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II Thessalonians	
II Thes 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:	Paul, Silvanus (Silas), and Timothy, to the church (assembly) of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One): (AMP)
II Thes 1:2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.	Grace (unmerited favor) be to you and [heart] peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). (AMP)
II Thes 1:3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;	We ought and indeed are obligated [as those in debt] to give thanks always to God for you, brethren, as is fitting, because your faith is growing exceedingly and the love of every one of you each toward the others is increasing and abounds. (AMP) Paul congratulates them on their increased faith.
II Thes 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:	And this is a cause of our mentioning you with pride among the churches (assemblies) of God for your steadfastness (your unflinching endurance and patience) and your firm faith in the midst of all the persecutions and crushing distresses and afflictions under which you are holding up. (AMP) And on their steadfastness in the face of persecutions and tribulations.
II Thes 1:5 [Which is] a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:	This is positive proof of the just and right judgment of God to the end that you may be deemed deserving of His kingdom [a plain token of His fair verdict which designs that you should be made and counted worthy of the kingdom of God], for the sake of which you are also suffering. (AMP) This is a sign that God is blessing you.
II Thes 1:6 Seeing [it is] a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;	[It is a fair decision] since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with distress and affliction those who distress and afflict you, (AMP) As your enemies sow, so shall they reap.
II Thes 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,	And to [recompense] you who are so distressed and afflicted [by granting you] relief and rest along with us [your fellow sufferers] when the

	<p>Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in a flame of fire, (AMP)</p> <p>And when Jesus comes again, you will not lose your reward.</p>
<p>II Thes 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:</p>	<p>To deal out retribution (chastisement and vengeance) upon those who do not know or perceive or become acquainted with God, and [upon those] who ignore and refuse to obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. (AMP)</p> <p>When Christ returns, the earth will be terrestrialized and those who are unfit to bear that level of glory will not remain on the planet.</p>
<p>II Thes 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;</p>	<p>Such people will pay the penalty and suffer the punishment of everlasting ruin (destruction and perdition) and eternal exclusion and banishment from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, (AMP)</p>
<p>From latter-day revelation, we learn that God is going to be more lenient on these people. They will have an opportunity to accept or reject the Gospel in the future. They will be resurrected at the end of the Millennium, but where God is, they cannot come.</p>	
<p>II Thes 1:10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.</p>	<p>When He comes to be glorified in His saints [on that day He will be made more glorious in His consecrated people], and [He will] be marveled at and admired [in His glory reflected] in all who have believed [who have adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Him], because our witnessing among you was confidently accepted and believed [and confirmed in your lives]. (AMP)</p> <p>But, for the righteous, that day will be glorious.</p>
<p>II Thes 1:11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of [this] calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of [his] goodness, and the work of faith with power:</p>	<p>With this in view we constantly pray for you, that our God may deem and count you worthy of [your] calling and [His] every gracious purpose of goodness, and with power may complete in [your] every particular work of faith (faith which is that leaning of the whole human personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness). (AMP)</p>
<p>II Thes 1:12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>Thus may the name of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified and become more glorious through and in you, and may you [also be glorified] in Him according to the grace (favor and blessing) of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). (AMP)</p>

	Live the Gospel and so glorify the Lord.
II Thes 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [by] our gathering together unto him,	But relative to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and our gathering together to [meet] Him, we beg you, brethren, (AMP) But, speaking of the coming of the Lord, we have a few things to say.
II Thes 2:2 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.	Not to allow your minds to be quickly unsettled or disturbed or kept excited or alarmed, whether it be by some [pretended] revelation of [the] Spirit or by word or by letter [alleged to be] from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has [already] arrived and is here. (AMP)
<p>Paul is walking back his previous letter. Why does he say "alleged to be from us"?</p> <p>"...in his second letter Paul taught that the saints should remain firm in what they have already been taught and not allow themselves to be shaken by others in word, spirit, or by letter (2 Thes. 2:2). The Joseph Smith Translation renders this passage 'or be troubled by letter, except ye receive it from us.' Perhaps a forgery was circulating that reinforced the misunderstanding. In any case it is important that teachings or instructions come from those with proper authority." (Robert L. Millet, ed., Studies in Scripture, Vol. 6: Acts to Revelation [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1987], 160.)</p> <p>The church, as you know, is big on authority. Who says it is more important than what they actually say. It sounds to me like there was a miscommunication which caused needless speculation about when the second coming of Christ would come.</p>	
II Thes 2:3 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 be revealed, the son of perdition;	Let no one deceive or beguile you in any way, for that day will not come except the apostasy comes first [unless the predicted great falling away of those who have professed to be Christians has come], and the man of lawlessness (sin) is revealed, who is the son of doom (of perdition), (AMP) Christ will not return save there be a falling away first.
<p>Joseph Smith:</p> <p>"Paul in his second epistle to the Thessalonians gives utterance to a prophecy which covers the whole ground of the absolute and universal apostasy of Christendom. A prophecy which, if the apostasy of so-called Christendom has not been complete and universal, proves beyond all question that the great Apostle of the Gentiles is a false prophet; or if fulfilled, then it proves that the Church of Christ, so far as it existed in the earth was to be destroyed; that another and different religion was to be substituted for the Christian religion: that another church, one founded by men, was to take the place of the Church of Christ, a worldly church dominated by the very spirit of Lucifer, who, under its rule, would oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God; and sit in the temple of God showing himself, so far as this world is concerned, that he is God. Moreover Paul declared in this very</p>	

prophecy I am about to quote that the forces which would ultimately bring to pass this universal apostasy from the Christian religion-'the mystery of iniquity'-was already at work even in his day." (History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1:xcii.)

D&C 123:7 It is an imperative duty that we owe to God, to angels, with whom we shall be brought to stand, and also to ourselves, to our wives and children, who have been made to bow down with grief, sorrow, and care, under the most damning hand of murder, tyranny, and oppression, supported and urged on and upheld by the influence of that spirit which hath so strongly riveted the creeds of the fathers, who have inherited lies, upon the hearts of the children, and filled the world with confusion, and has been growing stronger and stronger, and is now the very mainspring of all corruption, and the whole earth groans under the weight of its iniquity.

The great apostasy was more than just a loss of keys or priesthood power because if it were, and if the Catholic church with its assertion that it possessed the keys and the priesthood could lose them, then so could the Mormon church with its assertion that it possesses the keys and the priesthood. In fact, D&C 121 states that no matter who holds Priesthood, they lose it if they misuse their authority.

D&C 121:37 That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold, the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man.

Here's how apostasy happens:

Apostasy does not require the wholesale abandonment of truth. Instead, it merely requires slow, small corruptions to the truths delivered through a dispensation head. "Apostasy never came by renouncing the gospel, but always by corrupting it." (Hugh Nibley, *Temples and Cosmos*, pg. 395.)

<p>II Thes 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.</p>	<p>Who opposes and exalts himself so proudly and insolently against and over all that is called God or that is worshiped, [even to his actually] taking his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming that he himself is God. (AMP)</p>
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Church leaders back then and even now claim to speak the word of God as if they were God, and to claim that God has given his power to men, as if they had the power of God.

2 Nephi 28:5 And they deny the power of God, the Holy One of Israel; and they say unto the people: Hearken unto us, and hear ye our precept; for behold there is no God today, for the Lord and the Redeemer hath done his work, and he hath given his power unto men;

2 Nephi 28:6 Behold, hearken ye unto my precept; if they shall say there is a miracle wrought by the hand of the Lord, believe it not; for this day he is not a God of miracles; he hath done his work.

<p>II Thes 2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?</p>	<p>Do you not recollect that when I was still with you, I told you these things? (AMP)</p>
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Paul reminds them that he taught them about the coming apostasy, but apparently, they overlooked that teaching and got caught up in the more glamorous teaching about the second coming.

<p>II Thes 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.</p>	<p>And now you know what is restraining him [from being revealed at this time]; it is so that he may be manifested (revealed) in his own [appointed] time. (AMP)</p>
<p>II Thes 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [The archaic meaning this word it to restrain.] [will let], until he be taken out of the way.</p>	<p>For the mystery of lawlessness (that hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority) is already at work in the world, [but it is] restrained only until he who restrains is taken out of the way. (AMP)</p>
<p>The mystery of lawlessness is already at work in the world but is restrained from being revealed at this time. It is the “mainspring of all corruption”, as quoted previously. Who or what is holding back the full forces of evil, giving us time to repent and prepare for the worst to come in the future? The Book of Revelation tells us that more demons will be released as we approach the end. Perhaps the angel(s) who have charge over the bottomless pit are holding this back. That is beyond the scope of this paper.</p>	
<p>II Thes 2:8 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:</p>	<p>And then the lawless one (the antichrist) will be revealed and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end by His appearing at His coming. (AMP)</p> <p>Perhaps is best to leave the details until we study Revelation.</p>
<p>II Thes 2:9 [Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,</p> <p>[Yea, the Lord, even Jesus, whose coming is not until after there cometh a falling away, by the working of Satan with all power, and signs and lying wonders, JST]</p>	<p>The coming [of the lawless one, the antichrist] is through the activity and working of Satan and will be attended by great power and with all sorts of [pretended] miracles and signs and delusive marvels--[all of them] lying wonders—(AMP)</p>
<p>II Thes 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.</p>	<p>And by unlimited seduction to evil and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing (going to perdition) because they did not welcome the Truth but refused to love it that they might be saved. (AMP)</p>
<p>II Thes 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:</p>	<p>Therefore God sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error and a strong delusion to make them believe what is false, (AMP)</p>
<p>The worst of this is yet to come, but strong delusions are already shrouding the world. Mistrust and distrust are on the rise. It’s getting to the point that nobody knows where to turn for reliable information about anything.</p>	
<p>II Thes 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.</p>	<p>In order that all may be judged and condemned who did not believe in [who refused to adhere to, trust in, and rely on] the Truth, but [instead] took pleasure in unrighteousness. (AMP)</p>

	There will be an entire separation of the righteous and the wicked. There will be no doubt about who serves the Lord and who doesn't.
II Thes 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:	But we, brethren beloved by the Lord, ought and are obligated [as those who are in debt] to give thanks always to God for you, because God chose you from the beginning as His firstfruits (first converts) for salvation through the sanctifying work of the [Holy] Spirit and [your] belief in (adherence to, trust in, and reliance on) the Truth. (AMP) But, know that the Lord especially loves you and chose you to be among the first to hear and accept the Gospel.
II Thes 2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.	[It was] to this end that He called you through our Gospel, so that you may obtain and share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah). (AMP)
The church in Paul's day may have eventually fallen to apostasy, but it did establish a presence, and the Jews and the apostles did give us the Old and New Testaments, from which we could begin to learn the Gospel.	
II Thes 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions [teachings] which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.	So then, brethren, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions and instructions which you were taught by us, whether by our word of mouth or by letter. (AMP) Hold fast to what you have been taught. In this case "traditions" doesn't refer to the false traditions of men, but to the teachings that were delivered by the servants of God.
II Thes 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,	Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, Who loved us and gave us everlasting consolation and encouragement and well-founded hope through [His] grace (unmerited favor), (AMP)
II Thes 2:17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.	Comfort and encourage your hearts and strengthen them [make them steadfast and keep them unswerving] in every good work and word. (AMP)
II Thes 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have [free] course, and be glorified, even as [it is] with you:	Furthermore, brethren, do pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may speed on (spread rapidly and run its course) and be glorified (extolled) and triumph, even as [it has done] with you, (AMP)
II Thes 3:2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all [men] have not faith.	And that we may be delivered from perverse (improper, unrighteous) and wicked (actively

	malicious) men, for not everybody has faith and is held by it. (AMP)
II Thes 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep [you] from evil.	Yet the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen [you] and set you on a firm foundation and guard you from the evil [one]. (AMP)
II Thes 3:4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.	And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will continue to do the things which we suggest and with which we charge you. (AMP)
II Thes 3:5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.	May the Lord direct your hearts into [realizing and showing] the love of God and into the steadfastness and patience of Christ and in waiting for His return. (AMP) Wait for His return, but do not put your lives on hold.
II Thes 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.	Now we charge you, brethren, in the name and on the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) that you withdraw and keep away from every brother (fellow believer) who is slack in the performance of duty and is disorderly, living as a shirker and not walking in accord with the traditions and instructions that you have received from us. (AMP) Rather harsh. Shouldn't we instead try to put him on the strait way?
II Thes 3:7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;	For you yourselves know how it is necessary to imitate our example, for we were not disorderly or shirking of duty when we were with you [we were not idle]. (AMP) Follow our example and don't be idle.
II Thes 3:8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:	Nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and struggle we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden or impose on any of you [for our support]. (AMP) Neither Paul nor his brethren received support from the local members, but they labored at their own trades for their own support.
II Thes 3:9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.	[It was] not because we do not have a right [to such support], but [we wished] to make ourselves an example for you to follow. (AMP)

	Not that we couldn't have asked for it and weren't entitled to it, but we wanted to set a good example. (Why even mention it?)
II Thes 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.	For while we were yet with you, we gave you this rule and charge: If anyone will not work, neither let him eat. (AMP) Whatever happened to that saying today?
II Thes 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.	Indeed, we hear that some among you are disorderly [that they are passing their lives in idleness, neglectful of duty], being busy with other people's affairs instead of their own and doing no work. (AMP)
II Thes 3:12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.	Now we charge and exhort such persons [as ministers in Him exhorting those] in the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) that they work in quietness and earn their own food and other necessities. (AMP)
II Thes 3:13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.	And as for you, brethren, do not become weary or lose heart in doing right [but continue in well-doing without weakening]. (AMP)
II Thes 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.	But if anyone [in the church] refuses to obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he may be ashamed. (AMP) Some societies shun members of the group rather than physically punish them.
II Thes 3:15 Yet count [him] not as an enemy, but admonish [him] as a brother.	Do not regard him as an enemy, but simply admonish and warn him as [being still] a brother. (AMP)
II Thes 3:16 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord [be] with you all.	Now may the Lord of peace Himself grant you His peace (the peace of His kingdom) at all times and in all ways [under all circumstances and conditions, whatever comes]. The Lord [be] with you all. (AMP)
II Thes 3:17 The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.	I, Paul, write you this final greeting with my own hand. This is the mark and sign [that it is not a forgery] in every letter of mine. It is the way I write [my handwriting and signature]. (AMP) Is Paul implying that previous letters to the Thessalonians was not from him?
II Thes 3:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen.	The grace (spiritual blessing and favor) of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah) be with you all. Amen (so be it). (AMP)