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2 Thessalonians 1
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By Dan Maines

2 Thessalonians 1

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

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 the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

† Paul includes Silvanus and Timothy, affirming team ministry in the early church.

† The greeting unites Father and Son as equal sources of grace and peace.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Ephesians 1) likewise opened with blessings of unity in Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is only fitting, because your faith is increasing abundantly, and the love of each and every one of you toward one another grows ever greater.

† Paul rejoices in their growing faith and love despite persecution.

† Faith and love are the fruit of endurance in trials.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 1) also praised churches for faith and endurance.

2 Thessalonians 1:4

As a result, 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.

† Their endurance became a testimony to other churches.

† Persecution was proof of their faithfulness and covenant loyalty.

† Josephus (Wars 2.20.2) recorded Jewish persecutions against those who refused to conform, echoing what early Christians endured.

2 Thessalonians 1:5

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

† Suffering for Christ's kingdom revealed their worthiness.

† Their endurance testified to God's righteous judgment.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7

For after all it is only right for God to repay with affliction those

who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels.

† Paul promises that their persecutors would face judgment, while believers would find relief.

† The revelation of Jesus in judgment was imminent in their generation.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 3.5) described the destruction of Jerusalem as the divine retribution on the persecutors of the church.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

Dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

† The judgment falls on covenant breakers and those rejecting the gospel.

† Eternal destruction refers to exclusion from God's covenant blessings.

† Josephus (Wars 6.9.3) vividly described Jerusalem's destruction, a picture of this judgment.

2 Thessalonians 1:10

When He comes to be glorified among His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

† Christ's coming in judgment brought vindication and glory to His saints.

† The Thessalonians' belief guaranteed they would share in this vindication.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will

consider you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, 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.

† Paul prays that God's grace would empower their works of faith.

† Their faithfulness glorified the name of Jesus.

How it applies to us today

† 2 Thessalonians 1 reminds us that endurance under trial is proof of belonging to God's kingdom.

† The persecutors of the first century faced judgment, while the faithful received relief in Christ's coming.

† Today, in the fulfilled kingdom, we walk in assurance that God vindicates His people and answers persecution with justice.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Ignatius, Letter to the Ephesians 1 - unity in Christ in greetings

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 1 - praise for faith and endurance

† Josephus, Wars 2.20.2 - Jewish persecutions against dissenters

† Josephus, Wars 6.9.3 - destruction of Jerusalem as judgment

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5 - divine retribution at Jerusalem's fall

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