

# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



## II Thessalonians (Part-2, Chap. 1:11-2:12)

10.12.22

What do we mean by the Glory of God?

Can there be Glory without Grace?

Why are believers in Thessalonica confused?

What do we know about the 'man of sin'?

What is delaying the revelation of 'man of sin'?

Can God reject man?

# Paul's prayer: Glory by Grace (11-12)

# Prayer and Result

<sup>11</sup> Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:  
<sup>12</sup> That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## PAUL's PRAYER for the Church

Be counted worthy of His calling (to see Him glorified in us at His coming)

Fulfill all his good pleasure (to live a life pleasing to the Lord)

Work of faith with power (when we exercise faith, we see His power)

# Prayer and Result

<sup>11</sup> Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:  
<sup>12</sup> That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Desired Result (purpose of persecutions): Glory by Grace

- **His name be glorified in you** (He alone is the source of our glory)
- Are we bringing glory or shame to His name? our testimony matters!
- **Glory (without His grace) is worthless human glory!**

# Are you Seeking Glory or Deflecting Glory?

**What do you desire?** Personal glory or glory that goes back to God

**John 3:30**

**John** He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

**John 17: 4**

**Jesus** I have glorified thee on the earth:

**Galatians 1:24**

**Paul** and they glorified God in me

**I Peter 4:14**

**Peter** If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part **He is glorified**.

We serve  
Christ ...  
Let us please  
Him!

COLOSSIANS 3:22-24

<sup>22</sup> Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; <sup>23</sup> **And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord**, and not unto men; <sup>24</sup> Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: **for ye serve the Lord Christ**.

# Glory of God

What do we mean by the Glory of God?

How can we glorify God?

# Glory of God ... indescribable!

**Seen in Creation** “the whole earth is full of His glory” (Isaiah 6:3)

**Seen in His Presence** (Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, ... Exodus 33:22)

**Seen in Tabernacle** (the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle, Exodus 40:34) **in Temple** (the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord, I Kings 8:11) **in Mount Sinai** (the glory of the Lord abode upon mount Sinai, Exodus 24:16) **in Jesus Christ** (we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, John 1:14) **in Believers** (raised in glory, I Corinthians 15:43)

**Lights up New Jerusalem!** (And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof, Revelation 21:23)



# How can we glorify God?

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name (I Chronicles 16:28)

**In everything** – “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” (I **Corinthians 10:31**) (I Peter 4:11)

**By being fruitful** – “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit” (**John 15:8**)

**By our obedience** – “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do” (John 17:4)

**With our bodies** – “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I **Corinthians 6:20**)

**With our worship & witness** – “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory” (Revelation 4:11; 5:12, worship in Heaven)

A shaken  
Church

(1-3)

Man of sin  
revealed and  
restrained

(4-12)

# II Thessalonians

## Chapter 2

# A shaken and troubled Church (1-3)

# A shaken & troubled church

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, <sup>2</sup>That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand (1,2)

What is the basis of Paul's appeal?

Why is the church shaken?

Are we easily shaken and troubled? Why?

# Reason for Concern?

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,<sup>2</sup> That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand (1,2)

## Why is the church shaken?

- Persecutions rumored as evidence of the arrival of the Day of the Lord
- If persecution is part of tribulation, it would mean the believers had missed the rapture.
- Let us not be afraid, anxious, shaken and troubled by listening to false teachers or false prophets or inaccurate interpretations of the Word of God.
- **A church built on sound doctrine won't be shaken** (Mathew 7:24-25)

# A shaken church

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,<sup>2</sup> That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand (1,2)

## What is the basis for Paul's appeal?

- Rapture
- Reminding them that they will be gathered together unto the Lord (II Thessalonians 4:16-18).
- Rapture will occur before the great tribulation; so this persecution cannot be part of great tribulation.

# Two signs that must precede the Day of the Lord

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition (3)

Falling away from faith (great apostasy, rebellion against Christian faith)

**I Timothy 4:1:** Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Revealing of man of sin (son of perdition, antiChrist)

many antichrist present now but this will 'The antichrist'...

**I John 2:18** Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

“man of sin”:

Who is he? What does he do? When does he reveal himself? How does he fool people? What is his end?





Warning

# “man of sin”: Who is he?

## More popular title, the antiChrist

- emerges from the ten-nation confederation of Roman empire (Daniel 7:24-25, 9:27, 12:11, Matthew 24:15, Revelation 13:5) maybe Jewish (Daniel 11:37-38)

### Three characteristics (Daniel 7:24)

- Speaks blasphemous words
  - Persecutes saints
  - Changes times and laws
- Makes covenant with Israel but covenant broken in the middle, setting off the great tribulation (phase-2, 3.5 years)
- Gets power from Satan (Revelation 13)

**Who is antichrist?** Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? **He is antichrist**, that denieth the Father and the Son (I John 2:22)

## Other titles for antichrist

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The *little horn* (Daniel 7:8)

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The *king of fierce countenance* (Daniel 8:23)

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*The Prince that shall come* (Daniel 9:26)

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The *willful king* (Daniel 11:36-45)

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*The son of perdition, the man of sin, the lawless one* (II Thessalonians 2:3)

## “man of sin”: What does he do?

- Leads the Abomination of desolation by going into the holy of holies
- A time characterized by idolatry and removal of sacrifices.
- He demands worship as God by exalting himself as equivalent to God in the temple of God (Revelation 9:26-27, 11:36-37, 13:5-6, 15)
- Those who oppose him are persecuted and/or martyred
- Leads the nations in fight against Israel (Battle of Armagaddon) (Revelation 16-17)

# Why are people fooled by 'man of sin'?

- Charismatic personality
- Deceptive
- Performs miracles
- Exercises control and Power
- Commands worship
- Both Christ and antichrist revealed in dramatic fashion

# “Man of sin”: ending

Battles with Christ

defeated and Thrown in the lake of fire

(Revelation 19:17-20)

# Not a new revelation

<sup>5</sup> Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? (5)

Paul had taught them before on this subject

But needed to be reminded ... maybe forgot, or confused by false teachings.

# What is delaying the reveal of the man of sin?

<sup>6</sup> And now ye know what  
withholdeth that he might be  
revealed in his time.

<sup>7</sup> For the mystery of iniquity  
doth already work: only he who  
now letteth will let, until he be  
taken out of the way.

**Restraining force** has to be taken out of the way first

- God/Church/Holy Spirit/World system (?)

God delayed destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah until Lot's family removed

God delayed flood till Noah's family in the ark

- After rapture, church out of the way ... what about the Holy Spirit?



## “man of sin”: when is he revealed?

During the second half of tribulation (Daniel 9:27), he reveals his true intent and personality

**Daniel 9:27** And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

## man of sin revealed (and consumed!)

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (8)

Man of sin revealed,  
operates for 7 years,  
and then destroyed by Christ

with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked (**Isaiah 11:4**)

# Deception of Man of sin

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, (9)

Arrives with Power

Does signs and (lying) wonders

Is this similar to the arrival of Christ?

Can God reject man?

# Rejected by God

<sup>10</sup> And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: <sup>12</sup> That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

People seem to reject God, and receive satan

Those who reject grace of God are rejected

I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not:  
if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. (John 5:43)

## Two choices:

- Believe & receive the truth ... **Accepted**
- Take pleasure in unrighteousness ... **Rejected**

## God gave them up! (Romans 1:24)

<sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

<sup>21</sup> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing themselves to be

wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> **Wherefore**

**God also gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

<sup>25</sup> Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever.

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