

# 2 Thessalonians

The Great Apostasy (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12)

Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

## Read: The Great Apostasy (2:1-12)

Greeting (1:1-2)

**1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,**

**To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:**

**2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

God's Final Judgment and Glory (1:3-12)

**3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.**

**11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Great Apostasy (2:1-12)

**1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2 not to be soon shaken in mind or**

troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. **3** Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, **4** who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

**5** Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? **6** And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. **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 the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. **9** The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, **10** and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **11** And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, **12** that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

## Explain: The Great Apostasy (2:1-12)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some.

### Are there any literary/structural observations?

Don't lose sight of the fact that the expanded discussion on the end times events is more about comforting these believers than about the end times. Paul uses the end times to comfort his friends.

### Are there any repeated words?

You (6), God (5), coming (3), lawless/lawlessness (3), now (3), revealed (3), believe (2), Christ (2), come (2), day (2), Lord (2), restraining/restrains (2), truth (2)

### What do the words mean?

**1** **Now, brethren** [*adelphos*], **concerning the coming** [*parousia*; being near, advent, return, coming, presence] **of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together** [*episynagoge*; **complete** collection, Christian meeting (for worship), assembling (gathering) together] **to Him, we ask** [present active indicative; interrogate, request, ask, beseech, desire, intreat, pray] **you, 2 not to be soon** [briefly, speedily, rapidly, hastily, quickly, shortly, soon, suddenly] **shaken** [aorist middle infinitive; to waver, agitate, rock, topple, destroy, disturb, incite, move, shake (together), shaken,

stir up] **in mind** [intellect, mind, meaning, understanding] **or troubled** [present middle infinitive; to wail, to clamor, to frighten, trouble], **either by** [*dia*] **spirit** [*pneuma*] **or by** [*dia*] **word** [*logos*] **or by** [*dia*] **letter** [*epistole*], **as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come** [perfect active indicative; to place on hand, impend, instant, come, be at hand, present]. **3 Let no one deceive** [aorist active subjunctive; seduce wholly, beguile, deceive] **you by any means** [turn, mode, style, deportment, character, conversation, manner, means, way]; **for that Day will not come unless the falling away** [*apostasias*; defection from **truth**, falling away, forsake] **comes** [second aorist active subjunctive] **first** [*proton*], **and the man** [*anthropos*; manfaced, human being, certain, man] **of sin** [offence, sin] **is revealed** [*apokalypto*; aorist passive/middle subjunctive; to take off the **cover**, disclose, reveal], **the son of perdition** [*apoleia*; ruin, loss, damnable, destruction, die, perdition, perish, pernicious ways, waste], **4 who opposes** [present middle participle; lie opposite, be adverse, be repugnant to, adversary, be contrary, oppose] **and exalts** [present middle participle; raise oneself over, become haughty, exalt self, be exalted above measure] **himself above all that is called** [*lego*; present middle participle] **God or that is worshiped** [something adored, an object of worship, devotion, worshipped], **so that he sits** [aorist active infinitive; seat down, set, sit down, settle, hover, dwell, continue, tarry] **as God in the temple** [fane, shrine, temple] **of God, showing** [*apodeiknymi*; present active participle; show off, **exhibit**, demonstrate, accredit, prove, set forth, show] **himself that he is** [present middle indicative] **God**.

**5 Do you not remember** [*mnemoneuo*; present active indicative; exercise memory, recollect, rehearse, make mention, be mindful, remember] **that when I was** [present middle participle] **still with you I told** [*lego*; **imperfect** active indicative] **you these things?** **6 And now you know** [perfect active indicative] **what is restraining** [*katecho*; present active participle; to hold down, have, hold fast, keep, let, make toward, possess, retain, seize on, stay, take, withhold], **that he may be revealed** [*apokalypto*; aorist middle infinitive; to take off the **cover**, disclose, reveal; same word used in **2:3**] **in his own time** [set or proper time, opportunity (convenient, due) season, (due, short, while) time, a while]. **7 For the mystery** [*mysterion*; secret, mystery] **of lawlessness** [illegality, violation of law or wickedness, iniquity, transgression of the law, unrighteousness] **is already** [even now, already, by this time] **at work** [*energeo*; present middle indicative; to be active, efficient, do, (be) effectual, be mighty in, shew forth self, work (effectually in)]; **only He who now** [just now] **restrains** [*katecho*; present active participle; to hold down, have, hold fast, keep, let, make toward, possess, retain, seize on, stay, take, withhold; same word used in **2:6**] **will do so until He is taken** [second aorist active subjunctive] **out of the way**. **8 And then the lawless one** [*anomos*; lawless, not

subject to law, wicked, without law, transgressor, unlawful, wicked] **will be revealed** [*apokalypto*; future middle **indicative**], **whom the Lord will consume** [future active indicative; to take up, adopt, take away (violently), abolish, murder, put to death, kill, slay, take away, take up] **with the breath** [*pneuma*] **of His mouth and destroy** [*katargeo*; future active indicative; be (render) entirely idle (useless), abolish, cease, cumber, deliver, destroy, do away, become of no effect, fail, loose, bring to nought, put away (down), vanish away, make void] **with the brightness** [*epiphaneia*; manifestation, advent, appearing, brightness] **of His coming** [*parousia*; being near, advent, return, coming, presence; this is the noun]. **9 The coming** [*parousia*; being near, advent, coming, presence; same word used in 2:8] **of the lawless one is** [present middle indicative] **according to the working** [*energeia*; efficiency, operation, strong, (effectual) working] **of Satan** [*Satanas*; the accuser, the devil, Satan], **with all power** [*dynamis*; same word used in 1:7, 11], **signs** [an indication, miracle, sign, token, wonder], **and lying** [*pseudos*; falsehood, lie, lying] **wonders** [prodigy, omen, wonder], **10 and with all unrighteous** [*adikia*; injustice, moral wrongfulness (of character, life, or act), iniquity, unjust, unrighteousness, wrong] **deception** [delusion, deceitfulness, deceivableness] **among those who perish** [present active participle; to destroy fully, destroy, die, lose, mar, perish], **because they did not receive** [aorist active indicative; accept, receive, take] **the love** [*agape*; same word used in 1:3] **of the truth, that they might be saved** [*sozo*; aorist middle infinitive; to save, deliver, protect, heal, preserve, do well, be (make) whole]. **11 And for** [*dia*] **this reason God will send** [present active indicative; dispatch, transmit, bestow, wield, send, **thrust** in] **them strong** [*energeia*; efficiency, operation, strong, (effectual) working; same word used in 2:9] **delusion** [fraudulence, a straying from **orthodoxy** or piety, deceit, to deceive, delusion, error], **that they should believe** [*pisteuo*; aorist active infinitive; to have faith, credit, to entrust, believe, commit, put in trust with; same word used in 1:10] **the lie** [*pseudos*; falsehood, lie, lying; same word used in 2:9], **12 that they all may be condemned** [*krino*; aorist middle subjunctive; distinguish, decide, try, condemn, punish, avenge, conclude, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to (sue at the law), ordain, call in question, sentence to, think] **who did not believe** [*pisteuo*; aorist active participle; to have faith, credit, to entrust, believe, commit, put in trust with; same word used in 1:10; 2:11] **the truth but had pleasure** [aorist active participle; to think well of, approve, approbate, think good, please, be the good pleasure, be willing] **in unrighteousness** [*adikia*; injustice, moral wrongfulness (of character, life, or act), iniquity, unjust, unrighteousness, wrong; same word used in 2:10].

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. Jesus has **not** yet returned
2. Undercover operatives **are** among us
3. Those who oppose God will be **revealed**

## Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. Thank the **Son** for His guarantee of return (and don't panic)
2. Thank the **Spirit** for His protection (and don't panic)
3. Thank the **Father** for His impending righteous judgment (and don't panic)

## Next week: Stand Fast (2:13-17)

**13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.**

**16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.**

## Homework

1. Ask the Holy Spirit for help
2. Read next week's text (multiple times/multiple ways) (**2 Thessalonians 2:13-17**)
3. Talk to someone about the text ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://www.facebook.com/OurSundaySchool) or in person)
4. Share ([fb.com/OurSundaySchool](https://www.facebook.com/OurSundaySchool)) insights and questions by Thursday
5. Invite a member or non-member

## Extra Credit

Invite a former member in person. Invite a former member via email. Invite a former member on Facebook. Invite a former member on Twitter. Invite, invite, invite . . . because next week we party and praise God for 10 years here.

## Quotes & Observations

N/A