

Does The Antichrist Come First?
An Examination of 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3
By Eric Douma 01/02/22

The Issues

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come **just like a thief in the night**. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them **suddenly like labor pains** upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

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The Issues

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, **for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed**, the son of destruction.

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What Does 2nd Thessalonians Teach?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord **has come**.

"has come" = enesteken

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Uses of Enesteken

Romans 8:38

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things **present**, nor things to come, nor powers...

1 Corinthians 3:22

whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things **present** or things to come; all things belong to you,

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Uses of Enesteken

1 Corinthians 7:26

I think then that this is good in view of the **present** distress, that it is good for a man to remain as he is.

Galatians 1:4

who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this **present** evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

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Uses of Enesteken

Hebrews 9:9

which is a symbol for the **present** time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience...

2 Thessalonians 2:2b-3a

to the effect that the day of the Lord "**is present**". 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, **for it will not come** unless

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Protasis and Apodosis

2 Thessalonians 2:2-3

that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord **is present**. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for **it will not come** unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction...

What is wrong with the implied apodosis?

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Prior to, or First Thing Within?

Poor Translation:

Apostasy/Antichrist (70th Week)

Proper Translation:

(Apostasy/Antichrist 70th Week)

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Other Constructions

Mark 3:27

But no one can enter the strong man's house and plunder his property unless he first binds the strong man, and then he will plunder his house.

(binding strong man Entering + Plundering)

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Other Constructions

John 7:51

Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?

(hearing defendant Judicial Process)

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Putting It Together

2 Thessalonians 2:2-3

that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord **is present**. 3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for **it is not present** unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction...

(Apostasy/Antichrist 70th Week)

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Now There Is No Discrepancy!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

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