

## *“The Departure” or “a Falling Away?”*

**I**n the first chapter of his second Epistle to the Thessalonians Paul gave thanks to God for the testimony of the Thessalonians and encouraged them in their time of persecution. In the second chapter he corrects some misunderstandings that had arisen after deceivers had told them that the persecutions they were enduring were the Great Tribulation which Paul had called, *“The Day of the Lord”* in his first epistle (1Thess.5:2).

The implication was that, if they were already in the Tribulation, then they must have missed out on the Rapture.

The Thessalonians were understandably concerned because Paul had previously made it clear that Christians were *“not appointed unto (the) wrath”* of the Day of the Lord but would be delivered from this scene by the Rapture which he described in detail in 1Thess.4:13-18. He said:

*“Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?”* (2Thess.2:5).

The false teachers who had told the Thessalonians that they were already in the Tribulation had used every device to give authority to their lies.

*“Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and **by our gathering together unto him**, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither **by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us**, as that the day of Christ is at hand (had come)”* (2Thess.2:1-2).

The *“gathering together”* of the Church to Christ is exactly what Paul had described in his first epistle and **it is the timing of this event** that is at the heart of this dispute. The deceivers had claimed they had a revelation from the Holy Spirit, a word from the Lord, and even had written fraudulent letters in Paul’s name to say that the Tribulation had **already come**.

The concern of the Thessalonians would be meaningless if Paul had not also taught that those who are *“in Christ”* would not go through the Tribulation. The implication was that if the Tribulation was already here then they had missed the Rapture!

There was no question that there would be a Tribulation; only that they had not been caught up in the air to meet the Lord with their deceased saved loved ones.

False teachers will stoop to anything to justify their error.

*“Let no man deceive you by any means”*

Those who teach that the Church will go through the Tribulation are deceivers. Paul calls them for what they are; deceivers! No matter what authority they claim to have for their deception they are to be rejected. No matter how evangelical they regard themselves they are deceiving people and robbing God’s people of the “*blessed hope*” and great comfort in the last days.

When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians the New Testament was not complete and there were still prophets who received messages from the Lord and there were also false prophets who claimed to have direct revelation from God. John realized this and warned:

*“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world”* (1John 4:1).

These false prophets could be very convincing and had no conscience about signing Paul’s name on their letters in order to deceive. They could speak by the spirit but it was not the Holy Spirit of God.

Today we have thousands of Charismatics who claim to have a “word from the Lord” and if it were true, then nobody dare contradict them. Many prophecies are made by Charismatics that are never fulfilled and are obviously contrary to the Scriptures. One Charismatic author is acutely aware of this and has suggested that every prophecy given at their meetings should be either approved or disapproved by the congregation before being accepted. His explanation for the wrong prophecies is that some are given by demons and only those that are approved are from God! He even allows that the same preacher could prophesy by the Spirit of God and by a demon!

This leads to further error. This Charismatic author then enunciates a doctrine that it is possible for one of their prophets

to speak by the Spirit of God and then, **even in the same meeting**, speak by a demon!

The Bible teaches that Divine revelation is now complete in the Scriptures and there are **no prophets** of the Lord today. In any case, Paul makes it clear that every true prophet of God was a Jew. He asks:

*“What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that **UNTO THEM were committed the oracles (utterances) of God**” (Rom.3:1-2).*

God chose Abraham and his seed to preserve Truth in the earth and to take His Word to the Gentiles. It is only in Abraham’s seed that the earth can be blessed and every Gentile who claims to be speaking “a word from the Lord” by extra-Biblical revelation is a false prophet.

It is important that we recognize the seriousness of any denial of a pretribulation Rapture. It is not just another opinion that may or may not be considered; it is gross error!

Some teach that the Church goes through the first half of the Tribulation while others teach that the Church goes through all of the Tribulation. The Bible says they are deceivers.

Reformed theologians who hold the amillennial view teach that we are in the Tribulation now and deny that Christ will reign over the earth after He returns. Preterists even teach that Christ established His Kingdom in AD70 when Jerusalem was destroyed and that we are living in the millennium NOW! This brand of error is usually packaged in academia and appeals to pseudo-scholarship for its authority.

Paul said “*let no man deceive you BY ANY MEANS*”. Whether it be Charismatics who claim extra-Biblical revelation, or Reformed pseudo-academics because Paul states:

*“For **that day shall not come, EXCEPT** there come a falling away FIRST, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition” (2Thess.2:3).*

“*That day*” is the “*Day of Christ*”, which Paul calls the “*Day of the Lord*” in his first epistle. It is the Great Tribulation and it “**shall**”

**not come**" unless **two things** happen; there is "*a falling away*" FIRST and then Antichrist is revealed.

What are these two events which must occur BEFORE the Day of the Lord begins? The event that comes FIRST is described as "*a falling away*". The original Greek has the definite article "the" before it so it should read, "*THE falling away first*" and this is most important because it **assumes that the Thessalonians already knew about this event**. Had this event been something about which they were unaware, it would have been necessary to provide details of that event. Furthermore, Paul indicated that he had told them about these things before and said:

*"Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?"* (2Thess.2:4).

If we search the first epistle of Paul we will not find any reference to "*THE falling away*" or prophecy of apostasy in the last days but we do find a great deal about **the departure of the the believers** from this earth at the Rapture. Even if we search the second epistle we will fail to find even one prophecy of apostasy before the Tribulation.

In view of these facts we are compelled to examine the translation of the words "*falling away*" and we find that The Latin Vulgate Bible, around AD400, used the word *decessio*, which means "departure". Seven English translations, from the Wycliffe Bible of 1384 to the Geneva Bible of 1608, all translated the word as departure or departing and with the definite article it reads, "the departure". We will look closely at the Greek text shortly.

Was there a "departure" that Paul had previously told the Thessalonians about? We don't know all that Paul told the Thessalonians when he was with them but we do know what he told them in his first epistle; a major part of that was the departure of the church at the Rapture. It was a major part of his message. He wrote:

*"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM in the clouds,*

*to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”* (1Thess.4:16-17).

In anybody’s language that will be a great departure! It will be a momentous event of global proportions. Every believer in Christ who has died anywhere in the world, together with every living believer, will suddenly depart this world in a moment of time. The Thessalonians had been told about this event before and in chapter 5 of the first epistle Paul had told them **when it would happen**. It would happen BEFORE the Day of the Lord.

*“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief”* (1Thess.5:1-4).

The passage begins by talking about WHEN the departure would occur; the “*times and seasons*”.

Furthermore, Paul indicates that what he had told the believers before; “*yourselves know perfectly*”. How would they have perfect knowledge about the timing of the Day of the Lord if Paul had not told them? This is what he referred to in his second epistle when he said, “*When I was yet with you, I told you these things.*” This is why the definite article in 2Thess.2:3) is so important; it identifies the departure as an event they had been told about, and about which **they were already familiar**.

Notice the change in pronouns in the above passage. When the Day of the Lord comes, “**They** shall say...upon **them**...**they** shall not escape.” “**They**” are the people of the world; the ungodly upon whom the Tribulation will come.

Then Paul speaks to the believers, “*But ye, brethren...overtake you*”. The Day of the Lord will overtake the ungodly but will not overtake the believers and Paul expands on that theme in verse 9:

*“For God hath not appointed US to wrath, but to obtain salvation*

*by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him” (1Thess.5:9-10).*

The wrath referred to in this context cannot be the wrath of God at the Great White Throne judgment because the subject is the Day of the Lord. At the great white throne judgment it is the unsaved dead that are judged but the Day of the Lord is wrath upon those living on earth. God has not appointed believers to go into the Day of the Lord when His wrath will be poured out on the earth.

### *Tribulation or The Great Tribulation*

The Amillennialists teach that the Tribulation is what every Christian suffers from the world in varying degrees. They quote Jesus’ words:

*“In the world **ye shall have tribulation**: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).*

They may admit that persecution will increase before Christ returns but they deny there will be 7 years of Tribulation immediately before the Lord returns during which Israel will be God’s witness on earth.

However, Paul distinguishes between the persecution that Christians suffer and the Great Tribulation at the end of the Age. He told the Thessalonians that they were **appointed to persecution** but they were **NOT appointed to the Great Tribulation**.

*“That no man should be moved by **these afflictions**: for yourselves know that we are **appointed thereunto**. For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we **should suffer tribulation**; even as it came to pass, and ye know.” (1Thess.3:3-4).*

The tribulation that the Christian endures comes **from the world** but the Great Tribulation is the Day of the Lord and is wrath that comes **from God**. The Christian is appointed to tribulation but God has **NOT** appointed us to the wrath of the Great Tribulation!

### *The Sense of the Passage*

The passage of Scripture in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 from verse 1 to verse 14 makes it clear that the “falling away” is not

apostasy but a physical “departure”; not a departure from Truth but a departure from earth.

In this passage Paul makes a statement in verses 2 and 3 and then he explains that statement in verses 6 to 14.

At first he simply says that the Day of the Lord shall NOT come except there is a departure FIRST, and the man of sin is revealed.

The explanation indicates that the man of sin cannot be revealed UNTIL the One who is restraining him is “*taken out of the way*”. The departure must be FIRST because whoever it is that departs is the one that is hindering the revelation of the “*man of sin*”.

We should keep in mind at all times that the whole purpose of Paul’s epistle is to refute the lies of false teachers who said that the Tribulation **had already come**.

*“And now ye know what withholdeth that he (the man of sin) might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth (hinders) will let (hinder), until he be taken out of the way. And THEN shall that Wicked (one) be revealed” (2Thess.2:6-8).*

It is obvious from this explanation that, not only must “the departure” occur **before the day of the Lord** but it must also occur **BEFORE the man of sin is revealed** to the world. In addition, it is the one who departs who hinders or prevents the revelation of the Antichrist.

The word “*withholdeth*” is a compound word in the Greek and it literally means to “hold down”, “suppress”, “restrain”. It indicates that forces are at work now to bring the man of sin to power for “*the mystery of iniquity doth already work*” but these forces cannot achieve their purpose because someone is holding it down. This person who restrains the mystery of iniquity must be “*taken out of the way*” or “*depart*” before the forces of evil can place the man of sin on his throne.

If we look at other Scriptures that speak of the future Antichrist we will find that he will be a **Roman prince** for Daniel indicates that he will be from the same nation that destroyed Jerusalem in AD70. In the last days he will confirm a covenant with the Jews

for 7 years but halfway through the 7 years he will turn against the Jews and cause the sacrifices in the rebuilt Temple to cease. He states:

*"The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary..."* (Dan.9:26).

This accords with Daniel's prophecy in Dan. 7:23-26 where the Roman Empire is said to be revived before the coming of the Lord and will be divided into 10 kingdoms. Antichrist is described as a "little horn" and will rule over the 10 kingdoms of Rome and will be destroyed at the coming of the Lord (Dan.7:26). This is in complete agreement with what Paul's wrote:

*"And THEN shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming"* (2Thess.2:8).

It is clear from these Scriptures that Antichrist appears at the **beginning of the 7-year Tribulation** and is sympathetic to the ungodly Jews, but when Israel repents at the time of the Russian/Islamic invasion, Antichrist will turn against them halfway through the 7 years.

Since the revelation of the man of sin can only occur after the Divine restraint departs and is "taken out of the way", and the Day of the Lord cannot begin until the man of sin is revealed, it follows that the departure of the restrainer must occur before the 7 years of Tribulation begins. That is the plain sense of the passage.

### *Who is the Restrainer?*

The next question we must answer is, Who is this person who was hindering the revelation of the "man of sin" in Paul's day and who will continue to prevent the revelation of the "man of sin" until he is "taken out of the way?" It can't be a single human being because no human being could live that long.

The hinderer is both something and someone for Paul says we know "what withholdeth", and also that "he" in the masculine gender, will be removed and "taken out of the way".



When the Church was formed on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came and now indwells every believer AS WELL AS the Church which is Christ's Body. Our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor.6:19) but the Church is also "*a building fitly framed together*" that is growing into a "*holy Temple in the Lord... for an habitation of God through the Spirit*" (Eph.2:21-22).

When the Rapture of the Church takes place the Holy Spirit will also be removed and taken out of the way. The hinderance to the revelation of Antichrist is the Holy Spirit as He indwells the Church. Down through the centuries Satan has been seeking to take control of planet earth. He has used false religion to achieve his evil purpose and his greatest achievement has been "*Mystery Babylon, the Mother of harlots, and abominations of the earth*".

The Bible describes the harlot woman as a rider on a beast that has 10 horns (Rev.17:1-6). This is the same beast that Daniel described in chapter 7 of his prophecy; it is the revived Roman Empire over which Antichrist will reign in the last days.

This harlot woman is identified with Rome; she sits on seven hills and Rome is the "*city of seven hills*" (Rev.17:9); she was "*that great city which reigned over the kings of the earth*" when John wrote the book of Revelation in AD96 (Rev.17:18).

In the early Church period the Roman Empire propagated paganism. During the "*Ten Pagan Persecutions*" Christians suffered martyrdom and multitudes perished. However, the more the Church was persecuted the more it flourished. When Satan could not destroy the church by persecution, he changed tactics and infiltrated the Church. The Papal system opened the door to error and today it is a pagan system operating in the name of Christianity. Other parts of Christendom are being drawn into fellowship with Rome through the ecumenical and charismatic movements.

Politically, the Papacy has actively encouraged the revival of the Roman Empire. When the German tribes overran Imperial Rome in AD476 the Papacy worked with the Germans to establish the

Holy Roman Empire; Charlemagne was crowned in AD800, and the Empire lasted for more than 1,000 years. When the French Revolution threatened the Papacy, Napoleon was crowned by the Pope. The Papacy's relationship with the Nazis has been documented and the EU is closely associated with the Papacy through the Christian Democrat Party. The woman is riding the beast!

It has been Satan's desire to place his "man of sin" over the kingdoms of this world but **something; the true Church, and someone; the Holy Spirit**, have been hindering the revelation of Antichrist. The Holy Spirit's work has been to "reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment"(John 16:8).

If we trace the history of the world over the last 2,000 years we will see how the Roman Empire, which will be the seat of power of Antichrist, has been frustrated by true believers. The early Church, Paulicians, Albigenses, Waldensians, Huguenots, Bohemian Brethren, Moravians, Ana-Baptists, Wesleyans, German Reformers, etc etc all have stood in the way of the development of Antichrist's kingdom ridden by the harlot woman of the Papacy.

In the 18th and 19th centuries Britain stood in the way of the kingdom of Antichrist. During the Philadelphian period of Church history, missionaries went to the farthest parts of the world and translated the Scriptures into many languages. The British navy and army overthrew the Pope's armies and navies in Spain and France enabling elements of the true Church to spread the Gospel message. When the Rapture takes place, all restraint will be removed and the Papacy will be able to fulfil her ambition and place the "man of sin" at the political head of the Revived Roman Empire. Today we see that empire coming together under the banner of the EU.

What is it that is withholding, hold down the forces of Satan to prevent the revelation of the "man of sin?" Who is it that will be "taken out of the way?" It is the Holy Spirit as He indwells the body of Christ and when all believers are suddenly removed at the Rapture, the political ruler of the Revived Roman Empire

will confirm a covenant with Israel, and other Middle Eastern nations, for 7 years. The Day of the Lord will then begin.

### *The Departure or a Falling Away*

We have shown from the context of the passage, and from the plain sense of the passage, that the words “*a falling away*” cannot mean a **condition** but is an **event**; not a **state**, but a **happening**. Now we will demonstrate from the usage of the Greek word translated, “*a falling away*”, that the correct translation of the Greek should be “*the departure*”.

The Greek word used is *apostasia* and is the noun form of the verb *aphistemi* which occurs 16 times in the New Testament. *Apostasia* occurs only twice; in 2 Thess.2:3 and Acts 21:21. Both the verb and noun forms **have the same meaning** and both mean “depart” or “departure”.

We have already pointed out that all English translations prior to the 1611 King James Version (KJV) translated *apostasia* as departure. Apostasy is a transliteration of *apostasia* just the same as the English word baptism is a transliteration of the Greek word *baptizo*. Apostasy is a **departure** from the truth and *apostasia* should be translated departure just the same as *baptizo* means “immerse” and should be translated “immersion”.

When the translators translated the word *baptizo* they had some on the committee who believed in sprinkling babies and others who believed in immersion of believers. They compromised and used the Greek word without translating it and the Greek word became an English word; it was transliterated; this allowed some to interpret it to mean sprinkling and some immersion. **The real meaning is immersion.**

The context of any Greek word indicates how a Greek word should be translated. If the context is speaking about someone departing from the Truth then *apostasia* could correctly be translated “falling away” or “the apostasy”. However, if the context is about the departure of the Church before the Day of the Lord, it should be translated “the Departure”. We have already shown that the sense of this passage is not about departure from

the Truth and there is not one mention of apostasy anywhere in either the first or second epistle to the Thessalonians. In fact, Paul references the passage back to what he previously had told them and had confirmed in his first epistle, that there would be a departure of all who are “in Christ” before the Day of the Lord.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of context when interpreting Scripture. Some words have the same basic meaning but in a another context are better translated by a different English word. This can be illustrated by the verbal form of the Greek word *aphistemi*. The following are the 16 instances in the New Testament:

**Luke 2:37** - *“And she (Anna) was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which **DEPARTED** not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.”* PHYSICAL DEPARTURE.

**Luke 4:13** - *And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he **DEPARTED** from him for a season.* PHYSICAL DEPARTURE.

**Luke 8:13** - *They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation **FALL AWAY.**”* DEPART FROM TRUTH.

**Luke 13:27** - *“But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; **DEPART** from me, all ye workers of iniquity”* PHYSICAL DEPARTURE.

**Acts 5:37** - *“After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and **DREW AWAY** much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.”* PHYSICAL DEPARTURE.

**Acts 5:38** - *“And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought”* - PHYSICAL DEPARTURE.

**Acts 12:10** - *“When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on*

*through one street; and forthwith the angel **DEPARTED** from him."*  
PHYSICAL DEPARTURE.

**Acts 15:38** - *"But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work."* PHYSICAL DEPARTURE.

**Acts 19:9** - *"But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he **DEPARTED** from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus."* PHYSICAL DEPARTURE.

**Acts 22:29** - *"Then straightway they **DEPARTED** from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him."*  
- PHYSICAL DEPARTURE.

**2Cor.12:8** - *"For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might **DEPART** from me."* PHYSICAL DEPARTURE.

**1Tim.4:1** - *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall **DEPART** from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils"* DEPART FROM TRUTH.

**1Tim.6:5** - *"Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such **WITHDRAW** thyself."* PHYSICAL DEPARTURE.

**2Tim.2:19** - *"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, **LET (DEPART)** every one that nameth the name of Christ **DEPART** from iniquity"* DEPART FROM FALSE TEACHING.

**Heb.3:12** - *"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in **DEPARTING** from the living God."*  
DEPARTING FROM A PERSON.

### *Summarizing the Usage of Aphistemi which has the Same Meaning as Apostasia*

A Physical Departure - 12 times

Departure from Truth - 2 times

Departure from False Teaching - once.

Departure from a Person - once.

It is perfectly obvious that the correct meaning of *apostasia* is therefore “departure” and not “falling away” or “apostasy”. The expression, “*a falling away*” actually adds to the meaning of the word “departure” and means, “a departure **from the truth**” whereas *apostasia* simply means “departure” and is used of a departure from a place, from people and **even from error!**

### *How Did the Early Church Fathers Interpret the Hinderer?*

From earliest times there have been two views of who it is that hinders the appearance of Antichrist. Chrysostom (AD347-407), in his *Homily 4* on 2Thess.2:6-9, mentions them both. He writes: “What then is it that withholdeth, that is, hindereth him from being revealed? Some indeed say, the **grace of the Spirit**, but others the **Roman empire**, to whom I most of all accede. Wherefore? Because if he meant to say the Spirit, he would not have spoken obscurely, but plainly, that even now the grace of the Spirit, that is the gifts, withhold him. And otherwise he ought now to have come, if he was about to come when the gifts ceased; for they have long since ceased.”

Because the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit had ceased **long before** the day of Chrysostom, and the Roman Empire was crumbling under the attacks of Germanic tribes, Chrysostom concluded that the restrainer must therefore be the Roman Empire and that once it collapsed, which it did in the West in AD476, the man of sin would appear. However, Antichrist did not appear in AD476.

Some Bible commentators have followed this line of teaching, and because AD476 did not bring Antichrist to power, they see the Papacy, which began more than a hundred years later (AD600) with Gregory the Great, as the “*man of sin*”. The Reformers and others believed the Pope, or the Papacy, was the Antichrist.

Antichrist, however, is a **man** and not a system and the Hinderer is a **person**; the Holy Spirit and not an empire. The Papacy is seen in Revelation 17 & 18 as the harlot woman, and the Antichrist is the beast. Antichrist continues for only 7 years but the Papacy has continued for more than 1,400 years.

The Holy Spirit and the true Church did not depart when the sign gifts ceased with the passing of the Apostles. The sign gifts ceased

but the Holy Spirit still indwells the true Church. While the Church is present in this world the “*man of sin*” cannot be revealed, but once the Holy Spirit, indwelling the Church is removed, then the man of sin will appear.

Paul reinforces this point:

*“But God hath from the beginning **chosen you to salvation** (deliverance) through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth” (2Thess.2:13).*

Election is always **to glorification** and not to faith. We are “*elect (chosen) according to the foreknowledge of God*” (1Peter1:2). In God’s foreknowledge He has determined that every saved soul will be **conformed to the image of His blessed Son**. Here the word salvation is used in the same sense as in 1Thess.5:9.

*“God hath not appointed us unto wrath (Tribulation) but **to obtain salvation** (deliverance) through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

In these passages the word salvation cannot mean salvation from the guilt of sin which happens when we believe, for Paul was speaking to believers who were **already saved** from guilt. The salvation (deliverance) referred to here is from the **presence** of sin which takes place at the Rapture. God has not appointed us to the wrath of the Tribulation but to the salvation of the body when this “*vile body*” will be “*fashioned like unto his glorious body*” (Phil.3:21).

Therefore in God’s foreknowledge and foreordaining power, He has determined that the believers of this Church age will be delivered and glorified BEFORE the wrath of the day of the Lord. **Our salvation will be complete with the redemption of the body at the Rapture, and the Day of the Lord cannot commence until the Holy Spirit indwelling the Church is taken away.** “*One shall be taken and the other left*” (Luke 17:34).