

MASTER THE CONTENT OF SCRIPTURE



The Book of 2nd Thessalonians

(Observe, Interpret, Apply & Go)

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THE BOOK OF 2ND THESSALONIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

In our studies of the Bible, we will be using an inductive approach. This approach is a fun and exciting way to study the Bible! It's like being a detective. Instead of starting with a conclusion, you look at the details and clues in the text to discover the meaning for yourself.

Here's how you can do it:

1. **Observation:** First, you look closely at the Bible passage. You pay attention to:

- a. Who is in the story
- b. What is happening
- c. Where it is taking place
- d. When it is happening
- e. Why things are happening
- f. How they are happening.

You write down or make a mental note of all the details you notice.

2. **Interpretation:** Next, you try to understand what those details mean.

- a. You think about why the characters did what they did
- b. You think about what the important words and phrases mean.
- c. You may need to look up some words or ask questions to understand better.

3. **Application:** Finally, you think about how the story applies to our lives. What truth does it communicate?

- a. What does it teach us about God?
- b. What does it teach us about ourselves?
- c. What action (s) does it call us to take?

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CHAPTER ONE

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 1 of 2 Thessalonians addresses the church in Thessalonica, offering encouragement amidst persecution. Paul, Silas, and Timothy commend the believers for their growing faith and love, despite challenges. Paul explains that God will bring justice, punishing those who trouble them and rewarding the faithful. He emphasizes the ultimate return of Jesus, urging believers to remain steadfast and righteous. This chapter serves to reassure the Thessalonians of God's just judgment and their place in His kingdom.

Opening Question

What are some ways we can remain steadfast in our faith when facing difficulties?

Outline

1. Greeting and Thanksgiving (2 Thessalonians 1:1-4)
 - Paul, Silas, and Timothy greet the church.
 - Thanksgiving for the growing faith and love among believers.
 - Application Question: How can we support each other to grow in faith and love?
2. Encouragement in Persecution (2 Thessalonians 1:5-10)
 - Reassurance of God's justice.
 - Punishment for persecutors and relief for the faithful at Jesus' return.
 - Application Question: How does knowing God's justice help us endure persecution?
3. Prayer for Strength and Perseverance (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)

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- Paul's prayer for God's power to fulfill believers' good purposes.
 - Glorifying Jesus through their lives.
 - Application Question: How can we pray for one another to stay strong in our faith?
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Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge:
 - Memorize 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 and recite it to a partner.
 2. Role Playing Activity:
 - Act out a scenario where believers encourage each other during tough times.
 3. Discussion Activity:
 - Discuss how the promise of Jesus' return and God's justice can provide comfort in current struggles.
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Quiz

1. What is the main purpose of Paul's message in 2 Thessalonians 1?
 - To criticize the Thessalonians
 - To encourage and reassure the Thessalonians
 - To request financial help
 - To provide a travel itinerary
2. Who are the co-authors of this letter along with Paul?
 - Peter and John
 - Silas and Timothy
 - James and Jude
 - Barnabas and Mark
3. What are the Thessalonians commended for in this chapter?

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- Their wealth
 - Their growing faith and love
 - Their political influence
 - Their large church building
4. What will happen to those who trouble the Thessalonians?
- They will be promoted
 - They will face God's punishment
 - They will be ignored
 - They will be praised
5. When will the Thessalonians find relief from their troubles?
- Immediately
 - When Jesus returns
 - In a year
 - Never
6. What is the nature of God's judgment mentioned in this chapter?
- Arbitrary
 - Just and fair
 - Delayed
 - Nonexistent
7. What is Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians?
- For wealth and prosperity
 - For strength and perseverance
 - For political power
 - For new leaders
8. What does Paul emphasize about Jesus in this chapter?
- His wisdom
 - His eventual return
 - His miracles
 - His teachings
9. What is a key theme in this chapter?

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- Wealth accumulation
- Justice and perseverance
- Political strategy
- Church governance

10. How are believers expected to live according to this chapter?

- In fear
- In righteousness and steadfastness
- In isolation
- In luxury

Answers: 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2

Fill in the Blank

1. Paul, Silas, and _____ greet the church in Thessalonica.
2. The Thessalonians are commended for their growing _____ and love.
3. God's justice will bring _____ to those who trouble the believers.
4. Relief for the faithful will come when _____ returns.
5. Paul prays for God's _____ to fulfill the believers' good purposes.

Answers: Timothy, faith, punishment, Jesus, power

Vocabulary Words

1. Faith (πίστις) – Complete trust or confidence in someone or something.
2. Love (ἀγάπη) – Unconditional love that transcends and persists regardless of circumstance.
3. Persecution (δίωξις) – Hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs.

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4. Justice (δικαιοσύνη) – Just behavior or treatment; the quality of being fair and reasonable.
5. Perseverance (ύπομονή) – Persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

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CHAPTER TWO

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 2 of 2 Thessalonians warns the church about the coming of the "man of lawlessness" and the events preceding the Day of the Lord. Paul cautions believers not to be deceived by false teachings or letters claiming that the Day of the Lord has already arrived. He describes the rebellion and the revelation of the lawless one, who will be destroyed by Jesus at His coming. Paul emphasizes the importance of standing firm in the teachings they have received and offers prayers for their strength and encouragement.

Opening Question

How can we discern truth from deception in our spiritual lives?

Outline

1. Warning Against Deception (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3)
 - Caution against being misled about the Day of the Lord.
 - Explanation of the events that must occur first.
 - Application Question: How can we stay vigilant against false teachings?
2. The Man of Lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2:4-12)
 - Description of the lawless one and his actions.
 - Assurance of his ultimate defeat by Jesus.
 - Application Question: What signs should we look for to recognize false prophets?
3. Stand Firm in the Faith (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17)
 - Encouragement to hold fast to the teachings.

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- Paul's prayer for their strength and comfort.
 - Application Question: How can we encourage one another to remain faithful?
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Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge:
 - Memorize 2 Thessalonians 2:15 and recite it to a classmate.
 2. Role Playing Activity:
 - Act out a scene where a believer confronts false teachings with the truth.
 3. Discussion Activity:
 - Discuss ways to identify and respond to deceptive teachings in today's world.
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Quiz

1. What does Paul warn the Thessalonians about in Chapter 2?
 - To prepare for a journey
 - To not be deceived about the Day of the Lord
 - To collect offerings
 - To organize a feast
2. Who is the "man of lawlessness"?
 - A false teacher
 - The lawless one who will be revealed before the Day of the Lord
 - A political leader
 - A friend of Paul
3. What must happen before the Day of the Lord according to Paul?
 - The temple must be rebuilt
 - The rebellion and revelation of the lawless one
 - A new king must be anointed

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- A famine must occur
- 4. How will the lawless one be defeated?
 - By an army
 - By Jesus at His coming
 - By a natural disaster
 - By the apostles
- 5. What does Paul encourage the Thessalonians to do?
 - To flee from the city
 - To stand firm in the teachings they received
 - To build a new church
 - To write new letters
- 6. What is a key theme in Chapter 2?
 - Gathering wealth
 - Deception and truth
 - Health and wellness
 - Travel and exploration
- 7. How does Paul describe the lawless one's actions?
 - As acts of kindness
 - As deceitful and opposing God
 - As acts of charity
 - As insignificant
- 8. What is Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians?
 - For prosperity and wealth
 - For strength and encouragement
 - For travel safety
 - For new leadership
- 9. What is the purpose of Paul's letter in this chapter?
 - To request money
 - To clarify the events before the Day of the Lord
 - To ask for forgiveness

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- To give travel directions

10. How should believers respond to false teachings according to Paul?

- By ignoring them
- By standing firm in their faith
- By accepting them
- By leaving the church

Answers: 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2

Fill in the Blank

1. Paul warns the Thessalonians not to be _____ about the Day of the Lord.
2. The "man of lawlessness" will be revealed before the _____.
3. The lawless one will perform _____ to deceive people.
4. Jesus will _____ the lawless one at His coming.
5. Paul encourages believers to stand firm in the _____ they have received.

Answers: deceived, Day of the Lord, false signs, defeat, teachings

Vocabulary Words

1. Lawlessness (ἀνομία) – The state of being without law; disregard for the law.
2. Deception (ἀπάτη) – The act of deceiving someone; trickery or falsehood.
3. Rebellion (ἀποστασία) – An act of resistance or defiance against authority; apostasy.
4. Revelation (ἀποκάλυψις) – The act of revealing or disclosing something that was hidden.
5. Stand firm (στήκω) – To remain steadfast and unwavering in one's beliefs or position.

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CHAPTER TWO

Summary of Chapter

Chapter 3 of 2 Thessalonians focuses on Paul's instructions for living a disciplined and productive life. He urges the Thessalonians to pray for the rapid spread of the gospel and for deliverance from wicked people. Paul emphasizes the importance of working diligently and not being idle, warning against those who live in laziness. He provides guidelines for dealing with such individuals and encourages the church to continue doing good. Paul concludes with a blessing of peace and a final greeting.

Opening Question

Why is it important for Christians to lead disciplined and productive lives?

Outline

1. Request for Prayer (2 Thessalonians 3:1-2)
 - Paul asks for prayers for the success of the gospel.
 - Request for protection from wicked and evil people.
 - Application Question: How can we support the spread of the gospel in our community?
2. The Lord's Faithfulness (2 Thessalonians 3:3-5)
 - Assurance of the Lord's protection and strength.
 - Encouragement to continue in love and perseverance.
 - Application Question: How does trusting in God's faithfulness impact our daily lives?

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3. Warning Against Idleness (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12)
 - Instruction to avoid those who are idle and disruptive.
 - Emphasis on the importance of working and earning a living.
 - Application Question: What are practical ways to stay diligent and avoid idleness?
 4. Encouragement to Continue Doing Good (2 Thessalonians 3:13-15)
 - Urging the believers not to grow weary in doing good.
 - Instructions on how to deal with those who do not obey the teachings.
 - Application Question: How can we persist in doing good even when it's challenging?
 5. Final Greetings and Blessing (2 Thessalonians 3:16-18)
 - Paul's blessing of peace.
 - Final greeting and signature.
 - Application Question: How can we cultivate a sense of peace in our community?
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Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge:
 - Memorize 2 Thessalonians 3:13 and recite it to the class.
 2. Role Playing Activity:
 - Act out a scenario where believers encourage one another to stay diligent and avoid idleness.
 3. Discussion Activity:
 - Discuss the impact of discipline and productivity on personal and community growth.
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Quiz

1. What does Paul ask the Thessalonians to pray for?
 - More wealth
 - Rapid spread of the gospel
 - New leaders
 - A new church building
2. From whom does Paul seek protection in his prayers?
 - Wild animals
 - Wicked and evil people
 - Natural disasters
 - Roman soldiers
3. What does Paul emphasize about God in this chapter?
 - His wisdom
 - His faithfulness and protection
 - His miracles
 - His teachings
4. What does Paul warn the Thessalonians against?
 - Traveling far
 - Idleness and laziness
 - Building new houses
 - Celebrating too much
5. How should the Thessalonians deal with those who are idle?
 - Ignore them
 - Avoid and warn them
 - Join them
 - Praise them
6. What are the Thessalonians encouraged to continue doing?
 - Traveling
 - Doing good

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- Farming
 - Writing letters
7. What is Paul's blessing for the Thessalonians in his final greetings?
- Wealth and prosperity
 - Peace
 - Health
 - Long life
8. What does Paul include in his final greeting?
- A prayer for protection
 - His signature
 - A list of rules
 - Travel directions
9. How does Paul describe those who do not follow his teachings?
- As wise
 - As disruptive and idle
 - As hard-working
 - As leaders
10. What should the Thessalonians never grow weary of doing?
- Traveling
 - Doing good
 - Eating
 - Writing

Answers: 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2

Fill in the Blank

1. Paul asks for prayers for the rapid spread of the _____.
2. The Lord is faithful, and He will _____ you from the evil one.
3. Paul warns against those who are _____ and disruptive.

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4. Believers should not grow weary in doing _____.
5. Paul concludes with a blessing of _____.

Answers: gospel, protect, idle, good, peace

Vocabulary Words

1. Idleness (ἀργία) – The state of being inactive or lazy; lack of movement or productivity.
2. Perseverance (ὑπομονή) – Steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.
3. Faithfulness (πίστις) – The quality of being loyal and reliable; steadfast in affection or allegiance.
4. Disruptive (ἀτακτέω) – Causing or tending to cause disruption; troublesome or unruly behavior.
5. Peace (εἰρήνη) – A state of tranquility or quiet; freedom from disturbance or conflict.