

Olivet Discourse

(5) The Rapture is next

2 *Thess* 2:1-12 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 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. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. 5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? 6 And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. 8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. NASU

The hope of the Rapture today...IIThess.2:1-12

What was happening to the church at Thessalonica that *disturbed* and *shook* them? 2:2b

Why would they think this? 2:2a; History-> the church was being greatly persecuted and...

What is Paul's *strong* admonition? 2:3a Why was this warning necessary? IICor.11:13-15

What's the antidote for this Satanic deception? IJn.4:1-3; Eph.4:11-16; IITim.3:13-17; IIJn.7-11

Why else is it important to understand about these 'end times'? 2:2; IJn.3:2-3; Rev.1:1-3

What is a basic contrast seen here between the *rapture* (2:1) and *His coming* (2:8)?

What does Paul remind them *must happen first*, (before rapture & day of the Lord)? 2:3

What is "the apostasy" (a specific event)? 2:3-4; Dan.9:27; Mt.24:15; Rev.13:15-16

Applications:

Give some practical ways to apply the knowledge of the end times.

Give some practical ways to avoid being deceived (spiritually).

Next: The peril of rejecting Christ today

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The hope of the Rapture today...IIThess.2:1-12

What was happening to the church at Thessalonica that *disturbed* and *shook* them? 2:2b

They thought they missed the rapture (2:1) and were in the 'day of the Lord', tribulation.

Why would they think this? 2:2a; History-> the church was being greatly persecuted and...

Deceptive prophecies (I Jn.4:1-3), preaching (message), fake Pauline letters (3:17).

What is Paul's *strong* admonition? 2:3a Why was this warning necessary? IICor.11:13-15

Don't be deceived in any way by anybody! Satan and his servants appear as 'righteous'.

What's the antidote for this Satanic deception? I Jn.4:1-3; Eph.4:11-16; IITim.3:13-17; IIJn.7-11

The antidote is to be mature in Christ. Be discerning; strong in the Word, testing...

Why else is it important to understand about these 'end times'? 2:2; IJn.3:2-3; Rev.1:1-3

It gives us hope/joy/confidence/accountability/perspective, and a blessing. It is the truth.

What is a basic contrast seen here between the *rapture* (2:1) and *His coming* (2:8)?

Rapture is our gathering together to Him. 'His coming' is destruction of the antichrist.

What does Paul remind them *must happen first*, (before rapture & day of the Lord)? 2:3

The apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness (antichrist) is revealed (uncovered).

What is "the apostasy" (a specific event)? 2:3-4; Dan.9:27; Mt.24:15; Rev.13:15-16

This is the abomination that makes desolate. The idol, in the temple, as 'god'. 3.5yr point.

Applications:

Give some practical ways to apply the knowledge of the end times.

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