

2 Thessalonians

Second Thessalonians encourages endurance under pressure, corrects alarm about the day of the Lord, and addresses disorderly idleness.



Interpretive reconstruction. The delivery scene is reconstructed. It does not visualize the sender or decide the authorship question.

Date · Confidence: Inferred

c. AD 51–52

If the letter was written later in Pauline tradition, that date and place no longer describe its composition.

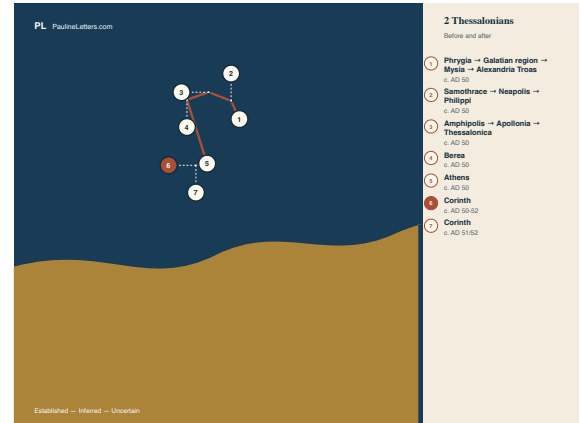
Place · Confidence: Inferred

On a direct-Pauline reading, AD 51–52 and probably Corinth are traditional reconstructions near First Thessalonians during the second journey; the letter itself names no writing city.

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Before and after

- 1 **c. AD 50** Forbidden by the Spirit in Asia; the Macedonian vision at Troas; the "we" sections begin.
Phrygia → Galatian region → Mysia → Alexandria Troas · Established
- 2 **c. AD 50** Sails Troas → Samothrace → Neapolis, then inland to Philippi: Lydia believes; the slave girl freed; beaten and jailed; the jailer saved; the church founded.
Samothrace → Neapolis → Philippi · Established
- 3 **c. AD 50** Three Sabbaths reasoning in Thessalonica; some believe; Jason dragged before officials.
Amphipolis → Apollonia → Thessalonica · Established
- 4 **c. AD 50** The noble Bereans examine the Scriptures daily; opponents arrive; Paul sent on.
Berea · Established
- 5 **c. AD 50** The Areopagus address; the unknown God, repentance, resurrection.
Athens · Established
- 6 **c. AD 50–52** Meets Aquila and Priscilla; reasons in the synagogue; stays eighteen months.
Corinth · Established
- 7 **c. AD 51/52** Brought before Gallio, who dismisses the case — the chronological anchor.
Corinth · Established



What the text establishes

Established

Second Thessalonians encourages endurance under pressure, corrects alarm about the day of the Lord, and addresses disorderly idleness.

The audience is the church in Thessalonica, addressed with Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy in the opening.

Leading reconstruction

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Other credible readings

Many scholars regard Second Thessalonians as a later work in Pauline tradition, citing differences in style and the treatment of the day of the Lord.

A ten-minute teaching plan

1. Second Thessalonians encourages endurance under pressure, corrects alarm about the day of the Lord, and addresses disorderly idleness.
2. On the traditional view, Second Thessalonians follows First Thessalonians closely during the Corinthian stay; other views place it later.
3. On a direct-Pauline reading, AD 51–52 and probably Corinth are traditional reconstructions near First Thessalonians during the second journey; the letter itself names no writing city.
4. Many scholars regard Second Thessalonians as a later work in Pauline tradition, citing differences in style and the treatment of the day of the Lord.

Primary texts

Romans through Philemon, World English Bible (public domain).

Acts 7–28, World English Bible (public domain).

Sources

Raymond E. Brown, An Introduction to the New Testament (Doubleday, 1997). — Chapter 26, “Second Letter to the Thessalonians,” “General Analysis of the Message”

Brown surveys the letter’s argument and pastoral occasion.

Jerome Murphy-O’Connor, Paul: A Critical Life (Oxford University Press, 1996). — Chapter 1, “The Chronological Framework,” “The Evidence from the Pauline Letters” and “The Evidence from the Acts of the Apostles”

Murphy-O’Connor explains why chronology must weigh the letters and Acts without treating either as a complete timetable.

Scripture references only; no protected Scripture body is included.

<https://paulineletters.com/explore/2-thessalonians>

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