Slide 1 Let’s open our Bibles to 2 Thess.

2 Thess 2:1-12

Slide 2 Let me read the first 5 verses and pray for us.

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 2 Thess 2:1-5

Slide 3 Paul once again returns to the subject of the Rapture in verse 1 of chapter 2.

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 Thes 2:1a

* 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 by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thes 4:15-18

Slide 4 But we see in the last half of verse one and running into verse 2 there’s a problem.

we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 2 Thes 2:1b,2

Slide 5 Paul addresses this false news by giving them a tune up on their end times discussion from his time with them.

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, v3 He starts with referencing the Day of the Lord.

Behold, the day of the LORD comes,

Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,

To lay the land desolate;

And He will destroy its sinners from it.

For the stars of heaven and their constellations

Will not give their light;

The sun will be darkened in its going forth,

And the moon will not cause its light to shine.

“I will punish the world for its evil,

And the wicked for their iniquity;

I will halt the arrogance of the proud,

And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. Isa 13:9-11

Slide 6 After setting the timeline with the Day of the Lord he steps back to talk about an event that will happen before the Day of the Lord.

unless the falling away comes first v3b

* The falling away: apostasía, ap-os-tas-ee'-ah;; defection from truth (properly, the state) ("apostasy"):—falling away, forsake.
* The Great Defection
* Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? Heb 10:29

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. Heb 6:4-6

Slide 7 It seems that Paul isn’t talking about a general departure from the faith but the mass defection that will occur at the revealing of the antichrist. With the definite article “the” in front of apostacy Paul seems to be coupling the two events together.

and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 2 Thes 2:3c,4

* Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. 1 John 2:18
* Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. 1 John 2:22
* “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), Matt 24:15

Slide 8 The books of Daniel and Revelation are key to get a clear picture of the antichrist’s behavior and activity. But he can be find throughout the Bible.

* “And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation. Dan 11:31
* “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. “He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all. Dan 11:36,37
* Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. Rev 13:6

Slide 9 Paul reminds them of his prior in person teaching on the subject.

Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? v5

* “Woe to the worthless shepherd,  
  Who leaves the flock!  
  A sword shall be against his arm  
  And against his right eye;  
  His arm shall completely wither,  
  And his right eye shall be totally blinded.” Zech 11:17
* “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, “until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. “Thus he said:

‘The fourth beast shall be

A fourth kingdom on earth,

Which shall be different from all other kingdoms,

And shall devour the whole earth,

Trample it and break it in pieces. Dan 7:21-23

Slide 10 In verses 6 and 7 Paul moves into talking about who is holding back the antichrist from coming on the world stage.

And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 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. V6,7

* “No human effort can restrain Satan. There’s only one in the universe who can restrain Satan. Who is it? Keep it in mind, the devil is God’s devil; he never goes beyond the boundaries that God permits. The power that holds back Satan from bringing the Antichrist in final apostasy is the Lord Himself. So there’s a power in operation that holds back Satan’s plan. The man of sin cannot come until that restraining power is released. The Thessalonians knew that, so they should have known they were not in the day of the Lord because the Antichrist had not yet appeared…

We face then the question, “What is this power?” Well, I just said it’s divine, and the best answer as to who it is, He is the Holy Spirit. He’s the Divine One who strives with sinners in Genesis 6. He’s the Divine One who convicts of sin and righteousness and judgment. Until the Holy Spirit gets out of the way, the Antichrist cannot come.” (John MacArthur)

Slide 11 Paul continues to lay out future events in verse 8.

And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. v8

* And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. Rev 19:19-21

Slide 12 Paul then elaborates on his description of the antichrist and those who are susceptible to his deception.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. V9,10 Jesus spoke of this in the Olivet Discourse

* “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. Matt 24:24
* Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?” Rev 13:2-4

Slide 13 In verse 11 we see why the children of the earth will follow the man of sin and end up in the same place as him.

because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. v10b

* if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: Eph 4:21
* “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. John 17:17-19
* “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority,* but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. John 16:13

Slide 14 In verse 11 and 12 we see that God is directly involved in the Christ rejecting world getting what they want.

And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. V11,12

* For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. Rom 1:21-24

Slide 15 I can’t leave tonight without sharing a portion of next week’s study.

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thes 2:13,14

* looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Titus 2:13

1Th 5:5

You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.

But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Thes 5:5-9