

An aerial photograph of a busy crosswalk with white stripes on a dark asphalt surface. Several pedestrians are walking across the crosswalk, and their long shadows are cast across the stripes. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS



**“Signs of the Times”  
Part III**

**II THESSALONIANS 2:6-12**



1. Studying last things shows the sovereignty and existence of God (Isa 46:9-10).
2. Studying last things proves that God will (and has) overcome sin and evil (Rom 8:28).
3. Studying last things proves that God keeps all His promises.

**Why We Are Better for Studying Eschatology**



“Hope in the future  
takes the sting out of  
the present.”



**Chuck Swindoll**



# I. Has the Day of the Lord Already Come? (vs. 1-3a)

- A. No, but be calm (vs. 1-2).
- B. No, but be discerning (vs. 3a).

# II. Why Not? (vs. 3b-12)

- A. We are still awaiting a great apostasy (vs. 3b).
- B. We are still awaiting a great Antichrist (vs. 3c-9).



## KEY POINT:

God has not left us in ignorance about what to look for in the end and how to live as we wait for it.



*Children, it is the last hour,  
and as you have heard that antichrist is coming,  
so now many antichrists have come.  
Therefore we know that it is the last hour.*

**I John 2:18**



- No human has the power for it, or the Jewish state or the church.
- It doesn't make sense that Satan would restrain him.
- Not a binding of him
- God is the One who restrains (vs. 6-7).  
Also, John 16:8-11.

**Who Restrains the Antichrist**



And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us;  
The Prince of Darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo,  
his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him

**Stanza from “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**



*<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are ended,  
Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will come out to  
deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth,  
Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like  
the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> And they marched up over the broad plain  
of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the  
beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed  
them, <sup>10</sup> and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into  
the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet  
were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

## **Revelation 20:7-10**



*You are of your father the devil,  
and your will is to do your father's desires.  
He was a murderer from the beginning,  
and does not stand in the truth,  
because there is no truth in him.  
When he lies, he speaks out of his own  
character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

**John 8:44**



The Antichrist	Jesus Christ
Serves the Devil	Serves the Father
Deceiver	Savior
Empowered by the Devil	Given authority by the Father
Demands worship from the world	Earns worship from the world
Influence for a brief time	Eternal influence
Son of perdition	Only begotten Son
Seed of the serpent	Seed of the woman
Man of sin	Son of Man
Doing his own will	Doing the Father's will
Energized by Satan	Energized by the Father
Exalts himself	Humbled himself
Defiles the Temple	Cleansed the Temple
Cast into the lake of fire	Received into heaven



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- C. We are still awaiting a great deception (vs. 10).



*<sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

**Riches can deceive - Matthew 13:20-22**



*13 ... They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. 14 They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children!*

**Lusts of the flesh can deceive –  
II Peter 2:13b-14**



*See to it that no one takes you captive by  
philosophy and empty deceit,  
according to human tradition,  
according to the elemental spirits of the world,  
and not according to Christ.*

**Human traditions and philosophies can  
deceive - Colossians 2:8**



*so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*

**False teachers can deceive - Ephesians 4:14**



*But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

**Sin can deceive - Hebrews 3:13**



*If anyone thinks he is religious and does not  
bridle his tongue but deceives his heart,  
this person's religion is worthless.*

**Self-deception - James 1:26**



“The Truth War is not a carnal war. It is not about territory and nations. It is not a battle for lands and cities. It is not a clan war or a personality conflict between individuals. It is not a fight for clout between religious denominations. It is not a skirmish over material possessions. It is a battle for the truth. It is about ideas. It is a fight for the mind. It is a battle against false doctrines, evil ideologies, and wrong beliefs. It is a war for truth.”



**John MacArthur**



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- C. We are still awaiting a great deception (vs. 10).
- D. We are still awaiting a great delusion (vs. 11-12)



“A person can so resist the truth that he finally becomes deluded and has to believe a lie. There can be no neutral ground: either we believe the truth or we believe a lie. To reject the truth means to receive the lie.”



**Warren Wiersbe**



*<sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated.*

*<sup>20</sup> And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. <sup>21</sup> Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace.*

**Daniel 3:19-21**



*<sup>22</sup> Because the king's order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.*

*<sup>23</sup> And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.*

**Daniel 3:22-23**



“In setting before his readers this graphic portrayal of events connected with the prophetic Day of the Lord, Paul aimed to calm his confused and troubled converts with the assurance that they were not yet in that dread day. The crucial events that will mark that day (vs. 3) had not yet taken place. The persecutions they were enduring were not the divine judgments connected with the Day of the Lord. ...



**D. Edmond Hiebert**



... They have not missed the rapture, and they can still look forward to that 'blessed hope' as an assuring and stabilizing power in their daily lives."



**D. Edmond Hiebert**



1. There is a terrible force of evil in the world.
2. God is sovereign over all evil.
3. God will win.

## **3 Lessons from This Passage**