



2 THESSALONIANS

BELIEF IN JESUS' RETURN & HOPE FOR FINAL JUSTICE



WHAT YOU HOPE FOR SHAPES WHAT YOU LOVE FOR.

1 HOPE DESPITE PERSECUTION

1:1-3 THANKSGIVING PRATER

I THANK GOD FOR YOUR **FAITH, Love, and ENDURANCE.**

PERSECUTION HAS INTENSIFIED

SUFFERING = PARTICIPATION IN GOD'S KINGDOM

JESUS FOLLOWERS SHOW THEIR **VICTORY** THROUGH NON-VIOLENCE & ENDURANCE

THE ULTIMATE TRAGEDY

THEY WILL BE BANISHED AWAY FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD & FROM THE GLORY OF HIS POWER. (1:9)

JESUS RETURN = FINAL JUSTICE

1:11-12 MAY THE LORD JESUS BE HONORED THROUGH YOU.

2 THE DAY OF THE LORD

PAUL SAYS: THE **DAY OF THE LORD** IS **ALREADY** UPON US!!

GOD'S FINAL JUSTICE ON EVIL

DID JESUS COME 'LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT?' (SEE 1 THESSALONIANS 5:2)

JESUS HAS ABANDONED US!!!!

I NEVER SAID THAT!

REMEMBER WHAT I TAUGHT YOU...

THE WORLD WILL KEEP PRODUCING REBELS WHO REBEL & EXALT THEMSELVES ABOVE GOD.

THE REBEL

WILL BREAK VIOLENCE & HAVOC ON GOD'S WORLD...

BUT NOT FOREVER...

JESUS WILL CONFRONT THE REBEL...

... & DELIVER HIS PEOPLE.

THE POINT:

- IS NOT TO FUEL APOCALYPTIC SPECULATION
- IS TO COMFORT THE THESSALONIANS & RECALL JESUS' TEACHINGS (SEE MARK 13)

THE EVENTS LEADING TO JESUS' RETURN WILL BE **OBSVIOUS!** YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SCARED.

2:16-17 MAY THE LORD GIVE YOU COMFORT & STRENGTH

3 CHALLENGE TO THE "IDLE"

NOT LAZY, BUT IRRESPONSIBLE & REFUSING TO WORK (SEE 1 THESSALONIANS 4:10-12, 5:14)

POSSIBLE: JESUS COULD RETURN AT ANY MOMENT! WHY WORK? I QUIT!

MORE LIKELY: ROMAN 'PATRONAGE'

'CLIENTS' (like personal assistants) FETCH ME SIX EGGS. FETCH ME SIX PROSTITUTES. ?

SOME OF YOU ARE LEADING A DISORDERED LIFE, NOT WORKING, BUT MEDDLING IN THE BUSINESS OF OTHERS. (5:11)

PAUL'S EXAMPLE

IMITATING JESUS' SELF-GIVING LOVE

PROVIDING FOR HIMSELF TO SERVE OTHERS FREE OF CHARGE

THE IDEAL:

3:10-18 MAY THE LORD OF PEACE GRANT YOU PEACE

WORKING HARD SO THEIR LIVES CAN BENEFIT OTHERS