

What is next in history?

or

“Don’t know much about his-to-ry

Don’t know much about bio-lo-gy”

But what I know is Jesus came to earth

And ful-filled the plan for my re-birth

Why should it matter to you?

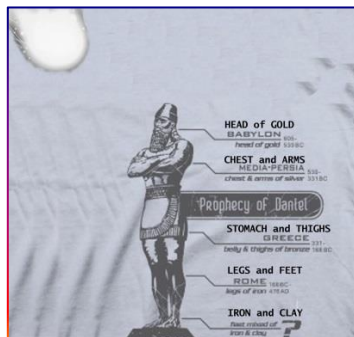
We have studied Daniel.

(1)



And in that study we learned that understanding history from God’s perspective is to understand history from the standpoint of the Jews.

(2)



We learned of **The Times Of The Gentiles** Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and Daniel’s interpretation and then Nebuchadnezzar’s statute

and then Daniel’s dream... Summarized in Luke 21:24

24 **and they (Jews) will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (Which will not happen until JESUS CHRIST returns to this earth.)**

(3)



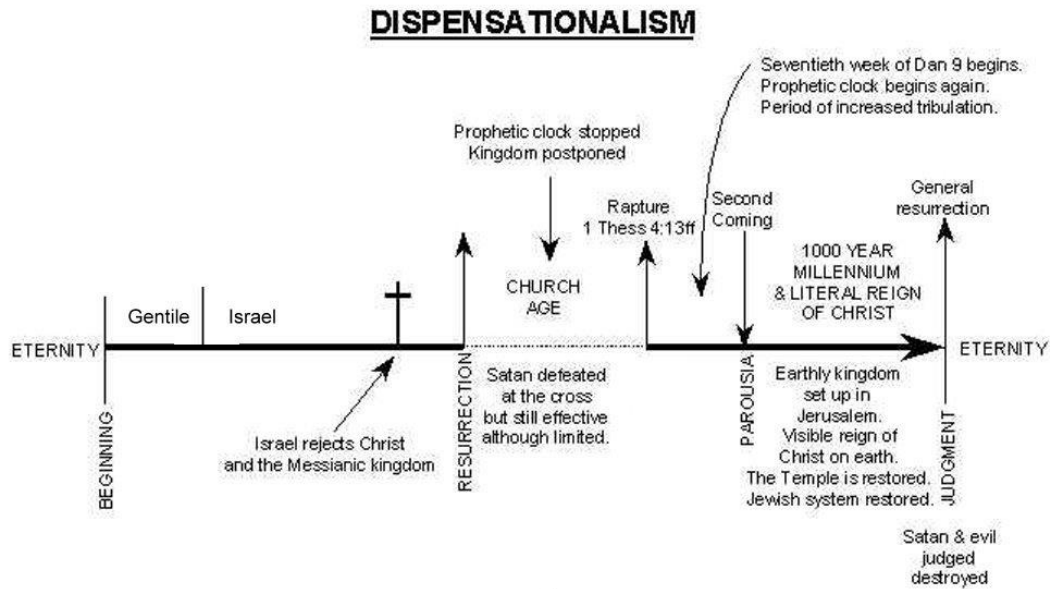
The book of Daniel begins **The Time Of The Gentiles** with Babylon, but biblically we should go back to **Egypt, Assyria, then Babylon, Medo-Persian Empire, Greece then Rome**

We study these in secular education, but what we are not told in secular education is that this is all Biblical history—this is God working in history.

And, oh parents, please teach your children about God, and history, about the Jews and history, about where history is going. Remember when you were in school and you had to learn about **Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece and Rome** and how boring history was?

Well, make these things come alive to your children. It is your responsibility, it is your privilege! Here is your joy—history is about **JESUS CHRIST, and *His Control of History.***

(4)



Then we studied **Daniel's Seventieth Week**. How God promised Israel 490 years after the **Babylonian Captivity**. And this was historical reality... until they rejected their Messiah and Crucified Him, with 7 years still promised.

So what we call **The Tribulation** is really the last 7 years God promised to Israel.

(5) And this led us to our study of Matthew 24-25, where we

studied aspects of this last seven years.

Old Testament Tribulation Terms and Expressions

	Tribulation Term	Old Testament Reference
1	Day of the Lord	Obadiah 15: Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11,31; 3:14; Amos 5:18,20; Isaiah 2:12: 13:6, 9; Zephaniah 1:7, 14; Ezekiel 13:5: 30:3; Zechariah 14:1
2	Great & Terrible Day of the Lord	Malachi 4:5
3	Trouble, Tribulation	Deuteronomy 4:30; Zephaniah 1:16
4	Time/Day of Trouble	Daniel 12:1; Zephaniah 1:15
5	Day of Jacob's Trouble	Jeremiah 30:7
6	Birth Pangs	Isaiah 21:3; 26:17-18; 66:7; Jeremiah 4:31; Micah 4:10 (cf. Jeremiah 30:6)
7	The Day of Calamity	Deuteronomy 32:35; Obadiah 12-14
8	Indignation	Isaiah 26:20; Daniel 11:36
9	The (Lord's) Strange Work	Isaiah 28:21
10	Overflowing Scourge	Isaiah 28:15, 18
11	Day of Vengeance	Isaiah 34:8a; 35:4a; 61:2b; 63:4a
12	Day of Wrath	Zephaniah 1:15
13	Day of the Lord's Wrath	Zephaniah 1:18
14	Day of Distress	Zephaniah 1:15
15	Day of Destruction	Zephaniah 1:15
16	Day of Desolation	Zephaniah 1:15
17	Day of Darkness and Gloom	Zephaniah 1:15; Amos 5:18, 20; Joel 2:2
18	Day of Clouds & Thick Darkness	Zephaniah 1:15 Joel 2:2
19	Day of Trumpet and Alarm	Zephaniah 1:16
20	Day of the Lord's Anger	Zephaniah 2:2,3
21	[Day of] destruction, Ruin, From the Almighty	Joel 1:15

- (6) These last seven years will terminate with the Return of JESUS CHRIST and His victorious battle in the Armageddon campaign and the restoration of Israel.
- (7) And then He will set up **His Millennial Kingdom**. It will be at this time, in His Kingdom, that God will give to Israel all the promised, yet unfulfilled Covenants to Israel.

Many people do not even know about these promised unfulfilled covenants to Israel, and are therefore not aware of where history is headed.

Some foolishly think that God has discounted these Promises and that the Church has *replaced* Israel.

What blasphemy that is to our God.

No, my people, God is going to fulfill **His Promises**, He is going to give Israel every one of these promised covenants. His promises to David which we studied in 2 Samuel 7.

And by the way people, you can rest in the hope—the assurance of your Eternal-Salvation because of the **Faithfulness of God**.

Ok, these 7 points cover history, so what about us?

Where are we in history?

It is now time for US to address US!

What is the next thing to happen in history?

And how does this affect us (you and me)?

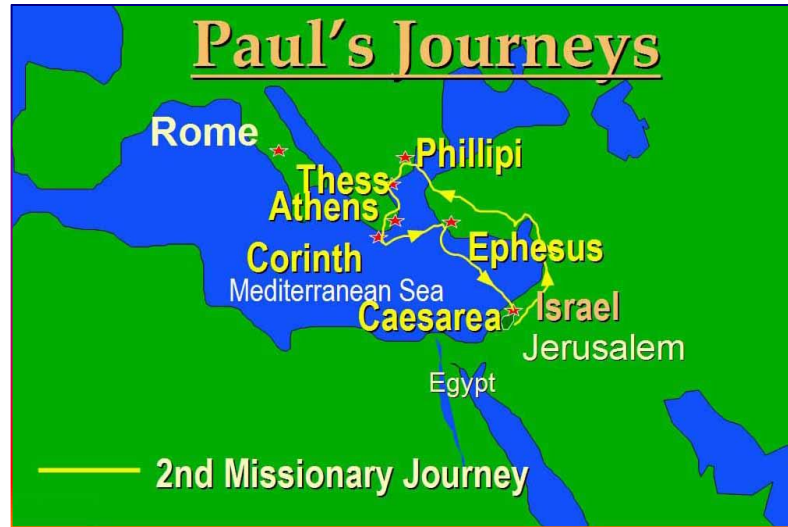
I am trying to deal with a great nation,
declining in morality,
changing economically;

I am trying to deal with my children,
with my parents!

Help!!

Ok, let us survey two books in the New Testament
that will guide us on all these questions.

1st Thessalonians
2nd Thessalonians



These two letters by Paul are absolutely fascinating and miraculous.

Why miraculous?

Paul first came to Thessalonica on his *second missionary journey* in November of AD 50 and probably stayed until January of 51.

There are historical disagreements as to how long Paul stayed in Thessalonica.

Some argue from Luke 17:2 that he stayed less than a month. Others argue that he stayed into January of the following year.

Point: It does not matter whether it was one month or three; **the miracle** is that Paul could teach these people so much doctrine, so much theology; they must have been a real joy to teach. Paul will teach things to Thessalonians that he teaches nowhere else in all his writings.



Let us read the account of Paul in Thessalonica, found in **The Acts**.

The reason for doing this is to discover what kind of people will make up this assembly.

Acts 17:1

- 1 **Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis** (around the polis or around the city, and was located about 3 miles from the sea) **and Apollonia**, (city of Apollo, and was about 35 miles west of Thessalonica) **they came to Thessalonica**, (tossed by the waves or hot springs, and was the capital of Macedonia) **where there was a synagogue of the Jews**. (It is believed that many Jews migrated to Thessalonica, probably because at this time it was one of the largest metropolitans in the Roman world, and generally, they could find excellent work and not be bothered for being Jewish because there were so many different people located here.)



After the 1917 fire Thessalonica was rebuilt and it significantly developed becoming the second largest city of Greece and its main manufacturing and trading center; in recent years during excavations aimed at replacing small buildings with larger ones, remains of the Roman town were unearthed. They consist of a double portico which surrounded a large rectangular square having at one end an *odeon*, a small covered theatre; they are thought to have been built in the late 1st century AD.

And because there was a synagogue there, Paul was attracted to this area.

Without getting involved in a study of the synagogue.

What is interesting is the Greek word: ***sunagoge***: synagogue means to gather to

assemble. And then the Greek word for church **ekklesia**, also, means to assemble; it was used in secular Greek for the assembly of the called out ones of the city.

Synagogues started appearing throughout Israel after the return from Babylonian captivity.

Once again, we see how important the Babylonian captivity was to Israel.

Throughout all Israel and outside Israel, Jews started meeting together to read the **Books of Moses** (called **THE LAW**) and to discuss topics that concerned the Jews.

Philo (*an Hellenistic Jewish philosopher –born 25 bc; d 50 AD*) called synagogues “**houses of instruction**” in the Law.

By the time of JESUS CHRIST “teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath day” was already an established institution.

By the time of JESUS CHRIST, preaching, prayer and discussion of Old Testament Scripture could be led by anyone.

Therefore, Paul, an ex-Pharisee, would be listened to in synagogues.

² **And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths** (this is where some contend that he was here for only three weeks, which seems highly unlikely) **reasoned with them from the Scriptures, reasoned** (is the Greek

dialegomai where we get the English word ***dialogue***.

The Greek word means to speak back and forth, to converse with, to reason, or to present intelligent discourse.)

Now what is important here is the source of what Paul spoke of... **from the Scriptures.** This of course refers to the Old Testament Scriptures.

Paul would come into these synagogues and show the people that this Jesus was a fulfillment of multitude of Old Testament passages. People our final authority is the Word of God.
“the Word of God is alive and powerful”

3 explaining and giving evidence

(from OLD TESTAMENT Scriptures, the writings of the prophets of old; the King James) **opening** (is an idiom for explaining or interpreting, but, of course, I like the idea of **“open your bibles”** and, of course, the people did not have bibles, the printing press will not come along until invented by Johannes Gutenberg, around AD 1440.)

But of course, being a Pharisee, Paul knew Scripture of OLD TESTAMENT and stood up and reasoned with the people on this Jesus as a fulfillment of OLD TESTAMENT Scriptures, something by the way that is still denied by many ‘scholars’. Paul would make clear that OLD TESTAMENT was speaking of JESUS CHRIST.

3 **that the Christ** (the anointed one, the Messiah) **had to suffer** (death on the cross) **and rise again from the dead,** (THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE EARTH. This is an important phrase. A multitude of people, including Martin Luther and the Roman Catholic Church even today, still blames the Jews for the death of JESUS CHRIST. How simple that is to overlook that it was the Romans who crucified JESUS CHRIST.)

But Acts 17:3 is not speaking of the Romans nor of the Jews.

But as to the phrase **had to suffer** is from the imperfect of the verb meaning *needs, is necessary –inevitable* plus the Aorist Active Infinitive of an interesting Greek word **pascho**, which unfortunately is always translated “*to suffer*”.

It means to be affected by something – to experience something.

It can be used in a good sense –so as to **experience something;** or in a bad sense—**to suffer**. So if you want to get your theology correct, JESUS CHRIST had to experience death or suffer death, and this is not from the Jews nor from the Romans but ultimately from God Himself.;

Acts 3:18

18 **“But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the**

prophets, (OLD TESTAMENT Scriptures)

that His Christ (the only Messiah appointed by Him)
would suffer, (experience death) **He** (JESUS CHRIST)
has thus fulfilled. (His Cross-work.)

Another interesting passage where this word is incorrectly translated is in Galatians 3:4.

⁴ **Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain?** (Look in the margin of the NASV) –**experience – do you experience so many things—**(like Salvation and receiving the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit,) **in vain, if indeed it was in vain.**

Question:

How Can Receiving The Indwelling Of The Holy Spirit Be In Vain?

By never calling on Him to work in you!

And how or why would you not call on the Holy Spirit?

Because you want to do all the works yourself.

We live by FAITH

FAITH in JESUS CHRIST

and

FAITH in The Holy Spirit

and

When you are walking by FAITH in The Holy Spirit

You will experience so many Wonderful Things.

Act 17:3

3 **Explaining and giving evidence** (from the Scriptures) **that the Christ** (Messiah) **had to suffer or experience death and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I** (Paul) **am proclaiming** (announce) **to you** (for your advantage) **is the Christ.”**

Title of **MESSIAH**: One Anointed by God.

The Present Active Indicative means that Paul proclaimed this over and over, probably by referring to different Old Testament passages of Scripture, since he is explaining to them from the Scriptures.

And for the record, you know that ‘**Christ**’ is a transliteration, not a translation from the Greek. That is it is formed from the letters of the Greek word *christos*, and the translation is **Messiah**, or **Anointed One**.

Now, for our interest in the study of **1 and 2 Thessalonians**, we find that three groups are specifically mentioned as responding to the gospel call by Paul.

4 **And some of them** (Jews) **were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas,** (I really like the King

James here...) **and some of them believed**, (the Greek word used does not specifically mean to believe but it means to be persuaded or moved to believe.)

And the Aorist Passive Indicative is important here:

The Passive voice means they receiving being persuaded and the Aorist tense points out this is a one shot decision!

You believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior-Messiah, one time, and that is it for your lifetime, even if later you try to retract that belief.

Once anyone, everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST, God gives them some 34 things and God does not take them back.

You Are Secure For All Eternity

And the Indicative mood reveals the reality of their Salvation.

Verse 4 **and some of them** (Jews) **were persuaded** (by the Scriptures and convicting work of the Holy Spirit) **to believe** (that this Jesus is indeed the promised Messiah.) **And joined Paul and Silas** (to join in like mindedness. We have not studied Silas. First of all, he is most likely a Hellenistic Jew, and a Roman citizen. He joined Paul, after Paul and Barnabas separated over young Mark. Apparently Silas was well versed in handling questions from Jews about gentiles, so he joined Paul on Paul's Second Missionary journey.)

along with a large number of the God-

fearing Greeks (the Greek describing these gentiles has been variously translated: King James *devout*, others: *worshippers of God, serve and worship God* and the worst one: **Gentiles who had converted to Judaism**. The Greek word used to describe these gentiles is *sebomai* from the root ‘to worship’ and is a participle so we will translate this:) **and a large number of worshipping gentiles** (These are gentiles how had been gathering with these Jews in the synagogue and, while not converting to Judaism, believed in the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. And upon hearing Paul they were persuaded by the Scriptures that this Jesus was the Savior they worshipped.

Then there was a third group that readily believed what Paul was teaching from the Scriptures about this Jesus.

and a number (Greek says ‘not a few”) **of the leading women.**

The word for leading was used to describe women who were prominent in the city, perhaps in business or even in politics. Before we move on let us look at the congregation where Paul could cover a great number of doctrines. First there were Jews with a Jewish background but who were knowledgeable and opened to Old Testament Scripture telling of events going on in their day.

Then there were a number of gentiles—more than just Greeks who

knew some Old Testament Scripture and were 'learners' they listened and believed what the Scriptures had to say. Then this group recognized and welcomed ladies into their assembly. This is the group Paul could teach a great deal of doctrine in three weeks or two months.

In fact, this group was so impressive that they immediately attracted the attention of those hostile to Paul's teaching and we have Satan's counter attack against the gospel and teaching of THE WORD OF GOD.

5 **But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.** (See, this is not a 21st century technique this has been going on all through history, and the reason why...it works;... just as it is working across America today.

Don't miss the opening particle **but...** verse one we open with the same particle: **de** and in verse 1 it is used to introduce a transition, but here it is important to note it as a strong adversative, introducing opposition to what preceded.

But the Jews (now look back at verse 4)

some of them believed

(that's nice, but what about those who did not believe? Well, that

is who we have here.) **But** (*some of*) **the Jews becoming jealous.** (The King James has seen fit to describe these Jews adds) **which believed not** (this is not found in the Greek manuscript.)

But the Jews becoming jealous (Aorist participle of the Greek word for *zeal*; to be zealous, filled with zeal, and it can be either good or bad. It means to make a show of your emotion. Here these Jews are zealous for their own movement and became *jealous* that many were turning to the teaching of Paul and Silas.

Jealousy is one of the most destructive **Mental Attitude Sins.**

Jealousy can also be described as a defense mechanism of the flesh nature. It is part of the flesh immune system and therefore when it feels threatened, jealousy is like one of the T cells in our immune system that come in defense of the flesh.

But jealousy is destructive to the person as AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is to the body. The human immune system does not recognize HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) as destructive to the body and so the body is destroyed by its own immune system. So it is with jealousy. People, jealousy is a fire that will destroy you; destroy your marriage; destroy your life. It leads to murder; to getting rid of the object of your jealousy. So here, these Jews think they will solve their problems by getting rid of this Paul and Silas.

5 **But the Jews, becoming jealous and**

taking along some wicked men from the market place,

(KJ) ***took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort***

(NIV) **they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace,**

Another **so they gathered some troublemakers from the marketplace**

Another **and taking some wicked men of the rabble**

Another **and brought together some scoundrels from marketplace,**

Another **and they took some contemptible characters who used to hang out in the public square**

Another **gathering together some worthless men from the rabble in the marketplace**

Another **They took some low-class characters who hung around the public square**

Another **some wicked men of the vulgar sort**

The Greek is the word *poneros* means: evil in a moral or spiritual sense, wicked, malicious, mischievous--plus the word meaning the

gathering a crowd. And these are the upright religious leaders.

But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men who hang out in the market place, (what did they hire these troublemakers to do?) **formed a mob and set the city in an uproar;**

(aroused a riot; so they have everyone there in an emotional high, ready to hurt if not kill someone...and so)

and attacking the house (not attacking the people but assaulting upon the house) **of Jason,**

This is the Greek form of the Hebrew name **Joshua** meaning **deliverer**; probably one of the converts of the synagogue who quickly befriended Paul and Silas-which is going to get him into some trouble.

they (this includes the religious Jews; the troublemakers and the religious Jews) **were seeking to bring them** (Paul and Silas) **out to the people** (this includes the mob but specifically to the city judges.)

6 **When they** (the Jewish religious leaders who started this whole riot) **did not find them,** (they did not find Paul or Silas in Jason's house) **they began dragging** (the Greek word carries the force of being violent) **Jason and some brethren** (the Greek construction here used by

Luke would mean that Jason was also a believer.

Newman and Nida point out by looking at Acts 1:14

14 **These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with *the* women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.** (Mary is not to be excluded from ‘the women’.)

Also Acts 9:41

41 **And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.** (Certainly does not mean that the widows are not also believers. And so it is in our study that Jason was dragged out with other brethren.)

before the city authorities, (Macedonian city council) **shouting, “These men** (Paul and Silas) **who have upset the world have come here also;**

It is obvious that since they are not even there, they did not cause the upset that is going on right now in Thessalonica. The Greek word ‘**upset**’ means to stir up to sedition to excite. **Note the exaggeration --the world** that is the civilized world or the Roman Empire. Well, Paul has not made it to Rome as yet, but he

will stir up Rome before he dies.

The point they are making is that he has caused trouble everywhere he goes and has now come to Thessalonica to cause trouble.

It should be noted that the religious Jews follow Paul wherever he goes and they cause trouble, we saw this in our study of Galatians.

7 and Jason has welcomed them, and they all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.”

Uh oh, this is what happened to Jesus in His trials before Pilate. He was not found guilty but neither let go a freeman and was crucified.

Here we learn about this Jason, he *welcomed them* the Greek word is rich and beautiful; it means to show kindness and hospitality. While every believer should be hospitable, some are given the gift of hospitality by the Holy Spirit. They overflow with kindness. And this seems to be the case with this Jason.

Now the Religious crowd really pour it on:

they all act contrary to the decrees (laws he has given us) **of Casear,** (Claudius AD 41-54) **saying that there is another king,** (someone else other

than Claudius is king and that is) **Jesus.**

Pilate interrogated Jesus on this very issue and was satisfied that Jesus was not trying to lead a riot or usurp the authority of Caesar.

But this is one of those catch all charges that no one in the Roman empire wants to deal with. Yes, Jesus is The King, but He has not yet come to set up His kingdom.

8 They stirred up the crowd and the city authorities who heard these things.

Don't you love it---**They** Paul and Silas are the troublemakers, they have stirred up the crowd. Let's see, it was Paul and Silas who went into the inner city and hired some troublemakers to stir up a riot!

It was not Paul and Silas who worked up the crowd, no, it was these same self-Righteous religious leaders who have caused all this trouble.

Today, we hear it is the police who are causing all this trouble. It is the police who are stirring up the riots that destroy property. So this tactic has been used throughout history.

Hitler convinced the country of Germany that it was the Jews fault for the economic decline and the loss of World War I was the Jews' fault.

*People are ready to believe lies when they can blame someone.
And Thessalonica is no different.*

- 9 **And when they had received a pledge from Jason and the others, they released them.** The Greek word for pledge means to ‘**post bond**’ And the bond was the Paul and Silas would not return to their quarters. This satisfied the council, and Jason and the other believers were released.

As we close out our introduction to this topic study of Thessalonians, let us note a few things:

- 1 Paul tried more than once to return to encourage and teach these believers but Satan knew how hungry these believers were to learn the Word of God and prevented Paul from returning.

1 Thessalonians 2:18

For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.

Always remember that when God allows Satan this kind of power, God has other plans. Here, it was to keep these believers hungry and devoted to walking by the Holy Spirit.

- 2 The persecution of these believers did not stop, after getting rid of Paul

1 Thessalonians 2:14 **For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,**

3 Not only Satan but Paul makes it clear that the religious Jews also persecuted him.

1 Thessalonians 2:15 **who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men,**
(this describes religious zealots)

4

YET

WITH ALL THIS OPPOSITION
WITH THIS PERSECUTION
THESE BELIEVERS
KEEP GROWING IN THE WORDS OF PAUL
AND WALKING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

**To The Point... that Because of Their Sufferings
Paul Could Teach These People of
The Coming Days of Suffering Before The Rapture**

and

Then The Rapture Itself.

Their lives were characterized by Spiritual Love.

- *2 Thessalonians 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren as is *only* fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater;