

Let me read v.18 of Rom. 8 and on, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us, for the earnest expectation of the creation . . . the creation it self shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God." Now up to this palce I've change the word "creature" in the KJV into "creatōn" which is an equally possible rendering of the Greek. Now the same Greek word occurs in the next v. and there the KJV translates it as creation. "For we know that the creation groans and travails in pain together until now."

Isn't that a picture of the world with a curse upon it that God placed on it in Gen. on account of man's sin. "The whole creation groans" . . . .on account of man's sin and as a result of the curse God has placed upon it which results in animals killing animals and animals being a danger to man. In v.20 he says the creation was made subject of vanity not willing but by reason of him that hath subjected the same in hope. In vs. 21, "Creation itself shall be delivered from thezgon bondage of corruption unto the glorious liberty of the children of God." Paul says the time is coming when the curse will be removed, and no longer will animals destroy one another or be a danger to man. And Is. describes that situation in Is. 11, that marvellous time coming when the curse is removed after Jesus Christ returns to this earth and with the rod of his mouth smites the earth and with the breath of his lips slays the wicked. (This ended one side of the tape. The next does not seem to follow but speaks of the RAPTURE instead of the Millennium)

It is a strange thing that as you look through the records of minister's sermons as you look through the list of subjects that have been discussed in ch. after ch. through the centuries, you will find many a case where yr. after yr. there has never been a sermon preached on the rapture of the ch. Even godly ministers, even many who have truly believed in Christ and His salvation and the great subjects of Scripture, many of them have never preached on this subject. To my mind that is a terrible commentary on human frailty, because all of us tend to repeat what we've heard. We tend to take the thoughts and ideas that have presented to us and pass them on, and to get our ideas from other human beings instead of from God's Word. Anybody who believes this is God's Word has an obligation to try to understand not just a few verses, not just a few favority books but all of God's Word. It is all given us for our edification. It is God's message for His people in its entirety. When you examine the Bible in its entirety the fact it teaches the rapture of the ch. is not something that is gathered from a few difficult verses comparing some very strange things together; it is a very definite clear presentation to which almost half a chapter is directed. So anyone who studies the Bible and believes it is God's Word and who seeks to find God's leading as God's child in the Bible, should some day take this half a ch. and read and say what does this mean and it is very simple. It's not one of the difficult sections of the Bible. I call your attention then to 1 Thess. 4:13-18.