

We need to understand this idea of the coming of the Lord and our being gathered together with Him. In order to understand this concept we need to have a solid understanding of the second chapter of II Thessalonians; therefore, we will be giving this chapter two weeks.

DAY ONE

Chapter two reveals some very important information about the timing of the day of the Lord. You need to do a very careful observation of this chapter. Remember, correct interpretation is going to come from a thorough observation. Meditate on the things that you are observing, and make sure to always be asking yourself the 5 W's and H.

1. Make sure that you have marked these key words or phrases.
 - a. Day of the Lord
 - b. Man of lawlessness
2. Make a list of what you learn about these two phrases.

Day of the Lord	Man of Lawlessness

DAY TWO

We are going to do some word studies today. Last week, we went over how to do these. Remember to write the number that corresponds with the word, then the transliteration (the English spelling of the Greek word), and then the definition that you find for this word. It is also very important that you check out the verb tense, voice, and mood for each verb, because that is vitally important for interpretation! Knowing that you may not have The Complete Word Study New Testament, I am going to give you the tense, voice, and mood of each word that is a verb, and you can check that out on the chart at the end of this lesson on pages 26 and 27. Here's a sales pitch. The chart comes out of the International Inductive Study Bible that we use at the ministry. You can't beat this Bible for study aids like this. Also, The Complete Word Study New Testament is a valuable study tool. All this information would be in that book.

1. Coming - II Thessalonians 2:1, 8, 9 (compare II Thessalonians 1:10 - come - aorist subjunctive passive)

2. Gathering together - II Thessalonians 2:1

3. Apostasy (falling away, KJV) - II Thessalonians 2:3

8. Mystery - II Thessalonians 2:7

9. Judged (damned, KJV) - II Thessalonians 2:12 (compare II Thessalonians 1:5 - judgment) - aorist subjunctive passive

10. Did you see judgment mentioned anywhere else in the book of II Thessalonians? Go back through all three chapters and list everything you learn about judgment, just from this book alone. Make sure to ask your 5 W's and H questions.

Tenses in Greek

Tense	Kind of Action	Example
Present	Continuous action	Jeff is studying the Bible.
Imperfect	continuous action in the past	Jeff was studying the Bible.
Perfect	Punctiliar action in the past with the results continuing into the present	Jeff is being transformed by having studied the Bible.
Pluperfect	Punctiliar action in the past with the results continuing in the past	Jeff was transformed because he had studied the Bible.
Aorist	Punctiliar action (the time can be past, present, or future but is generally past.)	Jeff studied the Bible.
Future	Generally continuous action in the future, but it can be punctiliar.	Jeff will be studying his Bible.

Voices in Greek

Voice	How the subject is related to the action	Example
Active	Indicates that the subject produces the action.	Jeff hit the ball.
Passive	Indicates that the subject is acted upon	Jeff was hit by the ball.
Middle	Indicates that the subject initiates the action and participates in the results of the action	Jeff hit himself with the ball.

Moods in Greek

Mood	Relation to Reality	Usage or Meaning	Example
Indicative	Mood of certainty (reality)	Used to declare a statement of fact as something which is true. Expresses that which is actual, factual, or real from the speaker's point of view.	Bible study has changed Jeff's life.
Imperative	Mood of violation or will (potential reality)	Usually used to express a command or entreaty. Denotes intention, authority, permission, or prohibition	Jeff, study your homework.
Subjunctive	Mood of probability (probable reality)	Used to express an action which may or should happen but which is not necessarily true at the present, from the speaker's point of view. Expresses conditional or uncertain actions	Jeff may have done his work.
Optative	Mood of possibility (possible reality)	Merely presents an action as conceivable from the speaker's point of view, with no definite anticipation of realization.	I wish my neighbor, Jeff, would take the Precept Bible Studies.

Prohibitions

This is when the speaker states a negative command.

Prohibition	Definition	Example
Present imperative (used with a negative)	This prohibition demands cessation of some act already in progress.	John 20:17
Aorist subjunctive (used with a negative)	This prohibition is a warning or exhortation against doing a thing not yet begun.	John 13:8

DAY THREE

From the day of Pentecost to this present day, God has been preparing a bride for His Son: the church. The church is made up of Jews and Gentiles who have believed on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, placing them into the body of Christ so that they are members of one another with Christ being their head.

If you are not thoroughly familiar with this concept, you might do well to stop right here and take a couple of minutes to read through Ephesians chapter two and three.

What we want to do is look at the future of the church, the bride, and how that compares with the day of the Lord talked about in II Thessalonians 2.

1. On pages 35 and 36 you will find an observation worksheet on I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11. As you carefully read through this passage, mark key repeated words. Make sure you mark "asleep" (also referred to as the "dead in Christ") as one of those key words/phrases.
2. Philippians 1:21-24 and II Corinthians 5:6-8 tell us what happens when a Christian dies. Look up these verses and write out all that you learn about them.

3. According to I Thessalonians 4:13-18

a. What is going to happen to the "dead in Christ"?

b. Who are the "dead in Christ", and how do you know from this passage?

c. Who are those who "are alive and remain"? Explain.

4. List the chronology of events as recorded in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 on the chart at the bottom of this page.

5. Now look up I Corinthians 15:51-54. List everything that you learn from these verses and note any parallels that you see between the two passages. (The events of these passages are usually referred to as the "rapture of the church". Rapture is never found in the Bible. It comes from the Latin word *rapio* which means to carry off; therefore, "rapture" has become the word used by the church to describe the catching up of the saints to be with the Lord.)

Events in I Thessalonians 4:13-18	Parallel in I Corinthians 15:51-54

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

1. Today we are going to look at I Thessalonians 5:1-11 and see what Paul had told these people about the day of the Lord. Remember to use your observation worksheet on page 36-37. Read these verses carefully, and mark every reference to the day of the Lord. Ask your 5 W's and H, and list everything you can about that day. Also note any promises that the Lord gives in these verses.

Day of the Lord	Promises

2. Now read through this whole passage I Thessalonians 4:13-5:1, and watch the flow of thought. Note what the Thessalonians are to know and what they are to do. Write them down on the chart below.

Thessalonians Are to Know	Thessalonians Are to Do

3. Take the time to think through what Paul had told this church in his first letter to them as well as what he taught them in person. How does what Paul teaches the Thessalonians in I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 regarding their being together with the Lord and the day of the Lord relate to what he writes them in II Thessalonians? Be as thorough as possible in your answer.

4. Before drawing any conclusions on the church's relationship to the day of the Lord, we want to look at the church's relationship to the wrath of God. Note what you learn in each of these verses.

a. Romans 5:9

b. I Thessalonians 1:9-10

c. I Thessalonians 5:9-10

5. Do you see any relationship between the wrath of God and the day of the Lord?

6. There are many passages that we could look at to gather information about the day of the Lord, but that will wait until we embark on the study of Revelation. Right now, we want to understand why these people were shaken and disturbed at the report that they were in the day of the Lord.

Read Joel 2 and 3 and record everything you learn about the day of the Lord. Watch for clues about the timing of the "day" and the events that will come before and after it.

The Day of the Lord

7. You are going to look at a couple more passages that speak about the day of the Lord. As you read and observe each one carefully, fill in any information you glean about the day of the Lord on page 33, the list you began from Joel.

a. Acts 2:1-21 - As you study this passage, remember the event being described in this passage occurs on the day of Pentecost, and Pentecost marks the beginning of the church where every member of the body of Christ is indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God.

b. II Peter 3:7-13

8. Now let's go back to II Thessalonians two. Read the chapter carefully and list all the things which must occur before the day of the Lord begins.

9. With everything you have studied this week, what do you think the church's relationship is to the day of the Lord? Use Scripture to support your answer.

I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

- 13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.
- 14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.
- 15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- 16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.
- 18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- 5:1** Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.
- 2** For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.
- 3** While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.
- 4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;
- 5** for you are all sons of light and sons of day We are not of night nor of darkness;

- 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.
- 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.
- 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.
- 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.
- 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.