

## New Morning Magical – 8-5-20

### This isn't about you

No sooner did Paul write 1 Thessalonians than he had to write them again. F. Lagard Smith writes in the Daily Bible that Paul's first letter seemed to cause some misunderstanding, especially about the timing of the Lord's return. Let's see what Paul has to say in 2 Thessalonians.

#### Chapter 1

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

3 We ought to be thanking God always concerning you, brethren, according as it is meet **[proper, required almost]**; seeing that your faith is flourishing and the love of each one of you all for one another is increasing,

4 so that we ourselves glory in you in the ecclesias of God, for your endurance and faith in all your persecutions and the afflictions with which you are bearing --

5 a display of the just judging of God, to deem you worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering also,

6 if so be that it is just of God to repay affliction to those afflicting you,

7 and to you who are being afflicted, ease, with us, at the unveiling of the Lord Jesus from heaven with His powerful messengers,

8 in flaming fire, dealing out vengeance to those who are not acquainted with God and those who are not obeying the evangel of our Lord Jesus Christ --

9 who shall incur the justice of eonian extermination from the face of the Lord, and from the glory of His strength --

10 whenever He may be coming to be glorified in His saints and to be marveled at in all who believe (seeing that our testimony to you was believed) in that day.

Believe it or not, everything I just read to you from verse 3 on is one sentence. Paul is notorious for seemingly rambling sentences. You have to pay close attention to his phrases to get the most from all those words.

Paul is proud of the ecclesia in Thessalonica. He holds them up as examples for others to emulate. In verses 4 and 5, he acknowledges persecutions that this group was undergoing, and hints at the hope that the Father might visit affliction on those afflicting the Thessalonian assembly. Paul goes on in verse 7 to express His expectation of God to repay their affliction with ease, along with himself:

7 and to you who are being afflicted, ease, with us, at the unveiling of the Lord Jesus from heaven with His powerful messengers

The word unveiling on verse 7 refers to the Yeshua's return, accompanied by "His powerful messengers." These are likely warrior angels based on what happens next in verses 8-10, which give us a glimpse into what the return of the Lord out of Heaven looks like:

at the unveiling of the Lord Jesus from heaven with His powerful messengers,  
8 in flaming fire, dealing out vengeance to **those who are not acquainted with God** and those who are not obeying the evangel of our Lord Jesus Christ --  
9 who shall incur the justice of eonian extermination from the face of the Lord, and from the glory of His strength –

The phrase, "*those who are not acquainted with God and those who are not obeying the evangel of our Lord Jesus Christ*" appears to be a specific reference to the children of Ishmael who, according to other prophecies in the Old Testament, unite to destroy Israel and wipe it off the face of the Earth at the end of this eon.

You can chalk all this up to my opinion, if you like, but the Muslim Allah is not Israel's YaHoVeH, no matter how much people go out of their way to equate the two. Abraham's kids, Isaac and Ishmael have been at odds for thousands of years, and anyone who thinks that the "middle east conflict" or "question" can be negotiated, much less solved by men, does not understand Genesis 16:11-12:

You will call his name Ishmael, for Yahweh has heard of your humiliation.

12 And he shall become a man like an onager **[that's an ancient wild donkey]: his hand against all**, and the hand of all against him, **and against the face of all his brothers he shall tabernacle.**

*"Those who are not acquainted with God and those who are not obeying the evangel of our Lord Jesus Christ"* will be the objects of His vengeance and "shall incur the justice of eonian extermination from the face of the Lord, and from the glory of His strength," as Paul wrote in verse 9 of 2 Thessalonians 1. The Father's love for the remnant of the children of Israel who have kept faith with Him will be protected at the end.

Why does this matter to you and me today? It's important to keep an eye on the Middle East when exploring the Lord's return, because the events prophesied to occur before, during, and after He descends out of Heaven happen in that region. No doubt, the world will hear of the

Lord's return – many may watch it live over YouTube for all I know – but the destruction that comes will fall on Israel's enemies alone.

The best part of all this is that, while you and I may witness the amassing of Israel's enemies against her while the nations of the world turn their backs, when Yeshua descends, we will ascend to meet him before the destruction begins, as Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:

16 for the Lord Himself will be descending from heaven with a shout of command, with the voice of the Chief Messenger, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ shall be rising first.

17 Thereupon we, the living who are surviving, shall at the same time be snatched away together with them in clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And thus shall we always be together with the Lord.

Now jump down to 2 Thessalonians 2:

1 Now we are asking you, brethren, for the sake of the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to Him,

2 that you be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be alarmed, either through spirit, or through word, or through an epistle as through us, as that the day of the Lord is present.

In other words, No one knows when Yeshua's return will be, so no matter who says what, just relax, because, as Paul is about to say in verse 3, other events have to happen first.

3 No one should be deluding you by any method, for, should not the apostasy be coming first and the man of lawlessness be unveiled, the son of destruction,

4 who is opposing and lifting himself up over everyone termed a god or an object of veneration, so that he is seated in the temple of God, demonstrating that he himself is God?

5 Do you not remember that, still being with you, I told you these things?

The Thessalonians apparently got the idea that the Lord's return was much nearer than Paul intended to communicate. Here, he has to bring them back from the edge with the reminders in verses 3 and 4 of revelations that he shared with them during his time with them.

6 And now you are aware what is detaining [*In other words, "Now you know why Christ is waiting*], for him [*that is, the man of lawlessness*] to be unveiled in his own era. [*There*

*is a specific time, or season, designated for this guy to show up.]*

7 **For the secret of lawlessness is already operating.** Only when the present detainer may be coming to be out of the midst,

8 then will be unveiled the lawless one (whom the Lord Jesus will dispatch with the spirit of His mouth and will discard by the advent of His presence), **[Yeshua will make quick work of this imposter]**

9 whose presence is in accord with the operation of Satan, with all power and signs and false miracles

10 and with every seduction of injustice among those who are perishing, because they do not receive the love of the truth for their salvation.

Very quickly, here, regarding “the operation of Satan” in verse 9. The word Satan that you’ll find in all your Bibles, and even in the Concordant literal, unfortunately, is actually the Hebrew word sa-tan, which means adversary in the sense of an adversarial, oppositional force to the word and will of God. It is not a proper name in either Hebrew or Greek; and ancient Hebrew culture never considered their term for adversary as an entity, spiritual or otherwise. There is an entire study on this subject in Light Up the Scriptures, #129 – *The adversary may not be who or what we think*. I’m not going to get into all this today, but it is one of the most important revelations to grasp when it comes to setting yourself free and leaving the prison that has been built on 2000 years of religious misunderstanding and misapplication of the Scriptures.

That’s a good place to stop for today, so until next time,

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;  
May Yahweh light up His face toward you  
and be gracious to you;  
May Yahweh lift His face to you  
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN