).
- How might the example of Pharaoh in the Exodus/Romans 9 help explain how a person can harden his own heart toward holy things and also how God might also harden someone's heart?
- Notice that those followers of the Anti-Christ are those "who did not believe the truth but took pleasure in wickedness" (vs.12).
- What are the connections between belief and behavior?
- How is this connection a positive thing in the church?
- How is this connection a negative thing in our culture?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Read 1 Thess. 4:13-18 and ponder the different outcomes for believers and unbelievers at the same event of *The Return of the King*.

5. Application Question(s):

- What are some weak areas of your faith that might cause you to lack joyful confidence at the prospect of *The Return of the King*?