Confusion Concerning the Coming

 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5

Introduction:

The subject of Paul’s concern: It is one of the subjects of the First Epistle, “As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him,”

This is a reference to the Rapture that Paul had discussed in 1 Thess. 4:16-18,

“For ﻿﻿the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with ﻿﻿the trumpet of God. ﻿﻿And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them ﻿﻿in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus ﻿﻿we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

Paul also taught about the “Day of the Lord” 1Thess 5:1-3,

“But concerning ﻿﻿the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ﻿For you yourselves know perfectly that ﻿﻿the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then ﻿﻿sudden destruction comes upon them, ﻿﻿as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”

Note:

1. The “Day of the Lord” is a time of judgment (7years) and a time of blessing (1,000 years).
2. The Rapture (the taking the church out of the world) comes before the Day of the Lord, but it does not start the Day of the Lord.

I. The Confusion by Apostates – 2:1-2

1. The Plea by the Apostle – 2:1-2a

“Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled,”

Paul begins the plea with the word “brothers” we ask you, ﻿﻿﻿not to be shaken in mind or troubled,

The word “ask” Ἐρωτῶμεν is stronger than simply “ask” – “beg” or “beseech”

B. The Plot by the Adversary – 2:2b

 “either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.”

1. Why the Deception Convinced – 2b

a. A false spirit – “either by spirit”

b. A forged letter – “or by letter,”

c. A fabricated prophecy – “by word”

2. What the deception contended – 2c

“as though the day of ﻿﻿the Lord had come.”

II. The Correction by the Apostle – 2:3-5

“Let no one deceive you by any means;…”

A. The Error of the Deception – 2:3-4

1. The Apostasy – 3a

“for *that Day will not come* ﻿﻿unless the falling away comes first”

2. The Antichrist –

1. His Revelation -

“and ﻿﻿the man of ﻿﻿sin be revealed,”

b. His Description –

1) By alias

“son of perdition”

2) By agenda

1. He will oppose God
2. He will exalt himself above God.
3. He will exalt himself above gods.
4. He will sit as God in the temple of God.
5. He will show himself as God.

B. The Antidote for the Deception – 2:5

“Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?”

Conclusion:

Other Names for the “Son of Perdition”, the Final World Dictator

1. The Little Horn (Daniel 7:8)
2. A King of Fierce Countenance (Daniel 8:23)
3. The Prince who is to Come (Daniel 9:26)
4. The One who Makes Desolate (Daniel 9:27)
5. The Willful King (Daniel 11:36-45)
6. A Foolish Shepherd (Zechariah 11:15-17)
7. The Son of Destruction (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
8. The Lawless (wicked) One (2 Thessalonians 2:8)
9. The Rider on the White Horse (Revelation 6:2)
10. The Beast out of the Sea (Revelation 13:1-2)