

BLESSED HOPE OR SHAKEN SOUL?

(2 Thessalonians 2:1-5)

I. ENCOURAGEMENT in Suffering (1:1-12)

II. ENLIGHTENMENT in Teaching (2:1-17)

A. The TIMING and SIGNS of the Day of the Lord (2:1-12)

1. The importance of understanding the Day of the Lord (2:1-2)

a. Eschatology is not a fine point of doctrine – it is _____.

* What is the “Day of the Lord” / “Day of Christ”? (v. 2b)

2. How the “man of sin” appears (2:3-7)

a. Even believers are prone to _____. (v. 3a)

* What is the “falling away” (also “the apostasy” or “the rebellion”)? (v. 3b)

Summary: “The apostasy” refers to the _____ of the Church from the earth prior to the _____ – also known as the _____ of the Church.

b. Two events must precede the Day of the Lord:

1) The _____ of the Church, v. 3b

* Who is included in the Rapture of the Church?

2) The revealing of the _____ – “man of sin,” v. 3c

c. Two characteristics express the character of the antichrist:

- 1) He is a _____ against the worship of God – “who opposes” (v. 4a)
- 2) He has a Satanic desire to be _____ in the place of God – “exalts himself” (v. 4b; Luke 4:5-8)

d. One action reveals the true objective of the antichrist to the watching world:

- 1) He _____, then _____ in the holy place of the Jewish temple (v. 4c; Matt. 24:15)
- 2) The symbolism of his action is intentional: “showing himself that _____” (v. 4d; Isa. 14:14)

* When and how is the antichrist revealed to the world? (v. 3; Dan. 9:27)

* Who reveals the antichrist? (Rev. 6:1-2; Zech. 11:15-17)

* Why is the antichrist brought onto the world stage?

- 1) To punish Israel for rejecting the good shepherd. (Zech. 11:8-17)
- 2) To bring about the repentance of Israel. (Dan. 12:5-7)
- 3) To judge the whole world. (2 Thess. 2:12)
- 4) To expose the world’s unbelief.
- 5) To bring the age-old spiritual conflict between good and evil to a final showdown.

* How does all of this apply to you?