

2 Thessalonians 2 – Stand Fast

I. (1-12) Do not be shaken.

The Thessalonians were not afraid that the **day of Christ** was *coming*, but that they were *in it*, probably because of the persecution they suffered or some falsehood.

i. Falling away

1 Timothy 4:1-3 - *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.*

2 Timothy 4:3-5 - *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

ii. Man of sin/anti-christ (instead of or opposed to).

*The prince who is to come **Daniel 9:26**, the king of fierce countenance **Daniel 8:23**, the willful king **Daniel 11:36-45**, the one who comes in his own name **John 5:43**.*

1 John 4:1-3 - *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

“He stands against and exalts himself above all Divine authority, and above every object of adoration, and every institution relative to Divine worship.” (Clarke)

Matthew 24:15 - *“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),*

iii. Satan and the *man of sin*.

Currently, Satan and the *man of sin* are being restrained by the Holy Spirit, though they're active. But at the right time, probably just after the rapture, the Holy Spirit will finally allow the man of sin to be revealed.

A Combination of Satan and the man of sin will deceive many with his speech and miraculous signs.

It is also certain that the **lawless one** will be destroyed by the mere **brightness** of Jesus at **His coming**.

Revelation 13:1-6 - *Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast.*

Revelation 13:13-14 - *He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.*

Revelation 20:1-3 - *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*

II. (13-17) Stand fast and prayer.

The command to **stand fast** implies a location/position, and this tells us what Christians must **stand fast** upon. They must keep standing on God's Word, delivered both by the authoritative word of the apostles (**by word**) and the letters of the apostles (**our epistle**).

- **Stand fast** through persecutions & tribulations described in verse 4.
- **Stand fast** because of the coming judgment of this world in verse 8.
- **Stand fast** because of coming deception in verse 9.
- **Stand fast** because of our glorious future in verse 14.

1 Corinthians 16:13 - *Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.*

Philippians 1:27 - *Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,*