

THE SECOND EPISTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE EPISTLE AS A WHOLE.

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THE SECOND EPISTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS. INTRODUCTORY NOTES.

1. The Second Epistle to the Church of the Thessalonians was, like the First, written from Corinth, and at no long interval after the earlier letter, both Silas and Timothy being still with the apostle. Apparently it was called forth, and sent, in order to repair for its recipients, and for us too, the mischief caused by false teachers. And the new revelation made here by the Holy Spirit through Paul concerning "the things to come", as promised in John 16: 13, gives important details connected with the coming of our Lord and "the day of the Lord". Paul reminded the Thessalonians (2:5) that he had told them these things, yet some part at least had taken up the belief that that day had already "set in" (2: 2 and Note). Hence the apostle's warning that that day would not come unless the falling away came first, a warning much needed in these days when it is widely taught that the day of the Lord will not come until the world is converted to Christ!

2. The important prophecy regarding the "man of sin" ("lawlessness") has been the subject of many divergent interpretations. With regard to its main features, no interpretation is needed, for we have here a careful statement in plain terms of events that were then in the future, and which, not having yet taken place, are future still. The prophecy is given in such language that the simplest reader may understand. There is yet to appear an individual who will be the very incarnation of all evil, of whom past opposers of God and of His Christ were but faint types. Him will the Lord "destroy with the brightness of His coming". It may be added that all the "early fathers" believed that this great opposer would be an individual.

THE SECOND EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS. †

1 °Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, *to* the °church of the Thessalonians in °God our °Father and the °Lord °Jesus Christ:

2 °Grace ¹*to* you, and peace, from ¹God our ¹Father and the °Lord ¹Jesus Christ.

3 We are bound to °thank ¹God °always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because *that* your °faith °groweth exceedingly, and the *love* of *each* one of you all °toward *one another increases*;

4 So that we ourselves °glory in you in the ¹churches of ¹God for your patience and ³faith in all your persecutions and °tribulations that ye endure:

5 *Which is a concrete* token of the °righteous °judgment of ¹God, *to your being* °counted worthy of the °kingdom of ¹God, for which ye *suffer also*:

6 *If so be it is* a ⁵righteous thing with ¹God to recompense ⁴tribulation to them that *afflict* you;

7 And to you who are ⁶*afflicted have liberty* with us, *in the revelation of the Lord Jesus* from heaven with *the angels of His power*,

1. 1 Paul, &c. The opening words of this Epistle are the same as those of the First Epistle as far as "peace" (v. 2). **unto** = to.

church. Ap. 186.

God. Ap. 98. I. i. 1.

Father. Ap. 98. III.

Lord. Ap. 98. VI. i. B. 2. B.

Jesus Christ. Ap. 98. XI.

2 Grace. Ap. 184. I. 1.

from. Ap. 104. iv.

3 thank. See 1 Thess. 1. 2.

always. Ap. 151. II. G. i.

faith. Ap. 150. II. 1.

groweth exceedingly. Gr. *hyperauxano*. Only here.

charity = love. Ap. 135. II. 1. No reference to hope as in 1 Thess. 1. 3.

every = each.

toward. Ap. 104. vi.

each other = one another.

aboundeth. Same as increase, 1 Thess. 3. 12.

4 glory. Gr. *kauchaomai*. See Rom. 2. 17. The texts read *enkauchaomai*. Nowhere else in N.T.

for. Ap. 104. xvii. 1.

tribulations. Gr. *thlipsis*. See Acts 7. 10.

5 manifest token. Gr. *endeigma*. Only here.

righteous. Ap. 191. 1.

judgment. Ap. 177. 7. Cp. Phil. 1. 28.

that ye may be = to (Gr. *eis*) your being.

counted worthy. See Acts 5. 41.

kingdom. App. 112, 114.

also suffer = suffer also.

1: 6-10. THE OBTAINING OF REST AND GLORY.

6. Tribulation to the troublers.

7-. Rest to the troubled.

-7. When the Lord shall be revealed.

8, 9. Vengeance to the enemies.

10-. When He shall come.

-10. To be glorified in the saints.

6 Seeing = If so be. Gr. *eiper*.

7 rest. Gr. *anesis*. See Acts 24. 23.

Lord. Ap. 98. VI. i. B. 2. A.

His, &c. = the angels of His power (Ap. 172. 1.)

with. Ap. 104. xii. 2.

with. Ap. 104. xi. 1.

Jesus. Ap. 98. X.

trouble. Gr. *thlibo*, afflict. The noun in v. 7.

when, &c. = in (Gr. *en*) the revelation (Ap. 106. II. i.) of

heaven. Sing. See Matt. 6. 9, 10.

8 In *fire of flame giving vengeance* to them that ^oknow not ¹God, and that obey not the ^ogospel of our ⁷Lord ¹Jesus ...:

9 Who shall *pay the penalty even* with everlasting destruction from the presence of the ⁷Lord, and from the ^oglory of His ^opower;

10 When **He shall have** come to be ^oglorified in His ^osaints, and to be admired in all them that ^obelieve (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

11 *With a view to which we pray also* ³always for you, *in order that* our ¹God would *reckon you worthy* of *this* calling, and ^ofulfil all the ^ogood pleasure of His ^ogoodness, and the work of ³faith with ^opower:

12 That the name of our ⁷Lord ¹Jesus ⁸... may be ¹⁰glorified in you, and ye in **Him**, ^oaccording to the ²grace of our ¹God and the ¹Lord ¹Jesus Christ.

2 Now we ^obeseech you, brethren, *on behalf of* the ^ocoming of our ^oLord ^oJesus Christ, and by our ^ogathering together unto **Him**,

2 *To the end that* ye be not *quickly* shaken *from* mind, *nor* ^obe troubled, neither by *spirit-communication*, nor by ^oword, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of *the Lord* is *present*.

3 Let *not anyone* ^odeceive you ^oby any means: *because that day shall not come, if not* there come *the defection* first, and *the* ^oman of ^osin ^obe revealed, the ^oson of ^operdition:

4 Who ^oopposeth and ^oexalteth himself ^oabove all that is called ^oGod, or that is *an object of worship*; so that he ... sitteth in the *Temple building* of ^oGod, *setting forth* himself that he is ^oGod.

5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6 And now ye *understand* what *holds fast* ²*to the end that* he might ³be ³revealed in *his own season*.

7 For the *secret* of *lawlessness* doth already *work actively*: only *now there is one who holds* [Satan] *fast until he is ejected by Michael out of the midst of the heavenlies*.

8 And then shall *the lawless one* ³be revealed,

8 *flaming fire* = fire of flame (Gr. *phlox*. Here; Luke 16. 24. Acts 7. 30. Heb. 1. 7. Rev. 1. 14; 2. 18; 19. 12).

taking . . . on = giving ... to.

vengeance. Gr. *ekdikesis*. See Luke 18. 8.

know. Ap. 132. I. i.

gospel. Ap. 140.

Christ. The texts omit.

9 **be punished with** = pay (Gr. *тино*. Only here) the penalty (Ap. 177. 4), (even).

everlasting. Ap. 151. II. B. ii.

destruction. Gr. *olethros*. See 1 Cor. 5. 5.

glory. See p. 1511.

power. Ap. 172. 3.

10 **shall** = shall have.

glorified. Gr. *endoxazomia*. Only here and v. 12.

saints. See Acts 9. 13.

believe, believed. Ap. 150. I. I. i.

among. Ap. 104. ix. 3.

11 **Wherefore** = With a view to (Gr. *εις*) which.

also we pray = we pray (Ap. 134. I. 2) also.

that = in order that. Gr. *hina*.

count . . . worthy. Gr. *axioo*. See Acts 15. 38.

fulfil. Ap. 125. 7.

good pleasure. Gr. *eudokia*. See Rom. 10. 1.

goodness. Gr. *agathosune*. See Rom. 15. 14.

power. Ap. 172. 1, as v. 7.

12 **according to**. Ap. 104. x. 2.

2: 1-12. ADMONITION.

1-3-. Exhortation : negative.

-3-. The Apostasy : open.

-3-. The man of sin.

4. The character of his acts.

5, 6. Exhortation : positive.

7. The mystery : secret.

8. The lawless one.

9-12. The character of his acts.

2. 1 **beseech**. Ap. 134. I. 3.

by = on behalf of. Ap. 104. xvii. 1.

coming. See 1 Thess. 2. 19.

Lord. Ap. 98. VI. i. B. 2. A.

Jesus Christ. Ap. 98. XI.

gathering together. Gr. *episunagoge*. Only here and Heb. 10. 25.

Cp. the verb in Matt. 23. 37; 24. 31.

2 **That** = To the end that. Ap. 104. vi.

soon = quickly.

in = from. Ap. 104. iv.

or = nor. Gr. *mete*. Same as neither and nor, below.

be troubled. Gr. *throoomai*. Elsewhere, Matt, 24. 6. Mark 13. 7.

by. Ap. 104. v. 1.

spirit = spirit-communication. Ap. 101. II. 12.

word. Ap. 121. 10.

from. Ap. 104. v. 1.

Christ = the Lord, as the texts. The day of Christ is the day of v. 1. Cp. Phil. 1. 10; 2. 16. The day of the Lord is the day of O.T. prophecy. See Isa. 2. 12.

at hand = present. Gr. *enistemi*. See Rom. 8. 38.

3 **no man** = not (Ap. 105. II) any one (Ap. 123. 3).

deceive. Gr. *exaptao*. See Rom. 7. 11.

for = because.

except = if (Ap. 118. i. b.) . . . not (Ap. 105. II).

by any means. Lit. according to (Ap. 104. x. 2) no (Gr. *medeis*) way. A double negative for emphasis.

and Acts 21. 21.

that = the.

man. Ap. 123. I.

a = the.

falling away = apostasy. Gr. *apostasia*. Only here

be revealed. Ap. 106. I. ix.

son. Ap. 108. iii.

sin. Ap. 128. I. ii. 1. Some texts read III. 4, as v. 7.

perdition. See John 17. 12. Rev. 17. 8, 11.

4 **opposeth**. Gr. *antikeimai*. Gen. transl. be an adversary to.

exalteth himself. Gr. *hyperairoumai*. See 2 Cor. 12. 7.

God. Ap. 98. I. i. 1.

worshipped = an object of worship. Gr. *sebasma*. See Acts 17. 23.

as God. The texts omit.

Temple. Gr. *naos*. See Matt. 23. 16.

shewing. Gr. *apodeiknumi*. See Acts 2. 22.

6 **know**. Ap. 132. I. i.

withholdeth = holds fast. Gr. *katecho*. See the other occ. of this word, v. 7; Matt. 21. 38. Luke 4. 42; 8. 15; 14. 9.

John 5. 4. Acts 27. 40. Rom. 1. 18; 7. 6. 1 Cor. 7. 30; 11. 2; 15. 2. 2 Cor. 6. 10. 1 Thess. 5. 21. Philem. 13. Heb. 3. 6, 14; 10. 23.

his time = his own season. That which holds him fast is neuter. It is a place, the pit of the abyss (Rev. 9. 1; 11. 7; 13. 1).

7 **mystery**. Ap. 193.

iniquity = lawlessness. Ap. 128. III. 4.

work = work actively, as 1 Thess. 2. 13.

letteth = holds fast. Gr. *katecho*, as v. 6. Supply the Ellipsis by "there is one who holds fast", instead of by repeating the verb "will let". But *katecho* is a transitive verb, and an object must be supplied too. See all the occ. v. 6. If the subject be Satan, the object must be his position in the heavenlies (Eph. 6. 12), from which he will be ejected by Michael (Rev. 12. 7-9).

out of the way = out of (Gr. *ek*) the midst. Cp. the same expression in Acts 17. 33;

23. 10. 1 Cor. 5. 2. 2 Cor. 6. 17. Col. 2. 14.

8 **that wicked** = the lawless one. Ap. 128. III. 3.

whom the ¹Lord shall ^oconsume with the *breath* of His mouth, and shall *bring to nought* with the *light* of His ¹coming:

9 *Even him*, whose ¹coming is after the ^oworking of Satan with all ^opower and ^osigns and lying ^owonders,

10 And with *every form of deceit* of ^ounrighteousness ^oin *the perishing*; ^obecause they received not the ^olove of the truth, ²*to the end that* they might be saved.

11 And *because of this* ⁴God shall ^osend them *a working of error*, ²*to the end that* they should ^obelieve ³*the lie*:

12 *In order that* they all might be *condemned* who ¹¹believed not the truth, but *were well pleased* in unrighteousness.

13 But we are ^obound to give thanks ^oalway to ⁴God for you, brethren ^obeloved of the ^oLord, because ⁴God ... ^ofrom the beginning *chose* you to salvation through ^osanctification of *THE Holy Spirit* and ^obelief of the truth:

14 *Unto which* He called you by our ^ogospel, to the ^oobtaining of the ^oglory of our ¹Lord ¹Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, ^ostand fast, and *hold fast* the ^otraditions which ye have been taught, whether by *our* ²word, or ... epistle.

16 Now our ¹Lord ¹Jesus Christ **Himself**, and ⁴God, ... our ^oFather, **Which ...** ¹³loved us, and *gave us* ^oeverlasting *comfort* and good hope through ^ograce,

17 ^oComfort your hearts, and *strengthen* you in every good ²word and work.

3 Finally, brethren, ^opray for us, *in order that* the ^oword of the Lord may *triumph gloriously*, and be glorified, even as *it is* with *you also*:

2 And *in order that* we may be ^odelivered from ^ounreasonable and ^owicked ^omen: for all *men* have not ^ofaith.

3 But the ¹Lord is ^ofaithful, **Who** shall *establish* you, and *guard you from the wicked one*.

4 And we ^ohave confidence in the ^oLord ^otouching you, that ye both do and will do the ^othings which we *charge* you.

5 And the ¹Lord ^odirect your hearts into the ^olove of ^oGod, and into the *patience of Christ*.

6 Now we ⁴command you, brethren, in the

consume. Gr. *analisko*. See Gal. 5. 15.

spirit = breath. Ap. 101. II. 8. Cp. Isa. 11. 4; 30. 27, 30, 33.

destroy = bring to nought. Gr. *katargeo*. See Rom. 3. 3.

brightness. Ap. 106. II. ii.

9 after. Ap. 104. x. 2.

working. Gr. *energeia*. See v. 7. Ap. 172. 4.

power . . . signs . . . wonders. Ap. 176. I. 3. 2.

lying. Lit. of a lie. Gr. *pseudos*. See John 8. 44. Rom. 1. 25.

10 all = every.

deceivableness = (form of) deceit.

unrighteousness. Ap. 128. VII. 1. in. The texts omit. Dat. case.

them that perish = the perishing. See same phrase, 1 Cor. 1. 18. 2 Cor.

2. 15; 4. 3.

because. Gr. *anth' on*, indicating exchange. Cp. Rom. 1. 25 (R.V.).

love. Ap. 135. II. 1.

11 for this cause = because of (Ap. 104. v. 2) this. **send**. Ap. 174. 4.

strong delusion = a working (v. 9) of error (Gr. *plane*, as Rom. 1. 27).

believe. Ap. 150. I. 1. ii.

12 That = In order that. Gr. *hina*.

damned = condemned, or judged. Ap. 122. 1.

had pleasure = were well pleased. See Matt. 3. 17,

13 bound, &c. Cp. 1. 3.

alway. Ap. 151. II. G. i.

beloved. Ap. 135. I. 1.

Lord. Ap. 98. VI. i. B. 2. B.

hath. Omit.

from the beginning. Gr. *ap' arches*. See John 8. 44.

chosen = chose. Gr. *haireomai*. See Phil. 1. 22.

sanctification. Gr. *hagiasmos*. See Rom. 6. 19.

Spirit. The Sanctifier. Ap. 101. II. 3. Cp. 1 Pet. 1. 2.

belief. Gr. *pistis*. Ap. 150. II. 1.

14 Whereunto = Unto (Gr. *eis*) which.

gospel. Ap. 140.

obtaining. Gr. *peripoiesis*. See Eph. 1. 14.

glory. See p. 1511.

15 stand fast. See 1 Thess. 3. 8.

hold = lay hold on, hold fast.

traditions. Gr. *paradosis*, as in 3. 6.

our. Should come after "by".

16 even. Omit.

Father. Ap. 98. III.

hath. Omit.

hath given = gave.

everlasting. Ap. 151. II. B. ii.

consolation. Gr. *paraklesis*. See Luke 6. 24. Acts 4. 36.

grace. Ap. 184. I. 1.

17 Comfort. Ap. 134. I. 6.

stablish. Gr. *sterizo*. See Rom. 1. 11.

3. 1 pray. Ap. 134. I. 2. Paul is the only N.T. writer who asks the prayers

of those to whom he writes. See Rom. 15. 30. 2 Cor. 1. 11. Eph. 6. 19.

Phil. 1. 19. Col. 4. 3. Philem. 22. Heb. 13. 18.

that = in order that. Gr. *hina*.

word. Ap. 121. 10.

Lord. Ap. 98. VI. i. B. 2. A.

have, &c. = run and be glorified. By Fig. *Hendiadys* (Ap. 6) = triumph

gloriously. **with**. Ap. 104. xv. 3. Cp. Acts 13. 48.

you. Add "also".

2 delivered. Gr. *rhuomai*, as in Rom. 15. 31.

unreasonable. Gr. *atopos*. See Acts 28. 6.

wicked. Ap. 128. III. 1.

men. Ap. 123. 1.

faith. Ap. 150. II. 1.

3 faithful. Ap. 150. III. Cp. 1 Cor. 1. 9.

stablish. See 2. 17.

keep = guard.

evil = the wicked one. Ap. 128. III. 1. Cp. 1 John 5. 18.

4 have confidence. Ap. 150. I. 2.

Lord. Ap. 98. VI. i. B. 2. B.

touching. Ap. 104. ix. 3.

things. I.e. in vv. 6-14. Cp. 1 Thess. 4. 11.

command = charge. Gr. *parangello*. See Acts 1. 4.

5 direct. Gr. *kateuthuno*. See 1 Thess. 3. 11.

love. Ap. 135. II. 1.

God. Ap. 98. I. i. 1.

patient waiting = patience, as 1. 4.

for Christ = of Christ (Ap. 98. IX).

3: 6-15. ADMONITION.

6. Charge to the orderly.
 7-9. The example of Paul and the brethren.
 10. Charge to the non-worker.
 11. Instance of such.
 12, 13. Charge to the disorderly.
 14, 15. The disobedient to be admonished.

name of our ¹Lord ^oJesus Christ, that ye ^owithdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh ^odisorderly, and not ^oafter the ^otradition which he received **from** us.

7 For yourselves ^oknow how ye ought to **imitate** us: for we ^obehaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

8 ^oNeither did we eat **bread from any one** for nought; but **working** with labour and **painfulness** night and day, **with a view to our not being a burden to** any of you:

9 Not because we have not ^opower, but **in order that we may** make ourselves an **example to** you to ⁷**imitate** us.

10 For even when we were with you, this we ⁴**charged** you, that ^oif any **is not willing to** work, ^oneither should he eat.

11 For we hear that there are ^osome which walk among you ⁶disorderly, working **in nothing**, but ^oare busybodies.

12 Now them that are such we ⁴**charge** and ^oexhort **in** our ⁴Lord ⁶Jesus Christ, ¹**in order that** with **silence** they work, and eat their own bread.

13 But ye, brethren, be not **faint** ^oin well doing.

14 And ¹⁰if ⁸**any one** obey not our ¹word by this epistle, ^onote **this one**, and ^ohave **not** company with him, ¹**in order that** he may ^obe ashamed.

15 Yet **reckon him** not as an enemy, but admonish **him** as a brother.

16 Now the ¹Lord ^oof peace himself give you peace **through everything in every way**. The ¹Lord **be** with you all.

17 The ^osalutation **by the hand of me Paul**, which is the **sign** in every epistle: so I write.

18 The ^ograce of our ¹Lord ⁶Jesus Christ **be** with you all.

6 **Jesus Christ**. Ap. 98. XI.

withdraw yourselves. Gr. *stellomai*. See 2 Cor. 8. 20.

disorderly. Gr. *ataktos*. Only here and v. 11.

after. Ap. 104. x. 2.

tradition. See 2. 15.

7 **know**. Ap. 132. I. i.

follow = imitate. Gr. *mimeomai*. Occ. also v. 9. Heb. 13. 7. 3. John 11. Cp. 1 Cor. 4. 16.

behaved ... disorderly. Gr. *atakteo*. Cp. vv. 6, 11. 1 Thess. 5. 14.

among. Ap. 104. viii. 2.

8 **Neither**. Gr. *oude*.

any man's bread = bread from (Gr. *para*, Ap. 104. xii. 1) any one (Ap. 123. 3).

for nought. Gr. *dorean*. See John 15. 25.

wrought = working.

with. Ap. 104. viii.

travail. Gr. *mochthos*. See 2 Cor. 11. 27.

that we, &c. = with a view to (Ap. 104. xv. 3) our not being.

chargeable to. Gr. *epibareo*. See 2 Cor. 2. 5. 1 Thess. 2. 9.

any. Ap. 123. 3.

9 **power**. Ap. 172. 5.

to = in order that (as v. 1) we may.

ensample. Gr. *tupos*. Cp. Phil. 3. 17. 1 Thess. 1. 7. 1 Tim. 4. 12.

unto = to.

to. Gr. *eis*. Ap. 104. vi.

10 **if**. Ap. 118. 2. a.

would = is . . . willing. Ap. 102. 1.

neither. Gr. *mede*.

11 **some**. Ap. 124. 4.

not at all = (in) nothing. Gr. *medeis*.

are busybodies. Gr. *periergazomai*, to be busy about useless matters.

12 **exhort**. Ap. 134. I. 6.

by. Ap. 104. v. 1., but the texts read *en*.

with. Ap. 104. xi. 1.

quietness. Gr. *hesuchia*. See Acts 22. 2.

13 **be ... weary** = faint. Gr. *ekkakeo*. See 2 Cor. 4. 1.

in well doing. Gr. *kalopoieo*. Only here. Cp. Gal. 6. 9.

14 **by**. Ap. 104. v. 1.

note. Gr. *semeiomai*. Only here.

that man = this one.

have . . . company. Gr. *sunanamignumi*. See 1 Cor. 5. 9, 11.

no = not, v. 6.

be ashamed. Gr. *entrepomai*. See 1 Cor. 4. 14.

15 **count** = reckon. Gr. *hegeomai*. See Phil. 2. 6.

16 **of peace**. Note the eight statements as to God in Note on Acts 7. 2, and cp. 1 Cor. 1. 3.

by all means = in (Gr. *en*) every way.

17 **salutation, &c** Cp. 1 Cor. 16. 21. Col. 4. 18. Read, "by the hand of me Paul".

18 **grace**. Ap. 184. I. 1.

Amen. Omit.

always = through (Ap. 104. v. 1) everything.

token = sign. Gr. *semeion*. Ap. 176. 3.