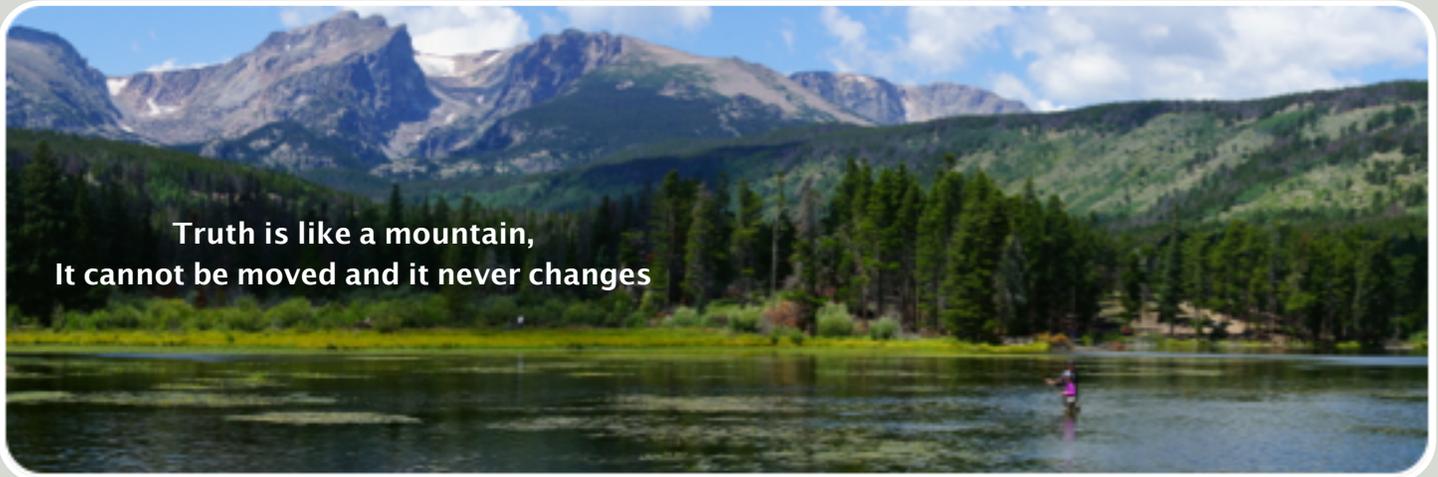


MARCH 2022

"TRUTH"

**A SURE WORD
FOR TODAY**



Truth is like a mountain,
It cannot be moved and it never changes

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The rapture! Nothing sparks more debate than this subject. Will it happen before the great tribulation, at the end, or in the middle? Or, is it a false teaching? Believe it or not, there are some who say it is. But, no matter what view someone holds, they all have one thing in common: Their view represents only their opinion and really nothing more.

Is it possible through an in-depth study to end this debate once and for all? I believe it is. This month I bring you a study that is the result of many hours of research that brought me to a conclusion that should end all debate. It provides irrefutable proof of when the rapture will occur in relation to other end-time events. This is the most thorough Bible study I have ever done and something every Christian needs to read.

THE DEBATE IS OVER!

FEATURE ARTICLE: "The Timing of the Rapture Revealed"

WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. At times it may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to speak truth that will provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness. You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!

2 Thessalonians 2:3 is one of the most highly debated verses in the Bible and has always been a problem for me because it doesn't seem to fit the context of everything else Paul wrote in his two letters to the persecuted church at Thessalonica.

In his first letter, he clearly encouraged the church to expect the return of Jesus and spoke of this great event in every chapter with the most detailed reference presented in chapter 4:15-18.

(King James Version used throughout this article unless otherwise noted.)

15: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16: For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

17: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18: Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

In Paul's second letter, he tells them not to be upset or troubled by a teaching claiming the day of God's wrath had arrived.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

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."

So far, so good; everything fits contextually and everything makes perfect sense. But, then comes verse 3 and the debate begins.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

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."

This does not appear to fit with the rest of what he has written and certainly would not have brought them comfort. It also leaves us wondering what we should be looking for, the coming of Jesus or a great apostasy followed by the rise of the antichrist? Consistently he has been talking about the return of the Lord, and suddenly without explanation, he appears to go in a different direction. Why? These are questions that demand an answer and the answer should not be just someone's opinion, but rather the result of careful study of the Greek texts.

"The Timing of the Rapture Revealed"

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My search for answers revealed that for 1200 years the Latin and early English translations of the Bible had been translating verse three differently than did the King James Version of 1611.

As an example, consider the Geneva Bible (1599).

2 Thessalonians 2:3 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come a departing first**, and that man of sin be disclosed, even the son of perdition.

It is fair to ask: **Why did the King James Version deviate from what the Latin and English translations had been saying for over 1200 years, and which translation is right, "a falling away" or "a departure?"**

DEPARTURE FROM FAITH OR FROM THE EARTH???

Could it be that the Latin Vulgate and the earliest English versions mistranslated the verse and the King James translators caught the error and corrected it? Or could it be that the word, "departure" refers to a departure from the faith, (Apostasy) and not the departure (Rapture) of the church? If the debate is to end, we must find the 'Holy Grail' of absolute proof as to what Paul is really saying in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. But, is that even possible? At this point, it seems like all I am doing is creating more questions than answers, but I assure you, we are about to find the answers.

I found what I was looking for when I studied the English word **"come"** which is found in the original Greek text. Let's look at verse 3 as it reads in Greek.

3 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for except come away first, and man sin revealed, son perdition..."
(Awkward in English but accurate.)

For sure, something is coming **before** the man of sin is revealed, but what is it? We have concluded it is either a great falling away from the truth, or it is the rapture (departure) of the church. For many years I have used Spiros Zodhiates' work to study Greek verb tenses. Greek verb tenses reveal if an action is ongoing, or a one-time event. Using Zodhiates I found that **"come"** in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 is in the aorist subjunctive tense and not the present subjunctive tense.

UNDERSTANDING WHAT THIS MEANS WILL GIVE US THE PROOF WE SEEK.

If **"come"** were in the present subjunctive tense it would indicate Paul was talking about an ongoing action that continues or is present over a considerable period of time. If such were the case, then like it or not, we would have to agree that Paul was talking about a great apostasy because something like that would be happening for many months and more likely, even years.

But in Greek, **"come"** is not in the present subjunctive tense, but rather the aorist subjunctive tense, and according to Zodhiates, this reveals that it is referring to a simple one-time action.

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"The Timing of the Rapture Revealed"

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A work published in 1860 by Dr. William Goodwin, (Professor of Greek Literature at Harvard University) entitled 'A Syntax of Greek Verbs' agrees with this. In it he says, "**The Aorist Subjunctive denotes a single or momentary action...**"

There is no way this can be describing an apostasy... instead, it is a perfect description of the rapture!

1 Corinthians 15: 51-52 " Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,** at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

THE DEBATE IS OVER!

I started this study mostly because I wanted to settle this issue once and for all in my own mind. I firmly believe I have uncovered absolute proof that Paul was telling the church to be looking for the rapture, not the revealing of the antichrist and an outpouring of God's wrath. I can now confidently tell you not to be troubled by anything you hear taught or see happening today. Jesus is coming back and we should be looking for Him, not the antichrist. We should be looking for the great hope of the church, not the great tribulation. We should be listening for the sound of a trumpet and the voice of an angel calling us to the great marriage supper of the Lamb. We should be expecting our Saviour and Lord to come soon for His beloved!

EPILOGUE

It should be noted that no matter what the proper translation of 2 Thessalonians 2:3 might be, it does not change the fact that a great end-time apostasy has been prophesied.

2 Timothy 3:13 KJV

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 KJV

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

It also should be noted that the Bible has prophesied the rise of the man of sin and the establishment of a one-world government controlled by this evil entity. Obviously, we are living in the season when all signs are pointing toward the fulfillment of these prophecies. But, that is not what Paul was telling us to be looking for in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. What Paul is telling us, is that when we see these things draw near, instead of being troubled and filled with fear, we can rejoice, because the return of Jesus is even nearer!

AND THAT MY FRIENDS
IS THE TRUTH!



A MINUTE WITH MISS LINDA



"Where Is Your Citizenship?"

In recent years the issue of illegals crossing our borders and entering our country without citizenship has become a huge problem. I do not know of another nation where

there are open borders and those who are not legal citizens are allowed to enter.

As I was thinking about this it occurred to me that I have dual citizenship.

Ephesians 2:18 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

18 Therefore you are no longer outsiders (exiles, migrants, and aliens, excluded from the rights of citizens), but you now share citizenship with the saints (God's own people, consecrated and set apart for Himself).....

Yes, I am a citizen of the kingdom of heaven!

As with any earthly kingdom, the kingdom of heaven has a beginning and a rich history. The first time you see it talked about in the Bible is in the Book of Matthew. It should be noted that Matthew's gospel was directed towards Jewish people who, out of reverence, never wrote out the Name of G-d.

To write to them about the Kingdom of God would have been extremely offensive so Matthew referred to it as the kingdom of heaven. However, Jesus did use the terms, "Kingdom of heaven" and "Kingdom of God" interchangeably. But, enough of these interesting side notes.

What did Jesus actually teach about the Kingdom? I think the first and most important thing He taught is found in John 3:3.

John 3:3 Amplified Bible

3 Jesus answered him, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless a person is born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified], he cannot [ever] see and experience the kingdom of God."

We do not enter the kingdom by good works or by attending church. Those who try to enter this way will always be considered illegal aliens. They may cross the border and intermingle with the true citizens of the kingdom, but they are illegals and someday they will be cast out. (Matthew 22:11-13) We enter the kingdom of God by experiencing an inward transformation whereby we are raised from spiritual death, given spiritual life, and clothed with the righteousness of God. (We are born again.) I am a citizen of this country because I was born here and to be granted citizenship in the kingdom of God I had to be born again.

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"Where Is Your Citizenship?"

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Many books have been written about the subject of the kingdom of God, but this is not a book so I will limit my observations to a few things I feel our readers need to be reminded of. The kingdom of God functions totally opposite of how earthly kingdoms function. In the kingdom of God, the greatest is the least, the least is the greatest, and whoever would be greatest must be the servant of all. And one other thing, riches make it almost impossible for you to enter the kingdom.

But, probably the most important thing after being born again is to become totally submitted to the Lordship of Jesus. In the kingdom of God Jesus is king and every knee must bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. And our words must have corresponding actions.

Matthew 7:21 International Children's Bible

21 Not everyone who says 'You are my Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven. The only people who will enter the kingdom of heaven are those who do the things that my Father in heaven wants.

So, why would anyone in their right mind commit their life to enter a kingdom like that? It will never result in them becoming famous and having people praise them because in this kingdom all praise goes to Jesus the King! In this kingdom, their role will be that of a servant. So, again I ask, what is it that motivates those who would enter this kingdom?

2 Peter 1:11 New International Reader's Version

11 You will receive a rich welcome into the kingdom that lasts forever. It is the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

At the time this scripture was written Rome was the greatest empire in the world, superior to all other nations because of its wealth and military power. But just like all other world empires, it fell and ceased to exist. Those who thought of themselves as the greatest now lay in the dust bin of history, a mute testimony to the foolishness of seeking that which is temporal.

Those willing to lay down everything to enter the kingdom of God, do so because their eyes have seen a kingdom that shall never pass away and a king whose rule shall never end. Likewise, the righteousness, peace, and joy they now have will last for all eternity.



AND THAT MY FRIENDS
IS THE TRUTH!

"Russian Invasion In Prophecy"

The last week of February the world watched in horror as Russia invaded Ukraine. Not since the days of Adolph Hitler have we witnessed such an egregious act of aggression. At the time of this writing, we still do not know what the outcome of this will be, but Vladimir Putin has openly warned that any who oppose him run the risk of being attacked with weapons, "they have never faced before." Most are interpreting this as a threat that he could use nuclear weapons. Certainly, this would not be something beyond what this mad man would do.

Christians around the world are praying for God's intervention because in the natural it appears there is no way the Russian army can be stopped. The leaders of the world are refusing to come to the aid of Ukraine, and in so doing have proved they are not true leaders, but rather spineless cowards.

As this has unfolded, we have received numerous questions about where and if this fits in Bible prophecy. Already some prophecy teachers are saying this could be the beginning of the fulfillment of Ezekiel 38-39. Certainly, this is a possibility, but I would say that I highly doubt it.

(See February's Prophecy Update)

However, this does not mean the Russian invasion of Ukraine is not a fulfillment of Bible prophecy for indeed it is. I draw your attention to what Jesus said in Matthew 24.

Matthew 24:6-8 Modern English Version

6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled. For all these things must happen, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines, epidemics, and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Yes, Jesus told us wars and rumors of wars would be coming. He also told us that epidemics like Covid-19 were coming and that things were going to get even worse than what we have seen.

"All these are the beginning of sorrows."

But in the middle of all this, He said, "See that you are not troubled." This sounds like mission impossible! Who in their right mind can look at the last two years and not be troubled? How is this even possible?

For me, there is only one way I can live in these crazy times on this crazy planet and not be troubled; I have to be totally convinced that everything I am seeing is shouting one clear consistent message to all of us, "Prepare, for the return of Jesus for His beloved is getting very close."

Luke 21:28 Modern English Version

28 When these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption is drawing near."

I strongly encourage you, if you have not yet read this month's Feature Article, to do it now. Today there is not much teaching on the rapture of the church, but I assure you, that is a huge mistake. Jesus is coming soon for His bride and in fact, this could be the next major prophecy to be fulfilled.

I fully realize some may find this view unacceptable, to which I say, "Good luck." People have no idea how terrible and dark things are going to get, but if what I read in my Bible is true, (And it is) take the worst you can imagine and multiply it 1000 times and you might come close. The hope of the rapture is the only ray of light I see in the future.

AND THAT MY FRIENDS
IS THE TRUTH!