

Judgment of the Second Coming of Our Lord

2 Thessalonians 1:6

1 **Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:**

4 **therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.**

5 ***This is* a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.**

6 **For after all it is *only* Since it is just** (demonstrating that all judgments by God are righteous.) (This is the same word we translated) ***righteous*** (in verse 5...) (so here) **since it is only righteous for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,** (I hope you see it—it is not up to us to repay vengeance, to repay when someone has wronged us.)

We come to this principle again. We all know most if not all the things **WE ARE NOT TO DO TO ONE ANOTHER.**
BUT, WHAT ARE WE TO DO WHEN SOMEONE DOES THESE THINGS TO US?

Most Christians live by the code that when someone wrongs you...that is it, all grace is off. I can now get even with you! Sorry that is not according to the Word of God. **“Wait a minute, it is only right that they pay for the wrong done to me”** It says it right here in this verse.

Yes, but note who will not be doing the repaying, and who will be doing the repaying. We will not be doing the repaying and it is up to God to take care of the repaying.

6 **for after all it is only righteous for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, to repay** (is the Aorist Infinitive of a verb that can refer to repaying in a good sense –to recompense or to reward or in a bad sense: to repay evil with evil, to avenge.)

Of course our context here is in a bad sense, for God will repay **with affliction—**(tribulation—trouble, affliction.) **Those who afflict you** (same word.)

Two major points from this verse:

FIRSTLY: VENGEANCE BELONGS TO GOD:

Deuteronomy 32:36 **vengeance is Mine;**

Romans 12:19

19 **Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.**

Hebrews 10: 30-31

30 **For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."**

31 **It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

SECONDLY: WHEN?

when does verse 6 become an historical reality?

The Second Advent:

The Tribulation is the worst environment in human history.

It will end with a demonstration of God's Righteous wrath on all unbelievers.

History has never been as horrifying as it will be in The Tribulation.

Verses 7-9 Baptism of Fire on unbelieving Gentiles and unbelieving Jews.

7 **and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, (Second Advent)**

8 **dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** (refuse to believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.)

9 **These** (unbelievers) **will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,**

The King James is correct from the original manuscript

7 **And to you** (believers suffering in Thessalonica) **the ones afflicted** (Present Passive Participle—*the ones continually receiving affliction.*)

Next we have a beautiful phrase: **rest with us**

This Greek word means more than just to **rest**; it means to loose, Liberty, **rest**. It is in juxtaposition with suffering affliction.

Eschatological rest is a reference to being loosened from affliction and entering into a **rest** of being with JESUS CHRIST for all eternity. This is a **rest** that every one of you who have believed in JESUS CHRIST has as a hope, a confidence for all eternity.

ETERNAL REST
FROM AFFLICTION
IN THIS SPIRITUAL CONFLICT!

(this even sounds nice)

Rest with us All believers from the Church Age will enjoy this loosening and eternal rest from affliction.

Principle:

As You Experience Affliction In Your Life,
Just Remember This Will Soon Pass
And Give Way To Eternal Rest.

Rest with us when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels.

Note in NASV

with His mighty angels in flaming fire

While the King James

In flaming fire taking vengeance in verse 8.

Original manuscript

with His angels of power in flaming fire giving full vengeance.

Rest with us when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven shall be revealed (is not a verb; is it noun *APOKALUPSIS* to be revealed, revelation, uncovering, unveiling, disclosure)

By the revelation of the Lord Jesus from (out from) **heaven**

JESUS CHRIST (as God, became man and entered the human race and into human history, lived a sinless life, was crucified because of our sins, was buried and 3 days and 3 nights later rose from the dead and 40 days later ascended into heaven, where He sits right now on the Right Hand of God, on God's Throne, hidden to the world, but after 7 years of The Tribulation, will stand up and leave heaven and return to earth where He will be seen by all in judgment.)

This gives us a clear understanding of Colossians 3:1

1 **Therefore if-Since you have been raised up with Christ**, (our position in Christ, therefore, while you are alive and live here on earth) **keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**
(in heaven)

2 **Set your mind** (daily thinking) **on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.**

3 **For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

4 **When Christ, who is our life**, (When you are out of the Filling of the Holy Spirit and in the flesh, you are not living,) **is revealed**, (this is our verse in 2 Thessalonians 1:7---revelation of JESUS CHRIST) **then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**

2 Thessalonians 1:7

7 **And to you the ones receiving affliction, rest with us when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven**

This not only gives the time but also

THE MEANS OF THIS JUDGMENT.

IT WILL BE BY THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST,

WHEN:

AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST!

with—together with His angels of power *DUNAMIS*

(English: dynamite) the Greek word means power or ability

in flaming fire and the Greek construction shows that their power is not theirs but is also from the Lord...

together with His angels of His power

We saw in Matthew 25:31

He will come *and all His angels with Him* and JESUS CHRIST vividly teaches this in Matthew 13:36

36 **Then He** (Jesus the Christ) **left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”**

37 **and He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,**

38 **and the field is the world; and *as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom;*** (those who believe in Him as Savior) **and the tares are the sons of the evil one;**

39 **and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.**

This is at the Second coming of JESUS CHRIST.

40 **“So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.**

41 **“The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, (all unbelievers)**

42 **and will throw them into the furnace of fire;** (lake of fire for all eternity) **in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

43 **“Then THE RIGHTEOUS** (ALL WHO BELIEVE) **WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.**

You better pay close attention to Scripture.

We have been compelled to study the part angels play throughout the entire Plan of God especially in service of Jesus.

<1> Angels prophesied His return to the earth. Acts 1:10-11

<2> In the midst of The Tribulation God will send an angel to be sure every person on earth hears the everlasting gospel. Revelation 14:6-8

<3> His angels will come with Him at the Second Advent Matthew 25:31.

<4> In Matthew 24:31 His angels will gather believing Jews from all over the earth and bring them to Israel.

8 **dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** (refuse to believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.) **Dealing out retribution** (This is a pitiful translation and the King James is not much better with) ***taking vengeance***

First we have Present Participle of the verb *to give* followed by the noun meaning to execute justice

Look back at verse 5

God's righteous judgment (and here is a demonstration of God's righteous judgment) **giving or making or executing right justice.**

Why not translate this word with the translation **taking vengeance?**

Please notice those upon whom this judgment is given.

It does not specify those who have caused suffering on believers in Jesus Christ.

No!

It is a righteous judgment against those **who do not know God even to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.**

Who do not know God (this introduces the first step of coming to Salvation; Believing in the existence of God at God consciousness.)

We could spend hours on this but note Romans 1 where we have the trail of rejecting the truth of the existence of God.

Romans 1:18-22

18 **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**
19 **because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.**

20 **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.**

21 **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.**

22 **Professing to be wise, they became fools,**

Romans 1:25

25 **For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**

Romans 1:28

28 **And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,**

2 Thessalonians 1:9

9 **executing righteous judgment to those who do not know God**

These people have made a volitional decision not to know God.

Psalm 14:1

1 **The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”**
They are corrupt, (this is what we are seeing in
2 Thessalonians 1, in the ways they persecute the believers)
they have committed abominable deeds; (gross
immorality)
There is no one who does good.

8 **Executing righteous judgment** (revealing the wrath of
God) **to those who do not know God and to those
who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus**

First, note the two issues involved in being saved:

1st to know and believe God *and*

2nd to believe in Jesus as the Christ...

Question:

HOW DOES ONE OBEY THE GOSPEL?

Answer:

**BY FAITH,
BY BELIEVING IN JESUS CHRIST
AS THEIR PERSONAL SAVIOR.**

John 3:36

36 **“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but
he who does not obey the Son (that is, does not believe
in the Son) **will not see life, but the wrath of God
abides on him.”****

The wrath of God is the righteous judgment we are reading in 2 Thessalonians 1:8.

8 **and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus**

In 1 Thessalonians 2:2,8 and 9 —***gospel of God***

In 1 Thessalonians 3:2 —***gospel of Christ*** and

In 1 Thessalonians 1:5 —***our gospel***

All of these refer to the same gospel.

Here in our passage, the **gospel of our Lord Jesus** means the gospel that He brings and the gospel about Him.

The obedience that God is always looking for is
THE OBEDIENCE THAT IS FAITH.

Romans 1:5.

2 Thessalonians 1:9

9 **These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,**

It is extremely popular in churches today to deny eternal wrath, eternal existence in Lake of fire and teach that everyone will be saved.

This is Satan's own lie!

I am amused by people who claim to believe the bible, but then add, "*I don't believe this or that*" that is clearly declared in the Word of God.

Such rejection denies verses like this one, that makes the judgment by God that people who refuse to believe in JESUS CHRIST will spend all eternity separated from God and that this is a Righteous Judgment.

This verse describes the Baptism of Fire for all unbelieving Jews and all unbelieving Gentiles.

These will pay the penalty... The Greek word *to pay* is used only here in New Testament. In Classical Greek it was most often used in a judicial setting, a judicial hearing, a sentence—to pay a penalty or to suffer punishment. In some hearings you may have to pay a financial fine or financial burden. But in others you will have to bear physical suffering.

Therefore, in the King James: **who shall be punished.**

¹ **THEY ARE NOT BEING PUNISHED BECAUSE OF THEIR SINS.** They are not being punished because of the way they treat Christians.

² On the cross Jesus paid the punishment for sins of everyone. No one is punished because of sins.

³ People, unbelievers and believers are disciplined by God in time because of sins, but not punished.

⁴ What is the difference between punishment and discipline?

Punishment (before God) looks only on the past, is due to the past only, while discipline looks to the future. You do something wrong—sin—God disciplines, with the design that we will not commit that sin again.

This is a good lesson for all parents to remember, you don't come in and beat the child for something they did, but you carefully think out a discipline (which for the younger may include sparing not the rod) but you carefully think through what is the most constructive way to discipline where they will be most likely to remember and not do this again.

⁵ What is the contextual structure of 2 Thessalonians 1:

a. Verses 1-4

these believers are suffering persecutions and afflictions.

b. verse 5

begins a discussion on righteous judgments by God

c. verse 6-7

At the Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST these persecutions and afflictions will end.

d. verses 8-9

these will suffer severe eternal judgment from God not for the suffering they inflicted on the believers but for their refusal to believe in God and in Jesus as Savior

e. Verses 10-12
Second Advent of JESUS CHRIST and blessings to those who believe in JESUS CHRIST

f. **QUESTION:**
What is the contextual relationship between the persecutions and afflictions of these believers and the eternal judgment of those who refuse to believe in JESUS CHRIST?

ANSWER:
All through the bible it speaks of how those who refuse to believe in God and in His Promised Messiah, Jesus the Christ, live a life that is immoral and abusive to others.

Psalm 14:1

1 **The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."**
They are corrupt, they have committed
abominable deeds; There is no one who does
good.

Who shall be punished eternal destruction

First thing you want to realize is this word *destruction* is not annihilation but unavoidable suffering and torment and yes, it is for all eternity.

There are many who try to escape having to come face to face
with decision
for or against JESUS CHRIST
by simply saying that once we die,
that is it...
there is no after-life.

Two things wrong with this position:

Firstly: They have made a decision about JESUS CHRIST —
they have decided not to believe in Him.

Secondly: There **IS** Life after Death;

Eternal Life with Christ in His Glory

-or-

Eternal Suffering away from JESUS CHRIST.

The Bible is very clear that this suffering is for all eternity.

We have seen Matthew 25:46

46 **“These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”**

Mark 9:48

48 **where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.**

Revelation 14:10

10 **...he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.**

11 **“And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” who shall be punished eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord**

People will be in eternal destruction,
not because of sins,
Christ bore that punishment for them,
**BUT BECAUSE
THEY REFUSED
TO BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST.**

Being separated from the Lord is directly involved in the destruction. Think about it, even for us as believers, when we are away from the Lord, we fall, we fail, we experience pain.

The interesting thing about **eternity** is that everyone will be thinking of JESUS CHRIST :

- those with Him will be rejoicing in His Glory,
- those away from Him will be thinking, maybe screaming His name, ‘why did I reject Jesus as my Christ.’

and from the glory of His Power There are so many aspects of the **eternal glory** of JESUS CHRIST , here Paul mentions *the GLORY OF HIS POWER*.

Why does Paul mention *being eternally removed from the glory of His power?*

Because it is this power that saves man forever.

Paul will bring together glory and JESUS CHRIST in
2 Thessalonians 2:14

14 **It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Romans 1:16

16 **For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

1 Corinthians 1:18

18 **For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

The gospel reveals the glory of the saving Power of JESUS CHRIST .
This glory belongs to JESUS CHRIST because of His power to save.

Verse 10 tells that this penalty of eternal destruction accompanies
the Second Advent of JESUS CHRIST and the Church.

10 **when He JESUS CHRIST comes (Second Advent) to be glorified in His saints on that day,** (This refers to believers who return with JESUS CHRIST to the earth at His Second Advent: this is a reference to the believers of the Church Age.)

At *The Rapture* we will be (1) taken up to meet the Lord in the air: (2) receive our Resurrected Bodies, (3) attend the Judgment Seat of Christ, (4) then be prepared for the marriage supper and then (5) we will return with the Lord, and (6) in our being with Him JESUS CHRIST will be glorified.

and to be marveled at among all who have believed—

This refers to all those who will believe in JESUS CHRIST during The Tribulation. (*The Rapture will remove all believers from the earth, meaning the Tribulation starts out with unbelievers only.*) But due to the angel who will present the gospel to everyone on earth and the ministry of the 144,000 giving the gospel throughout the world; many will come to believe in JESUS CHRIST during the time of The Tribulation.

And when these believers see JESUS CHRIST coming in glory with all the believers from the Church Age, they will all marvel at this Jesus.

This Greek word means to be struck with admiration at this Jesus, (*remember this will be the first time they actually see Jesus*) and here **He is in Glory with all the saints of the Church AGE.** This verb is an Aorist Passive—meaning that at that point where they see Him coming to earth, they will receive being astonished at their Savior. JESUS CHRIST returns to the earth with all His angels and with all the believers of the Church to deliver tribulational believers by the removal of all unbelievers.

for our testimony (teaching) **to you** (for your advantage) **was believed.**

This explains their hope, confidence at the Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST. And there will be people saved throughout The Tribulation, in the midst of suffering.

In verse 11, all this causes Paul to go into prayer once again. Over and Over throughout 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Paul goes into prayer.

Oh, believers, I pray
*that you constantly walk by
Faith in the Holy Spirit,*
that you constantly pray to God the Father;
that you constantly glorify JC;
*that you constantly love One Another
with Spiritual Love*
and
*that you constantly grow
in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST
in His Word.*