

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Review all of the second letter to the Thessalonians and read carefully 2 Thess 2:1-2.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

<sup>1</sup>Now we request you, brethren,  
with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and our gathering together to Him,  
<sup>2</sup>that you not be quickly shaken from your composure  
or be disturbed  
either by a spirit  
or a message  
or a letter as if from us,  
to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. f

1. We are studying the letters to the Thessalonians in part because they are rich in information about the end times. The study of the end times is called eschatology, and it includes many sub-topics, i.e. the binding of Satan, the millennium, the rapture...etc. A critical skill in doing good eschatology is to isolate each of the component topics and examine it separately before finally compiling them together into a more comprehensive understanding. To help you isolate the subtopic of this passage, list 3-5 component subjects or topics that are included in eschatology (preferably not named above as examples!) that this passage does **not** discuss.
2. What single, focused sub-topic of eschatology does this passage deal with? What is the specific issue about that sub-topic addressed here?
3. What are some other issues that occur on the day of the Lord? Where do you find the information?

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4. What are the two subjects of the request in v. 1? What does the request regard to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What are the two components of the request (expressed as verbs in v. 2)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What are the three means by which they might be shaken or disturbed in v. 2?

❖ Day 2

Review the letter and read 2 Thess 2:1-2 again.

7. What is the frightening message that might be carried by any of the means from question 5?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Looking back at verse one, Paul calls this a “request.” What does that imply about the Thessalonians’s ability to comply? Can they decide not to be shaken/disturbed by this report?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. The phrase in v. 2, “the day of the Lord” has been used to describe various amounts of time and numbers of events. Some have used it so broadly as to describe everything since Jesus’s advent. Others make it the 24-hour day when He returns. What two elements does Paul summarize from verse 1 when he uses the phrase in verse 2? (Hint: see question 3!)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Why would a report that these things have already happened be disturbing?

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11. How does the hope that Jesus is coming and that we will be gathered to Him provide stability and calm, the opposite of shaken composure and disturbance? Can you name a time that this knowledge helped you keep your composure in the midst of disturbing news?

❖ Day 3

Review the letter and read 2 Thess 2:1-2 again.

12. Read 1 John 4:1 and 1 Cor 14:32 and Acts 10:3-8. Do spirits speak through people? Do they need to speak through people, or can they communicate directly?
13. Would a spirit communicating a message about the day of the Lord have credibility? Why or why not? How were the Thessalonians to evaluate such messages? (see 2 Thess 2:5) Are there biblical examples of spirits spreading a false message? About the second coming?
14. The word translated “message” is *logos*, most often translated ‘word’ or ‘message’ and delivered orally. This is likely a message delivered naturally—not supernaturally. Would you find a messenger speaking from human reason more or less credible than one claiming supernatural enlightenment? How should we evaluate such messages for truthfulness? Is there another place where Paul has to deal with false messages about eschatology?
15. Were there false apostles writing “a letter as if from us” in Paul’s day? Where do you find them in Scripture? Are there false messages today about the second coming of Christ?
16. How do we remain unshaken/undisturbed in the face of 21<sup>st</sup>-century claims of Christ’s return?

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In preparation for Sunday, pray through this passage for

- A Spirit-enlightened understanding of the God-revealed truth about eschatology in general, the Day of the Lord in particular, and especially His coming to gather His saints!
- Biblically-informed discernment about which teaching is biblical and which is false.
- Steady and undisturbed minds as we see the promised trials of the end-times unfold around us, and patient endurance to remain faithful until the end.
- That our church would be linked arm-in-arm as we see the Day approaching!