

TITLE: THE GREAT TRIBULATION

TEXT: 2 THESSALONIANS 2

I. INTRODUCTION

Paul writes about the Great Tribulation and gives thanks to God for the faithful believers at Thessalonica.

II. THE DAY OF THE LORD, 2:1-12

This is a reference to the coming Great Tribulation.

A. The day of the Lord and the church, 2:1-3

1. *The confusion, 2:1-2*

The church at Thessalonica has been falsely taught they are currently going through the Great Tribulation.

2. *The clarification, 2:3b, 3c*

Paul reassures them this is not the case, for two events must occur prior to that terrible time.

a. A worldwide religious apostasy, 2:3b

b. The appearance of a satanic superman, 2:3c

B. The day of the Lord and the Antichrist, 2:3a-4, 8-9

1. *His titles, 2:3a, 8a, 9a*

a. Man of sin

b. Son of perdition

2. *His travesty, 2:4*

He will sit in the Temple of God and claim that he is God.

3. *His trickery, 2:9b*

He will deceive the world by his power, signs and lying wonders.

4. *His trampling, 2:8b*

He will be utterly crushed and consumed by Jesus at the Second Coming.

C. The day of the Lord and the restrainer, 2:5-7

The Holy Spirit will hold the Antichrist back until the appointed time.

D. The day of the Lord and the unsaved, 2:10-12

God will allow the unsaved to be totally deceived by the Antichrist for their sin of rejecting the truth.

III. THE DISCIPLES OF THE LORD, 2:13-17

Paul gives thanks for the believers at Thessalonica

A. Their election by the Lord, 2:13-14

God chose them from the very beginning.

B. Their exhortation by the apostle, 2:15-17

Paul tells them to stand firm and to keep a strong grip on the truth.

NOTE: Second Thessalonians 2:11 shows God sending strong delusion. ... The Old Testament idea of stubbornness as equivalent to deception is in play. Those deluded by God to believe the lies of the Wicked [One] (2:8) have already refused to love...the truth (2:10). They have pleasure in unrighteousness (2:12). Delusion, therefore, is not simply being deceived; rather, it is active acceptance of the lies of the Wicked One. People can only wilfully be deceived by Satan. He has no power to make them believe his lies. He tricks them because of their own sinful willingness to delight in evil [**James 1:13-15** Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.]