

WHO IS LEFT BEHIND AND WHO IS TAKEN?

How about the “left behind” theory that dispensationalists claim

based on Matthew 24:40-41? The one who is _____

is supposed to go through the tribulation. Doesn't that prove that

there is a tribulation? In reality, a seven-year tribulation is not

found in the Word of God.

It is a _____ based on an assumption.

In Luke 17:34-37, Jesus was talking about the same event as spoken of in Matthew:

I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left. And they answered and said to Him, “Where, Lord?” So He said to them, “Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”

Note in verse 37 that the disciples are in a quandary as to where the one taken will be taken to. Jesus gives the answer: “Where the body is there the eagles will be gathered together.” What is this a picture of? It certainly is not a picture of heaven. It is that of a _____ where vultures feast on _____. Does this sound like the one taken is _____? _____?

Other scriptural references that speak to the point include Jeremiah 7:33, which says, “The corpses of this people will be food for the birds of the heaven and for the beasts of the earth. And no one will frighten them away” (cf. Ezek. 39:17-20; Rev. 19:17-18). This gives a vivid description of the place where the ones taken are taken to. Therefore, the one taken is the _____ and is taken to _____.

JESUS AFFIRMS THAT THE TARES (THE WICKED) ARE TAKEN FIRST

In Matthew 13:36-43, Jesus gives us the sequence of events of His second coming and affirms that it is the wicked who will be taken out first:

- Verse 39: The harvest is the end of the age. The reapers are the _____.
- Verse 40: The tares [wicked] are gathered out _____ and burned in the fire. So this will occur at the end of this age.
- Verse 41: The Son of Man will send forth His angels to _____ all things that offend.
- Verse 49: The angels will come forth and separate the wicked _____ the just.
- Verse 42: They will be cast into a furnace of fire.

- Verse 43: The righteous will then shine forth in the kingdom of the Father.

In 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Paul also affirms this position. He

writes:

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

When Jesus is revealed in flaming fire from heaven, He will first take vengeance on those who do not know God or obey the gospel (vv. 7-9). They are to be punished with an everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. It is after this that Christ is glorified in His saints (v. 10). Therefore, the scriptures agree that when Jesus comes, _____ will be dealt with _____.

Furthermore, Jesus declares that everyone, both believer and unbeliever, will be rewarded and judged for their works at the same time, _____. It is to be when He comes in the glory of His Father with the angels. Matthew 16:26-27 states, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory

of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works” (cf. 1 Thess. 1:7).

None of these references state that God will judge and reward the righteous and the wicked at two different times. Revelation 11:15-18 states that _____ will be _____ at the last trumpet, when Jesus comes to reign eternally. Let Jesus end the argument in Revelation 22:12 when He speaks of the same truth: “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

It is amazing that from one Scripture to another, the Bible never contradicts itself but always affirms the harmony of truth.

WHAT DOES 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-14 *REALLY SAY?*

According to dispensationalism, the content of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8 is supposed to happen during a seven-year period of time after the so-called “_____”. To dispensationalists, the rapture is the coming (parousia) of Christ,

that is, Christ's coming for His saints; an event that precedes the seven-year tribulation.

However, if the Bible clearly shows that this chapter applies after the tribulation, this would be devastating to the dispensational theory! And indeed, Paul is saying just the opposite of the dispensational theory in this passage.

The topic of the chapter is introduced in 2 Thessalonians 2:1, "Concerning the coming [parousia or rapture] of the Lord Jesus, and our [believers] gathering together to Him." In 2 Thessalonians 2:2, we read that a false report had been circulating as to what Paul taught on the subject: "That the day of Christ had come [the same day as in verse 1, where Paul calls this coming the parousia]." In verse 3, Paul says, "That Day will not come [parousia, or day of the Lord] until the falling away." So there must be a wide-spread apostasy from Biblical religion throughout all the world. Paul

furthermore says, that _____ and our being gathered together to Him: the “man of sin,” the son of perdition, must be revealed _____.

Verses 4-10 describe the workings of this man of sin. Verse 8 states that at Christ’s rapture (parousia) He will destroy the man of sin “with the brightness [epiphany] of His coming (parousia).” This makes the parousia and the epiphany the same event. In other words, the defeat of the antichrist and the coming of the Lord _____.

This passage makes it plain that believers _____ before all these events happen. This was not new to them, for in verse 5, Paul states that he had previously told them this same truth.

As to the “day” in 2 Thessalonians 2:2, the time referred to is called “the day of Christ.” To dispensationalists, “the day of the

Lord” means the seven-year tribulation. In 1 Thessalonians 5:2, Paul already had told them that the day of the Lord would come “as a _____.”

We find this phrase again in 2 Peter 3:10-13, that the day of the Lord will occur when Christ comes as a thief in the night, at which time the present heavens and earth will be _____ and the new heaven and earth will _____. Is it possible then that there can be a seven-year tribulation and a thousand-year millennium on earth after this event? Was Peter inspired? Is the Bible the inspired truth or not?

2 Thessalonians 2:3 discusses the events that will happen before the parousia takes place. Paul says “that day” (parousia) cannot come until the “falling away” comes first and “the man of lawlessness [is] revealed,” who is the son of perdition. On the other hand, dispensationalists teach that there are _____

_____ that are to take place before the rapture (parousia) happens. They say it is a sign-less and timeless event. This is what they mean when they say it can happen at “_____.” But the text says just the opposite. The clear teaching of 2 Thessalonians 2:3 reveal that there are signs that must happen _____ Christi comes. Who is right? Paul or the Dispensational theory?

In truth, in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-14, Paul is talking about the rapture (parousia) of believers and is actually telling us there are prophesied events that the Church can see, know, and be looking for relative to the “man of sin” and “the apostasy.” Therefore, those who teach a “sign-less” coming of Christ in His parousia are teaching an unscriptural doctrine.

It makes the Bible contradict itself and allows Satan to _____ believers by telling them not to _____ about

the coming antichrist whom Paul warned us to _____

_____! Is dispensationalism part of the _____

of 2 Thessalonians 2:3 because it teaches believers to ignore

Biblical warnings?

RELATIONAL EVENTS OF THE MAN OF SIN IN 2 THESSALONIANS 2:4-7

In 2 Thessalonians 2:4, the man of sin exalts himself above God.

He sits in the temple of God as God. What is the temple of God in

the New Testament (John 2:18-21; Eph. 2:19-22)? Scofield says

the man of sin is the beast mentioned in Revelation 13:1.

In verse 5, Paul says, “I told you these things.” In verse 6, he

says something restrains—and that they know what it is—so he

might be revealed in his own time. In verse 7, he states, “The

mystery of lawlessness [_____]

is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He

is taken out of the way.” Dispensationalists say it is the _____

_____ that is taken out of the way, but they give no biblical evidence for their statement.

In verse 8, Paul then says the wicked one will be _____, whom the Lord will consume with the spirit of His mouth and destroy with the brightness (epiphany) of His _____ (_____). If the parousia is the pre-tribulation rapture and the man of sin is destroyed at that time, the dispensational position is _____ and cannot be tenable.¹

In verse 9, Paul says the man of sin comes (his coming is also called the parousia) with all the _____ —with all power, signs, and lying wonders (Rev. 13:13-14; 16:14). In verse 10, the man of sin comes with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish.

¹ tenable adj: based on sound reasoning or evidence [synonym: well-founded].