

Approximately 35 minutes



★ “Don’t Be Shaken”:

*An Expository Message on
2 Thessalonians chapter 2*

Opening Prayer:

Father God, we come before You in the powerful name of Jesus.


Lord, we thank You for Your Word steady, unchanging, and eternal. In a world of confusion, Your truth stands firm. Today, we ask that You calm anxious hearts, strengthen weary believers, and awaken anyone who is spiritually asleep.

Holy Spirit, teach us. Anchor us. Keep us from deception. Fix our eyes on Jesus, our Savior, our King, our coming Lord.

We love You and we trust You.

**In Jesus' name,
Amen.**

★   **Historical Setting:**

The church in Thessalonica  **thess-uh-lon-EYE-kuh** was under pressure.

Paul had planted this church during his second missionary journey (Acts 17). It was a thriving Roman city politically important, economically strong, spiritually dark.

- Emperor worship was common.
- Pagan idolatry filled the streets.
- Persecution came quickly.

Paul was forced to leave suddenly. The believers were young in their faith only months old.

In his first letter, Paul had taught them about the **rapture** and **the return of Christ**. But after he left, false teachers crept in. Someone even forged a letter pretending to be from Paul, saying the “Day of the Lord” had already come.

Imagine how frightening that would be.

- They were suffering.
- They were confused.
- They thought they had missed something.

So Paul writes 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 to calm them.

And his message is clear:

 **Don't be shaken. Don't be deceived. Jesus is still in control.**

And Brothers and Sisters that message is for us today.

★1. Don't Be Shaken or Alarmed:



(NIV)

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come.

Let us jump into God's Word.....

Paul begins:

“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, ²not to become easily unsettled or alarmed...” (vv.1-2)

Notice the phrase:

“...Our being gathered to Him...” (v.1)

👉 That is our blessed hope the gathering of believers to Christ.

But they were **“unsettled.”** The word means shaken like an earthquake.

! False teaching will always shake people who are not grounded in Scripture.

Paul says:

- Don't panic.
- Don't believe every voice.
- Don't let fear control you.



Brothers and Sisters, today..... we live in a time of prophetic theories. Social media “experts.” Fear-based headlines, out of our news.

Paul would say the same thing to us:

- Don't be shaken.

- Know the Word.
- Stay grounded in the Word... in Christ.

★2. The Rebellion and the Man of Lawlessness:

  (NIV) **2 Thessalonians 3-4** ³ **Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.** ⁴ **He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.**

Paul corrects the false teaching:

“Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed...” (v.3)

Before the **Day of the Lord**, there has to be two major events:

1. A rebellion (apostasy ... falling away from truth).
2. The revealing of the man of lawlessness (the Antichrist).

The rebellion is already brewing today.

- Truth is rejected.
- Morality is inverted.
- God's authority is mocked.

Then Paul describes this coming world leader:

“He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God... so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.” (v.4)

👉 This is the ultimate counterfeit Christ. A Pseudo Christ or Antichrist...if you will...

This person offers a false savior, a false peace, a false kingdom, and false worship.

👉 But he is not Jesus. He is Satan's imitation of Christ, and Jesus will destroy him by the splendor of His coming.

Satan has always wanted worship.

- From the garden...
- To Babylon...
- To Rome...
- And one day through this man.

But here's the truth:

👉 Even the Antichrist cannot move until God allows it.

God is sovereign.

God is in control.

History is not chaos it is divine order.

★3. The Restrainer:

  (NIV) **2 Thessalonians 2:5-7** ⁵ **Don't you remember that when I was with you I**

used to tell you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.




Paul reminds them:




“Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?” (v.5)

Then he speaks of a **restraining force**:
Verse 7....

“For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.” (v.7)



Lawlessness is already active.

  But something or Someone restrains it.  Here is the answer...



   Many believe this refers to the **Holy Spirit** working through the church.

- Right now, evil is restrained.
- Right now, God is holding back full chaos.
- Right now, grace is still extended.

 But one day, restraint will be lifted.

  And what happens next?....Well let us look.... Verse 8....

★4. The Lord Jesus Will Destroy Him

  (NIV) **2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.**

This is one of the most powerful verses in the chapter:

“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will

overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.” (v.8)

Notice something.

- The Antichrist rises with power.
- He deceives nations.
- He demands worship.

But Jesus defeats him with:

...The breath of His mouth... (v.8)

- No contest.
- No struggle.
- No battle scene.

Just the splendor of His coming.

! !! 🙌 🔥 Brothers and Sisters our King wins!!!

Evil may roar.

But it cannot reign forever. Verses 9-12...

★5. The Power of Deception:



(NIV)

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 ⁹ **The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie,** ¹⁰ **and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.** ¹¹ **For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie** ¹² **and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.**

Paul warns:

“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power

through signs and wonders that serve the lie,” (v.9)

- Deception will look supernatural.
- Convincing.
- And “very” Impressive.

🔑 But here’s the key:

“They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.” (v.10)





😞 People are not deceived because truth is unavailable.

🔒 🔑 They are deceived because **they reject it.**

When someone continually rejects truth, Paul says:



“...God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.” (v.11)

! That is sobering.

    If you harden your heart long enough, deception becomes easier.

- Brothers and Sisters, love the truth.
- Cling to the Word.
- Stay close to Jesus.

★6. Chosen and Called:

  (NIV) **2 Thessalonians 2:13-15** ¹³ **But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.** ¹⁴ **He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

¹⁵ **So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.**

Now Paul shifts from warning to encouragement.

“But we ought always to thank God for you... because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.” (v.13)

What beautiful balance.

- . God chooses.
- . The Spirit sanctifies.
- . We believe the truth.

Salvation is God’s work from start to finish.

  Verse 14:

“He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (v.14)

That's our destiny sharing in Christ's glory.

- Not wrath.
- Not deception.
- 👉 Glory.

So Paul says:

“...Stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you...” (v.15)

- Stand firm.
- Hold fast.
- Don't drift.

★7. Comfort and Strength:

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 ¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Paul ends with prayer:

“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father... ¹⁷encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.” (v.16-17)

Notice:

Encouragement comes from **Jesus** Himself.

- When the world shakes,
- When deception spreads,
- When fear rises

 Jesus strengthens hearts.

Application for Today:

1. Don't be shaken by headlines.
2. Don't be deceived by culture.
3. Don't be afraid of the future.
4. Don't drift from truth.

- Jesus is coming....very soon
- Evil has an expiration date.
- Glory is our destiny.

And the greatest deception is not future Antichrist deception

  It is rejecting Christ today.

★Invitation: Be Born Again:

Maybe you're listening and you realize:

“I'm not ready.”

“I don't truly know Him.”

“I've been playing church but not surrendered.”

The Bible says **....people perish because they “refused to love the truth....”** (v.10)

Jesus said in John 3:3:

“No one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” (John 3:3NIV)

To be born again means:

- . Admit you are a sinner.
 - . Believe Jesus died for your sins.
 - . Trust Him fully.
 - . Surrender your life.
- Don't wait.
 - Don't harden your heart.
 - Don't risk deception.

 Right now, you can pray: Let us Pray...

“Lord Jesus, I confess I am a sinner.... I believe You died and rose again.... Forgive me.... Save me.... I surrender my life to You.... Be my Lord and Savior.... Fill me with Your Spirit.... Amen.”

The Bible says:

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13, NIV)

If you prayed that by faith in Jesus Christ
.... you are His.

👉 Welcome to the family of God!!!

Closing Encouragement:

Brothers and Sisters stand firm.

- The rebellion may come.
- The lawless one will rise.
- Deception will increase.

👉 But Jesus will be revealed.

- Jesus will reign.
- Jesus will win.

And those who belong to Him will share in His glory.

- So don't be shaken.
- Don't be deceived.
- Don't lose heart.

Our King is coming!!! Let us Pray....

🙏 **Closing Prayer:**

Father God, Thank You for Your truth that steadies our hearts. Thank You that You are sovereign over history. Thank You that Jesus will overthrow every evil power by the splendor of His coming.

Keep us from deception. Help us love the truth. Strengthen us to stand firm. Encourage every heart here today.

And Lord, for those who surrendered their lives to You seal them by Your Spirit. Protect them. Grow them. Fill them with boldness.

We look forward to the day when You Lord.....are revealed in glory.

Until that day, help us stand firm.

**In the mighty name of Jesus we pray,
Amen.**

