

2 THESSALONIANS 2 vs 1

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This little letter, perhaps the last letter Paul wrote to a congregation can be summed up by saying: **Keep focused!** Keep your eye on the prize! And what is the prize? Well what is the subject of **chapter 1**? Listen: in God and our Father; the Lord Jesus Christ; God our Father; the Lord Jesus Christ; to thank God; of God; of God; the kingdom of God; with God; when the Lord Jesus; that know not God; our Lord Jesus Christ; of the Lord; when He shall come; our God; of our Lord Jesus; our God and the Lord Jesus Christ... got it?



And, how about **chapter 3**? Listen:

The word of the Lord; Faithful is the Lord; confidence in the Lord touching you; the Lord direct your hearts; the love of God; the patient endurance of Christ; our Lord Jesus Christ; the Lord Jesus Christ; the Lord of peace Himself; the Lord with you all; the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ with you all.

You get the idea in Paul's mind, God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ -- from start to finish, They are in focus; They are the prize!

And in chapter 2, guess what? The same! Oh, we will learn about a little pimple that needs to be popped, but Jesus Christ will pop it! [popPP!]

¹ **Now we have a request for you, brothers and sisters,**

on behalf of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ / Messiah's official coming, His **parousia** – Moses first spoke about the days of the Lord many years ago, now amplified in this letter,

and by our safe-gathering to Him / Jesus lamented, as a mother hen, HE could not gather his children.-- **Matthew 23**, This is the same word. Notice, Paul is writing not only about the official coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints, but also reminding of our safe-gathering unto the Lord that must happen first... on the Day of Trumpets, years earlier detailed in 1 Thessalonians 4.

² **That you are not soon shaken in mind** / that all of you be not quickly off-balance, where our thoughts -- good and bad; and feelings -- right or wrong... assail us constantly,

or are troubled in spirit / by some individual coming to disturb, usually saying: I have a word from the Lord for you -- but they don't have a chapter or a verse; and it sounds a little creepy. I mean I'm not that busy. I pray to Him throughout the day; the Lord can interrupt me any time. If someone says: I got a word for you. I say, Thanks! What's the verse? I'll look it up.

Jesus, the night He was betrayed, said: Do not be troubled... if it were not so, I would have told you. Paul says, Be not troubled, be not so quickly shaken especially by the super-spirituals showing-off,

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nor by word, nor by a letter claimed to be from us / even the nightly news gossip, or the stupid stuff we read online; or some newly discovered document, forgeries have been around for centuries. Possibly the greatest forgery today is the Sinaiticus that reads like a gnostic rejected text, claimed by the roman church to be the oldest bible... a tool used to raise doubts, and discredit confidence in God's word. Paul knew he taught them well, and says.

that you are not soon shaken in mind, or are troubled neither by what the super-spiritual are saying, nor by a newly discovered letter claimed to be from us,

as if the day of the Lord was now present / Paul was writing 2000 years ago, so the Day of the Lord was not present. God still had one or two things He was going to do... with the Good News of His Son... involving those in every nation, tribe and tongue. Right?

³ **let no one deceive you by any means** / young or old; man, woman or child; intellectual or moron,
/ let no one mislead you; let no one cause you to wander into error. Jesus said: false teachers were coming. Bus loads arrive in town every day; but keep focused, don't lose your balance. Don't believe every wind of hot air. Paul does not have time to mention and describe all the means?

because except there comes a falling away first / **apostasia**... the great Defection comes first; the great Revolt; the great abandonment of faith – He'll be outside the door of His church, knocking! The word is even used for divorce; unless there be the great Divorce first; the great Rebellion against God; the great Rejection and falling away from God. It must come first. The last expression of the Church is bleak, not rosy. [Jesus asks: when He returns, will He find faith?](#)

and then that man of sin will be revealed / **anthropos hamartia** – that human missing the mark, that individual losing at life... that man of iniquity, that man of inequity... that man of lawlessness; and **apokalypto**... Paul says: the uncovering; the revealing of some powerful leader, most likely a politician on the world stage at the end of the time.

C.S. Lewis wrote: I can imagine no man who will look with more horror on the End than a conscientious revolutionary who has, in a sense sincerely, been justifying cruelties and injustices inflicted on millions of his contemporaries by the benefits which he hopes to confer on future generations: generations who, as one terrible moment now reveals to him, were never going to exist.

Then he will see the massacres, the faked trials, the deportations, to be all ineffaceably real, an essential part, his part... in the drama that has just ended: while the future Utopia had never been anything but a fantasy. – **The World's Last Night, ©1952, A Harvest Book.**

that man of sin, the son of perdition / **huios apoleia**: the son of destruction, the child of waste and damnation; as worthless as Judas the betrayer... destined for ruin;

⁴ **who opposes God, who sets himself against, and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship** / so he is a big blow-hard.

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so that he as God sits in the **temple** of God / this one who is deluded and destined for destruction. the Greek word is: **naos**... which means: **sacred place** or holy place; and the question is: do we have to find a building? **NO**

Matthew 23 records the last confrontation with those religious leaders as Jesus leaves the temple mount; He says, Behold, Your house... is left to you desolate. Daniel prophesies... whoever this political leader is will work some agenda with the 4th and final bestial government... smashing and destroying. Paul already wrote to the Ephesians, We are being built into a holy naos, for a habitation of God through the Spirit. And this slippery politician -- is against all that. Paul wrote: Do you not know that you are the naos of God? – 1 Corinthians 3

so that he as God sits in the **sacred place** of God, showing himself / like a Hollywood show... proclaiming and pretending and presenting himself,

as if he himself is God.

So, this political leader will be a pretender but like what? Perhaps, like the next level above American Idol? A singing dancer; or, dancing singer?! Or how about like a Hollywood star? A megastar! A star to the stars? You know, Mr. political Eye-candy... with a retinue of fans that won't quit?! Ooh! Those performers make good politicians.

Politicians will dance and sing on our graves, while the emperor Nero wannabes of today play the fiddle; while Protestants stop protesting... and abandon the faith. Abandon, divorcing their selves from what was first delivered to the saints -- absent leadership in the church of the living God...

allowing the ancient wolves and enemies of God... in sheep's clothing to take over.

A Mighty Fortress is Our God | JESUS it is YOU | This is My Father's World