

**“All Israel Shall Be Saved’ — God Fulfills His Promises — Part 1”**  
**Father’s Day 2026**

[READ ] Ephesians 6:1-4

- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
- 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)
- 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.
- 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Children are a blessed gift of the Lord. Fathers and mothers are so gifted by God for their service in their families, and the benefits for children and their offspring are so evident. Your prayers is they would have eternal benefit. These verses in Ephesians are so appropriate, aren't they? They are about children, yes, but the fathers are central indeed. The spotlight here is so important. And even when our children are grown, our responsibilities continue, for God is not through working yet, in them and in us. Amen.

**Introduction:**

- Not long ago, you will remember, we taught the grace doctrine concerning the Rapture or Catching Up of the Church, which is His Body. But the current events of our day have placed a special focus on world events, and now it seems to many, especially among unbelievers, that this planet is near to its final years or even perhaps days. Apocalyptic language is becoming commonplace, and the threats of what may soon be coming have created fear in the hearts of many. Even Bible-taught believers are easily caught up in this way of thinking. So it is appropriate that, in our studies here, we again look into the Biblical teaching concerning the redemptive timeline following the Rapture. Much of the Bible IS APOCALYPTIC, but we as members of Christ’s Body will not be present on this earth then, for that will be tribulation as this world has never seen it. Amen. And we shall have been delivered. Praise God.
- That period, after the Rapture of the saints living under grace has occurred, when God again refocuses on his people, the Jews, is called in Jeremiah 30:7 “the time of Jacob’s trouble.” And as we have seen in so many ways already, the removal of the church from the earth occurs before the Tribulation begins, and that removal, the Rapture, will be the formal endpoint of our current dispensation. Today, there is no Jew or Greek, etc., as all these distinctions have, for the time being, passed away. But that changes completely when the church, which is his body, is caught away into heaven’s glory. Then the focus will again shift to what it had been before, on the focus of prophecy in general, on Israel and the nations, with the Jews in the primary focus, for they are indeed God’s “chosen people”.

## **Our Outline Today: The Rapture of the Church Is Both An End and a Beginning**

- ***The Day of the Lord Cannot Come Until the Church Is Raptured***
- ***The Focus Then and Now Is On the Man of Sin and His Workings***
- ***His Workings Are Evil In Every Way Both Then and Now***
- ***As Believers Under Grace We Shall Be Delivered. Rejoice!***

### **I. The Day of the Lord Cannot Come Until the Church Is Raptured:**

- But for the next dispensational period to begin, great changes have to occur first. We have seen that in our studies earlier on this subject. Paul writes of that in verse 3 of 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. There he writes so clearly of how the Rapture of the Church which is His Body is both an end and a beginning. It is an end to the glorious Dispensation of the Grace of God and the beginning of the Time of Jacob's Trouble. For that had been prophesied and therefore would surely come to pass in God's perfect timing:

[READ ] 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

- There are some words here that are of critical importance for our understanding: "for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first..." "That day", called "the Day of Christ" here, is the 7-year Tribulation period leading up to the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior to establish his Earthly Kingdom. He will be revealing here what must come first in leading up to that event, all of which was also revealed from the highest level in the previous chapter.

Notice that he exhorts the believers with the promise of the Rapture in verse 1, using the words "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him." They should not be "... soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand". It is, of course, because they will not be present here on this earth any longer when that time comes. So don't have such apocalyptic concerns since you will not be present on this troubled planet any longer then. We would do well ourselves today for the same reason.

- Here, our translation again, sadly, could be better, in the words “.a falling away first ...” What our apostle is revealing here in his use of this word is the Rapture event itself. The Greek word means “separation”, “division”, or “departure”. The context must determine what the departure was from, however. Yes, the Greek word is “ἀποστασία” from which we get our English word “apostasy”, meaning a departure from the true faith. But the Greek word only means departure, as can be seen from other usages, like in Acts 21:21, where it is translated “forsake Moses”, or depart from him and his teachings.

So here in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, the meaning is that satan’s grand plan will not be revealed openly except during the Tribulation period, but that cannot occur until the Rapture has already taken place, as he writes here.

- We skip down now to verses 6 & 7, where our apostle describes, using the word “iniquity”, how the enemy would be working and how God would be working as well after the Rapture event:

## **II. The Focus Then and Now Is On the Man of Sin and His Workings:**

[READ ] 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8

6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

7 For the mystery of iniquity [*or, lawlessness*] doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

- The wording here in verse 6 and then also in verse 7 needs some explanation:
  - In verse 6, “κατέχω”, translated “withholdeth”, means to hold down, suppress, or prevent
  - . . . the [sacred] secret of the lawlessness — not the lawlessness of the coming Tribulation itself but the now revealed but previously kept secret manifestation of that, which . . .
  - . . . is already at work. But, he writes here, that working currently is restrained and will not be openly revealed until he is revealed as “the wicked”, or “the [man of] lawless one”, verse 8.
  - In verse 7, the Greek word here translated “let” is the same word translated “withholdeth” in the previous verse (“κατέχω”). That is a far better translation (at least to our current American English ears). Isaiah 43:13 proves, by the way, that the translators of the KJV

sometimes used the word “let” very differently than we do today (except in tennis and real estate)! This is very interesting, isn’t it?

- The meaning here is truly profound — he is holding it back from its full manifestation that will occur when he (or it) is “taken away” as the KJV puts it. This is apparently about the rapture as well. When it has been “taken away” or removed, then the full force of satan’s working will be revealed. Of course, that will be after the Rapture since it is the church itself that is the restrainer here with the indwelling Holy Spirit as the enabler. It is not the Holy Spirit, as many teach, who will be removed. For the Holy Spirit will be very active during the Tribulation, but with a far different ministry that is especially focused on the Jews. But so will also be satan, who will be revealed there in the person of the false prophet, the beast, and in many other ways.
  
- This is an amazing teaching. It tells us that satan, the arch-deceiver, has crafted a plan of deception for today, for we who are living under grace, and of course also for those who are still unsaved. This satanic work is designed to counterfeit the work of God and to use lying signs and miracles to convince many to follow after him. This will deceive many saints and also suppress the preaching of the gospel of the grace of God. This is exactly what we see today, and it has characterized christendom from the beginning, with outbreaks of the miraculous from time to time, it seems. Today it is springing up all over the world. But because it seems to be miraculous (and some may truly be such), we must not assume it is the evidence of God’s working. Paul writes here that it is not.

### **III. His Workings Are Evil In Every Way Both Then and Now:**

- The Apostle then continues to Reveal the Character of the Lawlessness In the Tribulation Period, and because of the warnings in the earlier verses, how satan is working even in our day:

[READ ] 2 Thess. 2:8-12

8 And then shall that Wicked [or the Lawless One] be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 [Even him], whose coming is after the working of satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a [the] lie:

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- And then shall that Wicked [shall] be [finally openly be] revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: This “Wicked” one is none other than THE lawless one, a murderer and liar from the beginning.
- But note that the timeline of the Rapture is revealed here in the simple words “and then”. Again, we see that these events that we know from Daniel and Revelation cannot occur UNTIL the church has been removed from this earth. When that has occurred, then will occur “the apocalypse of the lawless one”, a literal translation that reveals so much. Anti-Christ is truly substituting himself for the Christ of God, is he not?
- . . . whose coming is after the working of satan with all power and signs and lying wonders: This will then be openly revealed to be full-blown at the time revealed here and in no way restrained as it is today. The focus by those who name the name of Christ today on the supernatural (miracles, and signs, lying wonders) is misguided and is satanic at its core. It is not God working these miracles today, but satan (if they are even real, that is, and not just lies promoted to deceive the believers and others who have been captured by their lies). But in the Tribulation period, it will be far worse as satan’s emissaries, including the anti-christ, ultimately work these miracles in their fullness without restraint. Many shall receive the Mark of the Beast due to the miracles and signs.
- Again, Paul is referring to Prophecy here, not because his subjects are living or will be living in the Tribulation period, but because when they understand the great contrasts, they will know the truth of what he writes. This is a very powerful form of argument and entirely valid. May we fully comprehend it as Paul intends it to be understood and not twist the words to mean something they cannot mean, as is so often done. It is so critically important to understand the character of the times being described by the apostle here, isn’t it?

The Apostle now turns to the subject of encouragement based on his very effective Rapture teaching. Both the second chapter and the third chapters of 2 Thessalonians end with encouragement. And indeed, may we always be encouraged as I am sure they were in that day.

#### **IV. As Believers Under Grace We Shall Be Delivered. Rejoice!**

[READ ] 2 Thess. 2:13-17

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

- Note that this is an exhortation according to the essence of God's grace working in us today. He exhorts according to grace, and it is implied by that fact that we will never be in the time of Jacob's trouble, praise Almighty God!
- Take note here that Paul highlights here as the most important part of his exhortation, not looking forward to the tribulation period, for they were to be delivered just as he had just written. But rather, he exclaims that their hope is for "the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." For that reason, there is nothing here about watching, signs, enduring, keeping the commandments, etc., as you might expect if this were the final exhortation of the apostle to his dear children who were to anticipate the coming of the "time of Jacob's trouble". This exhortation is based on the facts about salvation under God's abundant grace. Phrase by phrase and word by word, this exhortation extolls the free and abundant grace of God, entirely based on the completed work of Christ on the cross for sinners such as ourselves.

So there is every reason to rejoice as we look forward. Under grace our expectations for heavenly glory with our dear Lord and all grace saints are very different from what they would be if we had a Kingdom hope that those living in the Tribulation period will surely have. The Rapture is clearly as Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 both an end and a beginning, an end to the Dispensation of the Grace of God, and a beginning of the Lord's refocus on Israel and the nations as opposed to the grace administration that is ended with our upward calling. Amen.

### **Conclusions / Exhortation:**

- So to summarize, why is the pre-Tribulational Catching Up or Rapture of the Church, which is His Body, so very, very important for us living under the principles of grace? Because it is dispensationally critical for our understanding of how God is working. How God is working today, in contrast to how he has worked before or will yet be working, is the difference between grace and law.

Yes, faith has always been a requirement. And, in addition, there is grace exhibited under law, for God is the God of all grace. But in the law, there is no grace for it is incompatible with it in its very wording. In our dispensation of grace, our blessings are over and above anything we could ever have merited by our obedience to any godly standard. His grace has poured them out upon us freely and with great abundance. So once this current dispensation has ended and we are no longer present on this earth, then the whole plan of God changes its focus to Israel and the Jews, and the law will be back in vogue. For the Lord has much work to do there in completing his prophetic redemption for his chosen people. He must create an elect nation that will worship him in spirit and in truth, which he has never had. It is for them that the Millennial Kingdom has been prepared.

So there needs to be a clean break between the Dispensation of the Grace of God and the Tribulation leading to the coming Kingdom. That is the purpose and effect of the Rapture. For dispensationally, law and grace can never be mixed, and this will be our major subject next time, Lord willing.

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**Next Time: The Foundation of Our Understanding: The “Election” of Almighty God**

**And then: The Olive Tree: An Overview of the Dispensational Plan Regarding Israel & The Rapture: The Fulfillment and Culmination of God’s Abundant Grace**