

# \*False seeds of distortion will leave people confused and unready.

\*2 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, Silvanus(Silas), and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We need mighty men of God!

### \*The essentials needed in a time of uncertainty.

\*2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NKJV) We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for <u>your patience</u> and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,

1. V:3 How does faith grow? The testing of your faith is the only sure way to know if you are growing in your faith. Persecution and tribulation is a real test.

Most of the early church persecution was Jews against Christians.

**This persecution has an end-time flair.** It is the Empire of Rome that persecuted the first Gentile Christians in Thessalonica. <u>They were told to bow before a statue of Augustus</u> Caesar. They made their empire leader a deity. This is a foreshadow of the anti-Christ.

They put wine on the altar of Venus or the Emperor and then took it and sprinkled it on the vegetables, fish, and meat in the marketplaces. Saying these foods are dedicated to their gods.

#### 2. V:4 What does real endurance look like?

V:4 Says it's your patience that measures how well your endurance is working. Patience is how well you do in the storms of life. The calm of life can't test us. Preparedness can be a key to your patience.

### \*Distress/tribulation is here and more is coming, so now what?

\*2 Thessalonians 1:5 (Endurance) 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; 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.

1. V:5 A Kingdom of God mindset and an understanding of His righteousness will solve most concerns/fears/suffering.

We cannot let this world influence our mindset or our heart away from God.

2. V:6-7 Every wrong and unrighteous event is coming to a day of reckoning.

**The hope:** Jesus is about to show up with His mighty angels and bring the real battle and vengeance on behalf of the righteous people of God.

Why we must know end-time sequences. The Thessalonians thought because of a fake letter being circulated in their town that the rapture happened.

**Jesus' second coming is one event** with two phases. <u>Phase one gets all the Christians</u> out of here. <u>Phase two return after 7 years</u> and deal with every evil, wicked, spirit, fallen angel, and human being that is against God.

3. V:8 Includes two sets of people. Those who do not know God and those who disobey Him. The fear of the Lord is an important mindset to escape the vengeance of God.

**Those who do not believe in a** literal reign of Christ must be careful that they could in ignorance by teaching falsehood. God must return and reign Revelation 20 to fulfill His Word to the Jewish people.

# \*The power of our testimony and how we pray for each other.

\*2 Thessalonians 1:9 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. 11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. V:9 **Did you know?** Your testimony can be the breakthrough for many who don't believe in God. It's hard to argue with results.

Your testimony could keep someone from everlasting destruction. It is hard to argue with evidence of a changed life. Jackie Perry Hill Arianna Amour Franklin Graham Jonathan Cahn, Amir Tsarfati, and you!

2. V:10 We do have a hall of fame. (Hebrews Chapter 11) It's made up of men and women of faith that surrendered their lives to God's will.

The greater the transformation the higher the admiration of the saints will be.

- 3. **Our prayer:** That you will be counted worthy of God's calling in this season.
  - A. Be a fulfillment of God's power.
  - B. Christ glorified in you and you in Him.
  - C. The Activation of God's grace so the work of faith will be complete.