

Is the Parousia Futuristic

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (NKJV)

2 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. ⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish,

because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Introduction

2 Peter 3:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

The Coming of the Christ

The Context of the Coming

The Commitment to Condemnation

The Cause for Consolation

1. The Coming of Christ

Paul has talked about this a lot.

2 Thessalonians 1:6–10 (NKJV)

⁶ since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷ and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ 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. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the

Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ 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 Thessalonians 4:13–5:3 (NKJV)

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For

when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

1 Thessalonians 3:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This coming is talked about in other places also other than Thessalonians.

What prompts the words of Jesus?

3 Questions

Matthew 24:1–3 (NKJV)

24 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

“Tell us, when will these things be == Temple destroyed

And what *will be* the sign of Your coming

Physical sign in heaven to know you have arrived.
and of the end of the age? The end with all
 judgement

Original Word: συντέλεια, ας, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: sunteleia

Phonetic Spelling: (soon-tel'-i-ah)

Definition: a joint payment (for public service), joint action, completion

Usage: a completion, consummation, end.

Cognate: 4930 syntéleia (from 4862 /sýn, "close together with" and 5055 /teléō, "complete, consummate") – culmination (completion), i.e. when the parts come together into a whole ("consummation") – "an end involving many parts" (B. F. Westcott). See 4931 (synteléō). 4930 /syntéleia ("culminating end, finish") is not strictly "termination" but rather "consummation" (completion) that ushers in a new time-era/age (Mt 13:39,40,49,24:3, 28:20).

Matthew 13:37–41 (NKJV)

³⁷ He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the

world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked *one*.³⁹ The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is **the end of the age**, and the reapers are the angels.⁴⁰ Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be **at the end of this age**.⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,

Matthew 13:47–50 (NKJV)

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,⁴⁸ which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.⁴⁹ So it will be **at the end of the age**. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,⁵⁰ and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Matthew 24:6 (NKJV)

⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but **the end is not yet.**

Matthew 24:13 (NKJV)

¹³ But he who endures **to the end** shall be saved.

Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then **the end will come.**

Matthew 24:29–31 (NKJV)

²⁹ **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the**

powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Mark 13:24–27 (NKJV)

²⁴ “But in **those days**, after **that** tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then **they** will **see** the Son of Man coming **in the clouds** with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then He will send His **angels**, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the **farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.**

Mark 13:32–37 (NKJV)

³² “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the **angels** in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. ³⁴ *It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to

his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. ³⁵ Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say *to all*: Watch!”

Luke 21:25–28 (NKJV)

²⁵ “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

Luke 21:34–36 (NKJV)

³⁴ “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of **the whole earth.** ³⁶ Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Acts 1:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 (NKJV)

2 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we

ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Matthew 24:29–31 (NKJV)

²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Matthew 24:32–35 (NKJV)

³² “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. ³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! ³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation** will by no means pass away **till all these things take place**. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

b. metaphorically, **a race of men very like each other in endowments, pursuits, character; and especially in a bad sense a perverse race:** [Matthew 17:17](#); [Mark 9:19](#); [Luke 9:41](#); [Luke 16:8](#); ([Acts 2:40](#)).

3. the **whole multitude of men living at the same time:**

Matthew 23:34–36 (NKJV)

³⁴ Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: *some* of them you will kill and crucify, and *some* of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, ³⁵ that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the

blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

³⁶ Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

Matthew 23:37–39 (NKJV)

³⁷ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸ See! Your house is left to you desolate; ³⁹ for I say to you, **you shall see Me no more till you say,** ‘*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*’ ”

Matthew 24:36–42 (NKJV)

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming **παρουσία** of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and did not know

until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken **παραλαμβάνω** and the other left. **aphiémi**

⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

took

airó: to raise, take up, lift

Original Word: αἴρω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: airó

Phonetic Spelling: (ah'-ee-ro)

to raise up;

a. to raise from the ground, take up:

to bear away what has been raised, carry off;

a. to move from its place:

aphiémi

aphiēmi: to send away, leave alone, permit

Original Word: ἀφίημι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: aphiēmi

Phonetic Spelling: (af-ee'-ay-mee)

Definition: to send away, leave alone, permit

to let go, let alone, let be; α. to disregard:

[Matthew 15:14](#). β. to leave, not to discuss now,

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the term paralambanō for “taken,” which conveys a positive receiving. This receiving is contrasted with the one who is “left.” The Greek term behind “left” is aphiēmi, which in this context means, “to move away, with the implication of causing a separation, leave, depart from.” Thus there is a Greek positive term for “taken” that is contrasted with a Greek negative term for “left.” Therefore, the notion of one who is “left” is more in keeping

with the idea of separation and judgment rather than of deliverance

<https://www.alankurschner.com/2019/09/05/a-reply-to-jeff-durbins-mishandling-the-left-behind-passage/>

1. The Noahic and agricultural illustrations in vv. 37–41 intend to illustrate the separation of the elect from the wicked at the parousia in v. 31.
2. The parallelism is consistent among the illustrations as well as the parousia-separation event.
3. The usage of the Greek words paralambanō and airō support that the “taken” are for deliverance and the “left” for judgment.
4. The usage of the Greek words paralambanō and aphiēmi support that the “taken” are for deliverance and the “left” for judgment.
5. The parable of the ten virgins is consistent with the point that one is taken for deliverance and one left for judgment. Matt 25:1-10
6. Jesus’s use of the vulture proverb is consistent with the point that one is taken for deliverance and one left for judgment. Luke 17:34-37