

How Not To Be Shaken In Your Understanding of The Bible

Satan's Lies and Distortions Disturb Many Christians

2 Thessalonians 2:1-6

Conflict of Two Plans

Verse 1 **God's Plan**

Verse 2 **Satan's Plan**

1 **Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,**

2 **that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.**

Now introduces a movement to why Paul was writing to them; it can be understood: **now, let us move to the real problem**

We request you, brethren this is written to those who have believed in JESUS CHRIST as Savior, this is not about the gospel, this is about something very important in their Christian life.

With regard to or concerning (your questions) This word introduces the purpose of Paul's writing 2 Thessalonians. Now in answer to or concerning your questions.

This introduces **two issues** of great importance to every believer.

(1) **The coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

(2) **Our Gathering Together to Him**

These are two great issues that should determine how we live each day.

The **Coming** of Our Lord Jesus Christ
There are two great '*comings*' of our Lord,
both described by the word ***Parousia***
which means **coming**,
and a careful study of the context will determine
which coming is being referred.

First, historically, is His **coming** at *The Rapture* of the Church.
His COMING IN THE AIR and calling home His Church.

He does not touch the earth at this **coming**,
we are taken up—*raptured*,
and **Meet Him in the Air**.

Then some 7 year later His '**coming**' is
The SECOND ADVENT OF JESUS CHRIST to earth.
This is what we studied in Matthew 24-25.

Now for the phrase
our gathering together to Him (to be with Him).

This is not something we do 'actively'—'by decision',
this is something we receive in a passive sense.
We each receive being gathered together with the Lord.

Being gathered is yet another word for *Rapture*. *The Rapture* is the
gathering together of all believers of the Church Age to Meet the Lord in
the Air.

Critics of *The Rapture*, like to say that
this is a modern term and does not occur
in the Bible. Ok, the term '*rapture*'
itself may not be in the Bible, but terms

like, 'snatched up' 'taken up', 'taken away', or 'gathered together with Him' are used; these terms do occur in the Bible.

So if you are talking with someone and they protest against the term Rapture, ask them if they are opposed to the phrase 'gathered together with Him' ?

OK, then forget rapture and lets just talk about being 'gathered together with Him'; in fact, this is a much more intimate way of expressing what is going to happen than the word Raptured.

People, this is a wonderful concept to which we should be motivated to live each day in anticipation

—*to be gathered together with our Lord JESUS CHRIST—*

think about it!

In 1 Thessalonians 1:10

we saw the first word describing *The Rapture* of the church.

10 We are **rescued out from the wrath to come**. We saw what this word means and all that is involved in it. This word is translated: **who rescues us out from the wrath to come;** or **who delivers us**.

The Greek lexicon says: **to draw**, or **SNATCH** from danger, to **RESCUE** or to **DELIVER**. To get a full picture of what *The Rapture* is all about, the lexicon goes on to say:

this is more with the meaning of drawing to oneself than merely rescuing from someone or something.

I WANT YOU TO APPRECIATE YOUR LOVING SAVIOR HERE.
A FIREMAN WILL RUSH IN AND RESCUE A CHILD FROM A
BURNING BUILDING, BUT A MOTHER WILL RUSH IN AND
PULL THAT CHILD TO HER BREAST IN RESCUING HIM
FROM THE BURNING FIRE.

JESUS CHRIST ACTUALLY DRAWS US TO HIMSELF,
OUT OF THE WORLD,
AND OUT OF THE WRATH TO COME.

The Passive voice emphasizes that we receive being pulled to Him and rescued out from the wrath to come.

This Passive Voice emphasizes the **grace, concern** and **love** of our Savior. He saved everyone who believes in Him from the Penalty of sin, from the torments of eternal damnation. But here He pulls us to Himself and delivers us from the wrath to come in the seven years of Tribulation.

So the first thing we want to learn about *The Rapture* is that
Jesus comes and pulls us out of the wrath
to come by pulling us close to Himself.

We saw another word for '*rapture*' in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 **caught up**
The Greek word is *harpazo* **seize upon, spoil, snatch away.**
Rescued to Himself or caught up or *harpazod!*

So while the designation 'Rapture' may be new the concept is right from
the Word of God. Up until the 1700s people knew they had a broken
bone, but later learned they were the metatarsals. So did people
not have bones in their feet until 1700s? Of course they did,
but not by that name. So it is with *The Rapture*, it was talked about and
believed in the first century of the Church Age.

Also note in 1 Thessalonians 4:17

17 **...caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.**

And here in 2 Thessalonians 2:1

1 **our gathering together to Him.**

Two different ways of expressing the same wonder and blessing to believers.

Still more assurance is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:10

10 **...we will live together with Him.**

The Rapture of the Church, being gathered together with Him,
is an **ACT OF LOVE.**

JESUS CHRIST LOVE FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE CHURCH.

Now for the entire phrase:

the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him.

You will note even in the English that both these phrases are governed by one definite article, which grammatically **combines two parts to one event.** In other words, both these phrases refer to the same event.

The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

refers to His coming in the air at *The Rapture* and

our gathering together to Him

refers to the result or even purpose of *The Rapture* when we will all be gathered together with our Lord.

Please remember that as soon as a believer dies in the Church Age,
that the believer is Face-to-Face with the Lord.

But at *The Rapture*
we are all—corporately will gather together with the Lord,
not in the third heaven,
(which is where JESUS CHRIST is seated at the throne of God;)
right now
and
this is where we will be with Him...
If we die before *The Rapture*.

But at *The Rapture* we will all be Resurrected—
—given a Resurrected Body and will Meet the Lord in the Air.

And people, we should live for this wonderful day!

There is so much to be noted by this reality.

We, you, will be joined together with every other believer to Meet the Lord in the Air.

Therefore, stop judging One Another,
back-biting One Another,
competing with One Another
and instead,
Serve One Another in love,
Encourage One Another,
Restore One Another

Remembering every moment that you will be with that believer at this gathering to JESUS CHRIST at *The Rapture*.

One other point on our being rescued away off this earth into the arms or our Lord is that until that happens, Satan's plans are held back. But once we are removed—along with the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit then Satan can begin his plans that will describe The Tribulation.

One final point on verse 1, that is so important for us today. The noun translated **gathering together** is used but one other time in the New Testament.

In Hebrews 10:25

25 **not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.**

So this word is used of the **gathering together** of believers in a local assembly. In our passage here in 2 Thessalonians 2:1, it is used of our **gathering together** with Christ at *The Rapture*.

This gives strong importance to the gathering together of believers at the local church. The Complete Word Study Dictionary of New Testament says the prepositional prefix giving us this word **gathering together** –to meet, “*must refer to Christ Himself as the one to whom this assembly was attached. Thus it would have the meaning of not betraying one’s attachment to Jesus Christ and other believers, not avoiding one’s own personal responsibility as part of the body of Christ.*”

This **gathering together** of believers in the local church actually foreshadows and anticipates the wonderful waited for day when we are all **gathered together** with the Lord to be together with Him forever.

At *The Rapture* we will be **gathered together** with Him and when we meet together in the local church we are together with Him.

So living in anticipation of *The Rapture* means that we will consistently gather together in the local church here on earth.

So as we assemble ourselves here to worship God and Christ, look around and think,

“WOW, ONE DAY WE WILL ALL ASSEMBLY TOGETHER TO MEET THE LORD IN THE AIR.”

Here should be your motivation to come to the local church to assemble with other believers centered on JESUS CHRIST
—and our gathering together to Him—
describes now, in our life time, at *The Rapture* and for all eternity.

The more we understand and anticipate *The Rapture*,
the Meeting of the Lord in the Air,
the more this will impact our lives,
how we live,... even not forsaking the assembly.

This is God’s plan...to be brought together in Christ, in time and in eternity. But Satan has his plan, and his plan causes disruption to believers.

2 **that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.**

This verse is packed with Spiritual Warfare and Satan’s plans and tactics.

First of all note two things Satan loves to do to believers **shaken and disturbed**

Secondly, note three sources he uses:

(1> by means of a demon (spirit)

(2> by oral teaching of a false message

(3> by a letter: a forgery of course

Now we request you...that—for the purpose that you not be quickly shaken from your composure

Negative **not**

plus the adverb **quickly**

plus the Aorist Active Infinitive of the verb **to be shaken,**

to wave to and fro the **absence of stability; to be unsettled,**

it even means to **be confused or troubled** to the point of being **upset.**

The question here is

DOES THIS—QUICKLY – HAVE A TEMPORAL MEANING—QUICKLY?

or

DOES THIS ADVERB REFER TO MANNER—*EASILY*?

It refers to both:

Some believers are quickly disturbed and confused; generally this refers to new believers. Or it can refer to *manner*.

These believers listen to false teaching and are easily disturbed.

Unfortunately many believers who are confused or disturbed will run, that is, they will just ignore this whole issue and not seek the truth.

From your composure I have no idea why they translated this word *COMPOSURE*, which distracts from the point the Holy Spirit is making.

This should be **so quickly shaken in your mind**

So we learn...

**What Satan desires to do is
cause believers to be shaken in their minds concerning truth.**

We have seen this over and over that
**the battle is in your mind,
your thinking,
your stability of thinking.**

To be thrown into confusion in your mind, that is in your thinking.

TO BE SHAKEN FROM WHAT YOU BELIEVED!!!

The Aorist tense of being shaken is important here; the Aorist tense views the whole process of being shaken and this is important.

The process may be a combination of the three sources...
**demons or
your listening to false teaching or
being interested in false messages.**

Or be disturbed *upset, troubled* This is a Present Passive—which means that these believers *receive* being disturbed by **listening to false messages** or interested in the doctrine of demons or in **reading false messages**, and unfortunately the Present tense means they have more than once or twice listened to false teaching.

**Christian you must be so careful who you listened to
in the teaching of the Word of God.**

Not only are individual *believers shaken and disturbed* but the *entire assembly* is **shaken and confused**. They are talking with One Another and no one among them has any final word or authority.

Either OK, this introduces the genius of Satan;
He knows that believers differ in their approach to the Truth of Scripture, and so he had devised a multitude of ways of confusing believers.

By a spirit The Greek word *PNEUMA* spans some 6 pages in one lexicon, and, of course, we could spend a long time on this but let us “cut to the chase”.

In this context this word refers to a fallen angel, a servant of Satan, a demon.

1 Timothy 4:1 warns of the Doctrine of Demons:

1 **But the Spirit** (this is a refer to the Holy Spirit) **explicitly says that in later times some** (believers) **will fall away from the faith,** (stop living by faith alone) **paying attention** (“this is a nautical term; it means to hold a ship in a direction, to sail towards. Intransitively it means to hold on one’s course toward a place”. Here it refers to what is going on in the mind—instead of paying attention to the Word of God, they are) **paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,**

deceitful And this is what it means for Satan knows that humans are so easily deceived and easily seduced away from the truth.

One of the five descriptions of the flesh nature is **deceitful above all else** Jeremiah 17:

And Eve was deceived in the garden 1 Timothy 2 :14 **deceitful spirits** fallen angels used by Satan throughout the **ANGELIC CONFLICT.**

Doctrines of Demons doctrine means

...a system of thinking which is taken into the mind by believers who refuse to be confined to the Bible

... and start thinking in the realm of cosmic systems.

The Doctrine of Demons is extremely popular today in America and in the world.

This Doctrine of Demons is presented by much of the Church—;
The Pope of Rome advances the Doctrine of Demons almost every time he speaks.

Politicians are also preachers of the Doctrine of Demons.

All these present how wonderful man is, instead of the biblical view that man is desperately wicked and not one is righteous.

The Doctrine of Demons is **opposed to teachings of the Word of God.**

From Creation... to the... make up of mankind.

It is always presented in pleasing and appealing words.

Another word for the Doctrine of Demons is

PSYCHOHERESY

in psychological living you are so occupied with self
that any speaker, any message that pleases you must be the truth.

So this is the teaching of demons by which many Christians are led astray.
Not only does Satan have a system of thinking...Doctrine of Demons, but
also a communion—a deceitful cup of demons where those who partake of
it are deceived into thinking they are serving the Lord (1 Corinthians 10).
Christians are warned against listening to evil spirits.

1 John 4:1-6

1 **Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.**

2 **By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;**

3 **and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.**

- 4 **You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.** The Holy Spirit is in you.
- 5 **They are from the world; therefore they speak *as from the world, and the world listens to them.*** Doctrine of Demons, One-Worldism, No Jesus Christ, No Individuality, Give Up Self For The Sake Of The World.
- 6 **We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we now the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.**

Back to 2 Thessalonians 2:2

- 2 **that you not be quickly shaken from your mindset of thinking or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message**
 It is amazing how many Christians will listen to almost anyone who claims to be speaking for Christ. There are so many false teachers, preachers, prophets, so-called apostles, etc.

And then added to the false teachers, **there are a multitude of saved preachers, who do not study the Word of God, do not teach the Word of God,** but oh, their messages are so wonderful, so charismatic, that it makes no difference that they are not speaking the truth.

or a letter as if from us, Someone claims this letter, this message is from Paul himself. Satan is the father of lies. Satan, using many different groups like the Judaizers who were always following Paul to counter his teaching.

to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

Day of the Lord We know what follows The Rapture and what follows the Second Advent. Turmoil and tribulation follow the rapture, while judgment and entrance into the promise land follows the Second Advent.

The phrase **Day of the Lord** is found 19 times in the Old Testament and four times in the New Testament. The very fact it is in the Old Testament, excludes the church.

This phrase **Day of the Lord**, includes The Tribulation period, where God is in judgment with the end of the Age of the Gentiles and includes the Second Advent and it include the millennial reign of JESUS CHRIST when He will fulfill the unconditional covenants to Israel, and it will conclude with the judgment of the Great White Throne Judgment.

So the phrase **Day of the Lord** covers over 1000 years.

Someone (*led and inspired by Satan*) has presented a false teaching on eschatology and claimed that it was from Paul.

What they were advocating is that **the Day of the Lord had already begun.**

Even before addressing the false claims, Paul has already started correcting the false teaching, by talking about **the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ** in verse one. And Paul leaves no doubt as to what he is talking about by the phrase **and our gathering together to Him.**

This refers to *The Rapture* and they have not been gathered together to Him, so **the day of the Lord could not have already began.**

The Perfect tense means they are saying that *The Rapture* had come and they all missed it and were living in The Tribulation.

It has always been a tactic of Satan to shake and disturb Christians. Here, in reference to New Testament eschatology.

But in Paul's first letter we see this tactic of Satan.

Galatians 1:6-7

6 **I am amazed that you are so quickly**

This is the same adverb as in 2 Thess. 2:2 **...so quickly shaken**

Here in Galatians Paul is not amazed by their sin patterns but that they **so quickly** have deserted the Gospel whereby they have been saved.

It is amazing how quickly believers leave the truth for the lies of religion.

So quickly deserting Him

The Greek word means to change; to turn; they *repented and went to faith*, now that they are saved by the gospel of Grace, they *repent or change their way of thinking again*.

who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

- 7 **which is really not another;** what they have turned to is not another gospel, what they have turned to will not save from the Penalty of sin, nor will not restore from the Power of sin **only there are some** made up of the same group who are disturbing the Thessalonian believers **who are disturbing you** they were shaking the thinking of the Thessalonians and they were disturbing their mindset or their belief structure in regards to eschatology –The Rapture, The Return of JESUS CHRIST; here they want to disturb, to stir up trouble; to stir up confusion in their mind, in their way of thinking of the Gospel **and want to distort the gospel of Christ.**

Oh, people, they do not want to take away the gospel they want to distort it. This allows those who try to live under the gospel to think they are doing right, while they are missing the only way of Salvation.

HOW DO YOU DISTORT THE GOSPEL?

add leaven,
add works,
add religion,
add a little do-and-do to be saved.

The gospel of Christ is that you are saved by grace through faith

-FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE-;

but they want to distort it, tweak it, just a little, just enough where no one is saved.

All through Galatians there is a reference to those who try to distort, disturb, to shake one's sound thinking.

Look at Galatians 3:1

1 **You foolish Galatians,**

The Greek word means ***you non thinking Galatians who has bewitched you***, this word means **to charm** you, they speak so nicely and they make it sound so true

you non-thinking Galatians who has charmed you
away from Christ Crucified and Resurrected.

before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?

Galatians 5:7

7 **You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?**

And what is obeying the truth?
Walking, Living by Faith in the Holy Spirit.

And these demons, false teachers have come along and told them no, they had to obey the Law, do-and-do...

2 Thessalonians 2:2

2 **we request...that you not be quickly shaken from your mindset** (on future events) **or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.**

In Galatians they sought to distort the gospel, here they seek to distort eschatology.

*People, there are always those who will not teach the truth; Oh, they will use the right words like, **GRACE, FAITH, LOVE** but they do not mean by these words what the Word of God means.*

Study the Word of God in the Filling of the Holy Spirit;
Study under gifted-men who do their study and teach verse by verse,

—*RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH*—

that is UNDERSTANDING THE PERIODS or DISPENSATIONS of HISTORY.

These three verses from Philippians emphasize that we should desire to live in the *Spirit Filled Life* because of and looking forward to The Rapture, meeting the Lord on the Day of Christ.

I want to say right here that not every believer, in fact not that many believers, will live this way throughout their life, but they will Meet the Lord in the Air on the Day of Christ...The Rapture.

In our passage in **2 Thessalonians 2:2** Paul will refer to
the
Day of The Rapture
as the
Day of Christ

Other passages referring to *The Rapture* of the Church

John 14:1-2; Romans 8:19; 1 Corinthians 1:7-8; 1 Corinthians 16:22;
Philippians 3:20-21; 4:5; Colossians 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19; 4:13-18; 5:9;
5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 3; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1, and 8; Titus 2:13;
Hebrews 9:28; James 5:7-9; 1 Peter 1:7 and 13; 5:4; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 21;
Revelation 2:25 and 3:10.

*Second Coming of our LORD JESUS CHRIST
(at the end of The Seven Years of Tribulation.)*

1. Described by our Lord in Matthew 24:15-22 and 32-34 (which we have studied); Also, the corresponding passage in Mark 13:14-23; 29-30;

Other passages referring to The Second Coming of JESUS CHRIST

Daniel 2:44-45; 7:9-14; 12:1-3; Zechariah 12:10; 14:1-15; Matthew 13:41; 24:15-31; 26:54; Mark 13:14-27; and 14:52; Luke 21:25-28; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; and 2:8; 1 Peter 4:12-13; 2 Peter 3:1-14; Jude 14-15; Revelation 1:7.

The Differences between *THE RAPTURE* and the **SECOND COMING**

By John F. Walvoord and Mark Hitchcock
1 & 2 Thessalonians

THE RAPTURE

THE RETURN (SECOND COMING)

Christ comes in the air (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	Christ comes to the earth (Zech. 14:4)
Christ comes for His saints (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	Christ comes with His saints (1 Thess. 3:13; Jude 14)
Believers depart the earth (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	Unbelievers are taken away (Matt. 24:37-41)
Christ claims His bride (Matt. 25:1-13)	Christ comes with His bride (Rev. 19:7)
Christ gathers His own (1 Thess. 4:16-17)	Angels gather the elect (Matt. 24:31)
Christ comes to reward (1 Thess. 4:17)	Christ comes to judge (Matt. 25:31-46)
Not in the Old Testament (1 Cor. 15:51)	Predicted often in the Old Testament (Dan. 7:13-14, etc.)
There are no signs; it is imminent (1 Thess. 5:1-3)	Portended by many signs (Matt. 24:4-29)
It is a time of blessing and comfort (1 Thess. 4:18)	It is a time of destruction and Judgment (2 Thess. 2:8-12)
Involves believers only (John 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:51-55; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)	Involves Israel and the Gentile nations (Matt. 24:1-25:46)
Will occur in a moment, in the time it takes to blink. Only His own will see Him. (1 Cor. 15:51-52)	Will be visible to the entire world (Matt. 24:27; Rev. 1:7)
Tribulation begins (Rev. 6)	Millennium begins (Rev. 20)
Christ comes as the bright morning (Rev. 22:16)	Christ comes as the sun of righteousness (Mal. 4:2)