



Manifest Evidence (II Thessalonians 1:1-12)

Introduction to II Thessalonians

First, let's recap I Thessalonians: It's around AD 51 and Paul arrives in Thessalonica with Silas and Timothy. Paul teaches in the synagogue as usual and uses the scriptures to prove that Y'shua is the long-awaited Messiah. Many new converts come to the faith and that is the good news. But, as has become common in many places Paul visits, it is not without controversy. Yet again, Jews who do not believe become jealous and cause trouble. When Paul and Silas are accused of defying Caesar by saying there is "another king," it causes a great uproar and they barely escape before being injured.

Later on, Paul's concern that the resistance the new believers will face may cause some to backslide, so he sends Timothy to see them again. Timothy is Greek and would likely face a bit less trouble traveling there. Paul is overjoyed by the news that the Thessalonians have stayed steadfast in their faith.

Paul sends them this first letter to encourage them and show how thankful he is that they have maintained the faith, despite any

trials and challenges. He delivers a few keys to proper Christian living: avoid sexual immorality; love one another sincerely; and work hard to earn a living! He then elaborates on the hope that every Christian who dies enjoys; they will be raised when Y'shua returns! Paul goes on to explain about what His second coming will be like. And here is really the bottom line: live in such a way that you will not be embarrassed to stand before Him when He comes. And keep up the good work you are doing until that very day!

Now, let's look at II Thessalonians: It seems that shortly after writing his first letter, Paul had to send another letter to correct some false information. It was being reported that he had taught that the day of the Lord had already come. The day of the Lord was not a phrase that was new in the Hebrew culture. It was used often in the writings of the prophets to describe God's ultimate victory over His enemies, when His faithful people would be vindicated and rewarded.

Paul used the phrase, at times, to indicate the second coming of the Lord. But, it was also a concept used throughout the New Testament to speak of the last days, sometimes referring to the very final days leading up to Y'shua's return, and sometimes as an indication of all the days from His first coming to His final return.

John, in the Book of Revelation, as he writes about the final seven years before the Lord's return, adds a bit of a twist while

describing his vision. He calls the the day of the Lord, “the Lord’s Day.” *“I was in the Spirit on **the Lord’s Day**, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,”* (Revelation 1:10 NKJV)

Unfortunately, Christians everywhere throughout Church history have misappropriated this phrase and have equated it to the first day of the week (Sunday), as if John was telling us he was sitting around in exile on the Island of Patmos on a Sunday when he had a vision. It’s a silly supposition and one supported only by an “already knowing” belief system passed down to us that infers John must be mentioning the day of his vision, because that day (Sunday) was when Y’shua rose from the grave. As such it must then be called “the Lord’s day.” But stop for a moment and consider without an “already knowing” belief and contemplate what Revelation is about! It’s a prophetic report about the final days before Y’shua’s return; God’s ultimate victory over His enemies; when His faithful peopled would be vindicated and rewarded; and the time of a New Heaven and a New Earth. Is that not exactly what every Hebrew man knew as the Day of the Lord? John was telling us in his letter that he saw a vision about the Day of the Lord (the final days); he was not reporting which day of the week he had the vision. Make sense?

And let me add this fact as well. There is no indication in the New Testament that Y’shua rose from the grave on a Sunday

morning. The scripture narrative simply reports that when they arrived at the grave at sunrise, He was already gone (Matthew 28:1-8). It does not state that He had just risen. The New Testament does, however, give us an equation to solve the time of the resurrection with only one unknown. Equations like that are easy to solve, as long as you can check your “already knowing” belief at the door. Let’s do some simple math. Again, the resurrection account gives no indication of when He rose; that’s the unknown. Let’s call the unknown time of the resurrection (X). $[(X) = (Y) + (Z)]$

Let’s solve for (X): Time of the resurrection (X) = Time in the grave (Y) + Number of hours in the grave (Z)

In Matthew 27:45-66, we see the time He dies and that He was placed in the tomb in the evening (before sundown). We also see that the chief priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to guard the tomb for three days because Y’shua had previously claimed to His followers, “After three days I will rise.” Yet, Y’shua was even more specific than that about the timing of His resurrection. *“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth.”* (Matthew 12:40 NKJV) He would rise a full three days and three nights after His burial (72 hours). And we are certain He was in the grave before sundown because John tells us (in John 19:31-42) that it was still the preparation day for the Feast and that

they had to bury him before Sundown because the Sabbath day of the first day of Unleavened Bread would begin at sundown, and they had to get Him buried before then.

Time of the resurrection (X) = Time in the grave (before sundown) + Number of hours in the grave (72)

X = He must rise right before sundown three full days (72 hours) after His burial, which means if He was buried right before sundown, He would resurrect right before sundown on Saturday (which also means He was crucified on a Wednesday). Why Saturday? Because, when they showed up to the tomb Sunday morning He was already gone. Therefore, if John was indeed concerned with telling us He was writing Revelation on the day of the week Y'shua resurrected (which he wasn't), then the Lord's day is a Saturday. All this is to emphasize that John was not doing that, but instead telling us that he had an inspired vision about God's ultimate victory over His enemies; and when His faithful people would be vindicated and rewarded—the Day of the Lord.

Back to the Thessalonians: Their concern was not so much that the day had come and gone and that they had missed it, but that it was now present and there was nothing more to expect from God regarding vindication and rewards for His faithful, as they continued to suffer persecution.

Even before he corrects the record, Paul reassures the Thessalonians that God will indeed avenge them and judge those who were troubling them. He reminds them of His previous visit and the details of what he actually shared about how the day of the Lord would arrive and what it would look like. He then repeats some instruction from his earlier letter, urging them not to be idle but to work hard and earn their own livings. Paul adds a greeting in his own handwriting at the end of the letter. He wants to punctuate that this teaching is really coming from him and not something that some ill-advised scribe was writing.

Let's Set the Record Straight!

"Paul, 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 our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound **to thank God always for you**, brethren, as it is fitting, because **your faith grows** exceedingly, and **the love of every one** of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves **boast of you** among the churches of God for **your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations** that you endure, which is **manifest evidence** of the **righteous judgment of God**, that you may be **counted worthy of the kingdom of God**, for which you also suffer; since **it is a righteous thing with God to repay with**

tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed. Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” II Thessalonians 1:1-12 NKJV

II Thessalonians 1:1-12

☑ *“Paul, 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 our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” II Thessalonians 1:1-2 NKJV*

☑ **To the church of the Thessalonians**

☑ Paul had to send a second letter to correct false information. [See intro to **II Thessalonians** above]

- ☑ *"We are bound **to thank God always for you**, brethren, as it is fitting, because **your faith grows** exceedingly, and **the love of every one** of you all abounds toward each other," II*

Thessalonians 1:3 NKJV

- ☑ **Nothing has changed, since his first letter, in this regard!**

- ☑ The church of the Thessalonians had a great reputation with regards to how they stood strong in the faith in the midst of persecution, and how they treated one another.

- ☑ **Precisely what He noticed when He visited Thessalonica and to what He referred in His previous letter.**

- ☑ *"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing **your work of faith, labor of love, and patience** of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father," I Thessalonians 1:2-3 NKJV*

- ☑ *"so that we ourselves **boast of you** among the churches of God for **your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations** that you endure, which is **manifest evidence** of the **righteous judgment of God**, that you may be **counted worthy of the kingdom of God**, for which you also suffer;" II*

Thessalonians 1:4-5 NKJV

☑ **Boasting in their reputation...**

- ☑ Steadfast faith in the midst of persecutions and tribulations...
- ☑ This is one of the great hallmarks of Authentic Christianity

☑ **Manifest Evidence...**

- ☑ Obvious evidence when someone is on His side!
- ☑ *“**If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, **therefore the world hates you.** Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all **these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.**” John 15:18-21 NKJV*
- ☑ What things will they do? They will persecute His true followers because God’s enemies will not acknowledge Him and they hate anyone who will not comport to the ways of the world.

- ☑ Think about it; if they would torture and murder the King of glory, why wouldn't they also do the same to His disciples?
- ☑ But they could not recognize who He was: *"which none of the rulers of this age knew; **for had they known**, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."* 1 Corinthians 2:8 NKJV
- ☑ Stand your ground; don't' cave in! If you are being targeted for your faith in any way, it is because you have stood out in stark contrast to the things of this world. My advice...
- ☑ *"**Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **For all that is in the world**—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—**is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away**, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."* 1 John 2:15-17 NKJV
- ☑ **Counted worthy of the Kingdom of God**
- ☑ If you are fully engaged in kingdom work, persecution and trials of some sort surely await!
- ☑ *"Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul and***

*dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And **the next day** he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. And **when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples**, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “**We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.**”” Acts 14:19-22 NKJV*

- ☑ Paul was literally stoned to such a degree that they left him for dead. (They were wrong!)
- ☑ When they were gone, the disciples gathered up his beaten and broken body and they went in to the next city and Paul resumed his preaching!
- ☑ His message! “*Those who wish to advance the kingdom of God must endure many tribulations.*”
- ☑ How should you approach persecution? With great joy!
- ☑ “My brethren, **count it all joy** when you fall into **various trials**, knowing that the **testing of your faith** produces **patience**. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be **perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**” James 1:2-4 NKJV

- ☑ *"In this you **greatly rejoice**, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by **various trials**, that the **genuineness of your faith**, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is **tested by fire**, may be found to **praise, honor, and glory at the revelation** of Jesus Christ," 1 Peter 1:6-7 NKJV*
- ☑ It's a test of your faith—part of the maturation process!
- ☑ It's working if you acknowledge it is all part of God revelation to you and your response brings praise, honor, and glory to God!
- ☑ If you are not being tested in some way, you are not legitimate!
- ☑ *"For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: **"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."** If you **endure chastening**, God deals with you as with sons; for **what son is there whom a father does not chasten?** But if you are*

without chastening, of which all have become partakers, **then you are illegitimate and not sons**.

“ Hebrews 12:3-8 NKJV

☑ **When all seems too difficult to endure...**

☑ **ONE:** Realize that God always makes a way of escape!

☑ “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who **will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation **will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.**” I Corinthians 10:13 NKJV

☑ **TWO:** Remember that you are MORE THAN a conqueror through Him who loves you and that NOTHING can separate you from the love of God!

☑ “What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?** Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or**

nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” **Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, **nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” Romans 8:31-39
NKJV

☑ **THREE:** Focus on the end of the movie!

☑ **“Do not fret because of evildoers,** Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. For **they shall soon be cut down** like the grass, And wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.** He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday. **Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to**

*pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret —it only causes harm. **For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth.***” Psalms 37:1-9 NKJV

- ☑ Be patient; God’s enemies will receive their just reward!
- ☑ The righteous judgment of God is coming and you WILL inherit your reward!

☑ *“since **it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.*****” II Thessalonians 1:6-10 NKJV

- ☑ **It is altogether right that God will avenge you by bringing tribulation on those who persecuted you, and giving you complete rest!**

- ☑ Vengeance is the Lord's
- ☑ ***"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, **patient in tribulation**, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. **Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.** Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. **Repay no one evil for evil.** Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. **Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.** Therefore **"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."** Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.**"*** Romans 12:9-21 NKJV

- ☑ Be patient! Your job is to do the opposite in response to those who have come against you!
- ☑ Do not fight evil with evil. Bless those who persecute you instead of cursing them.
- ☑ You do not have to avenge yourself. God will do that. If you attempt to, you give an open the door to the enemy.
- ☑ To the contrary, overcome evil with good! “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; Believe it or not, that will bring more conviction than in you fight fire with fire!
- ☑ Y’shua promises that there is a great reward for those who face righteous persecution!
- ☑ ***“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*** Matthew 5:10-12 NKJV
- ☑ **God is a consuming fire...**
- ☑ Access God’s grace to serve Him in the midst of trials. It’s the only acceptably way to reverence Him when times seem impossible. And trust me; everything that can

be shaken will be shaken—and the only ones left standing will be those who are rooted in Him!

☑ *“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” Now this, “**Yet once more,**” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, **let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.** For our **God is a consuming fire.**” Hebrews 12:25-29 NKJV*

☑ *“Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would **count you worthy of this calling,** and **fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,** that **the name** of our Lord Jesus Christ may be **glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace** of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” II Thessalonians 1:11-12 NKJV*

☑ **Therefore...**

- ☑ Recognize that nothing happens beyond what He allows!
- ☑ Be counted worthy of your calling by pleasing God and submitting to His will in every moment of persecution!
- ☑ Demonstrate your faith in action so Christ is glorified in your life and you are glorified because of Him. *"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom **which God ordained before the ages for our glory,**"* 1 Corinthians 2:7 NKJV
- ☑ The only way to pull this off is by accessing His grace!
- ☑ *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice** in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also **glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.** Now **hope does not disappoint,** because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*
Romans 5:1-5 NKJV

NEXT TEACHING

Strong Delusions (II Thessalonians 2:1-12)