

A stylized mountain range graphic in white and light blue. The word 'ENCOURAGEMENT' is written in a bold, blocky font across the top of the mountain. Below it, the word 'HOPE' is written in a similar font, with the 'H' and 'O' of the second line overlapping the 'H' and 'O' of the first line. The entire graphic is set against a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of diagonal lines.

ENCOURAGEMENT
HOPE

A study from the books of Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians chapter 1

*Second letter written a few months after 1 Thessalonians

*Paul probably had received a second report from the church in Thessalonica





ITALY

ADRIATIC SEA

MACEDONIA

Philippi

Thessalonica

Berea

Troas

AEGEAN SEA

ASIA

IONIAN SEA

ACHAIA

Athens

Ephesus

Corinth

PELOPONNESE

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Macedonia and Achaia

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CRETE



Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2



We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love [ἀγάπη *agape*] of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; 2 Thessalonians 1:3



therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

2 Thessalonians 1:4



This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy [ἀξίως *axios*] of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

2 Thessalonians 1:5



For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8



These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed—for our testimony to you was believed. 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10



To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy [ἀξίως *axios*] of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power [δύναμις *dunamis*], so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12



2 Thessalonians chapter 2



Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming [παρουσία *parousia*] of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him [Rapture], that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message [sermon] or a [forged] letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2



Let no one in any way deceive you, for it [Day of the Lord] will not come unless the apostasy [rebellion] comes first, and the man of lawlessness [anti-Torah] is revealed, the son of destruction [anti-Christ], who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

2 Thessalonians 2:3-5



And you know what restrains him now,
so that in his time he will be revealed.
For the mystery of lawlessness is already
at work; only he who now restrains will
do so until he is taken out of the way.

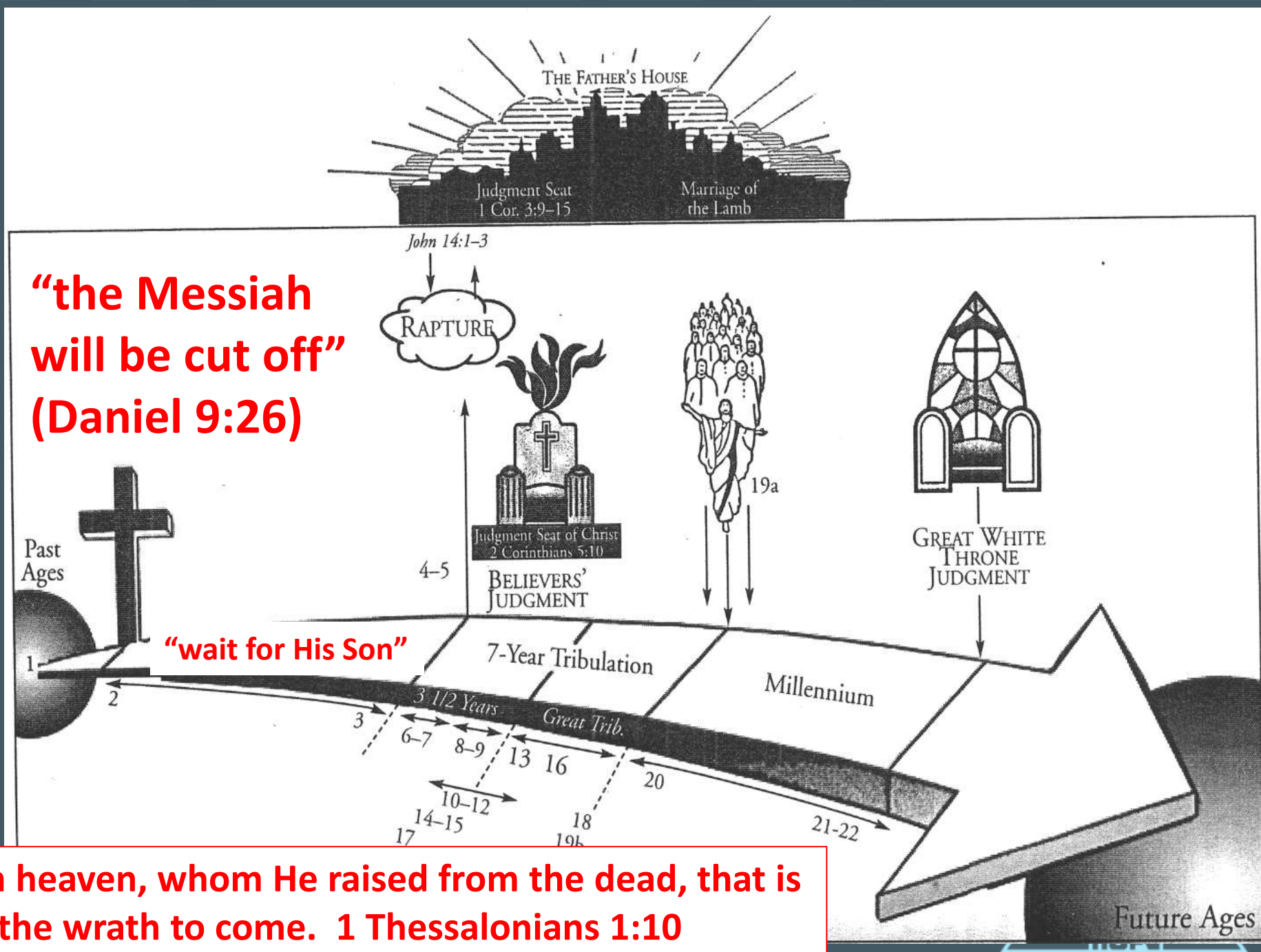
2 Thessalonians 2:6-7



We presently live in the gap between the 69th and 70th weeks (sevens) of Daniel's vision in Daniel 9.

The 70th and final week (7 years) will begin with the Great Tribulation.

The Great Tribulation begins after the Church of Jesus Christ exits the earth at the Rapture.



Then that lawless one [anti-Christ] will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10



For this reason God will send upon them [those who refuse to place faith in Messiah Jesus] a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

2 Thessalonians 2:11-12



But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand firm [in the face of persecution] and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15



Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17



2 Thessalonians chapter 3



Finally, brethren, pray [προσεύχομαι *proseuchomai*] for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you; 2 Thessalonians 3:1

- Assuming a burden of prayer for others lightens one's own load. - Bible Knowledge Commentary
- He sends forth His command to the earth; His word runs very swiftly. Psalm 147:15



What is Prayer?

“Prayer is a relationship, wherein we humbly communicate, worship, and sincerely seek God's face, knowing that He hears us, loves us and will respond, though not always in a manner we may expect or desire.”

What is Prayer?

“Prayer is the practice of the presence of God. It is the place where pride is abandoned, hope is lifted, and supplication is made. Prayer is the place of admitting our need, of adopting humility, and claiming dependence upon God. Prayer is the needful practice of the Christian. Prayer is the exercise of faith and hope. Prayer is the privilege of touching the heart of the Father through the Son of God, Jesus our Lord.” - Matt Slick



What are the types of Prayer?

- Adoration ... Praise ... worship of God, a recognition of His nature and identity
- Confession ... Repentance ... asking God for forgiveness of sins
- Thanksgiving ... the spiritual insight that can recognize a work of God and acknowledge it as from God
- Supplication ... Petition ... asking God to supply your own needs



What are the types of Prayer?

- **Prayer for God's protection** ... asking God to protect you from evil, pain, or injury
- **Intercession** ... entreaty in favor of another person
- **Request for God's blessing** ... asking for God's favor
- **Praying for unbelievers** ... asking God to call those who do not know Him to receive the gift of salvation
- **Spiritual warfare** ... praying down strongholds and against the works of Satan



pray for us... that we will be rescued from
perverse [wicked] and [actively] evil men;
for not all have faith.

2 Thessalonians 3:2

*Believers are called to pray for one another





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7

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But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one [Satan]. 2 Thessalonians 3:3

*The character of God should be the basis for a Christian's confidence. Because God has promised to supply believers' needs, Paul could rest in the assurance that He would provide strength (see 1 Thess. 3:2, 13; 2 Thess. 2:17) to withstand temptation and trials, and protection from the adversary (Satan) and his emissaries (see Phil. 1:6; 1 Thess. 5:24). – Bible Knowledge Commentary



We have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we command. May the Lord direct [κατευθύνω *kateuthuno*, “clear away the obstacles”] your hearts into the love [ἀγάπη *agape*] of God and into the steadfastness [ὑπομονή *hupomone*] of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:4-5



(Paul writing as a spiritual parent...)

Now we command [παραγγέλλω *paraggello*]
you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ, that you keep away from every brother
who leads an unruly [ἀτάκτως *ataktos* ...
disorderly, a military term used to describe
soldiers] life and not according to the tradition
which you received from us.

2 Thessalonians 3:6



Spiritual parental advice

- Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” 1 Corinthians 15:33
- The righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. Proverbs 12:26
- Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways and find a snare for yourself. Proverbs 22:24-25



For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined [ἀτάκτως *ataktos*, disorderly] manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9



For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. For we hear [repeatedly] that some among you are leading an undisciplined [ἀτάκτως *ataktos*] life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies [περιεργάζομαι *periergazomai*, “busy about useless matters”]. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11

* The individuals in view were not those who could not work but those who would not work. – Bible Knowledge Commentary



περιεργάζομαι *periergazomai*
“busy about useless matters”



The problem of laziness

- But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8
- Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully. Proverbs 10:4-5
- “Stop fussing; stop idling; stop sponging” - William Neil



Now such persons [the busybodies] we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good [even taking care of others who don't work hard].

2 Thessalonians 3:12-13

*Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith. Galatians 6:9-10



If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate [συναναμείγνυμι *sunanamignumi*, “keep company with”] with him, so that he will be put to shame. Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish [νουθετέω *noutheteo*, warn] him as a brother. 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

*Which person in the relationship will be the influencer?

*How can we help a brother/sister change?



Now may the Lord of peace [εἰρήνη *eirene*] Himself continually grant you peace [εἰρήνη *eirene*] in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!

2 Thessalonians 3:16

for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. 1 Corinthians 14:33



I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand,
and this is a distinguishing mark in every letter;
this is the way I write. 2 Thessalonians 3:17

*There is good evidence that Paul dictated his epistles to an amanuensis who actually wrote them down for him (Rom. 16:22; 1 Cor. 16:21; Col. 4:18). Here Paul wrote a greeting with his own hand. Probably he wrote something by hand in most of his letters, to guarantee their authenticity to the recipients. In the case of this epistle such a personal salutation was especially needed (2 Thess. 2:2). His handwriting was undoubtedly distinguishable from his secretary's and was probably recognized by his readers as Paul's own.

The grace [χάρις *charis*] of our Lord
Jesus Christ be with you all.

2 Thessalonians 3:18



Lessons for Us... 2 Thessalonians Chapter 3

- We are called to pray for our fellow believers
- Prayer has spiritual power in the life of the one praying and the ones who are prayed for
- Choose your spiritual role models carefully
- God is honored by honest, diligent work
- Help others who struggle with diligence and focus
- The Lord of peace can grant peace to His children in every circumstance



We give thanks to God always for all of you,
making mention of you in our prayers;
constantly bearing in mind your work of faith
and labor of love and steadfastness
[endurance] of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ
in the presence of our God and Father,
1 Thessalonians 1:2-3



Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives [*ψυχή psuche, souls*], because you had become very dear to us. 1 Thessalonians 2:8

*The First Melissa church family wants each person to experience a loving church AND a life-changing Savior.

