

**WHILE WE WAIT**  
**(‘Holding Pattern’ Christianity in the Last Days)**  
*Studies in 2 Thessalonians*

**The Coming Evacuation**

The new church at Thessalonica was excited about the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Although they weren't yet a year old, 'the blessed hope' of the rapture of the church followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ was an imminent expectation.

*The Thessalonian letters* were written by the apostle Paul from Corinth in AD 50 or 51 to help them establish a stable Christian life while they waited evacuation to the clouds above the earth (*1 Thessalonians 4:16-18*). The thrill of their imminent departure was to be accompanied by a normal, godly lifestyle of daily submission to God. This stable, joyful anticipation would encourage growth in grace in the church and was attractive to non-Christians watching their exemplary lifestyle.

Obviously, the Savior did not return during the lives of those 1<sup>st</sup> Century believers, but all successive generations of Christians are wise to follow the wisdom given in the *Thessalonian letters*. Twenty centuries have come and gone without hearing the voice of the archangel, the trumpet of God, and the call of Christ evacuating His bride, the Church, from the wrath of the coming Tribulation. We, Christians of what may be the last generation, have more reason than ever to think Jesus is coming soon:

1. **The return of Jews from exile to Palestine in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**  
(*Ezekiel 37*)
2. **The formation of the State of Israel in 1948** (*Luke 21:29-31*)
3. **The Jewish control of Jerusalem in May 1967** (*Daniel 9:24-27*)
4. **The ecumenical movement to unite all religion 1949** (*Revelation 13*)
5. **The revival of the old Roman Empire as the European Union since 1949** (*Daniel 2, Revelation 17*)
6. **The apostasy of liberal theology** (*2 Timothy 4:1-4, Revelation 3:14-21*)
7. **The shocking moral debauchery and lustfulness in society**  
(*2 Timothy 3:1-5*)
8. **The escalating social and natural disasters at one time globally**  
(*Matthew 24:4-7*)
9. **The opening of the seal judgments of Revelation 6 being seen globally today.**

10. **The Jewish holiday calendar** (The Year of Jubilee in 2017-2018  
(50 years since #3).

### **What to Do While We Wait**

*(Final Preparations for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture Flight)*  
2 Thessalonians 1:4-10

#### **Endure ‘Groaning Pains’**

*(Hurts Help ‘Holiness’ Happen)*

*“...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...**”*

1:4-5

#### **Expect Grievous Persecution**

*(Worldly Wickedness Will Worsen)*

*“...it is a righteous thing with God **to repay with tribulation those who trouble you and 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.**”*

1:6-8

#### **Embrace God’s Prophecies**

*(Future Fairness Fortifies Faithfulness)*

*“**(Unbelievers) 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.**”*

1:9-10