

## Title: The King is Coming

Passage: 2 Thess 1

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Series: The King is Coming

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### 2 Thessalonians might feel like a strange book to read before Christmas because it talks about judgement and Jesus returning.

But actually, it fits perfectly with Advent, which is all about preparing for the coming King.

- First coming: Christmas — God comes to us in Jesus.
- Second coming: Still to come — Jesus will return and make everything right.

When Mary sings in Luke 1, she looks forward to a world turned the right way up: the proud brought down, the humble lifted up, the hungry filled.

That hope is still our hope today as we wait for Jesus to return.

After writing his first letter to the Thessalonians Paul had to write another letter because some people were spreading a false rumour that “the day of the Lord” had already happened.

In the Old Testament, “the day of the Lord” meant:

- God defeating evil
- God rescuing His people

[like left behind books in late 1990's, Nick cage movie in 2014]

So if it had already happened, the Thessalonians feared:

- They had missed it
- Nothing more would be made right
- Their suffering would never end

These false ideas, weakened their faith.

### Paul Strengthens Their Faith by reminding them of what is true:

#### 1. God is Just

We see v4 -7 Paul encourages the church that God sees what they are going through and God is just

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4 Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you

are suffering. 6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels

Accountant – asked to fudge the books in some way. Refused and so was pressured, threatened to change. Suffering for doing right, and the threats themselves prove how wrong the business was.

Paul says their suffering is actually a sign they are on the right track — they are living for justice, mercy, and truth, and their persecution shows how broken the world is.

These are people who are doing good, about justice, mercy, truth. They are no threat to good godly society. And if they are, there is something wrong.

Sadly they were a threat. Especially with other gods, trade,

And Paul says

God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well.

This year – exodus. A great story of how God sees the trouble brought on his people, and how he will act to deliver them.

This is how God will act Paul says

when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels

Jesus will return to repay, and relieve his people.

Jesus will repay [slide]

8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might 10

The people who will find themselves under judgement are do not know, do not obey God. Punishment will be

“and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might

Excluded from God's presence and glory.

Now to people who do not love God, nor want to, this may not appear so bad.

But Paul cannot imagine anything worst...he says this is 'everlasting destruction

For the Thessalonians going through difficult times in the hands of terrible people, they needed to know God is just: Jesus is coming in judgement, to make

all things right.

And they need to know

## God is Gracious

The King who returns is the same Jesus who came first:

- Humble
- Loving
- Crucified for us
- Through Jesus, God pours out grace on an undeserving world.

Paul says:

- While the disobedient are excluded from God's presence
- God's people are welcomed into His presence and glory

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v10 on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

## To strengthen their faith Paul brings out these 2 strong truths.

- God is just: Jesus will return to judge and make all things right.
- God is gracious: Jesus gives grace now, changing our lives as we follow Him.

**I wonder which of these truths do you personally find easier to hold onto? Which is harder? Why?**

- How might believing that Jesus will make all things right strengthen your faith today?
- How might believing that Jesus is gracious now change the way you live this week?

This is how Paul hopes the Thessalonians will respond: [slide]

11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. 12 We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.[c]

His prayer

- That they stick following Jesus
- They may be glorified in him..as their lives become more like his
- That Jesus may be glorified in them...as they show the world the difference Jesus makes

It's a beautiful prayer for any church.

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – 2

### THESSALONIANS & ADVENT

#### Advent

- Advent is about preparing for the coming King. How do you normally think about Advent or the lead-up to Christmas?
- How often have you connected Christmas with Jesus' second coming?
- Why is it important that Christians remember both Jesus' first coming and His second coming?

#### The Thessalonians' Fear

The Thessalonians were shaken by the rumour that "the day of the Lord" had already happened.

- Can you think of moments when false ideas or misunderstandings have weakened your own faith?

#### 4. God Is Just

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:4–7.

- What stands out to you in Paul's encouragement?
- Paul says their suffering is a sign they're on the right track. How does that challenge or comfort you?
- Where do you see injustice in the world (or your own life) that makes you long for Jesus to return?

#### God Is Gracious

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:8–10.

- How does knowing the returning Judge is also the crucified, humble Jesus shape the way you think about His return?
- Paul says God's people will be welcomed into His presence and glory.

What does that hope stir in you?

#### Holding Both Truths Together

Paul gives two significant truths:

- God is just — Jesus will return to make all things right.
- God is gracious — Jesus gives grace now and changes us.

Which of these truths do you personally find easier to hold onto? Which is harder? Why?

#### What Difference Does This Make?

- How might believing that Jesus will make all things right strengthen your faith today?
- How might believing that Jesus is gracious now change the way you live this week?

#### Paul's Prayer (vv. 11–12)

Read Paul's prayer aloud.

- What part of this prayer do you most want God to grow in you?
- What would it look like for Jesus to be "glorified in

you" in your everyday life?

- What would it look like for Jesus to be "glorified in us" as a church?

#### Prayer Together

Use Paul's prayer as a guide:

- Pray that God would make you worthy of His calling.
- Pray that He would bring to life every desire for goodness.
- Pray that Jesus would be glorified in your group and in your church.