

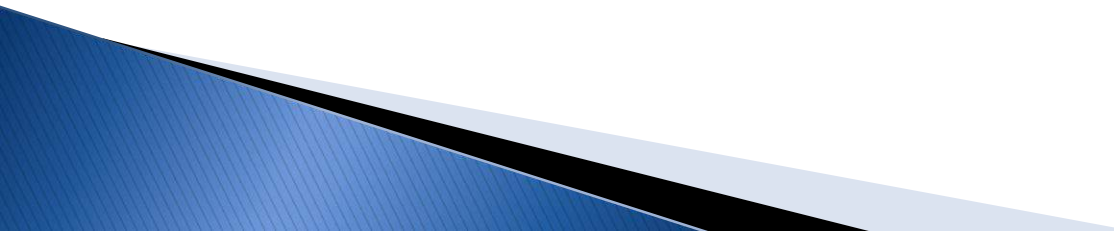


The End & Me

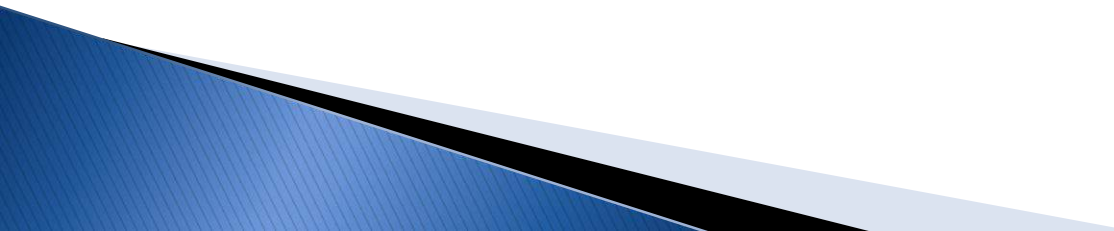
II Thessalonians

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Beliefs about History

- ▶ **Grecian Romans** – No hope for future, focus on the Golden Age of the past
 - ▶ **Hindus** – Cyclical, circular, no climax, Samsara (reincarnation–birth–death–rebirth)
 - ▶ **Marxists** – Utopia (visions of imaginary ideal societies)
 - ▶ **Evolutionists** – projects millions of years, ending is lost
 - ▶ **Cynics** – meaning of history is meaningless
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Christian Belief about History

- ▶ Believe in living God who gives meaning to history
 - ▶ Linear with a beginning and an end
 - ▶ A grand finale
 - ▶ Shared magnificent glory
 - ▶ New Heaven & New Earth
 - ▶ Restored Humanity
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Timing of Event

I Thess 5:1–3

- ▶ Hidden from us
 - unexpected like a thief
 - severe destructions
 - painful and progressive like labor pain
 - no one can escape

Timing of Event

II Thess 2

- ▶ Not until the rebellion occurs (v.3)
- ▶ Not until the man of lawlessness is revealed (v.3)
- ▶ His destiny is destruction (v.3,8)
- ▶ His traits
 - *Lawless*
 - *Oppose everything that is called God*
 - *Sets himself up in God's temple claiming to be God*

Sequence of Things to Come

II Thess 2

- ▶ Current condition
 - Believers persecuted
 - Secret power of lawlessness is at work
 - Another power is at work holding him back & will do so until he's taken away
- ▶ The lawless one will be revealed
 - Deceives through display of power and lies

Sequence of Things to Come

II Thess 2

- The perishing will
 - refuse salvation & the truth
 - believe lie
 - delight in wickedness
 - be condemned

Sequence of Things to Come

I Thess 4

- ▶ The Lord himself will come down from heaven,
 - with a loud command,
 - with the voice of the archangel
 - and with the trumpet call of God
- ▶ Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. (II Thess 1:7)
- ▶ Christian dead will rise first
- ▶ Christian living will rise to meet the Lord in the clouds
- ▶ We'll be with Christ forever

Sequence of Things to Come

II Thess 1

- ▶ Christ will overthrow & destroy the lawless one with his breath and splendor when Christ returns
- ▶ Whom will be punished?
 - who don't know God
 - and do not obey the gospel

Sequence of Things to Come

II Thess 1

- ▶ What is the punishment?
 - everlasting destruction (v. 9)
 - shut out from God's presence
- ▶ What will happen to the believers?
 - Christ will be glorified in his holy people (v.10)
 - He'll be marveled among them
 - His people will share in His glory (v. 12, II Thess 2:14)

Be Faithful, Be Prayful

II Thess 1

- ▶ Suffering is inevitable of believers
- ▶ Suffering result in being counted as worthy of the kingdom (v.5)
- ▶ when God judges, He'll be proven righteous.
- ▶ suffering → faith genuine, growing stronger → counted worthy →
God is righteous
- ▶ Change Perspectives – God is just. He will pay back (v.6)
- ▶ Paul's example in prayer

Be Hopeful, Be Firm

II Thess 2

- ▶ Do not be unsettled or alarmed (v.2)
- ▶ Do not be deceived
- ▶ Stand Firm (v.15)
- ▶ Hold on to the teachings
- ▶ **God is sovereign & powerful.** He is in control.
(v. 6, 8)

Be Loving, Be Busy

II Thess 3

- ▶ Spread and honor the Word (v.1)
 - Pray for deliverance from wicked & evil people
 - **God is faithful.** He will strengthen & protect.
- ▶ Honor the Word – Avoid being idle
 - Idle leads to disruption & disobedience (3:6)
 - Idleness burdens others (3:8)
 - Created to rule the world (Gen 1:28)
 - Good work is evidence of His power in us so that God can be gloried in us (I Thess 1:7–10)
 - Work is our service to God. Serve the living & true God (I Thess 1:9)

Be Loving, Be Busy

- ▶ Lovingly discipline the rebellious
 - Rule are clearly taught
 - Need for discipline is evident
 - Command & urge to repent
 - Obedience of the ones exercising the discipline
 - Do not associate in order to induce shame
 - Regard as fellow believer, not enemy
- ▶ **God is the Lord of peace.** He gives peace & grace