



# 2 THESSALONIANS

## 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 – The Just Judgment of God

September 8, 2024

*This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—*

*2 Thessalonians 1:5 (ESV)*

- 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 is about the justice of God. The word “just” or “justice” is used four times.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 is about the return of Christ. History will not go on forever. Jesus is coming back.

### 1. Jesus is coming back.

*...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire,...* 2 Thessalonians 1:7–8 (ESV)

**Revealed** — It is the word *apocalypse*. It means revealing the true nature and glory of Jesus to those who haven't recognized him. Jesus' return will be like an invasion from outer space.

#### A. Jesus will be revealed from heaven.

*...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven...* 2 Thessalonians 1:7–8 (ESV)

*“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”* Acts 1:11 (ESV)

*...then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.* Matthew 24:30 (ESV)

#### B. Jesus will be revealed with His angels.

*...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels...* 2 Thessalonians 1:7–8 (ESV)

*When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.* Matthew 25:31 (ESV)

*For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.* Matthew 16:27 (ESV)

### C. **Jesus will be revealed in flaming fire.**

...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire,... 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 (ESV)

Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. Exodus 19:18 (ESV)

for our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:29 (ESV)

## 2. **Jesus' return will bring relief to some and retribution to others.**

...God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven... 2 Thessalonians 1:6-7 (ESV)

### A. **Jesus' return will bring relief to those who love Him.**

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Revelation 21:4 (ESV)

### B. **Jesus' return will bring retribution to those who don't love Him.**

#### i. **Only God can carry out just punishment.**

#### ii. **God has temporarily delegated just punishment to the government.**

But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Romans 13:4 (ESV)

#### iii. **We are to leave personal vengeance to God.**

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord". Romans 12:19 (ESV)

#### iv. **We are to do good to our enemies.**

But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. Matthew 5:39-40 (ESV)

## 3. **Retribution — Why, Who, and How**

### A. **Why is Jesus coming back to bring retribution?**

...God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,... 2 Thessalonians 1:6 (ESV)

for his judgments are true and just... Revelation 19:2 (ESV)

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because

they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Luke 13:1–3 (ESV)

**B. Who will experience Jesus' retribution?**

**i. Those who afflict Christians.**

...God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you...  
2 Thessalonians 1:6 (ESV)

Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. Mark 9:42 (ESV)

**ii. Those who do not know God.**

...inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God...  
2 Thessalonians 1:8 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (ESV)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.  
Romans 1:18 (ESV)

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:19–20 (ESV)

**iii. Those who reject the forgiveness of Jesus.**

inflicting vengeance... on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 2 Thessalonians 1:8 (ESV)

Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? Hebrews 10:28–29 (ESV)

**C. How will Jesus' retribution be carried out?**

**i. They will experience affliction.**

...God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you...  
2 Thessalonians 1:6 (ESV)

**ii. They will experience eternal destruction.**

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction...  
2 Thessalonians 1:9 (ESV)

(Jesus) he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,  
Hebrews 5:9 (ESV)

**iii. They will experience eternal separation from God's goodness.**

...away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,...  
2 Thessalonians 1:9 (ESV)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,... James 1:17 (ESV)

...and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. Revelation 14:10 (ESV)

## 4. Relief — Why, Who, and How

...and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 2 Thessalonians 1:7 (ESV)

### A. Why is Jesus coming back to bring relief to Christians?

...God considers it just... to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven... 2 Thessalonians 1:6–7 (ESV)

### B. Who will experience the relief of Jesus' return?

and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us,...  
2 Thessalonians 1:7 (ESV)

### C. How will we be rewarded?

#### i. Jesus' glory will shine through us.

...he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints,...  
2 Thessalonians 1:10 (ESV)

who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body,...  
Philippians 3:21 (ESV)

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)

#### ii. Our new identity will leave everyone in awe!

...and to be marveled at among all who have believed,...  
2 Thessalonians 1:10 (ESV)

## Life Group Questions

---

1. **Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10.** Why is the judgment of Jesus' return a comfort for those suffering for Jesus? How does it make you feel?
2. Let your imagination be guided by the verses we studied. Describe how you think the day of Jesus' return might unfold.
3. Why are Jesus' horrifying retribution on the world and spectacular relief for Christians both displays of God's justice? How does that change the way you think about yourself when you look in the mirror?
4. Why is it just for God to carry out wrath against those who never heard of Jesus, many of whom will be religious people?
5. Review the outline and discuss the sermon. What was new to you? What comforted you? How can this message change the way you think and live this week?