

Hello! This is Dorothy -

Every age of persecution or trouble gives some believers the false impression that the Church is going through the terrible time of worldwide judgment with Christ.

In **Matthew 24:21**, we read what Christ said-

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved . . . *This is the Lord describing the great tribulation.*

In **2 Thessalonians, chapter 2**, the Apostle Paul warns the new converts of three signs before the judgment of the day of the Lord takes place.

3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin - the man of lawlessness - be revealed, the son of perdition -of doom.

5 Do you not recollect that when I was still with you, I told you of these things? *He told them about the apostasy (2:3) - and the man of sin - (3 and 4) - and what is called the restrainer, for the*

man of sin cannot come until the restrainer allows him - (6 and 7).

The **apostasy** - *the falling away* - is an aggressive revolt against God which will prepare the way for the appearance of the man of sin. In

Philippians 3, we read -

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things. A new Christian can be more gullible, if not grounded in the truth of God's Word. Actually, in **Ephesians 4:14**, it says -

14 . . . henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

The **apostasy** is perfectly described in **2 Timothy 4:3,4** —

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

The *rebellion, the falling away*, comes from the word apostasy This

will take place in the professing Church and it will be a departure from the truth that God has revealed in His Word. Some scholars say that the verb *to depart* is actually used fifteen times in the New Testament, and only once is it ever translated: *to fall away*. All the other times, it is used *to depart* or *to leave for*. In other words, they believed that this is saying that before these things happen, there will be the leaving, the departure, speaking of the rapture of the Church. Well, in either application for the believer, it is urgent that we continually be in the Word of God in these evil days.

Then we read of ***the man of sin, the man of lawlessness, and the restrainer***. (This will have to be in another devotional because time is running out.) But the wonderful end of this terrifying world situation is as we read in **chapter 2, verse 8 of 2 Thessalolnians -**
8 And then shall the Wicked one - *the antichrist* - be revealed, whom the Lord - *the Lord Jesus* - shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. - *that is His second coming*.

In **Isaiah 11**, we read —

1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, a Branch out of his roots - *that's the line of David* -

4 . . . and he - *Jesus* - shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

So what is this all about? It is simply saying that the Lord Jesus is coming soon! He is coming to meet His own in the air. He will come the second time, and, we read, He will come to this earth. He will come in that which is called the Day of the Lord. In that Day there is that period which is so dreadful as it speaks of persecution and death and horror and the man of sin will be reigning. The time is limited to come to Jesus. Make sure you know Him

Be in touch with us - we want to help you.

In Jesus Name. Amen.