

This Could Be It
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Intro: This could be it for America, and this could be it for the world as we know it. There is no doubt that prophecy is being fulfilled before our eyes by the hour. The words of Matthew 24:2-22 and following point to the events that are troubling us today, events that will intensify during the tribulation time to which this chapter of scripture points.

I. THIS COULD BE IT FOR AMERICA

A. This could be it for America. Psalm 9:17 says, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." America is in trouble because we have forsaken our principles of faith and duty. Samuel Adams in a letter to James Warren on November 4, 1779 said: "No people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and Virtue is preserved. On the contrary, when people are universally ignorant, and debauched in their manners, they will sink under their own weight with out the Aid of foreign invaders." Knowledge is not being diffused, but ignorance is rampant. Morals and manners are sick.

1. Americas' education system is failing. The US spends more money per child on education than any other nation, yet we rank at the bottom in many categories. A USA TODAY headline reads: "U.S. TOPS THE WORLD IN SCHOOL SPENDING BUT NOT IN TEST SCORES." The article goes on to say: "The United States spends more public and private money on education than other major countries, but its performance doesn't measure up in areas ranging from highschool graduation rates to test scores in math and science..."
2. Nanette Asimov of the San Francisco Chronicle writes: "U.S. seniors were outgunned in basic math by Sweden, Switzerland and Germany, among others; creamed in science by Canada; and overpowered in physics by the very country that is supposed to be looking to the United States for scientific expertise, Russia...Only 11 percent of U.S. seniors understood, for example, one of the most basic concepts of energy conservation...."
3. In a recent Bloomberg report, Brenda Musilli, director of

education for Intel Corp said: "It is unacceptable that more than 40 percent of U.S. eighth and 12th grade students still perform below the basic level in science."

- B. This could be it for America because we are spiritually and morally bankrupt. Historian Edward Gibbons' author of *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, gave five reasons for the decline and fall of Rome.
1. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
 2. Higher and higher taxes; the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.
 3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting, more brutal, more immoral.
 4. The building of great armaments when the great enemy was within; decay of individual responsibility.
 5. The decay of religion, fading into a mere form, losing touch with life, losing power to guide the people.
- C. 2 Timothy 1-7 characterizes the time in which we live here in the United States of America.
- D. Not only are we financially bankrupt, we are spiritually and morally bankrupt.
1. This is from the Saturday, October 11, 2008, San Francisco Chronicle. The headline reads: "Class Surprises Lesbian Teacher On Wedding Day." The article says: "A group of San Francisco first-graders took an unusual field trip to City Hall on Friday to toss rose petals on their just-married lesbian teacher." Liz Jaroflow, school director said: "It really is what we call a teachable moment."
 2. Brent Castillo of The Wichita Eagle, Wichita, Kansas in a recent article titled, *MORALS DECLINING, LIKE STOCK MARKET*, said: "There are numerous indications that our country's moral foundations are eroding, and the threshold of good and bad may also be reaching its tipping point. We have leaders, political and religious, who spew a feel-good theology that is unwilling to call out certain behaviors as unacceptable...Political persuasion was a reliable indicator of moral inclinations. On average, adults who described themselves as 'Mostly liberal' were twice as likely as those who described themselves as 'mostly conservative' to participate in activities that conflict with traditional moral

perspectives...Religion, or the lack of it, was also a determinant. Evangelicals were the group most likely to follow traditional morality; while atheists and agnostics were the faith segment most likely to reject it. Evangelicals aren't any better than anyone else, but the moral code they follow is. Things are not likely to change until Americans get serious about rejecting bad behavior and elevating good behavior. Not everyone is optimistic that it will happen before our society crashes like the housing market."

II. THIS MAY BE IT FOR THE WORLD AS WE HAVE KNOWN IT

- A. Daniel seven predicts the establishment of a One World Government. Daniel 7:15-28 gives us an outline of historic and prophetic events that have and will take place.
1. Vss. 15-19, An angel sent to show Daniel the meaning of the visions he had been given.
 2. Vs. 20, Speaks of the European Common Market. The horn, "more stout than his fellows", is the one World Government under the Beast.
 3. Vs. 21, Points to the persecution of the tribulation saints. After the rapture, there will be a remnant saved from the four corners of the earth (Matt. 24:31).
 4. Vs. 22, Tells us that Christ will come back at the end of the tribulation to take over the world.
 5. Vs. 23, The fourth beast and the fourth kingdom shall be the One World ruler and the One World Government. Ultimately, this ruler will destroy completely the world's economy. The saints in the tribulation will not be able to buy and sell because of the One World economic system that requires the Mark of the Beast (Rev.13:17).
 6. Vs 24, The first ten horns united to give power to the "little horn," an individual. One person will have world power.
 7. Vs. 25, The One World ruler will speak against Jehovah God (Rev. 13:4-8).
 8. Vs. 26-27, In vs. 26, we see the heavenly council sitting in judgment over the beast and the One World Government.
- B. What we have just looked at in Daniel 7 is detailed in 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12. With the world in crisis economically, October 7, USA News headline was: WORLD MARKETS FALL AS US ILLS SPREAD. People are looking for a leader to help

them with their fleshly needs. The G 7 nations met on Saturday to make plans for stability of the markets. Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of Great Britain, said in the Oct. 12, 2008, Observer: "This is a moment of truth for the European economies, facing up to the challenges that are ahead." Barak Obama said on October 9: "Let the nations of the world gather in Washington." CNN stated: "the financial crisis reaches around the world." Recent headlines tell us that we are in trouble, and that One World leader will one day arise with a message of change and hope.

1. Vs.7, The One World spirit is at work and is held in check by the Holy Spirit.
2. Vs. 8, After the rapture, the Anti-Christ will be revealed to the world.
3. Vss. 9-10, The world will follow this false messiah. I AM NOT SAYING THAT Barak Obama is the false messiah. I do not believe he is. But I am reminded of the great crowds that have followed in the US, but more so, I have noted those who have almost worshiped at his feet in Europe.
4. Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, called Obama the messiah in a recent sermon saying: "You are the instruments that God is going to use to bring about change, and is why Barack has captured the youth...And he has involved the young people in a political process that they didn't care anything about. That's a sign. When the Messiah speaks, the youth will hear, and the Messiah is absolutely speaking."

CONCLUSION: This may be it!!!! Are you ready spiritually?