

**The Big Picture: Signs of the Times**  
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**2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 NKJ**

*Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

**Some Important Things to Note:**

- Believers should live with an awareness of Christ's return.
- Before He comes there will be a great falling away.

**1 Timothy 4:1 NIV**

*The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.*

- The world is being set up for an ANTI-CHRIST leader.
- Something is restraining this from happening right now.
- The power of the Anti-Christ spirit is DECEPTION.

- The only way people avoid deception is “THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH”.

**John 8:32 NKJ**

*"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

**The Big Picture Signs:**

1. THE INFLUENCE OF TECHNOLOGY

**Daniel 12:1-4 NKJ**

*"At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever. But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."*

**Genesis 3:5 NKJ**

*"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

**Genesis 11:4 NKJ**

*And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."*

**Genesis 11:6 NKJ**

*And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them."*

- Average child spends 37 hours per week in front of a screen of

technology

- 68% of men viewed porn within the last month
- 90% of children between ages 8-16 view porn (while doing homework)
- 30-40% of Internet activity at work is not work related
- 46% of online shopping takes place at work
- 70% of music downloads and pornography occur at work
- \$63 billion loss in productivity due to abuse of Internet at work

## 2. RISE OF LAWLESSNESS

### **2 Thessalonians 2:7 NKJ**

*For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work...*

### **2 Thessalonians 2:8 NKJ**

*And then the lawless one will be revealed...*

### **Matthew 24:12 NKJ**

*"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."*

### **1 John 3:4 NKJ**

*Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*

### **Daniel 7:25a NKJ**

*"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High and shall intend to change times and law."*

### **Romans 1:24-32 NKJ**

*Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for*

*one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*

### 3. WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

#### **Revelation 13:16-17 NLT**

*He required everyone—small and great, rich and poor, free and slave—to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark, which was either the name of the beast or the number representing his name.*

#### **Three Key Features of Every Fallen Empire:**

1. People turn away from God
2. Complete moral and social breakdown
3. Financial collapse

#### **Matthew 24:7 NKJ**

*For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

#### **2 Peter 3:14-18 NLT**

*And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him – speaking of these things in all of his letters. Some of his comments are hard to understand, and those who are ignorant and unstable have twisted*

*his letters to mean something quite different, just as they do with other parts of Scripture. And this will result in their destruction. You already know these things, dear friends. So be on guard; then you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing. Rather, you must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.*