



GOD'S NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

An Outline of Things to Come
2 Thessalonians 2:1-16



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How many of you know at least one person who is a little concerned about the future? Some time ago, I preached a sermon titled, "Hope for the coming Storm." In that sermon I predicted eight things that were going to happen in the near future. Do you remember what they were?

PASTOR'S PREDICTIONS (Before the Election)

- 1. Obama would be tested in the first six months.** North Korea is firing missiles and Iran is still working on a nuclear bomb.
- 2. There would be a storm in the Supreme Court.**
- 3. There would be a federal spending storm.** We now have the largest debt in the history of this Republic.
- 4. There would be a tax storm.** We are going to tax and spend our nation into oblivion.

5. There would be a world financial storm.

6. There would be a homosexual storm. When the new Hate Crime legislation is enforced it will be against the law for a pastor to stand in the pulpit and tell the truth about sexual perversion. Homosexuality is an abomination.

7. There would be a storm in the Middle East. Nations are turning against Israel and Muslims still publicly boast about blowing Israel off the map of the earth.

8. There would be an endless storm of Islamic terrorism. Obama does not use those words now. He calls the war on terror an oversees contingency action. He says that we are not a war with Islam (and we are. They know it and we know it). Terrorists from Guantanamo are now being moved to the United States where they can easily recruit more terrorists in American prisons.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS

MESSAGE

Where are we going with this? The purpose of this message is not to alarm you or worry you (unless you are not saved yet). The purpose of this message is to tell you, in detail, several things that are going to happen in the future.

Bible Prophecy

Those of us who know and believe God's Word know exactly where all of this is heading. We call this prophecy and prophecy is actually history written in advance.

In the next few minutes, we are going to show you, from the Bible, exactly what is going to happen in the near future. In fact, some of these things are already happening.

Easy to Understand

The events I am going to mention and not difficult to understand. They are not from Daniel or The Revelation. They are not given in symbolic language or in parable form. They are in plain English.

New Living Translation

In fact, it will be so simple that nobody can leave here wondering what it's all about because we are going to read it from the New Living Translation.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-16

An outline of things to come

1. This is about the Return of Christ and the end of the age.

1 And now, brothers and sisters, let us tell you about the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered together to meet him.

2. Don't let anybody scare you or deceive you.

2 Please don't be so easily shaken and troubled by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Even if they claim to have had a vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us, don't believe them.

3. There will be a great falling away from God in the latter days.

3 Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed – the one who brings destruction.

4. A world ruler called the Anti-Christ will appear.

4 He will exalt himself and defy every god there is and tear down every object of adoration and worship. He will position himself in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.

5 Don't you remember that I told you this when I was with you?

5. Somebody is keeping the Anti-Christ from coming to power at the present time.

6 And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes.

6. The ground work is being laid for the Anti-Christ right now.

7 For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way.

8 Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will

consume with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

7. What will the Anti-Christ do when he comes?

9 This evil man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles.

10 He will use every kind of wicked deception to fool those who are on their way to destruction because they refuse to believe the truth that would save them.

8. What will God do to people who have heard the Gospel and rejected it?

11 So God will send great deception upon them, and they will believe all these lies.

12 Then they will be condemned for not believing the truth and for enjoying the evil they do.

13 As for us, we always thank God for you, dear brothers and sisters loved by the Lord. We are thankful that God chose you to be among the first to experience salvation, a salvation that came through the Spirit who makes you holy and by your belief in the truth.

14 He called you to salvation when we told you the Good News; now you can share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on everything we taught you both in person and by letter.

16 May our Lord Jesus Christ and God our Father, who loved us and in his special favor gave us everlasting comfort and

good hope,
17 comfort your hearts and give you strength in every good thing you do and say.

SUMMARY

1. We are living in the last days and people who read and believe the Bible know exactly what is going to happen.

2. There is a great falling away from the truth. Pulpits are filled with false prophets and churches are filled with lost people who think they are saved. In addition to that, there are thousands of church members who have dropped out and they actually think they are saved. They are not!

3. A world ruler is coming on the scene and the ground work is already being laid.

There is talk of a one-world government, a one-world currency, and a world-court.

4. Somebody is holding the Anti-Christ back. Who is that person?

That person is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit draws the line and tells the Devil where to stop.

5. Now, follow me closely here. Where is the Holy Spirit right now?

The Holy Spirit dwells in the bodies of Christians. As long as Christians are on the earth, neither the Devil nor the Anti-Christ can take over. But the moment we are gone, there is nothing to hold him back any longer.

6. I believe in the Rapture of the

Church.

I believe Christ will come for His people like a "thief in the night. When He comes for His people and takes us out, the Anti-Christ will immediately rise to power because there is no longer any power holding Him back.

7. This period is called The Tribulation. You can read all about this in chapters 4-19 of The Revelation. If you want to read a summary of those seven years, read chapter six of The Revelation.

8. At the end of the Tribulation period, Christ will come back with His people and reign on this earth for one-thousand years.

You say, "Brother Keith, do you really take that literally?" Yes! I believe a literal Jesus will come back to a literal earth and reign on a literal throne for a literal 1,000 years.

I believe that a literal lion will lie down with a literal lamb and a literal child will lead them. And I believe that the whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord like waters that cover the sea.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

1. When Jesus comes for His people, will you be going or will you be left behind?

2. If you are left behind, will you have a chance to be saved?

There's a difference of opinion on that.

11 So God will send great deception upon them, and they will believe all these lies.

12 Then they will be condemned for not believing the truth and for enjoying the

evil they do."

We are seeing something like happen when Barrak Obama makes a speech. He says nothing of substance but people weep, pass out, and goose-bumps come up their legs.

The main stream media is affected as well. The media today are no more than stenographers for the Obama administration.

Personal Opinion

There will be people saved during the Tribulation, but I believe they are people who have not had the chance to hear the Gospel.

They will hear it from the two witnesses, the 144,000 Jews, and the Angel with the Everlasting Gospel.

But as for people who have sat in church all of their lives and have continually rejected the Gospel, I believe God will let you have your way.

When the Anti-Christ gives a speech, a goose bumps will run up your leg and you will swallow his lies, hook, line and sinker.

PS

Christians are going to suffer persecution, but before the bad times come, we're "outa here!"

There's still time to be saved today, but I wouldn't count on tomorrow. It's as easy as A-B-C.

A = Admit that you are a sinner.

B = Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

C = Confess your faith in Jesus Christ publicly.