

DISCUSSION QUERIES



2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

READ 2:1-2

¹ Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

DISCUSS

(A) What did Jesus say about his

coming for us?

- **Matthew 24:30-31 (Compare Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 14:14-16).**

(B) What were three sources from which first-century Christians received truth?

- **Prophets, teachers and apostles.**

(C) What attitude are we to have towards prophecy preachers?

- **Not to be quickly shaken or alarmed.**

READ 2:3-4

³ Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

DISCUSS

(D) Who else must ‘appear’ before Jesus will return?

- The lawless man (‘antichrist’).

(E) How will we recognize him?

- He takes his seat in the temple of God.

READ 2:5-7

⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way.

DISCUSS

(F) Isaiah, Jesus and Paul agreed that something else must happen before

the Day of the Lord. What was it?

- **Mission to the Gentiles of all nations (Isa. 66, Matt. 24:14; Acts 14:21).**

READ 2:8-10

⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

DISCUSS

(G) What sequence of events do you see here?

- 1. Coming of the lawless one with signs**
- 2. Deceive the perishing**
- 3. Revelation of the lawless one**

- 4. Appearance of the Lord Jesus
- 5. Jesus kills the lawless one
- 6. The coming of the Lord Jesus

READ 2:11-12

¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

DISCUSS

(H) Why would a good God delude humans?

- God gives his creatures that which they choose.

(I) What is the one requirement to be kept from deceit and so to be saved from condemnation?

- To believe the truth.

READ 2:13-15

¹³ But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. ¹⁴ To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁵ So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter.

DISCUSS

(J) What is God's role in saving sinners?

- God chose Christians to be saved.
- God sanctifies them by his Spirit.
- God calls them through the gospel.
- They obtain the glory of the Lord.

(K) What is our role in being saved?

- Stand firm

- Hold to the apostles' traditions

READ 2:16-17

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

DISCUSS

(J) What should be our normal Christian experience in view of end-times events?

- Loved by God
- Eternal comfort
- Good hope by grace
- Good work and word