

Notes for 2 Thessalonians chapter 2:1-5

Reference	Doctrine	Implication	Cross References	Notes
2 Thess. 2:1-2	Errors concerning Jesus' return	A false teaching had spread in Thessalonica that taught that Jesus had already returned for his saints - with the Thessalonians being "left behind."	v.1 - 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 5:23; v.2 - 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10	Notice the two phrases in verse 1: "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" and "our gathering together to Him"; also "the day of the Lord" in verse 2 – Paul is clearly referring to the events of Judgment Day which he described in his first letter.
2 Thess. 2:2-3	Dangers of False Teaching	These errors were being spread in Paul and his companions' name. But Paul would soon clear up that he had said no such thing related to the Last Day.	Beware of liars and false prophets: Jeremiah 23:25-27; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 4:1-3	The phrases "as if from us" (v.2) and "let no one deceive you" (v.3) are important. They show that this "alarm" was not from Paul's first letter, but from an error that was being propagated in Paul's name.
2 Thess. 2:3	Events which will precede the Lord's return	Two things must happen before the Lord's return: 1) The falling away; 2) The revealing of the Antichrist.	The Greek word "apostasia" is found in only one other passage in the New Testament: Acts 21:21 Daniel 7:25; 1 John 2:18; Revelation 13:11-18	αποστασια (apostasia) - is translated: "falling away." From this word we get the English word "apostasy." The Antichrist is here called "man of sin" (or "man of lawlessness" in a variant reading), and the "son of destruction."
2 Thess. 2:4	The Antichrist	We learn that the Antichrist will... 1) exalt himself as God above any other authority 2) be a religious leader, one who sits in the temple of God	1 Corinthians 8:5-6 The "temple of God" is not the one in Jerusalem - Paul uses "temple" as the church - Matthew 24:2; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; cf. 1 Peter 2:5	αντιχριστος (antichristos) is a distinctly Johanne title, found only 5 times in the New Testament: 1 John 2:18 (2); 2:22; 4:3; and 2 John 1:7. There are other names and descriptions for this same entity in other sections of Scripture.
2 Thess. 2:5	Paul's work among the Thessalonians	Paul had spoken of this while he was in Thessalonica. Since he was only there for three or four weeks* it must have been an important topic.	* Acts 17:2; 2 Thessalonians 3:10	In this letter Paul will have to bring to the Thessalonians mind other things that he had taught them while he was there as well (see cross reference).