



The Second Coming of Christ Salvador Dali (1971)

VOCABULARY

(From Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms by Donald McKim)

Apocalypse (Gr. Apokalypsis, “revelation,” “disclosure,” “unveiling”) *The final “revealing” of divine mysteries.* It is a type of revelatory literature. The book of Revelation is also called the Apocalypse.

Apocalyptic, New Testament: Portions of the NT that describe the end of the world.

Apocalyptic, Old Testament: *Portions of the Old Testament featuring symbolic forms or visions and pointing toward the future,* marked especially by the theme of judgment (for example the Book of Daniel).

Heresy (Gr. Hairesis, “choice”) *A view chosen instead of the official teachings of a church.* Such a view is thus regarded as wrong and potentially dangerous for faith.

1 and 2 Thessalonians both address the end of time but from a different perspective. In the first letter, the community is concerned with whether or not they will see their loved ones upon the Lord’s return. Their questions arise from losses in their personal lives; consequently, Paul’s response is more pastoral in nature.

In 2 Thessalonians the issues are different. The concern has less to do with personal grief and more to do with broader theological beliefs. In this letter, the author writes to provide correct teaching about the coming of Christ and establish orthodox views on this subject.

I. LETTER BEGINNING

1. *Sender (from whom)*

- Paul, Silvanus, & Timothy (1:1a)

2. *Recipient (to whom)*

- To the Church of the Thessalonians in God the Father & the Lord Jesus Christ (1:1b)

3. *Formulaic Greeting*

- Grace to you and peace (1:2)

4. *Thanksgiving/ Blessing*

- Faith & love growing (1:3-4)
- God chose you for salvation (2:13-15)

II. LETTER BODY

1. *Initial Exhortation*

- God’s judgment at the revelation of Jesus (1:5-12)

2. *Thesis Statement (n/a)*

3. *Theological Discussions*

- Events before the coming of Jesus Christ (2:1 –12)

4. *Ethical Admonitions*

- Warning against being idle (3:6-15)

III. LETTER CONCLUSION

1. *Practical Matters*

- request for prayers (3:1-5)

2. *Individual Greetings (n/a)*

3. *Personal Postscript (n/a)*

4. *Prayer or Doxology*

- May the Lord give you love peace & grace (2:16-17; 3:5, 16,18)