

A Glimpse into the End Time

“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, (V2) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by Spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as the day of Christ is at hand. (V3) 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;”(II Thessalonians 2:13).

When the Bible refers to the day of the Lord, it does not mean a single day in history. It is using the word day in a forceful, emphatic sense just like men do when they speak of the great day of space exploration or the great day of some world leader. The day of the Lord covers a space of time and some very significant events. In the Bible it covers the span of time beginning with two events of this passage and reaching forward to the end of time. It will be a terrible time of trouble, a time that is known as that great and terrible day of judgment, the day when the wrath of God will fall upon all the meanness, viciousness, ugliness, and filthiness of men.

Look at the point of this passage: No believer has to fear the day of the Lord. Guard against being shaken or troubled (v1-2). Let no man deceive you-Watch for two events. The believers at Thessalonica thought the day of the Lord had begun and verse two explains why. Remember: The believers were suffering fierce persecution. Their suffering was intense; some were even being martyred. Verse two says that some were even claiming...that a spirit (some angel or some vision) had revealed to them that the day of the Lord had begun. They had received or heard about a letter from Paul that said the day of the Lord had begun.

Combine these three claims with the suffering of savage persecution and it is easily understood why some of the believers would be shaken or troubled. Notice, that Paul says: Look and let...look to the coming of the Lord and toward our gathering together unto Him, and let no man deceive you---watch for two significant events; the day of the Lord will not come until these two events happen.

The first event: The “falling away” of believers from sound doctrine. This means apostasy, revolt rebellion, a departure from a formerly professed position. Paul is talking about a tragic turning away from the faith.

Note: (Matthew 24:10-13) (I Timothy 4:1-2) The terrible destructive danger of false teaching always confronts the church. We must constantly watch and be on guard.

The second event that will launch the day of the Lord will be the revelation of the man of sin - The son of perdition, that is, the antichrist himself. Note: The following facts...

*The antichrist will be revealed. This fact indicates that he existed before his appearance. Hidden but suddenly manifested.

*The antichrist is “The man of Sin” lawless one.

*The antichrist is “The Son of Perdition” the devil himself.

*The antichrist is not just another evil world leader.

*The antichrist is most assuredly a person.

Note: (Mark 3:14)-Where Jesus uses the masculine participle, it identifies him as a person.

Note: Revelation 11:7, 13:1-10, 13:11-18, Daniel 9:20-27.

Follow Paul's teaching here in II Thessalonians 2 as he describes the antichrist:

1. His character (v4).
2. His danger (v5).
3. His appearance (vv 6-8).
4. His end (v8).
5. His work (v9) to carry on.

Satan's activity in all power and signs and wonders of falsehood. He will be self-centered, power hungry, fame crazed, authoritarian, dictatorial, without values, immoral, unjust. If we will seek to know Christ, we will be able to identify the false teaching that will be associated with the antichrist. Jesus is the truth, and the truth will make us free (John 8:31-32). I pray that the Lord will enable us by His Spirit, to be faithful in preaching and living sound doctrine (II Timothy 4:1-2).