

I THESSALONIANS

Jesus Christ Is Coming Again

AUTHOR

The Apostle Paul (1:1; 2:18)

- Paul and Silas planted the church in Thessalonica in Acts 17:1-10

DATE A.D. 52

The earliest of Paul's epistles

Probably written from Corinth

THEME "BOOK OF HOPE IN CHRIST"

*The doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ, when properly understood, brings two precious possessions to the believer:

1. Comfort
2. Hope

*The main purpose for this epistle is the correct misconceptions of the Second Coming.

OUTLINE

See Baxter's *Explore the Book* outline

KEY WORDS

- *Coming* – Four times
- *Comfort* – Four times
- *Hope* – Four times

KEY VERSE

I Thessalonians 4:16

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:”

SPECIAL FEATURES

1. There are no Old Testament quotes in this epistle, probably because most Thessalonian believers were Gentiles.
2. We find the greatest Bible teaching on the Rapture in I Thess. 4:13-18
 - *Rapture* means “a snatching away.”
 - There are two phases of the Second Coming:
 1. Rapture – His coming in the clouds for the saints.
 2. Revelation – His coming to earth to reign with the saints.
 - Compare this passage to Revelation 4:1.

CHRIST IN THE BOOK

*The Coming Christ

His coming is imminent – it could happen at ANY moment. (5:1-6)

II THESSALONIANS

Christ Has Not Come Yet

AUTHOR

Paul

- Writing still from Corinth only a few months after the first epistle

DATE A.D. 52

THEME “BOOK OF WAITING AND WORKING”

*Waiting – Patience (3:5)

*Working – Perseverance (3:7-12)

*The Thessalonians thought their persecution was the Tribulation. (2:2)

*Paul’s message: “Work while you wait!”

OUTLINE

- I. Comfort – from the hope of Christ’s return (Ch. 1)
- II. Caution – on the time of Christ’s return (Ch. 2)
- III. Command – in the light of Christ’s return (Ch. 3)

KEY WORDS

- *Work(ing)* – Seven times
- *Revealed* – Four times

KEY VERSE

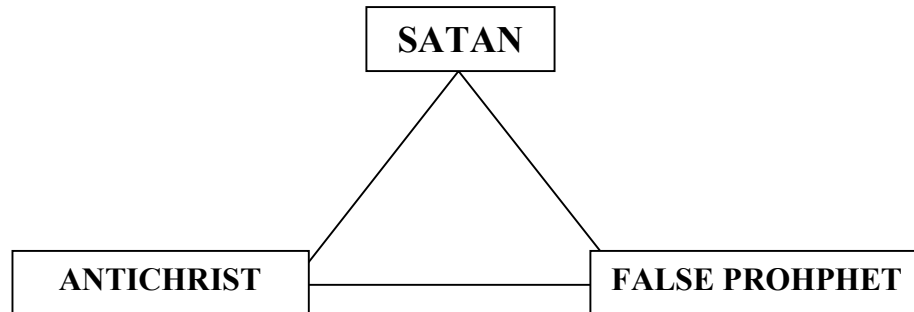
II Thessalonians 2:15

“Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”

SPECIAL FEATURES

The key teaching is on the Antichrist. (Ch. 2)

- The Antichrist is not a system, his is a person who is a part of the Devil’s evil trinity



- Other names of the Antichrist:
 1. Man of sin
 2. Son of perdition (hell)
 3. The wicked
- Characteristics of the Antichrist:
 1. He is Satan-controlled.
 2. He opposes God.
 3. He exalts himself above God.

CHRIST IN THE BOOK

1. The Coming Judge (1:6-9)
2. The One Whose name we bear (1:12)
3. The Lord of peace (3:16)