

End of Days

What the Bible Says Happens Next

Mark W. Swarbrick

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This book is dedicated...

To Pastor Steve Joos, the man of God who first taught me about end-time prophecy and who, by his love and example, taught me to look forward to the Blessed Hope of the Church.

Special Thanks...

To Bonnie Swarbrick Morehouse for proofreading and editing the manuscript

Other Publications by Mark Swarbrick...

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Swaggartism: The Strange Doctrines of Jimmy Swaggart Ministries

Truly Amazing: The Real Story of Adam and Eve

Preface

I crawled under my school desk and hunkered down on the floor and thought about doomsday. Looking around, I saw all my classmates under their desks too - the entire 1st-grade class. It was 1961, and we were rehearsing what we were to do in the event of a nuclear attack from the Soviet Union. We practiced this as often as we did fire drills.

In our small town in west-central Illinois, everyone took civil defense quite seriously. People dug fallout shelters in their backyards. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) wanted to kill us, and everyone knew it. There was a loud siren on the roof of the fire station. It could be heard everywhere in town. It went off once a day at noon to let everyone know it was lunchtime. Most importantly, everyone knew that if there were a nuclear attack inbound, it would sound off to warn everyone to seek cover. Whenever the siren blared, I would immediately find a clock to make sure it was noon, for if it weren't, I would know the end of days was at hand.

I will never forget the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. One of our high-altitude U-2 spy planes had discovered that the Russians had placed nuclear ballistic missiles in Cuba. Our ships blockaded Cuba, and the Russian vessels were on their way. We had drawn a line in the sand, and they were going to cross it. On the island of Cuba, just a hundred miles off our coast, Russian military personnel began fueling the nuclear ballistic missiles, preparing them for a quick launch against America. Cuban/Russian forces on Cuba then shot down one of our U-2 spy planes as it flew over the island. The US

Strategic Air Command was placed on DEFCON 2¹ for the first time in history. Plans for invading Cuba were presented to the President.

Several Russian submarines, armed with nuclear torpedoes, silently prowled the depths underneath our ships. Our generals urgently pressured President Kennedy to make an immediate full-scale attack on Cuba. One of our ships discovered a submerged Russian sub and began dropping depth charges near it to force it to surface. Inside the Soviet submarine, the temperature had reached 122 degrees, and carbon dioxide levels rose while their battery power waned. The Russian captain felt doomed and decided to launch his nuclear torpedo. It had the explosive power of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The captain exclaimed, “*Maybe the war has already started up there. We’re gonna blast them now! We will die, but we will sink them all—we will not become the shame of the fleet.*”²

The second in command agreed with the captain’s decision to launch. Fortunately, it required the agreement of the three senior officers on the sub to release nuclear weapons. The third commander was Vasili Alexandrovich Arkhipov. He was the flotilla commander, and he disagreed. He argued that war had not started, or the depth charges would have been on target. “They only want us to surface,” he argued. They surfaced. Our U.S. destroyer signaled the sub, asking if they needed assistance, which they declined. The sub immediately headed back to Russia. Never before or since has the world been so close to nuclear holocaust.

I was six years old at the time. My older sister had brought me up to speed on all the news. She had told me that at 9 AM,

¹ The defense readiness condition (DEFCON) is an alert state used by the United States Armed Forces. It prescribes five graduated levels of readiness for the U.S. military. It increases in severity from DEFCON 5 (least severe) to DEFCON 1 (most severe) to match varying military situations.

² <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2016/03/you-and-almost-everyone-you-know-owe-your-life-to-this-man/#close>

the two opposing forces would meet, and then we would know whether or not nuclear war would start. I remember sitting in my first-grade classroom, watching the clock on the wall as it edged closer and closer to 9:00.³ At one minute to nine, I held my breath. Was this the end? Finally, the minute hand slowly crept past nine, and I breathed a sigh of relief. I was still alive. The world had not ended. Thanks to President John F Kennedy and his cool thinking, and in no small part to Russian Commander Arkhipov, a peaceful resolution was eventually reached. God in Heaven was looking out for us, letting cooler heads prevail. Doomsday would have to wait.⁴

Nevertheless, doomsday will someday come. The Bible says so. 2 Peter 3:10 reads, “*The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.*” When Jesus told the disciples that one day the temple would be destroyed and that “*There shall not be left here one stone upon another,*” the disciples asked Jesus, “*When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?*” (Matthew 24:3). For the past two thousand years, Christians have been asking that same question. The temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. precisely as Jesus described, but we still await the end of the age. When is it coming? What will it be like?

Everyone would like to know what the future holds. There are ancient Bible prophecies that tell us what is coming in the end-times. This book carefully explains what the predictions tell us and what they don't. This book will give you an overview of what is coming. Although there are some horrendous things in store for the world, there is a beautiful

³ 9:00 AM Central Time is when the embargo/quarantine went into effect. The danger of nuclear holocaust actually went on for two more weeks, until Russia agreed to remove the missiles.

⁴ I highly recommend the movie *Thirteen Days* starring Kevin Costner. It is a riveting, historically accurate dramatization of what transpired during the Cuban missile crisis.

event predicted that will deliver all Christians from the time of trouble that will one day engulf the world.

There is disagreement among scholars as to the meaning of some of these prophecies. Eschatology is a complicated subject that requires lots of studious thought. No one is right about everything. Thank the Lord, we are not saved by being right, but by grace through faith in Jesus' name.

For those who disagree with my positions taken herein, I say this: God bless you, my brother (or sister). We are all on the same team and headed to the same Heaven. The fascinating study of prophecy does not need to be, and should not be, an adversarial arena that breaks fellowship. Unfortunately, some have made it that. If my writing helps anyone, that is good, and if any disagree, that is fine also. Perhaps I am mistaken about some things. Compare what I say with the Holy Scripture. Accept only that which agrees with God's written word. May God give us all the grace to learn and grow together in love.

1

Dangerous Times

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

We live in dangerous times. Never before in history has fallen mankind had more destructive weaponry at their disposal. Communist China is expanding its military and taking over land that is not theirs. Russia is still a super-power that is a formidable threat. Muslim nations like Iran want to destroy the U.S. As this is being written, a pandemic has swept the world, killing 745,000 people with thousands more dying every day. Radical leftists are rioting in the streets, burning, pillaging, and killing. The solution of some politicians is to defund the police and take guns away from law-abiding citizens. Our world has gone crazy.

As if all the danger on earth were not enough, there is also an insidious danger from outer space. In 1859 our sun emitted what scientists call a Coronal Mass Ejection (CRE). This caused a powerful geomagnetic storm that resulted in an electromagnetic pulse (EMP), which fried telegraph equipment and started fires in telegraph offices around the world. Scientists say that we can expect a significant CRE from the sun approximately every 150 years. It has been 161 years since the Carrington Event. We are overdue.

But this time, it won't just fry telegraph equipment; it will burn out all electronics that use solid-state integrated chips, which includes virtually every electronic device in the world. Today we are a society that depends upon electricity and electronics for our very survival. We literally cannot feed our people without it. The modern automobile, as well as generators and semi-trucks, use integrated circuit electronics to provide ignition and computerized engine controls. They will not run without them. Everything from factories to water purification and waste management now depends upon computer-controlled machinery.

While solid-state electronics are durable against physical jarring, they are extremely fragile when it comes to EMP. A world-wide electromagnetic pulse could destroy every integrated circuit chip in the world. All electronics in the world would cease functioning.⁵ Additionally, the high-voltage power transmission cables that crisscross our country would act as massive antennas that would soak in the pulse, causing the destruction of transformers and other crucial infrastructure. Some of these large transformers are not made in the United States and it could take years to get replacements. In the meantime, the electrical grid of the United States would be useless.

The sun is not the only danger. Whereas an EMP from the sun is indiscriminate, a nuclear generated EMP can be targeted to just one area, such as North America. A nuclear weapon, detonated at a high altitude of between 30 and 50 miles above America, would create a powerful EMP capable of destroying electronics and the power grid nationwide. Imagine cars and trucks not running, factories abandoned, and no communications. A hundred years ago, food was grown by farmers locally. Not so today. It comes from far away. Without shipping, people will not have access to food. Water supply to towns and cities requires electricity to run the

⁵ Older tube-based equipment might survive. Vacuum tubes are rarely used in electronics today. Old cars (pre-1975) with point-type ignitions would still run.

pumps. There would be no running water and no sewage treatment.

In 2008 our government formed a commission to assess the threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse. They determined that an EMP would kill, within one year, 90 percent of America's population by starvation and disease. See the footnote to read the report for yourself.⁶ Frightening statistics indeed, especially when you contemplate a nuclear North Korea and a soon-to-be nuclear Iran – a country which chants “Death to America.”

American defense experts recently recovered and translated a secret Iranian military handbook which speaks of Iran's plans to use EMP against the United States. Intelligence reports reveal that Iran has practiced launching a mobile ballistic missile from a vessel in the Caspian Sea and successfully tested high-altitude explosions of its Shahab-III ballistic missile, a test mode consistent with EMP attack. If such a missile were launched from a freighter in the Gulf of Mexico, it would be impossible to trace the attack to a specific country. A smaller attack could be done with a high-altitude weather balloon. However, this would not reach a sufficient altitude to affect the entire United States, but would be capable of destroying the power grid from Washington D.C. to New York.

Just a short while ago, our world was normal. Practically overnight, everything changed. The coronavirus hit, and life has not been the same since. Many could not work. People got sick, and many died. At the time of this writing, people can't go out without masks on. The economy is in shambles. Just that quick, everything changed. Who would have thought? The Bible says there is an event coming that will be just as sudden and unexpected, but much worse than a pandemic.

⁶ http://www.empcommission.org/docs/A2473-EMP_Commission-7MB.pdf

The Real Danger

Our schools have brainwashed many of our youth into believing the world will end in ten years because of global warming.⁷ There are dangers in the world much more threatening than the normal temperature cycles of the planet; dangers that could be unleashed at any time. However, the real danger is not nuclear, or even EMP. The real danger is sin. Let me explain why.

It is God who holds the forces of destruction in check. It is He that has all things under his control. Only God can control whether or not the sun emits a destructive EMP pulse. It is God who puts men like John F. Kennedy and Russian Commander Arkhipov in critical positions to avert the end of the world before its time. Therefore, it behooves mankind to live in such a way as to engender the goodwill of our Heavenly Father. Whenever disaster is averted, we can truly say, “Thank God!”

Luke 2:14 reads, “*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.*” But what happens when God becomes displeased with men? Scripture has some accounts of when that happened. The Flood of Noah, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the complete annihilation of cannibalistic tribes in Canaan – these are some examples of God’s judgment upon people that become so wicked that they crossed a line that God would not tolerate.

As you can see, it is crucial for people – indeed, for nations – to conduct themselves in the fear of the Lord and abstain from evil. The Old Testament is filled with accounts of God punishing nations that became extremely wicked. But there is one nation that God repeatedly punished – Israel. Why? Because they were His chosen people to enlighten the world with God’s truth, and when they turned away from God and

⁷ Recently, while driving for Uber, I transported a group of college kids. I was amazed to find they all had been convinced by their professors that the world would end in a decade because of global warming.

sinned, God punished them severely. Jesus taught this principle: *“But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.”* (Luke 12:48) People and nations are judged based upon the light they have received.

America has received more light and blessings from God than any other nation in the world. Christian churches across the country have proclaimed the truth of God’s word since our founding. At its inception, America was blessed with leaders who exemplified Judeo-Christian ideals and ethics. This bedrock of righteousness has been a guiding light that brought America into tremendous freedom and wealth. With such an excellent foundation of virtue comes great responsibility. To whom much is given, much shall be required.

If your child has a friend over to play and that friend says a bad word, you, as a parent, will react differently than if your child says it. Why? Because you have raised your child to know better. You don’t know how the neighbor child has been raised. You might gently say, “We don’t talk that way here.” But if it is your child who says it, your reaction is more severe. You may give a very stern lecture, saying, “You know better!” You may take some privileges away because you hold your child to a higher standard.

In the same way, God holds America to a higher degree of righteousness than North Korea, for we have the Gospel; North Korea does not. We have the freedom to worship God. North Korea does not. Therefore we have a greater responsibility to live decent civilized lives that are pleasing to God. God holds America accountable because we should know better.

The Coming Judgement

Mankind has forgotten the lessons of Noah's Flood and of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. People of the world do not realize that sin is the ultimate destroyer. God is the ultimate protector, and we lose his favor at our peril. Scripture tells of a time yet to come when the wickedness of the world will reach a crescendo, and the Almighty will say, "Enough is enough!"

Here is a passage that tells when that will happen:

In the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. (Daniel 8:23)

That speaks of the Antichrist, who will arise during a period of time known as the Tribulation. The Tribulation happens, according to this verse, when "*the transgressors are come to the full.*" In other words, it occurs when people become so bad that they have crossed a line set by God.

Daniel 8:24 says of the Antichrist, "*His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints.*" People are transgressing God's laws right now, all over the world, to an unprecedented degree. One day those sins will pile up to Heaven, and God will allow the Antichrist to come. It is important that we realize the degree of rebellion against God's laws in the world today and understand the risk associated with that.

A Nation Adrift

Does anyone need convincing that America has slipped her moorings and is adrift in a sea of sin? America has been steadily drifting away from God for the past 70 years and the rate of departure from decency has been accelerating rapidly. The Bible makes it clear that God deals firmly with nations and cities that turn their back on Him. God punished the nation

of Egypt, and the tribes that inhabited Palestine, as well as Sodom and Gomorrah, and even Israel herself. What sins were grievous enough to incite God's wrath? Scripture lists two sins that were sure to bring about punishment from on high. We will discuss them both. The first one we shall consider is the sin of homosexuality.

Before we delve into what the Scripture says, I want to preface my remarks with this admonishment: Although there are homosexuals that became so out of their rejection of God, there are also young people that have been deceived and lured into that lifestyle. They are victims trapped by Satan. Jesus wants to set them free, and Christians need to be ever ready to witness with compassion and sincerity to them. These people don't know what Jesus can do for them, and they won't know unless we respond to them with love and mercy. Jude 1:23 says, "*Save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.*" We must ever be ready to love the sinner while hating the sin.

Homosexuality

God utterly destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for their sins, chief of which was homosexuality. Proponents of homosexuality deny that sexual preference had anything to do with why those cities were destroyed. However, Scripture makes the reason clear. Jude 1:7 says, "Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities near them, which like them committed sexual sins and pursued homosexual activities..." (International Standard Version) The men of Sodom even wanted to rape the two angels that came to Lot's home. Homosexuality and transgenderism have swept our country, indeed, the entire world. Sexual perversion has always been with us, but only in various places. Never before in history has the whole world – every nation – been swept into such a cesspool of debauchery. The sodomy that homosexuals engage in spreads the incurable AIDS virus, as well as hepatitis A and B. It also leads to anal

incontinence, anal cancer, and other maladies. One in five homosexuals is infected with the deadly HIV virus that leads to AIDS.⁸ AIDS originated with homosexuals, and according to Human Life International, “85% of all new cases still occur in male homosexuals and bisexual men.”⁹ The Bible tells us that homosexual desire is a punishment from God that comes upon those who deny that God is our sovereign Creator:

For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse...Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie...For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done...Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (Romans 1:18-32)

This passage says that they became homosexuals because “they exchanged the truth of God for a lie.” What lie? The lie that there is no God, that man was not created by God but evolved by mere chance and accident from a primordial soup

⁸ https://www.conservapedia.com/Homosexuality_and_AIDS

⁹ <https://www.hli.org/resources/is-aids-a-gay-disease/>

of chemicals billions of years ago. Many leftist liberal professors propagate this lie in our colleges across the nation. Both Charles Darwin and scientist Richard Dawkins admitted that believing in the theory of evolution led them to atheism.¹⁰ Our schools are producing a generation that no longer believes in God. Godless evolutionary theory¹¹ and homosexuality are bedfellows. Scripture says that because they believe “the lie,” that “*God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.*” When our universities teach atheism, we should not be surprised that homosexuality becomes rampant.

The fact that godlessness and homosexuality go hand in hand was recently demonstrated at the 2020 Democrat National Convention. “*One nation under God*” was intentionally removed from the Pledge of Allegiance in two of the convention’s meetings.¹² Although the phrase was included in some of the televised meetings, it was removed in the LGBTQ Caucus meeting and the Muslim Delegates Assembly on the eighteenth of August.

In the LGBTQ meeting, the speaker made a long pause after “one nation” to emphasize that they were deliberately leaving out “under God.”¹³ It is certainly understandable that lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, and queers don’t want anything to do with God, since they are steeped in sin. But it is disturbing that supposedly decent people running for political office would be so debased as to allow the denial of

¹⁰ <http://asktheatheists.com/questions/121-does-belief-in-evolution-lead-to-atheism/>

¹¹ *There are those who believe in God and evolution. They are called Theistic Evolutionists. Although I believe Theistic Evolution is an untenable position, those who hold to that are not in the same wicked category as those who believe in what I have called “Godless Evolutionary Theory.” For my refutation of Theistic Evolution, see my book Theistic Evolution by Mark Swarbrick available on Amazon.com*

¹² <https://thefederalist.com/2020/08/19/dnc-committee-omits-under-god-from-the-pledge-of-allegiance/>

¹³ *The video of the omission of “under God” can be seen here:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oB2aS7RfVAc>

God and the corruption of a pledge that represents our traditional American legacy of recognizing the sovereignty and blessings of God over our nation. To deny that we are one nation under God is to deny the founding documents of our country, which verbally recognize that our rights and liberties are given by God. Our elected leaders take an oath of office declaring to support and defend our Constitution, concluding their oath with *“so help me God.”*

Democrats said they thought that mentioning God was insensitive and may trigger homosexuals across the country. When the omission was reported, politicians became concerned it might hurt their chances in the upcoming election. The omission was quickly denied by the mass media and liberal fact-checkers. The report of the omission was censored by Facebook and the Google search engine. Nevertheless, it happened, and the words of President Ronald Reagan are apropos: *“If we ever forget that we’re one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”*

A few years ago, the United States Supreme Court proclaimed that men performing indecent sexual acts with other men could be recognized as Holy Matrimony.¹⁴ In celebration of that sacrilege, President Obama bathed the Whitehouse in rainbow colored lights. Leaders should be examples of virtue, not champions of perversion. Proverbs 14:24 says, *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.”*

Making a commitment to a sinful and sexually perverted, disease-spreading relationship does not equal the sanctity of God-ordained marriage between a man and woman. In short, God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. God calls homosexual practice a transgression and a wicked abomination. Scripture says, *“Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.”* (Leviticus 18:22) 1 Corinthians 6:9 says, *“Do not be deceived;*

¹⁴ *It used to be called Sodomy.*

neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals...will inherit the kingdom of God"

Today, if you own a business, the government forbids you from making your choice of an employee based upon "sexual orientation." If you have a family-run business, you may not want a sexual deviate working around your kids, but the law says that sexual orientation cannot be a basis for not hiring someone. Perhaps a job applicant is a man who prefers men, or maybe his "orientation" is towards little boys or girls, or possibly goats. Maybe he is a man who make-believes he is a woman. The law says you can't discriminate because of his sexual orientation. How absurd is that? In America you are forced to employ sexual deviates and have them around your family. If you own a bakery and you feel it violates your Christian beliefs to bake a cake in celebration of a so-called "same-sex marriage," and you refuse, the law will take your business, your home, fine you into poverty, and if you can't pay, off to jail you go. That is what is happening in America today.¹⁵ Someday God will say enough is enough. When? *"When the transgressors are come the full."*

Some mainline denominations are even daring to ordain homosexuals to ministry. On Monday, August 17, 2009, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) gathered at the convention center adjacent to one of their churches, the Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Their purpose was to consider a proposal that would allow members in homosexual relationships to serve as clergy, a proposal that was eventually approved.¹⁶ The meeting was to commence at 2:00 PM. At exactly 2:00 PM, a tornado, which is rare for Minneapolis, ripped the steeple from the church. This was

¹⁵ <https://www.christianpost.com/news/bakers-fined-135000-refusing-make-gay-wedding-cake-appeal-supreme-court.html>

¹⁶ *I was raised ELCA. My father, a Lutheran minister of the ELCA, to his eternal credit, left the ELCA over this decision and joined with a Lutheran denomination that adheres more faithfully to the Holy Scriptures.*

more than coincidence. It was an act of God. *Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?* (Mark 4:41) Could that have been a display of God's displeasure and perhaps a harbinger of judgment to come?



Tornado Rips Cross from Church Steeple

Infanticide

The other sin for which God punishes nations is a political hot potato: Abortion. Again, there are those associated with this sin who are diabolically evil, and there are those who are not. The founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, is the former. Sanger was a racist and eugenics proponent. Her intent to exterminate the blacks is well documented. Speaking to a Ku Klux Klan group, she spoke in favor of *"breeding for the gradual suppression, elimination and eventual extinction, of defective stocks — those human weeds which threaten the blooming of the finest flowers of American civilization."*¹⁷ In a letter, penned by Sanger on December 10th, 1939, she said, *"We do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate*

¹⁷ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/07/23/racism-eugenics-margaret-sanger-deserves-no-honors-column/5480192002/>

the Negro population..."¹⁸ She would have fit right in with the Nazi party in Germany. Just like Hitler, she had visions of building a master race.

Abortion is big business. Many of these abortionists, greedy for money, want to seduce as many women as possible into getting rid of their babies, while they lick their lips in anticipation of selling the body parts to the highest bidder. Recently a Planned Parenthood abortionist admitted under oath that she did in fact, say, "*I want a Lamborghini,*" in relation to "*what I would receive in compensation*" for "*fetal tissue*" from aborted babies.¹⁹

At the other end of the spectrum are the victims; decent people who have been lied to and tricked into thinking abortion is no big deal. Countless women have testified that they were talked into getting an abortion by a high-pressure abortion salesperson. Many of those regret their decision. They tell of medical complications as well as emotional trauma and continual feelings of guilt, which they struggle with for years afterward. Some of these suffered severe medical complications. Some have even died.

These injured people don't need condemnation from the Church. They are already getting that from their conscience. They need to know that Jesus will forgive any sin. They need to know that repentance and faith in Jesus will cleanse them and heal their broken spirit. God forgave the Apostle Paul for killing Christians before he met Christ. God will forgive those who killed their babies if they choose to turn away from death and embrace life through repentance and faith.

¹⁸ <https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2017/11/27/margaret-sanger-was-eugenicist-why-are-we-still-celebrating-her>

¹⁹ <https://aclj.org/pro-life/planned-parenthood-abortionist-forced-to-admit-under-oath-that-she-said-i-want-a-lamborghini-in-relation-to-compensation-for-aborted-babies-body-parts>

Now let us consider the light that Scripture sheds on this subject. God had the Canaanites destroyed because they practiced infanticide. In Jeremiah 32:35, God calls the killing of little children, “*a detestable thing.*” The Bible records God’s indictment: “*They built the high places of Baal...to offer up their sons and daughters to Molech, though I did not command them, nor did it enter into my mind, that they should do this abomination...*” (Jeremiah 32:35) Again God says, “*They...burn their children in the fire as offerings to Baal--something I did not command or mention, nor did it enter my mind.*”(Jeremiah 19:5)

Jesus said, “*But whoever hurts one of these little ones...it would be better for him if a millstone were hung about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*” (Matthew 18:6 NMB) Children are very precious in God’s sight. Jesus said, “*Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*” (Matthew 19:14) The Bible says of John the Baptist, “*He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb.*” (Luke 1:15) An unborn child (John the Baptist) was the first to recognize the Savior, for Mary said, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, “*As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.*” (Luke 1:43) So here we have Scripture telling us that unborn babies can feel joy and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Scripture teaches that man is alive, not just because of biological processes, but because God created our soul, our spirit within us. Without it, we are not alive.

...as her soul was departing (for she died) ... (Genesis 35:18)

...the body without the spirit is dead... (James 2:26)

...this very night your soul is required of you. (Luke 12:20)

The spirit shall return unto God who gave it. (Eccl 12:7)

When Jesus raised the young girl from death, we read:

But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. (Luke 8:54)

Scripture affirms that the spirit is created by God and put into a baby before birth:

As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything. (Ecclesiastes 11:5)

It is clear from the aforementioned passages that a baby in the womb is a living soul, for God has created the individual spirit and placed it within the child, before birth. The growth of a baby in the womb is more than just biological growth, for we are all more than just a conglomeration of chemical processes. Our spirit is our real self and our body cannot live without it. Our spirit continues after death. Our spirit existed within us before we were born. It was created by God and placed within us at the moment of conception. The growth of an unborn baby is the work of God:

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and the One who formed you from the womb... (Isaiah 44:24)

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. (Jeremiah 1:5, NIV).

Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward (Psalm 127:3, NASV).

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret...Your eyes saw my unformed substance.' (Psalms 139:13-16)

It is God who knits a baby together in the mother's womb. Although Jesus said this of marriage, it applies equally well to an unborn child: "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (Mark 10:9)

God's laws recorded in the Old Testament recognized that an unborn baby was a living person and that killing it (even inadvertently) required the same punishment as if an adult person were murdered:

If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely...and...there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise" (Exodus 21:22-25).

In the true story recounted in the book *Heaven is for Real* and the movie by the same name, Colton Burpo dies from a ruptured appendix. The doctors were able to revive him. Colton, who was only four years old, told his astonished parents that he had been in heaven with Jesus. One day Colton surprised his Mom by saying, "I have two sisters." His mother corrected him and said he only has one sister. Colton told his mother, "You had a baby die in your tummy." Colton explained that he saw his sister in Heaven, and she kept hugging him, explaining that she was his sister. Colton's parents had never told Colton that she had a miscarriage. Truly, unborn babies are real living souls. If they die before birth, their souls go to Heaven.

Americans have traditionally held life to be dear and precious. In most states, if a man assaults a pregnant woman and the fetus dies as a result of the attack, the assailant is charged with murder for causing the death of the baby. If a pregnant woman is murdered, the killer is charged with a double-homicide because he killed not one, but two people, the mother, and the baby.

Yet, it is legal for a mother who doesn't want her baby to go to a clinic and have it killed by the doctor. Why is that legal? What is the difference? Why is it murder in one case, but not in the other? In the first case, the baby is wanted, but in the second, it is not. That is the only difference. So it is legal to kill babies that are unwanted, but not legal to kill babies that are wanted.

Why do we then condemn Nazi Germany for killing six million Jews? The Jews were unwanted, not just by one person but by lots of people. If it is morally justifiable to kill the unwanted, then what moral high-ground do we then have to say the Nazis were evil killers? America kills over a half-million babies a year by abortion. Why? Because each baby is unwanted by one person. How is that not just as evil as the holocaust?

The sins of Nazi Germany piled up to Heaven, and God's patience was exhausted. God used the nations of the world to punish Germany. We bombed her back to the stone age. Her cities were turned into rubble — God's judgment. In the United States over a half million babies are killed by abortion every year. There have been over 61 million babies killed since Roe vs. Wade. Is America in danger of judgment? When will God say "Enough!" When the transgressors are come the full.

In January of 1984, President Ronald Reagan stated that a fetus suffers "long and agonizing pain" during an abortion. The media and abortion industry doctors scoffed at Reagan's remarks, declaring they were unscientific. In time though, Reagan was eventually proven correct. Scientists have discovered that a fetus can feel pain very early in its development. According to the Charlotte Lozier Institute, "*The basic anatomical organization of the human nervous system is established by 6 weeks.*" Studies have established that a fetus can feel pain at just 12 weeks, if not younger.²⁰

These facts illuminate the horrors of partial-birth abortion wherein the baby is delivered feet first, and while alive and mostly born, the doctor stabs the back of the baby's head. While it squirms in agony, its brains are sucked out. Today fifty-million children are killed per year worldwide by abortion. Some of them are killed as they are being born, as described above. In a standard abortion, the baby is ripped

²⁰ <https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-science-of-fetal-pain/>

limb from limb while inside the womb. Scientists have testified that many of them suffer pain as they are ripped apart by the doctor's cruel instruments. Afterwards their dismembered body parts and organs are sold to the highest bidder.²¹ Are the transgressors come to the full?

One abortion nurse testified: *"From my position I was able to see him extracting perfectly formed little arms, legs, toes, fingers, spine and finally the head. I could see the baby's face. I don't know how to describe what I felt at that moment. I felt death. I was ashamed and confused as I was staring at the bloody parts of the baby. I can even say I felt the presence of the devil."*²²

Can anyone imagine that when God created mankind that he ever intended for people to be engaging in such a brutal horror and on such a scale? Virginia Democrat Governor Ralph Northam spoke of "aborting" babies after they were born. He said after they are delivered, they could be kept comfortable until the mother decides if she wants to keep it.²³

If you destroy the egg of an eagle, you can be sent to prison for five years and ordered to pay a quarter of a million dollars in fines. Yet politicians speak of killing living babies already born if keeping it is not convenient for the mother. Why is it a crime to destroy an eagle egg, but not a crime to cruelly and brutally kill a living baby?

God says in Leviticus 18:21,24-25, *"Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech...Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled.*

²¹ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/daleiden-planned-parenthood-testimony-depositions>

²² <https://www.pop.org/i-saw-the-humanity-of-the-fetus-the-testimony-of-an-abortion-clinic-worker/>

²³ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/va-gov-faces-backlash-for-comments-on-controversial-third-trimester-abortion-bill>

Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.” In the past, God punished nations for sacrificing their babies to the god Molech. Today women sacrifice their children upon the altar of convenience.

Proverbs 24:11-12 says: *“Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, Behold, we did not know this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?”*

If Americans do not care enough to raise their voice to put a stop to the slaughter, will not God hold us all accountable? Scripture tells us: *“In the last days...men shall be...without natural affection”* (2 Timothy 3:1-3). What can be more unnatural than a mother having her baby ripped out of her and killed? The Greek word *stergeo* means natural affection – the kind of affection between parent and child. It is what a mother feels for her unborn baby. The phrase *“without natural affection”* in the above passage is translated from the Greek word, *astergeo*, which means, “without *stergeo*.” In other words, Scripture says that in the last days people will be without familial love. They will be lacking the usual kind of affection a mother should have for her child, especially the child growing within her. Is not abortion a sign of the times? Could it be an indicator that we are in the last days? Have the transgressors come to the full?

The Coming Apocalypse

At some point, God will say enough is enough. I will say it again: The real danger to America is sin. I believe that we are on the threshold of when *“the transgressors are come to the full.”* Homosexuals are everywhere, in every city, and in government positions. Soon it will be illegal even to quote what the Scripture says about their sin. It will be outlawed as “hate speech.” Fifty-million abortions occur per year,

worldwide. Around the world, Christians and Jews are being beheaded and crucified. Israel is surrounded by Muslim nations that wish to annihilate her. Governments of civilized countries are overrun with corruption. U.S. politicians take bribes from foreign governments and sell out the American people.

We are on the edge of a precipice. Something unexpected is about to happen. The Apostle Paul warned, *“While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:3) Jesus spoke of the Tribulation period, saying:

There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars; and on the earth anxiety of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the waves; men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (Luke 21:25)

It is coming. One day it will come upon the world. In no small degree, mankind has thumbed its nose at God, and America is not innocent in that indictment. The Almighty has been kicked out of our schools and now we have raised a brood that disbelieves the Bible and wants nothing to do with God or his laws. Godless professors have taught young people that there is no creator, that the Bible is no longer the arbiter of truth; God’s word has been replaced by science. The Apostle Paul warned, *“O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called.”* We may be approaching a day when God will leave the world to its own devices, and those devices are cruel and deadly.

There are enough nuclear weapons scattered among the nations to destroy the world many times over. The Book of Revelation, speaking of the four horsemen of the apocalypse, says: *“Another came forth, a red horse. To him who sat on it was given power to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another.”* (Revelation 6:4) I believe that many

times the world has been on the brink of destruction, but God's mercy prevailed, and He intervened in various ways to preserve peace. The Bible says, "*The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.*" (Proverbs 21:1) God has saved the world more times than we know. But there will come a time when God's patience with man's sin is exhausted, and He will allow mankind to have his way. He will show them a world truly without God.

The Blessed Hope

The Old Testament prophets and our Lord Jesus himself made many predictions concerning the terrible time that would come someday in the future. Jesus said, "*For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*" (Matthew 24:21) The Book of Daniel says, "*There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.* But I have good news. The very next sentence in Daniel says this: "*But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.*" (Daniel 12:1)

The book you are now holding in your hands is not a treatise of doom and gloom that you have to go through. It is written to tell you that there is a way to escape the most terrible time in human history that is yet to come. Speaking of the coming time known as the Great Tribulation, The Apostle Paul writes, "*But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*" (1 Thessalonians 5:4)

Philippians 3:20 says, "*For our citizenship is in heaven, from where we also wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ...*" No one has to be here when the Tribulation comes. God has made a way of escape for those who will take it. Our citizenship is in Heaven, and that is where we are going.

In the following pages, you will read what is prophesied to happen next. The Bible speaks of events called the Rapture, and the Tribulation. It also tells of the actors on that stage, such as the Church, the Antichrist, the Mark of the Beast, and a one-world government. We shall examine the scriptures that teach us the timing and relationship between these events.

When Jesus spoke of this terrible time that lies ahead, he said, *“Pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”* (Luke 21:36) We know from the balance of Scripture that there is only one way to be accounted worthy before God. It is not by our own works but by faith in our Lord who shed his blood so that we may be found worthy through faith in Him. Only the blood of Christ can make us worthy.

Those who trust in Christ can escape this time of terror that the Bible says *“will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.”* (Luke 21:35) It does not matter what one has done in the past. Jesus holds out hope to the lost. All sins can be washed away by repenting and turning to Christ in faith. Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted and save those lost in their sins. Romans 4:5 says that God *“justifies the ungodly.”* Speaking of Jesus, Isaiah 42:3 says, *“A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.”* He who said to the adulteress, *“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more,”* invites all, and those who come to Him will be delivered. (John 8:11) In Isaiah 1:18, we read: *“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.”*

Jesus is coming back. He will take those who believe in Him to the home he has prepared for us, just as he promised. When that train leaves the station, you want to be on it. When that ship sails, you don’t want to miss it. What you do want to miss is what happens to all those who dwell upon the earth after that.

There are no prophecies in the Bible that have ever failed. It has been two millennia since Christ came. The Church awaits His return. It has been a long time already. Some foolishly doubt that He will return or doubt that it could be soon. As you read this book, keep the following biblical wisdom in mind:

For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come. (Habakkuk 2:3)

2

The Second Coming of Christ

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into Heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into Heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

Jesus is coming back someday. Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, He ascended bodily into Heaven. Since that time, the Church has been anticipating Christ’s return, and for a good reason; just after Jesus disappeared into the sky, two angels appeared and told the disciples that Jesus was coming back. Here is the account of Christ’s Ascension.

He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into Heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into Heaven.” (Acts 1:9-11)

In accord with this passage, we know that someday Jesus will return in precisely the same way. He will descend from the sky. There was an ascension, and there will be a descension. This is in accord with what Jesus had told his disciples at the Last Supper:

In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:2-3)

From the time of the Ascension, the Church has looked forward to the time when Jesus will return and take all Christians to Heaven, to that place he has prepared for us. Titus 2:13 says, “*We wait for the blessed hope--the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.*” For the past two thousand years, this expectation has been referred to as the Blessed Hope of the Church. The Apostle Paul described what will happen when this great event occurs:

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)

We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from Heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)

Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. “Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.”²⁴ (Matthew 24:40)

²⁴ This passage in Matthew 24:40 has a parallel in Luke 17:34-37. Both of these passages have a double reference. They refer to the Rapture and also to the angels snatching up the wicked at the end of the age. The Law of Prophetic Double Reference will be discussed later in this writing.

The Rapture

Notice that the Scripture says we will be “*caught up*.” “*We which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air...*” (1 Thessalonians 4:17). This phrase *caught up* is where the word *Rapture* comes from. Rapture means to be “caught up.” Some say that the word “rapture” is not in the Bible and therefore is not a biblical concept. This argument lacks merit. The word *Trinity* is not in the Bible either, yet it reflects a teaching that is a cardinal doctrine of Christianity. Christianity has many doctrines that have been defined with a word not found in Scripture. Not even the word “Bible” is found in the Bible. It matters not; what matters is whether or not the teaching or concept is taught in the Bible.

Furthermore, the word actually *is* in the Bible, just not in an English Bible. For over a thousand years, the Holy Scriptures were in Latin, that being the universal language of the time. The Latin Vulgate was the version used exclusively by the Church. Here is how the Rapture passage appears in the Latin Vulgate:

1 Thessalonians 4:17 deinde nos qui vivimus qui relinquimur simul RAPIEMUR cum illis in nubibus obviam Domino in aera et sic semper cum Domino erimus.

Notice the word *Rapiemur*. It is the Latin translation of the Greek word *harpazo*, which is the word used by the Apostle Paul for “caught up.” *Rapiemur* is the verb form, and *raptus* is the noun, from which is derived our English word, rapture. Latin-speaking Christians of the time would have called it the *Raptus*. The anglicized form of *raptus* is Rapture. English-speaking Christians retained the term that had already been in use for hundreds of years. The term is not a recent invention. It can be found in many ancient Bible

commentaries. About 80 percent of the entries in any English dictionary are borrowed, mainly from Latin.²⁵ Thus the word Rapture is a term that came to us from Latin and can be considered a biblical term in that it was a word used in the Latin Vulgate Bible for a millennium.

Glorified Bodies

Scripture says our bodies will be transformed at the Rapture. What will our bodies be like after this event? We will have what has been referred to as glorified bodies. That is a phrase taken from (Philippians 3:20-21)

But our citizenship is in Heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

If we consider what Jesus' body was like after his resurrection, we will have some idea of the abilities and attributes of our new body. 1 John 3:2 says, "*We know that when he appears we shall be like him...*"

Jesus could appear and disappear at will. He could instantly materialize in whatever place he desired. He could seemingly walk through walls. He could rise into the sky. Yet, he was just as tangible and real as anyone else. In Luke 24:39 Jesus says, "*See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.*" He was recognizable. He ate food with the disciples. He was with the disciples for 40 days, teaching them. The disciples could touch him. Jesus still had his nail scars, but that is probably an exception. Those scars won our redemption, and they are retained as a mark of honor and distinction. Any unsightly blemishes we have will be erased.

²⁵ <https://www.dictionary.com/e/word-origins/>

We will be young and in perfect health. We will never again get sick or die:

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

Our glorified bodies will be recognizable, solid and real, but with extraordinary powers. It will be our time to shine as super-heroes with exceptional abilities. We will inherit the earth and rule with Christ. What a great adventure it will all be!

The Resurrection

As is seen from the above scripture, a resurrection occurs at the same time as the Rapture. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says, “*The believers who have died will rise from their graves.*” What will that look like to people on earth who are not Christians? We can garner some insight from another event. There was a partial resurrection when Jesus rose from the dead:

The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. (Matthew 27:52-53)

It seems evident that this resurrection was different from the resurrection Lazarus experienced when Jesus raised him from the dead. Lazarus did not receive a glorified body. He went back to his family and lived out his life and eventually died. However, those who rose with Jesus did receive a glorified body. There is no mention of them returning to their families and living on earth. The text merely says they “*appeared to many,*” a phrase more in line with a glorified body. It can be logically deduced that these ascended to Heaven as the first fruits of the Resurrection to come.

Back to our question: What will the Resurrection look like? One possibility is that it will not be readily evident to those left behind on earth. Glorified bodies can rise from the grave and pass right through the earth and ascend into the sky along with the living believers. They would not necessarily be visible, since they can appear or disappear at will or at the Lord's direction.

Since the Bible says that this all happens in "*the blink of an eye*," it seems likely unbelievers will not see anything, except believers disappearing in front of their eyes. In the "first fruits" resurrection which happened at Christ's resurrection, Scripture says, "*the tombs also were opened*." If that represents a pattern, then it may be that the graves will be thrown open at the time of the Rapture as well. We don't know for sure. Can you imagine the consternation of the people on earth after the Rapture? Graves thrown open and people disappearing - what a disconcerting event that will be!

3

The Tribulation

For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. (Matthew 24:21-22)

What Happens Then?

What will happen then to the people left behind on earth? Just imagine what the world would look like with all the Christians gone. Empty churches. No one praying to God. Suddenly the world will find out how much peaceful effect was won through prayer, for it will vanish in an instant. Much of the moral majority, those who vote for decency and law and order – they will mostly vanish. There will be nothing to hold back the evil plans of the radical God-hating left. The Bible says that Christians are the salt of the earth: “*You are the world’s seasoning, to make it tolerable.*” (Matthew 5:13 TLB) Once Christians are gone, the world will no longer be tolerable.

While the time prior to the Rapture is described as relatively normal, the period after the Rapture is described in the Bible as being horrendous. The Gospel message includes numerous warnings concerning the fate of those who reject Jesus Christ. The Scripture says the Lord will inflict “*vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*” (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

After the Rapture comes the Tribulation period, a time in which God pours out his wrath upon the world that has rejected Him. Fortunately, there will be many who will repent

and turn to Jesus during this time, though they will likely face severe persecution and even death from a world that hates God. Here is what Jesus said about this time:

For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved... (Matthew 24:21-22)

Today this time period is usually referred to as “*The Tribulation*,” or sometimes “*The Great Tribulation*.” In the Old Testament, it is called the “*Time of Jacob’s Trouble*.” Scripture describes this as a seven-year period (See Daniel 9:24-27, 12:7 & Rev 11:2-3, 12:6, 12:14, 13:5) wherein God deals specifically with the Jewish people. Towards the end of these seven years, all of Israel repents and recognizes that Jesus is their Messiah. This is in line with what the Apostle Paul wrote, that in the end, “*All Israel will be saved*.” (Romans 11:26).

The passage below describes this time of trouble that God will use to bring people, particularly Israel, to faith in Jesus. Note the time frame. Scripture says this will happen at some point after the regathering of Israel, which occurred in 1948.

I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it...We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace...Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble... (Jeremiah 30:1-9)

Another Old Testament name for the Tribulation is “*The Day of the Lord*.” These Old Testament passages show what a terrible time this will be.

*Ezekiel 30:3 – For the day is near, the **day of the Lord** is near—a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations.*

*Joel 2:2,11 – for **the day of the Lord** is coming. It is close at hand—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was in ancient times*

*nor ever will be in ages to come... **The day of the Lord** is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?*

*Joel 2:31, 3:14-16 – The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful **day of the Lord**... Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For **the day of the Lord** is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will be darkened and the stars no longer shine. The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble.*

*Amos 5:18-20 – Woe to you who long for **the day of the Lord!** Why do you long for **the day of the Lord**? That day will be darkness, not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. Will not **the day of the Lord** be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?*

Keep in mind, the *Day of the Lord* and the *Tribulation* are the same seven-year event. That is an important point which we shall cover later in more detail. Revelation Chapters 4 through 22 and Daniel Chapters 10 through 12 describe the events that transpire during the seven-year Tribulation.

A Time of God's Wrath

The Book of Revelation recounts the horrors of that time. Here are just a few events:

- The sea becomes as blood, and all sea life dies. (Rev 16:3)
- The Antichrist forbids buying and selling unless you have the Mark of the Beast. (Revelation 13:7)
- A third of the ships at sea are destroyed. (Revelation 8:9)
- The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood. (Acts 2:20)
- Flying locusts with scorpion tails torment people. (Rev 9:1-6)

- “And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.” (Revelation 9:6)

The Tribulation will be more than just a time of persecution. It will be the wrath of God upon an unrepentant earth:

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth. (Revelation 16:1)

During this time, the people of the Earth follow and serve a figure called the Antichrist – an evil God-hating leader who is supernaturally empowered by Satan. God lays waste to the earth. Some of the horrors are listed below in the seven bowls of God’s wrath. Here are the exact quotes from Revelation Chapter 16:

- **The first angel** went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.
- **The second angel** poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died.
- **The third angel** poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.
- **The fourth angel** poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.
- **The fifth angel** poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of Heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

- **The sixth angel** poured out his bowl...spirits of demons performing miraculous signs... go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.
- **The seventh angel** poured out his bowl into the air...a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake...the cities of the nations collapsed. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

4

When Will These Things Be?

The disciples asked Jesus, “When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3)

Thirty-some years after Jesus ascended into Heaven, the Church was pondering the timing of His return. The Apostle Peter assured believers that the Lord would eventually come. He also warned that the time would come when people would deny that Jesus is ever coming back:

In the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?” (2 Peter 3:3-4)

Peter assured the Church that indeed Jesus would come, that his delay was so that more would be saved.

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

Jesus taught that no one would be able to know exactly when He was coming. Speaking of His return, Jesus said, “*But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone...you do not know on what day your Lord will come.*” (Matthew 24:36,42) Jesus emphasized several times that his coming would be unexpected: “*Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*” (Matthew 24:44) Jesus made that statement to His disciples. Jesus is coming when even His followers are not expecting Him to come. Jesus encouraged his followers to be always ready

spiritually, as there would not be any world event, spiritual message, or indication of any kind to give advance notice of the Rapture.

At A Time Ye Think Not

Jesus will come, but as I have stated, at a time that the world is not expecting. Jesus made that point clear in Matthew 24:37-44:

For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the Flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the Flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Notice that during the time of Christ's return, according to the above passage, life will be proceeding pretty much as usual. People will be planning weddings, eating, drinking, and working. No mention here of any famine or catastrophes that would make people think the world was ending. Observe also in this passage that at Christ's return, there is a separation between the righteous and the wicked: "*one will be taken and one left.*" Of course, there would have to be. Jesus promised to return and take us to the home he has prepared for us, so when that happens, of course, the wicked will be left behind.

In Noah's day, Noah and his family were lifted up in the ark on the floodwaters and floated away in safety while the

wicked were left behind to be swept away in the Flood. In Luke 17:28-29, Jesus gives another example of his return:

And just as it happened...in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from Heaven and destroyed them all.”

Again we see a picture of daily life being typical at Christ’s return. People will be busy buying and selling, building houses, planting crops, enjoying their food, and then suddenly it will happen; one will be taken and one left. In Lot’s case, the angels said they could not harm the city until Lot and his family were safely removed. Genesis 19:16 says that when Lot lingered, the angels “*seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.*” After Lot reached safety, then destruction fell. Likewise, when Jesus returns to take us to our home in Heaven, and we are removed to safety, then destruction will fall upon the earth.

Destruction coming upon the world because of sin in the last days is a theme repeatedly found in both the Old and New Testaments. Scripture says that we “*wait for His Son from Heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.* (1 Thessalonians 1:10) That is exactly what the Rapture will be – a rescue from the wrath of God that will fall upon the world after all the Christians are removed.

5

How to Understand Prophecy

None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand. (Daniel 12:10)

The Law of Prophetic Double Reference

There are some basic principles of interpretation that must be understood to interpret biblical prophecy correctly. We must cover these first before we proceed further in our study of end-time prophecy. It would have been convenient if God had just laid everything out clearly in black and white, but He did not. The secrets of the future which the Scriptures reveal are hidden to the wicked. Jesus himself spoke in parables so that those who are intent on continuing in evil would not be able to understand the truths of the kingdom of God:

And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been granted... Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. (Matthew 13:10-13)

The prophecies in the Bible about what will happen in the last days are particularly cryptic. These are sacred secrets for only God’s people to know. Only those who have given their lives to Christ, who have studied to show themselves approved and have diligently sought out the answers will be able to unravel the end-time prophecies:

There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then... the words are rolled up

and sealed until the time of the end...none of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand. (Daniel 12:1,10)

Let us now cover some of the basic rules, or biblical hermeneutics, for understanding prophecy. The first is the Law of Prophetic Double Reference. When this principle is in play, a prophecy may seem to focus on the immediate historical context of the prophet, yet there is a more complete fulfillment later on. Here is an example. In Psalms 22 David is speaking of himself and his troubles, but as one reads on, it can be seen that what David describes could also apply to Jesus, and as you read further, you can see that some things can only apply to Jesus: *“I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death...They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment...”* (Psalms 22:14-15,18). In Matthew 27:25, the apostles proclaim this a prophecy of Jesus’ crucifixion. So, in the above passage, there is a double reference; it speaks of David and Jesus both.

Another example of double reference is this: The disciples asked Jesus about the prophecy in Malachi about Elijah returning: *“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.”* (Malachi 4:5) Jesus answered, *“Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already ...”* (Matthew 17:11-12). Notice that Jesus says that Elijah *“is coming”* and *“will restore.”* That is future tense. But then Jesus says Elijah *“has already come,”* and explains it was John the Baptist. Jesus speaks about Elijah in both past and future tense. What is going on here?

There is a double fulfillment. John the Baptist, according to Luke 1:17, came in *“the spirit and power of Elijah,”* and Jesus refers to him as a first partial fulfillment of the prophecy. Yet, Jesus affirms there will be, in the future, a second

fulfillment. Elijah never died, but was taken to Heaven in a whirlwind. Many Bible scholars believe the second fulfillment will take place with the appearance of the two witnesses of Revelation 11:1-4. One of them may be Elijah and the other Enoch, the only people in the Bible who have never died. Very many Bible prophecies are like this; they have both a near and a far fulfillment.

The Law of Prophetic Perspective

Those were two examples of double fulfillment. Scripture is loaded with this type of prophecy. Another hermeneutic related to prophecy is closely related to double reference. It is called the Law of Prophetic Perspective. This principle is analogous to viewing a mountain range from a distance of many miles. All the mountain peaks may appear to be the same distance away. They appear adjacent and parallel to each other. But upon approaching to a closer distance, it is then observed that some mountain peaks are a farther distance while others are closer and that there are great valleys between the mountains in the forefront and those farther away. These valleys were indiscernible from a great distance.

Prophetic perspective is observed in prophecies that foretell future events, but do so in a manner that would seem to indicate all events described will be fulfilled in the same time period, when in fact, they will not. The hidden valleys of time are not apparent until one gets closer to the time of fulfillment. Only then does it become readily apparent that there is a significant period of time between the events of the prophecy.

The first and second advents of Christ make a perfect example. Nowhere in the Old Testament did it come right out and say that Jesus would come twice, first as a suffering savior and then a second time as a powerful roaring lion from the tribe of Judah. But if one carefully examines the prophecies

with double reference and prophetic perspective in mind, then it becomes apparent.

Here is an example: Jesus stood up in the temple to read to the people from the Book of Isaiah. He read, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*” (Luke 4:18-19) And then Jesus said, “*Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.*” (Luke 4:21)

Now let me tell you what is fascinating about that. Jesus stopped reading in the middle of a sentence. He did not complete it. Why did He do that? Because if He had continued reading, then it would not have been accurate for Him to say that the scripture was fulfilled that day. Here is the rest of the sentence, the part that Jesus did not read: “*and the day of vengeance of our God...*” (Isaiah 51:2). Jesus was not then proclaiming that it was the day of vengeance of our God. That is something that happens when Jesus returns the second time. That is why he left that part out.

So here we have an Old Testament prophecy that speaks of events that happen in both Christ’s first advent and his second advent, all in one sentence. Unless you understood the principle of prophetic perspective, you would have no clue that the day of proclaiming liberty to the captives and the day of vengeance was separated by thousands of years. This is a perfect example of prophetic perspective. As we study, we must realize these principles are employed in end-time prophecies. We must watch for clues and continually ask ourselves if double reference or prophetic perspective are involved.

The coming of Jesus to the world was to take place with two comings. But the fact that Christ’s coming would entail a first advent and then a second advent was only hinted at in the Old Testament. The “two comings” aspect was cryptically

hidden and was only discernable by looking at the prophecies through the lens of prophetic perspective.

Likewise, when we study New Testament passages that speak of Christ's return, we must realize that Jesus' Second Advent is split into two parts as well. The Rapture is the first part wherein He comes *for* His saints. The second part is when He returns after the Tribulation *with* His saints (1 Thessalonians 3:13) and touches down on earth at the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4). We must ask ourselves when examining such scriptures whether the reference is to the Rapture or does it refer to Jesus' return to earth after the Tribulation. Just as the Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming require careful thought, so also do the prophecies of His Second Coming.

6

Blessed Hope or Blasted Hope

We wait for the blessed hope--the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:13)

Terms that you will hear when discussing the Rapture and the Tribulation are pre-trib, mid-trib, and post-trib. These refer to the various theological positions on when the Rapture occurs in relation to the Tribulation. Some believe it happens before the Tribulation (pre-trib). That is the position of this author. Some believe it happens half-way through the tribulation (mid-trib), while others believe it happens at the end of the Tribulation (post-trib).

This is a crucial question. It is a matter of whether or not the Rapture is the blessed hope of the Church or if it the blasted hope. Anything but a pre-trib Rapture makes it a blasted hope, for that would mean Christians will go through the Tribulation and experience the bowls of wrath poured out on the world by God. Christians living through the Tribulation would be persecuted by the Antichrist and likely suffer a horrible death at his hands. Scripture says that the Tribulation “*will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.*” (Luke 21:35) The only way to escape the Tribulation will be to not be on the earth when it happens. In this chapter, I will present evidence that conclusively shows that there will be a pre-trib Rapture.

Life is Normal

As I have shown, Jesus made it clear that not even his followers would know when He is coming. “*The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*” (Matthew 24:44)

Jesus said people would be working, cooking, eating, getting married, buying, and selling. The picture Jesus paints is a life that is proceeding normally.

Yet, Jesus said the Tribulation would be the worst time on earth ever. Let us review again what Jesus said about that time:

For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved... (Matthew 24:21-22)

Revelation 16:17-20 reports that an unprecedented earthquake occurs during the Tribulation:

No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake...the cities of the nations collapsed. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men.

Imagine it: All the cities of the world collapse. Islands and mountains disappear. Hundred-pound hailstones fall on the world. Now here is the point: How could Jesus come during or after the Tribulation and still come at a time that no one suspects? Jesus told us that life would be going on as usual when he comes. There is nothing ordinary about the Tribulation. How do you buy and sell and get married while all the cities are turned to rubble? According to Jesus' own words, the Tribulation will be the worst time in all of human history.

If I were living during the Tribulation and I see the sea turn to blood, the sun darken, and I behold flying scorpion-locusts tormenting people who are unable to kill themselves, and one-hundred-pound hailstones begin to fall from the sky, and an earthquake levels every city in the world, then I think I will have a pretty good idea that Jesus is coming real soon.

The only way for the Rapture to come unexpectedly is for it to happen before the Tribulation. I have never heard a

satisfactory explanation from a post-trib advocate as to how Jesus could come unexpectedly during or after the Tribulation.

No One Knows the Day

Speaking of His return, Jesus said: “*But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.*” (Matthew 24:36) Jesus was referring to his coming at the Rapture. However, if the Rapture happens at the midpoint or the end of the seven-year Tribulation, then it *would* be possible to know the day, thus invalidating Jesus’ own words.

Let me explain. The Tribulation begins when the Antichrist makes “*a covenant with many.*” (Daniel 9:27). At the exact midpoint of the Tribulation, that is three and one-half years into the Tribulation,²⁶ the Antichrist violates that covenant and sets up the abomination of desolation in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. He will sit down in the Temple and proclaim that he is God. (2 Thessalonians 2:4). This happens precisely three and one-half years from the beginning of the Tribulation. (Daniel 9:27)

Therefore, anyone will be able to predict Christ’s return at the end of the Tribulation to the very day. They can count seven biblical years of 360 days from the day that the Antichrist makes his “covenant with many” In other words, it will be 2,520 days from Antichrist’s covenant to a post-trib Rapture. People can also count from the Abomination of Desolation in the middle of the Tribulation. It will be 1260 days from the Abomination of Desolation to a post-trib Rapture. So you see, a post-trib Rapture is impossible because Jesus said people would not know when he was coming. A post-trib Rapture is entirely predictable, right down to the very day. Therefore the Rapture must be pre-trib. Incidentally, a

²⁶ See Daniel 9:27. I recommend the excellent book, *The Coming Prince* by Robert Anderson, published in 1894. It is the classic work on that important passage.

mid-trib Rapture is ruled out as well, since one could count 1260 days from making of the covenant to a mid-trib Rapture.

The Church is Spared God's Wrath

The Bible says that we “*wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.*” (1 Thessalonians 1:10) The Bible is full of passages that tell us that we will be spared from God's wrath: “*Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.*” (Romans 5:9)

The book of Revelation makes it clear that the Tribulation is God's wrath. In Chapter 16, the seven angels are told, “*pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth.*” Christians are promised to be spared that. The only way to escape it, according to Jesus, is to not be on earth when it happens: “*For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.*” (Luke 21:35)

Post-Trib advocates say that God will help Christians to live on earth but somehow escape these terrible events. That is not possible. How do you escape when the sea is turned to blood, and all the fish die? How do you escape when the sun is burning people with intense heat? How do you escape the Antichrist killing Christians? The Bible says that to a great extent, people who get saved during the Tribulation will not escape the Antichrist: “*And it was given to him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them*” (Revelation 13:7)

Other post-trib people say that Christians of past centuries have suffered persecution, so why should we expect anything different. We should expect something different because the Tribulation is something different. It is the wrath of God. The Bible says so. Even the appearance of the Antichrist is the wrath of God. The Bible says that the Antichrist comes up from the bottomless pit or the Abyss. (Revelation 11:7) No one escapes the Abyss unless God permits it. God gives to the

world the godless evil leader they deserve as punishment for their rejection of Him.

As surely as our Lord's precious blood has cleansed away our sins, so also, we shall be spared the Tribulation. Belief in a post-trib Rapture is akin to the Catholic doctrine of purgatory. God has no need to punish His Bride. God has not destined us for wrath or punishment.

The Bible says, "*He has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him.*" (Colossians 1:22) Christians are already "above reproach" by virtue of Jesus' shed blood. We will not face God's wrath. The Tribulation is God's wrath.

But it is also mercy. It is mercy for those who neglected to give their hearts to Jesus in time. Its purpose is to provide a last chance for those who put off making a decision for Christ. But the Tribulation is not intended for the Church. Those who are ready will go up in a pre-trib Rapture and escape the horrors of the Tribulation.

The Precedence of Scripture

For every instance of judgment from God upon the earth that is recorded in Scripture, we see that God spared the righteous. The first such judgment that we will consider is the Flood of Noah, an event which Jesus spoke of as being a historical event. The world-wide flood occurred in 3298 BC.²⁷ The only righteous people on earth were Noah and his family and God spared them by instructing Noah to build the Ark.

²⁷t.ly/bTrp

Another major judgment in Scripture is the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.²⁸ God destroyed these cities because of their great wickedness, primarily their indulgence in homosexuality, a transgression so wicked that God calls it a “detestable sin” and “an abomination.”²⁹ (Leviticus 18:22) God said that he would not destroy these cities if there were just ten righteous people in them. There were only four righteous in Sodom, and these were Lot, his wife, and their two daughters. God sent two angels to bring them out of the city before it was destroyed.

As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city.” But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

Note that the angels physically seized Lot’s family and removed them to safety. This is a beautiful foreshadow of how God will rescue His people at the Rapture. Note what the angels say to Lot when he asks to be allowed to escape to the town of Zoar: “*Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there.*” (Genesis 19:15-22) The angels could not destroy the city until Lot’s family was safely in Zoar. Likewise, the punishments released upon the earth by God’s angels as prophesied in the Book of Revelation cannot transpire until the Lord’s Church has been safely removed from the earth. As a point of fact, Jesus said that the coming Tribulation would be just like in the days of Noah and Lot:

²⁸ Archeologists have determined the locations of Sodom and Gomorrah. Excavations have revealed the wall of the city and the dwellings, all covered with thick layers of ash, with human remains entombed within. For details see this website: <https://biblearchaeology.org/research/patriarchal-era/2364-the-discovery-of-the-sin-cities-of-sodom-and-gomorrah>

²⁹ Sodom was destroyed in 1845 B.C. See: <http://bibleq.net/answer/5111/>

Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all—so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (Luke 17:26-30)

How was it in the days of Noah and Lot? Destruction came after, and only after, Noah and Lot were removed to safety. So it will be when the Tribulation comes. The Rapture will rescue the Christians. In case anyone doubts that this passage refers to the Tribulation, then notice this: The passage above speaks of “the days of the Son of Man” (Jesus) and “when the Son of Man is revealed.” The Book of Revelation, which chronicles what will happen during the Tribulation, begins Chapter 1 and Verse 1 with, “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ.*” These are His days. The whole time period is called “*The Day of the Lord.*” So Jesus is saying that the start of the Tribulation will be just like the Flood of Noah and the destruction of Sodom. It will be a judgment upon the people remaining on earth. It will come suddenly and unexpectedly, and the Rapture will rescue God’s people before it begins. When Abraham was speaking with the Lord about the coming destruction upon Sodom, he made a profound statement:

Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ...Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” (Genesis 18:22-25)

The rhetorical question makes it clear that God would not be doing right if he destroyed Sodom without rescuing the righteous first. How much more wrong would it be then if God poured out his terrible wrath upon the entire earth during the Tribulation but did not first Rapture his saints?

Hints from Scripture

There are several places in Scripture where there are hints or foreshadows of a pre-trib Rapture. In Genesis 5:24, we read, “*Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.*” Many scholars see this as a type or foreshadow of the Rapture wherein Christians who have put on the righteousness of Christ through faith and who walk in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit will also one day, like Enoch, suddenly find themselves caught up to Christ in the sky. Elijah also never died but was caught up into heaven. We have already covered the comparison between Noah and Lot being rescued. All these events are types of the coming Rapture. There is certainly precedent in Scripture for a pre-trib Rapture.

The Book of Revelation has many clues that point to a pre-trib Rapture. The first three chapters mention the Church nineteen times, but from Chapter 4 to the end of the book, the words “church” or “churches” do not appear at all. Why is this? Many see the seven letters to the seven churches in Chapters 2 and 3 as symbolic of the Church age. It is only after Chapter 4 that we begin to see the horrors of the Tribulation period unfold. The conspicuous absence of any mention of the Church in the following chapters is a strong hint that the Church has been Raptured.

The key to understanding the timeline of Revelation is given in Chapter 1 where our Lord says to the Apostle John, “*Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.* (Rev. 1:19) These three phrases reveal a time sequence: past, present, and future.

- The Things Which You Have Seen – Ch. 1
- The Things Which Are – The Church Age – Ch. 2-3
- The Things After These Things – Tribulation – Ch. 4-21

With this background, the wording and symbolism of Revelation 4:1 become significant:

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound

of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."
(Revelation 4:1)

Here we have a beautiful poetic word-picture of the Rapture. A door open in heaven – a trumpet speaking – come up here – after these things – these all present a picture of what happens at the Rapture:

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God...
(1 Thessalonians 4:16)

The phrase “after these things” is key. It is only after that statement in Revelation 4:1 that the terrors of the Tribulation are spoken of. They happen “*after these things*,” that is, after the Church age.

Who Enters the Millennium?

This is a little complicated, so follow me close on this. The Bible says that at the end of the Tribulation, all unbelievers are gathered up and killed (Matthew 13:41-42). People that got saved during the Tribulation enter the Millennium as mortals. Christians who had previously died or were raptured rule over the earth during the Millennium as non-mortals (Revelation 20:4).

But if the Rapture happens at the end of the Tribulation, as post-Trib people say, there is a huge problem: There are no mortals left to enter the Millennium. Why? Because, if the post-trib position is true, then all the people that got saved during the Tribulation will get raptured and receive their immortal glorified bodies. So where do we get mortals to enter the Millennium? There won't be any. A post-trib Rapture has all unbelievers killed and all saved people getting immortal bodies at the end of the Tribulation. Thus, no mortals to enter the Millennial kingdom.

You don't have that problem with a pre-trib Rapture, for Christians are raptured prior to the beginning of the Tribulation. More people get saved after the Rapture, and these are the ones who enter the Millennium as mortals. Those who believe in a post-trib Rapture have an unsolvable conundrum: From where do you get mortals to enter the Millennium?

7

Rapture Deniers

In the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming?” (2 Peter 3:3-4)

Anti-rapture-ism – It is not a word you will find in the dictionary, but it represents a movement of people that are anti-Rapture or at least anti-pre-trib Rapture. A few even claim there will never be a Rapture of any kind. Among these is Barbara Rossing,³⁰ a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. In her book *The Rapture Exposed*, she states: “*We are not raptured off the earth...the notion of any kind of Rapture – whether pri-Trib, post-Trib, or mid-Trib – was imported into the Bible only 170 years ago.*”³¹

The concept of a teaching being “imported into the Bible 170 years ago” is unscholarly. We have over 5,000 ancient copies of the Greek New Testament, some portions of them dating back to within 100 years of the original autograph. The texts of the Rapture passages are therein recorded, even in the oldest of manuscripts. They could not have been added later. Scholars of biblical textual criticism who study the ancient

³⁰ She also denies a judgment to come upon the earth. Her teaching of no coming judgment upon the earth is a fulfillment of 2 Peter 3:3-7 which predicted that scoffers would be “willfully ignorant” of the flood, which portends the coming destruction by fire.

³¹ Barbara Rossing, *The Rapture Exposed* (Basic Books, 2007), 2, 36.

manuscripts would laugh at Rossing’s statement. The Apostle Paul wrote the Rapture passages and they absolutely were contained in the original autograph. That is beyond question.

Her tenuous position of Rapture denial is in line with the doctrinal position of her Church. *The Lutheran* is the official publication of the ELCA. In the December 99 edition, in the *Since You Asked* column, page 23, it is stated: “*These literal views of the ‘rapture’ — which is not part of Lutheran teaching — mislead us. They are drawn from two biblical images that are symbolic...The Rapture: The idea that believers alive at the end times will physically ascend to meet Christ. This is not a part of Lutheran teaching*”

It may not be part of Lutheran teaching, but it is certainly the teaching of the Apostle Paul. He wrote, “*We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will...be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*” (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17) The Rapture is Pauline theology. It is biblical theology and, unless Paul is lying, it comes directly from the Lord Jesus Christ. Martin Luther himself believed that Christians would physically ascend to meet Christ. Luther wrote: “*Paul writes these words to comfort Christians who were troubled about what would take place...Shall all rise together? Paul answers them by saying that Christ would take all his believers to himself at the same time.*”³² Luther used to say, “*I have on my calendar only two days — today and ‘that day.*”³³

The Apostle Paul believed in a Rapture. The Bible teaches a Rapture. Martin Luther wrote of it. But the church that bears Luther’s name now denies it. Denial of clear biblical teaching is endemic to a number of mainline denominations. It is indicative of the prophecy by Paul that “*in later times some will depart from the faith*” (1 Timothy 4:1). Paul warned in 2 Timothy 4:3 that “*the time will come when they will not*

³² https://www.preceptaustin.org/1thessalonians_417-18

³³ http://media.sabda.org/alkitab-8/LIBRARY/LUT_SER8.PDF

endure sound doctrine...” and that “*men will arise from among your own selves, speaking perverse things...*” (Acts 20:30)

The MacDonald/Darby Myth

Rapture deniers typically claim that a pre-trib position was never a position found in historical Christianity. They put forward a far-fetched claim that no one in all of Church history every heard of a pre-trib Rapture; that the idea of a pre-trib Rapture sprang up recently from demonic sources. They say that a girl by the name of Margaret MacDonald had a sinister vision in 1830 that predicted a pre-trib Rapture. Then a Plymouth Brethren preacher by the name of John Darby was impressed with MacDonald’s vision and popularized her concept of a pre-trib Rapture. So they say.

Dave MacPherson is the originator of this myth, and it has spread far and wide, popularized by his rabidly anti-pre-trib Rapture books. As proof of God’s blessings upon his books, he claims that as he started writing, his dog became demon-possessed and bit his writing hand.³⁴ MacPherson was expelled from Bible college for being controversial and argumentative with others about the Rapture. He says this caused him to go on a drinking spree in Mexico. His father also was voted out of his pastorate for dogmatically asserting a post-trib Rapture. Author Robert L. Sumner documented that “MacPherson has a bad habit of attributing all kinds of personal tragedies to the pre-trib teaching: his mother’s death, his sister’s inability to have more children, his failure to follow through on his calling as an evangelist, and other matters.”³⁵ It does not seem to occur to him that it may be an argumentative demeanor and a narrow abrasive dogmatism

³⁴ <https://believersweb.org/dave-macpherson/>

³⁵ *Ibid*

that is rubbing people the wrong way and causing his problems.

Barbara Rossing has picked up MacPherson's MacDonald/Darby myth and has repeated it as fact in her Rapture bashing book, claiming that no one ever believed in a pre-trib Rapture before MacDonald's vision in 1830. Despite Rossing's credentials, it is evident that she has not researched the facts herself but has swallowed MacPherson's Macdonald/Darby myth, hook, line, and sinker.

The facts are these:

1. The reading of MacDonald's vision reveals that it explicitly supports a post-trib position, not pre-trib.³⁶
2. Darby says that he had arrived at his pre-trib views via prayer and Bible study. He wrote them down in January of 1827, three years before MacDonald had her vision.
3. Darby is on record as saying that he thought MacDonald's vision was not from God and may even be demonic. It is, therefore, untenable to suppose that Darby would use MacDonald's vision as a foundation.

For these and other reasons, scholars consider MacPherson's alleged MacDonald/Darby connection to be unsound.

Since it is claimed by Rapture bashers that no one believed in a pre-trib Rapture before 1830, let us examine Church history in that regard. Aside from the clear pre-tribulation Rapture teaching of Scripture, we also find that the writings

³⁶ For excerpts from MacDonald's vision and a scholarly refutation of MacPherson's allegations, see: <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/a022/076e5db991fb93d71b265f9513e2566e3c8b.pdf>

of the Apostolic Fathers speak of an imminent return of Christ before the Tribulation:

Irenaeus (AD 130-202)

...when in the end the Church shall be suddenly caught up from this, it is said, there shall be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning... (Against Heresies 5.29)

Victorinus (AD 240)

...and these shall be in the last time, when the Church shall have gone out of the midst.

Cyprian (AD 220-258)

We who see that terrible things have begun, and know that still more terrible things are imminent, may regard it as the greatest advantage to depart from it as quickly as possible. Do you not give God thanks, do you not congratulate yourself, that by an early departure you are taken away, and delivered from the shipwrecks and disasters that are imminent? Let us greet the day which assigns each of us to his own home, which snatches us hence, and sets us free from the snares of the world and restores us to paradise and the kingdom.

The Shepherd of Hermas (1st or 2nd Century)

...escaped from great tribulation on account of your faith... the great tribulation that is coming...if you prepare yourselves in advance and turn to the Lord with all your heart, you will be able to escape it, ³⁷

³⁷ John F. Walvoord, *The Blessed Hope and the Tribulation (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1976), pp. 24-25.* In all fairness, it must be pointed out that it is unclear if the Shephard of Hermas document refers to a current tribulation or the great tribulation of the end times.

Pseudo-Ephraem (Between AD 374 and 627)

Ephraem of Nisibis, considered to be the greatest theologian in the history of the Syrian church is the author³⁸ of a sermon entitled, *Sermon on the End of the World*.³⁹ It was widely copied and translated into numerous languages in the early history of the Church. This ancient manuscript reads:

*All the saints and elect of God are gathered together before the tribulation, which is to come, and are taken to the Lord, in order that they may not see at any time the confusion which overwhelms the world because of our sins.*⁴⁰

Research at The Bible Museum

As part of my research on the Rapture in Church history, I traveled to the Bible Museum in Goodyear, Arizona. Their website says, “*The Bible Museum is a unique museum where you can actually hold, turn pages and read some of the rarest printed Bibles and rare theological books on the planet.*” True to their word, I was allowed to browse through ancient documents and extremely old Bibles. A special awe is felt when you hold a Bible that is nearly 500 years old. While at the museum, I learned that most Bibles of past eras had commentary notes in the margin. This was a fantastic opportunity to see what scholars thought of the Rapture in bygone years. I discovered the following quotes as I carefully and gingerly examined the following original edition Bibles and commentaries.

³⁸ *If not actually written by Ephraem, Caspari and Alexander (see footnote below) have demonstrated that Pseudo-Ephraem was "heavily influenced by the genuine works of Ephraem."*

³⁹ *Paul J. Alexander, "The Diffusion of Byzantine Apocalypses in the Medieval West and the Beginnings of Joachimism," in Prophecy and Millenarianism: Essays in Honour of Marjorie Reeves, ed. Ann Williams (Essex, U.K. : Longman, 1980), 59.*

⁴⁰ https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1031&context=pretrib_arch

Remains of Bishop Myles Coverdale 1535 ⁴¹

Coverdale was Bishop of Exeter, England. Note that this speaks of being caught up in the clouds with heaven as the destination.

Then shall we that live and remain be caught up with them also into the clouds, to meet the Lord...for to the Philippians he saith: "Our dwelling is in heaven: From whence we look for the Savior, even Jesus Christ the Lord; which shall change our vile earthly body..."

The Works of John Jewel 1564

Note how the language portrays a rapture into heaven where we will "eat of the tree of life which is in the middle of the paradise of God." Clearly, this is not a post-trib scenario, where it is said the saints go up and immediately come right back down to earth.

Whether we be standing or sitting, doing well or ill occupied, we shall be caught up...for saith St Paul: "Behold, I shew you a secret thing; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...to meet the Lord in the air...this is a comfortable end of all troubles and persecutions in which the godly suffer in this life, that they be received into the glory of God...then shall they eat of the tree of life, which is in the middle of the paradise of God...you shall be caught up into the clouds to meet the Lord, and so shall abide with Him forever...the world, the heaven, the earth, the sun and the moon shall have an end; that the day of the Lord shall come suddenly, as a thief in the night. This warning God hath given us, that we should not be taken unawares; but that we repent, and stand in readiness, and

⁴¹ ⁴¹ In the 16th century it was a common practice, but to us a peculiar one, for authors to refer to their commentary as their "remains."

watch, and pray, that we may be caught up into the clouds to meet our redeemer...your conversation is in heaven...

The 1599 Geneva Study Bible (1560)

The Geneva Bible was the first complete Bible to be translated into English from the original Hebrew and Greek texts. In part due to the extensive marginal notes, it was the most widely read and influential English Bible of the 16th and 17th centuries, and the Bible of choice for many of the greatest writers, thinkers, and historical figures of the Reformation era. Protestants published the Geneva Bible in 1560. This is the first Bible to have chapters and numbered verses and was the Bible used by the Puritans and brought to America by the Pilgrims. It was the Bible of the Protestant Reformation. As I held an original 1601 edition of the Geneva Bible in my hands, I read these words of commentary:

“The saints which shall then be found alive...shall be taken into the clouds to meet the Lord and shall be in perpetual glory with Him...therefore every one of us ought to be in such a readiness, as if the Lord were coming at every moment...suddenly as in the twinkling of an eye (1Co 15:52).

Clearly, the scholars in 1560 saw in scripture an imminent Rapture wherein the saints are taken up into the glory of heaven.

The Dutch Annotations Upon the Whole Bible (1637)

Note that this states that after we are caught up into the clouds, we are then with the Lord in heaven. I have left the old English spelling as-is:

We that are left alive, shall be taken up [Gk. Pluckt, Haled], namely, after that they shall be changed, and in a moment of time be made conformable to his glorious body. Together with them in the clouds, [namely, which shall be as a chariot, whereby they shall be carried up to Christ in the aire, as is said of Elias, [2Kings 2:11] and of Christ himself [Acts 1:9]

to meet the Lord in the air...and so shall we always be with the Lord, namely, Christ Jesus in heaven [John 14:2,3]...he shall come unawares and unexpectedly.

Matthew Henry (1662–1714)

Matthew Henry was a Presbyterian minister and Bible commentator. His Bible commentaries have always enjoyed much popularity for “their penetrating insight, their exhilarating freshness, and their ingenuity of thought and expression.”⁴² Rapture bashers are fond of claiming the word “Rapture” was invented, is not in the Bible, and the concept was unheard of before Darby. Yet, here we have a reference to the Rapture long before Darby. Matthew Henry’s Commentary, a work of antiquity that is on the bookshelf of almost every pastor in the nation, does not mention the timing of the Rapture relative to the Tribulation, but he most definitely refers to the event as a rapture:

*This change will be in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:52), in the very instant, or not long after the raising up of those that sleep in Jesus. And those who are raised, and thus changed, shall meet together in the clouds, and there meet with their Lord...They shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, v. 17. At, or immediately before, **this rapture into the clouds**, those who are alive will undergo a mighty change...*

John Gill (1697–1771)

(English Baptist theologian)

Pay close attention to this one. Gill’s Rapture scenario is identical to the pre-trib position. Christians meet the Lord in the air, continue on to heaven with Jesus, and then later descend with Christ at the Second Coming and reign with Him during the Millennium.

⁴² <https://wordsearchbible.lifeway.com/products/12551-matthew-henry-s-concise-commentary>

He will stay in the air, and his saints shall meet him there, and whom he will take up with him into the third heaven, till the general conflagration and burning of the world is over, and to preserve them from it; and then shall all the elect of God descend from heaven as a bride adorned for her husband, and he with them, and the tabernacle of God shall be with men...then they shall be ever with him; wherever he is; first in the air, where they shall meet him; then in the third heaven, where they shall go up with him; then on earth, where they shall descend and reign with him a thousand years; and then in the ultimate glory to all eternity.

The Cottage Bible & Family Expositor (1700s)

This was published in 1845, but the preface states the commentary was written in the 1700s. Note that the writer references the alarm that will be created by the Rapture upon those left behind:

But the dead in Christ (we are told) shall rise first and then those who believe in him on earth shall be changed, and their rarified bodies (so to speak) shall be “caught up” to meet their descending Saviour; and so shall they be “forever with the Lord.” The suddenness of this great event and the alarm which it will create, are well represented by comparing it (as our Lord had before done) to the coming of a thief in the night.

Morgan Edwards (1722 –1792)

Morgan Edwards was an American Church historian and Baptist pastor. He taught a pre-trib Rapture long before Margaret Macdonald or John Darby were even born. Note that Edwards wrote the Church would be raptured up to heaven and remain there while Tribulation events occur.

The dead saints will be raised, and the living changed at Christ’s appearing in the air...they will ascend to paradise, and so disappear during the foresaid period of time...Another event previous to the Millennium will be the appearing of the son of man in the clouds, coming to raise the dead saints and

*change the living, and to catch them up to himself, and then withdraw with them, as observed before.*⁴³

John Wesley's Commentary (1754 & 1765)

His commentary on 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 has the Rapture taking Christians to heaven where they are “assessors with their Lord” in executing judgment upon the world.

Verse 17. Together - In the same moment. In the air - The wicked will remain beneath, while the righteous, being absolved, shall be assessors with their Lord in the judgment, with the Lord in heaven.

The Self Interpreting Bible (1790)

Note that this has the saints going directly to heaven after being raptured. That is decidedly not a post-trib scenario. It reads:

The members of his body, to which we all belong, who shall be then living, shall undergo a refining change; and, together with the raised saints, be carried up by his almighty power, into the air, that we may sit down at his right hand...

Synopsis of History

As I have pointed out, Rapture deniers insist that no one heard of the Rapture before Margaret MacDonald’s vision and that it was scarcely known before John Darby made it popular in the 1800s. Yet, I spent one afternoon in a Bible museum and was able to ascertain that the Rapture, even a pre-trib Rapture, has been common teaching for many hundreds of years. Three hundred years ago, we read of a pre-trib Rapture. Five hundred years ago, we see a Rapture into heaven being taught in Bible commentaries. Even the Pilgrims new about

⁴³https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1043&context=pretrib_arch

the Rapture, for the Geneva Bible, the Holy Scripture of the Puritans, the Bible carried to America by the Pilgrims, has commentary that teaches the Rapture. The Church fathers of the 1st and 2nd centuries onward taught a pre-trib Rapture. Ephraem of Nisibis, AD 374 taught the same. The evidence from Church history provides a plethora of testimonies to a pre-trib Rapture stretching back to the time of the apostles.

Are we supposed to believe that a professor of religion in a prestigious seminary could not see this? How was this missed? How could such a thing be? The answer, very simply, I believe, is that those who are bound to a denominational dogmatism only see what they want to see. Whether it be a disgruntled reject from a Bible college or a seminary professor with degrees, truth evades those who don't want to let the Bible speak for itself.

8

The Day of the Lord

For the day is near, the day of the Lord is near—a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations. (Ezekiel 30:3)

Now is the time to put on our thinking caps. We shall tackle one of the most misunderstood prophetic passages of Scripture in the Bible, which is 2 Thessalonians 2:1-15. You might want to familiarize yourself with that passage before proceeding.

For many years I misunderstood this passage because I was not familiar with the Old Testament terminology that the Apostle Paul uses. If you recall, I explained earlier that the phrase “Day of the Lord” was used repeatedly in the Old Testament to refer to the Tribulation (See Chapter 3). Before I understood that, I assumed the “Day of the Lord” was referring to when Jesus returns at the Rapture. But if you interpret the passage that way, as I did, the entire passage becomes nonsensical, as we shall see.

Let us begin by considering why Paul was writing. What is he concerned about? He wants to assure the Thessalonians that the Day of the Lord has not yet come. That is why Paul is writing this passage. He wants to convince them that it is not possible that the Day of the Lord has come. Now, if the Day of the Lord is the Rapture, then the post-trib people have a point, for Paul says that day can't come until the apostasy comes first and the Antichrist is revealed. Post-trib proponents say, “See, the Rapture doesn't come until after the Antichrist comes during the Tribulation.”

But it is easily demonstrated that the Apostle Paul cannot be referring to the Rapture but is actually referencing the Tribulation, for if we interpret “Day of the Lord” as the Rapture, then the passage makes no sense at all, for then Paul would be saying he is writing because he is concerned that the Church might begin to believe that Jesus has already come and the Rapture has already happened.

But wait a minute. Stop and think how illogical that is. How could they possibly think that? If the Rapture had already occurred, then all the Christians would be missing. The Apostle Paul himself would be missing. There is no way for the Church in Thessalonica to think the Rapture had happened, for if it had, they would all be in heaven.

And consider Paul’s answer as to how they can know the Day of the Lord had not yet come. He talks of things that have to happen first, such as the apostasy, removal of the restrainer, Antichrist revealed, etc. Now, if he was trying to prove the Rapture had not happened, all he would have to say is, “You and I are still here, aren’t we? You have not seen Jesus descend in the sky, have you? We do not have our glorified bodies, do we?” So the Day of the Lord must be the Tribulation, not the Rapture.

When you understand that Paul is using the same terminology as found in the Old Testament, speaking of the “Day of the Lord” as the Tribulation period, then the whole passage becomes clear. If you read the passage and just insert “Tribulation” wherever you see “Day of the Lord,” then it all makes perfect sense. The Thessalonians were undergoing a lot of persecution, and some of them thought they might be going through the Tribulation.

The Apostle Paul was writing to assure them that the Tribulation cannot come unless certain things happen first, not the least of which is the Rapture of the Church. Remember what the Old Testament says, “*the day of the Lord is near—a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations.*” (Ezekiel 30:3) The “Day of the Lord” is not the Blessed Hope of the Church.

It is not the Rapture. Read through the passage and substitute “Tribulation” for “Day of the Lord,” and you will see everything fall into place. I have bolded certain parts for you to pay special attention to.

Let us now examine the passage (2 Thessalonians 2:1-15), bit by bit:

*Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that **the day of the Lord** has come.*

Paul says he is writing in regard to “*the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him.*” Now obviously, that is the Rapture he speaks of. What throws people off is when he speaks of the “the day of the Lord.” Since most people today don’t know what “the day of the Lord” is, they assume it must be what he just referred to, that the day of the Lord is the Rapture. That is wrong. Only when you have it firmly entrenched in your mind (as Paul and the Thessalonians did) that “the day of the Lord” is the Tribulation, does one avoid falling into that error. Look at the passage again, and this time I will substitute “Tribulation” for “day of the Lord.”

*Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that **the Tribulation** has come.*

Paul is going to explain to them that the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering to Him (the Rapture) happens before the Tribulation can start. That is why he begins by mentioning the Rapture. Let us read on:

*Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless **the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts***

himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?

Paul says, “it will not come unless...” What is the “it?” Jesus is not an “it.” Paul does not say, “He (Jesus) will not come unless...” No, he says, “it.” The “it” is the Tribulation. He says the Tribulation cannot come until the Antichrist is revealed.

And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. 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.

Paul had said he was going to talk about the Rapture, and now he is. He had previously told the Thessalonians that the presence of the Holy Spirit through the Church is what was holding Antichrist back, that when the Rapture happens the power of the Holy Spirit through the Church would be removed, allowing Antichrist to take control over the world. Paul says, “*you know what restrains him now.*” How did they know? Because Paul had already explained all this to them, for he says, “*Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?*”

Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

*But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God has chosen you from the***

beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-15)

Paul references the Rapture again when he says, “*God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation...*”

Now that we correctly understand the passage, we can see that there are three things the Apostle Paul lists that must happen before the Tribulation starts:

1. The Restrainer is taken out of the way
2. The Apostasy comes first
3. The Man of Lawlessness (Antichrist) is revealed

It is significant to us that Paul admonishes them with, “*Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things?*” Since they were already familiar with what he was going to tell them, he doesn’t elaborate on all of the details. We have to read between the lines.

The Restrainer

Concerning the Restrainer and what that is, we note that Paul says, “*And you know what restrains him now...*” As I have said, Paul says that because he had already explained to them that the presence of the Holy Spirit through the Church restrains the “*mystery of lawlessness*” and prevents the Antichrist from coming to power. Recall what Jesus said to his disciples when they returned from their first missionary trip:

The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions,

*and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. (Luke 10:17-19)*⁴⁴

The Antichrist cannot come because the Church, operating in the power of the Holy Spirit, is still here. Paul says, “*He who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.*” If the ministry of the 70 caused Satan to fall like lightning, just imagine the restraining power the entire Spirit-filled Church has upon the plans of the Devil today. The “*He*” can be none other than what was given to the Church on Pentecost: The Holy Spirit. When all the Christians are gone, there will be a terrible void that will quickly fill with evil. Satan will see his chance and then will come the Antichrist.

The Thessalonians were afraid they would suffer the judgments of God to be poured out on an unbelieving world during the Tribulation, and Paul assures them that they can give thanks because “*God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation.*” They could know that the Tribulation, or Day of the Lord, had not come yet because the Church was still here.

When 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is examined in a Greek interlinear version, there is a nuance present that is lost in the translation to English. In the Greek, it says literally that He who now restrains will do so “*until out of the midst he be gone.*” That is, I propose, a perfect picture of the Rapture.

⁴⁴ *The reference to treading upon serpents and scorpions is not primarily literal. The context references the “power of the enemy.” Serpents and scorpions” are not the “power of the enemy.” These are mentioned as symbolic representations of demonic power. A limited literal interpretation could be applied to the Apostle Paul not being harmed when bitten by a venomous snake as recorded in Acts 28:3.*

The Apostasy

“Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first...” (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

What is *The Apostasy*? As we study that question, we have to take a close look at the Greek text because this passage has been translated in different ways. We need to ascertain exactly what the Apostle Paul was saying. Specifically, we need to examine the word “apostasy.”

Paul used the Greek word “*apostasia*” which has a literal meaning of “to depart or stand away from.” Do not let the similarity of pronunciation between apostasy and *apostasia* fool you. The two words don’t necessarily have identical meanings. Strong’s Dictionary of the Bible defines the word thus: “leave, depart, departure; literally, a leaving from a previous standing.” The word is used several times in the New Testament to speak of departing or withdrawing from something or someone.⁴⁵

It is helpful to see how the word is used in other places in the New Testament. The verb form of the word is found in 2 Corinthians 12:8 where we read, “*I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might **depart** from me.*” In Acts 12:10 the word is used this way: “*immediately the angel **departed** from him.*” In Luke 4:13: “*And when the devil had ended every temptation, he **departed** from him until an opportune time.*” Acts 21:21: *Now they have heard of thee that thou teachest those Jews, who are among the Gentiles, to **depart** from Moses...”* (Douay-Rheims Version)

The translation of *apostasia* as apostasy is a comparatively modern contrivance. The Geneva Bible of 1599, the version brought to America by the Pilgrims, translated the passage this way:

⁴⁵ <https://www.heraldofhope.org.au/the-rapture-is-the-departure/>

“That day shall not come, except there come a departing first...”

Seven English translations, from the Wycliffe Bible of 1384 to the Geneva Bible of 1608, all translated the word as departure or departing. The following versions translated the word as departure: Wycliffe Bible (1384); Tyndale Bible (1526); Coverdale Bible (1535); Cranmer Bible (1539); Breeches Bible (1576); Beza Bible (1583); Geneva Bible (1608).

Even the Latin Vulgate, which was considered the authorized version of Christendom for nearly 2,000 years, used the word *decessio*, which means “departure.” Translation of this passage with the word “apostasy” did not become popular until the King James Version of 1611, which became the first to translate the word as “falling away.”⁴⁶ That set a precedent which most English translators have followed since. Traditions die hard. Today, the World English Bible, an excellent revision of the American Standard Bible, translates the passage this way:

For it will not be, unless the departure comes first...

Translating the word as “departure” is more literal. It could mean departure from the faith, but that is mere supposition. The word “faith” is not in the original. The actual text merely calls it “The Departure.” The definite article “*the*” in front of departure speaks of it as a known event that Paul had already discussed with the Thessalonians.

So if we accept the translation of the word as departure, the question is, departure from what? Many people believe that this was a direct reference to a pre-trib Rapture wherein Christians depart this earth to be with Christ. Is that what could be meant? We have to look at the context to make that determination.

⁴⁶ For evidence that the KJV Bible frequently has poor translation, see my book *King James Onlyism* by Mark Swarbrick available at Amazon.com

There are two clues. Paul begins with a preface, “*Let no one deceive you in any way. For it will not be, unless the departure comes first...*” Paul was concerned that people would deceive the Thessalonians into thinking *the departure* did not happen before the Tribulation.

Deceive is a strong word. That is the word Paul uses. You can sense Paul’s passion for this. It begs the question; is Paul passionately concerned that they are being deluded into thinking the Tribulation comes before an apostasy? Why would that even matter? Does it not seem more likely that he is concerned that they are being be fooled into thinking there would not be a Rapture before the Tribulation? Paul says in Verse 2 that he is concerned that they not “*be quickly shaken...*” The ISV says, “*upset or alarmed.*” There would be no reason they would be shaken or alarmed by an apostasy not coming yet. But if they thought the Rapture was not going to happen before the Tribulation, that could definitely cause alarm.

Another clue is that the context is all about the Rapture. In Verse 1 he told them he was going to speak of “*the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to him...*” Not only do we find the Rapture referred to in the opening statement, we see it again in reference to the restrainer being taken out of the way. Understanding “*the departure*” as a reference to the Rapture is in harmony with the context.

Furthermore, there is no mention anywhere in Scripture of an event called “The Apostasy.” Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, “*I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” It is the cults who frequently say the Church has gone into apostasy, and they alone are the remnant with the truth. That is a lie. It cannot happen. If the entire Church went into apostasy, then Jesus’ words would be in error, and the gates of hell would have prevailed against it. 1 Timothy 4:1 says, “*Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times **some** will depart from the faith...*” The keyword here is “*some.*” Not all, but some.

Indeed, in Acts 2:17, we read: *“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.”* There was a partial fulfillment of that on the day of Pentecost and it is being fulfilled throughout the Church age. Its final fulfillment will be just prior to the time of the end when God will supernaturally empower his saints with powerful gifts of the Spirit. We have seen this on the rise since the advent of the Pentecostal movement at the beginning of the 20th century. So rather than a great apostasy sweeping through the Church, Scripture speaks of a revival propelling the Church into Spirit-filled ministry in the last days.

False teaching and apostasy have always been an enemy of the Church and have been making inroads here and there and it shall always be so. There has been an ebb and flow through the centuries as the battle rages between the Church and Satan. There was a crescendo of apostasy during the Dark Ages when the Catholic Church darkened the world with its false teachings.⁴⁷ Apostasy retreated with the Reformation. We can undoubtedly expect spiritual warfare to intensify as we approach the time of the end. There will be a gradual rise in apostasy, while at the same time, God will empower His Church with spiritual gifts to combat it. *“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.”* (Isaiah 59:19) Scripture defines apostasy, not as some future event, but as an enemy to be battled throughout time, an enemy that the Church, for the most part, conquers.

The Apostle Paul indeed warned Timothy, *“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”* (2 Timothy 4:3-4) Yet this warning was given to Timothy in the 1st

⁴⁷ See my book, *The Hidden Truth About Catholicism*, available at Amazon.com

Century. It was not mentioned as an event limited to the time of the end. He was to expect that in his day and therefore Paul in the prior verse exhorts him to “*Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*”

If there was a great event coming called “the apostasy,” how would anyone recognize it? How would a person differentiate it from the many great apostasies of the Church age? There have been many true Christians in past Church history who saw the Catholic Church as an apostate Church. How can one tell that was not “The Great Apostasy?” At that time, many did think precisely that. I submit that apostasy cannot be the marker for the Tribulation. It is too nebulous and gradual. Apostasy has always been with us in one form or another and to a greater or lesser degree.

Paul speaks of “*The Departure*” as a recognizable, sudden, and visible event by which one can know whether or not the Tribulation has started. He speaks of it not as “*a departure.*” He says, “*The Departure.*” Paul, in another place, speaks of his “*desire to depart and be with Christ.*”⁴⁸ We must remember that the word Rapture did not exist then. Rapture is a term that comes to us from Latin, a language not then in use. Could it be that “The Departure” was used then the way we use the phrase “The Rapture?”

Indeed, Cyprian, an early Christian theologian and bishop of Carthage (AD 220-258), speaks of the Rapture by that very moniker: “*By an early departure you are taken away, and delivered from the shipwrecks and disasters that are imminent...*” Recall also that Victorinus, writing in AD 240 said, “*and these shall be in the last time, when the Church shall have gone out of the midst,*” which mirrors the literal

⁴⁸ *Philippians 1:23, where Paul speaks of his desire to depart and be with Christ, is primarily referring to his death, not to the Rapture. Yet it shows that Paul was familiar with the phraseology of being with Christ as a departure.*

translation of 1 Thessalonians 4:17 which reads, “*until out of the midst he be gone.*”

While we do not see the theme of a specific future event called “the apostasy” throughout Scripture, we do see another event repeatedly spoken of. We know it as the Rapture, but it makes perfect sense to understand “The Departure” as that same event, for we read about departing this earth to meet Christ in the air in numerous places in the New Testament. I now present a condensed literal translation of the passage. As you will see, it all fits together when you understand Old Testament terminology and stay with a very literal translation of what Paul wrote:

*Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that **the Tribulation** has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless **The Departure** comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed...Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed...only He who now restrains will do so **until out of the midst he be gone**. Then that lawless one will be revealed...But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation...**” (2 Thessalonians 2:1-15)*

9

Signs of the Times

Even so you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. (Matthew 24:33)

As I have said, the Rapture comes unexpectedly. It comes at a time “*ye think not.*” (Matthew 24:44). “But wait,” someone may object. “Doesn’t the Bible say that there will be signs of the times and that Christians will know when Jesus is near, even at the door?” Indeed, the passage above would seem to indicate that. However, this passage is not speaking of the Rapture. It is speaking of Christ’s second coming when he touches down on the earth to rule all the nations. Verse 33 above is referring to Tribulation saints knowing that Jesus’ return to the earth is very near. We will cover all of Matthew Chapter 24 in a moment and explain why that passage does not refer to the Rapture.

First, I shall lay out a timeline of the end of days to make it easier to understand. Here is the order of events that shall transpire:

1. **The Rapture** – At a time we do not expect, Jesus descends in the air but does not touch down on earth. Believers are resurrected, living believers are transformed, we rise off the earth, meet the Lord in the air, and return with Him to heaven to the home he has prepared for us.
2. **The Beginning of Sorrows** – There will be a short interlude of time between the Rapture and the beginning of the official 7-year Tribulation. Nevertheless, this will be a time of trouble. There will be wars, famine, and pestilence. The

sudden disappearance of so many people will cause panic, unrest, and financial collapse. With the removal of the peace-giving influence of Holy Spirit-filled Christians, evil will sweep the world. Liberal politicians from the radical far left will gain totalitarian control over the governments of every country, plunging the world into sinful rebellion against God. Obama's rainbow lights on the Whitehouse, celebrating homosexual perversion as "marriage," was only a small taste of the evil that will be unleashed after the Rapture.

3. **The Tribulation** – The Antichrist rises to power, and when he makes his "covenant with many" (Daniel 9:27) then the 7-year Tribulation officially begins. This agreement will most likely include allowing the Jews to rebuild their temple on the hotly contested Temple Mount. Halfway through the 7-year Tribulation, the Antichrist will erect a statue of himself in the Holy of Holies in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. (Revelation 13:14, Daniel 11:31) At this point, exactly three and one-half years into the tribulation, he unveils the statue, sits down in the temple, and declares that he is God.

He will demand the worship of the world. (2 Thessalonians 2:4) That is the "Abomination of Desolation" referred to by Daniel and Jesus. The Antichrist orders that no one can buy or sell anything unless they receive a mark on their hand or forehead that symbolizes their worship of Him and their obedience and submission to his rule.

After the Rapture happens, many people will realize everything they had heard, and perhaps scoffed at, concerning the Rapture has come to pass. These will turn to Jesus in repentance during the Tribulation. The Antichrist will embark on a campaign to kill all Christians and Jews who will not renounce their faith. (Revelation

12:13,17) Great multitudes of them will be martyred. (Revelation 7:9,13)

4. **The Second Coming** – Just before Christ’s return, the war of Armageddon is underway (Revelation 16:16). The armies of the world have surrounded Jerusalem, intent upon obliterating Israel and killing every Jew on earth. (Zechariah 14:2) All of Israel has repented and has turned to Jesus as their Messiah. (Romans 11:26)

Just as it appears that all hope is lost, Jesus, mounted on a white horse, descends from the sky. All His previously raptured saints accompany him, riding on white horses (1 Thessalonians 3:13, Revelation 19:14). This will somehow be visible to everyone on earth (Matthew 24:27).

Jesus touches down on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4). A great earthquake splits the mountain in half, creating a great valley through which the people of Jerusalem escape while Jesus destroys the armies of Antichrist. (Zechariah 14:4) The Antichrist is thrown into the lake of fire. Satan is thrown into the Abyss. (Revelation 19:20)

5. **The Millennium** – Then begins the thousand-year reign of Christ upon the earth. (Revelation 20:4) He shall rule the nations with a “rod of iron.” (Revelation 19:15) Christians who returned from heaven with Him will also rule with His authority. (2 Timothy 2:12)

Those people who repented after the Rapture and became Christians and were martyred for their faith are resurrected and they reign over the earth along with the other Christians. All unbelievers are gathered up from the earth by God’s angels and are killed. (Matthew 13:41, Luke 17:35-37) The only mortal people on the earth will be

those Christians who survived the Tribulation. They will live out their lives, marry, have children, and raise their families.

During the Millennium the curse upon the earth that came with the sin of Adam and Eve will be largely removed. Crops will grow easily and extremely fast (Amos 9:13). Animals will no longer kill and eat one another. Quite literally, the lion shall lie down with the lamb. Lifespans will be greatly increased.

If anyone dies as young as only a hundred years old, they will be considered to be accursed because of some sin they committed. Since Satan is in the Abyss, there will be no supernatural evil influence and temptation, as there is today.

There is another resurrection that takes place at the end of the Millennium (Revelation 20:5) in which those who died during the thousand-year reign of Christ are resurrected and receive their glorified bodies. It is likely that at this time those mortals still alive at the end of the Millennium are transformed, just as Christians were at the Rapture.⁴⁹

At the end of the thousand years, the earth has become fully repopulated by those mortals who survived the Tribulation. At the end of that time, Satan is released from the Abyss, and he goes forth and deceives the nations. Many who are deceived by Satan surround Jerusalem with armies, but Jesus instantly destroys them.

⁴⁹Scripture is silent on that point, so when the millennial saints receive their glorified bodies is an educated guess made by Bible scholars.

6. **The New Heavens and New Earth** – After the Millennium, the current earth is destroyed by fire (2 Peter 3:10), and then God creates a new heaven and a new earth. (Revelation 21:1-4) A city descends from heaven to earth – the New Jerusalem. It is the place in heaven that God has prepared for us. It is 1500 miles wide, 1500 miles long, and 1500 miles high.

To summarize, this is the order:

1. Rapture
2. Beginning of Sorrows
3. Tribulation
4. Millennium
5. New Heaven & Earth

It is assumed by most that the Tribulation begins immediately after the Rapture. That is not the case. The 7-year Tribulation does not officially begin until the Antichrist makes his covenant with many (Daniel 9:27). So there is some period of time between the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation. Most certainly, it will be a very troubled time after the Rapture. Lawlessness will vastly increase on earth due to the disappearance of the righteous. The restrainer of lawlessness will be gone. Many of the conditions necessary for the fulfillment of Revelation prophecies may happen during this interval.

How long will the interval between the Rapture and the Tribulation be? Two weeks? Two months? Fifty years? We do not know. We do know that the Rapture, Beginning of Sorrows, and the Tribulation all take place before that generation (alive then) passes away. (Matthew 24:34) More on that later. Some things need to fall into place for the prophecies of Revelation to be fulfilled, such as:

1. The Jewish temple in Jerusalem rebuilt. (2 Thes 2:4)
2. Rise of a great city called "Babylon." (Rev 18:9-17)
3. Antichrist's rise to power.
4. Lawlessness and antisemitism increase.

These things will take time. How much time? My guess is a few years. It will take just a short time for the world to turn evil enough to accept the Antichrist. The growing wickedness will bring about frightening events that make the world desperate for someone to lead. The Antichrist will fulfill that desire. The Temple could be rebuilt either before or after the Rapture, but most likely after. The buildup of the city of Babylon might take considerable time, depending on what that city is. My personal opinion is that the Beginning of Sorrows, the time between the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation, may be as much as 50 years or so. We know it won't be too much longer than that because Jesus said, "*This generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.*" (Matthew 24:34)

10

The Olivet Discourse

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? What is the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Jesus sat down on the Mount of Olives, his disciples gathered around Him and he told them what was coming in the future. This is known as "The Olivet Discourse." It is an essential narrative that must be understood to have an accurate picture of the end times. Jesus speaks here as a Jewish rabbi in the vernacular and pattern of Old Testament prophecy; that is to say, his monologue contains elements of prophetic perspective and double reference. If those are not taken into account, one is sure to misinterpret what Jesus is saying. We shall now analyze all of Matthew Chapter 24.

Verses 1-2

Jesus went out from the temple, and was going on his way. His disciples came to him to show him the buildings of the temple. But he answered them, "You see all of these things, don't you? Most certainly I tell you, there will not be left here one stone on another, that will not be thrown down."

Jesus was predicting something that would happen about 40 years in the future. In AD 70 Titus of Rome surrounded Jerusalem with his armies and laid siege to the city. After the city fell the Romans burned the temple. Much of the gold in the temple melted and ran down in between the cracks of the stones. The soldiers pried all the building blocks apart and completely dismantled the walls and foundation as they sought the melted gold, thus fulfilling Jesus' prophecy that not

one stone would be left on top another.

Verses 3-8

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? What is the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Jesus answered them, "Be careful that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will lead many astray. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you aren't troubled, for all this must happen, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there will be famines, plagues, and earthquakes in various places. But all these things are the beginning of birth pains."

Jesus said, "*Nation will rise against nation.*" What time period was Jesus talking about? Many believe, and I used to be one of them, that this applies to recent history – World War I, World War II, and the increasing state of unrest in the world. I know longer believe that is the time period this refers to. There have been wars and rumors of wars throughout the history of mankind. Jesus is talking about something different. He is speaking as a Jew to Jews. He is speaking of the time of Jacob's Trouble, the Day of the Lord, the Tribulation period.

Jesus is referring to specific recognizable conditions endemic to the end of the age, events which happen after the Rapture. The beginning of that time-of-the-end comes suddenly with no signs or indicators. (Matthew 24:44) Remember what 1st Thessalonians 5:3 says, "*While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.*" This is important to understand. World conditions don't have to get much worse before the Rapture. It could happen at any moment. To think otherwise could lead to spiritual complacency.

There are no signs necessary nor are any events predicted to happen before the Rapture. It is imminent. The Olivet

Discourse is not a list of markers to let the Church know when the Rapture is close. Rather, it is primarily a listing of events the Jews can expect to see after the Rapture and which will unfold as the time of Jacob's Trouble (the Tribulation) proceeds.

Note how that the 1st Thessalonian 5:3 reference above concerning the time period just prior to the Tribulation uses the same analogy to "birth pangs" as the Olivet Discourse. That is further evidence the Olivet discourse refers to events of the Tribulation which occurs after the Rapture. The Rapture comes suddenly, unexpectedly during a time of peace and safety, but Jesus is speaking here of the end of the age, the time which comes after the Rapture and is marked by war and rumors of wars.

After the Church is gone, the world will be overwhelmed with religious deception, wars, famines, plagues, and earthquakes at an unprecedented level. Jesus says this is just the beginning, that "*the end is not yet.*" There is more to come. After the Rapture, the Antichrist begins his rise to power (2 Thessalonians 2:3). This period, which will extend probably for years, is what Jesus calls "the beginning of sorrows." After the Antichrist has gained power and position, then he makes the covenant of Daniel 9:27, which starts the final seven years of the Tribulation. To summarize, the "birth pangs" or the "beginning of sorrows" comes between the Rapture and the Tribulation and extends into the first part of it.

"What about the Rapture?" someone may ask. Why doesn't Jesus mention the Rapture in his discourse? I say again, we must understand that Jesus is speaking as a Jewish rabbi to Jews. The Church Age did not begin until later, not until the day of Pentecost. After that, God reveals to His apostles the mysteries specific to the Church Age, such as the Rapture. But here Jesus is speaking of the time of Jacob's Trouble (Jeremiah 30:7), which is the Tribulation period wherein God deals specifically with the Jewish people.

Verses 9-14

Then they will deliver you up to oppression, and will kill you. You will be hated by all of the nations for my name's sake. Then many will stumble, and will deliver up one another, and will hate one another. Many false prophets will arise, and will lead many astray. Because iniquity will be multiplied, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end, the same will be saved. This Good News of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

In the passage above, Jesus speaks of the Tribulation period itself. After the Rapture, many will realize their tragic mistake. They will turn to Christ. Revelation mentions 144,000 Jews who turn to Christ and powerfully evangelize the world. It is during this time that every corner of the world is reached with the Gospel.

Verses 15-16

"When, therefore, you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Here the interpretation gets tricky, and we are warned thus with the words "*let the reader understand.*" That is an interesting interjection, considering that Jesus was not writing this but was speaking it to His disciples. Jesus did not interject that. It was inserted by apostolic authority when the Gospel of Matthew was penned. It advises us to think carefully about Daniel's prophecy, which we shall now do.

The prophetic law of double reference comes into play here. The prophet Daniel predicted a coming Antichrist figure. 1 John 2:18 tells us there have been many antichrists, but there is one coming who will be the final one who will be *The Antichrist*. Daniel's prediction of an abomination of desolation was partially fulfilled in 168 B.C. by Antiochus Epiphanes IV, a Seleucid king, who cruelly ruled over Israel

from 175 to 64 B.C. When the Jews revolted, his soldiers crushed the rebellion, entered the temple, stopped the regular sacrifices, set up an idol of Zeus, and offered swine there as a sacrifice. Since Jesus refers to the abomination of desolation as a future event, we know that this was only a partial fulfillment.

When the Jews revolted again in AD 70, Titus of Rome utterly destroyed the temple. First-century Christians in Jerusalem remembered the words of Jesus, “*let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*” They did. Eusebius, a renowned 4th Century church historian, says that just before the Roman armies fell upon Jerusalem, “*the church at Jerusalem...left the city, and moved to a town called Pella.*” Pella is on the edge of a mountain wilderness northeast of Jerusalem. The Christians fled to the mountains just as Jesus told them to.⁵⁰ This was a second partial fulfillment of Daniel’s prediction of the defilement of the temple.

The actual final fulfillment is yet to come, someday in the future. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 speaks of the final Antichrist, saying it will be “*he who opposes and exalts himself against all that is called God or that is worshiped; so that he sits as God in the temple of God, setting himself up as God.*” Revelation 13:11-15 says that an image of the beast is set up, and all on earth are commanded to worship it.

This will most likely be placed in the Temple in Jerusalem. This will be the complete fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy. This is the abomination of desolation. It is an abomination because no man is God, because no Gentile can enter the Holy Place and because the worship of statues is forbidden in Old Testament law. (Exodus 20:4-6) The placement of the image of the Antichrist will be accompanied by war and devastation to the Jewish people.

⁵⁰ Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, trans. Christian Cruse (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1955), 86-87.

Thus, it is called the Abomination of Desolation. Jesus says to the Jews that when they see it *standing in the holy place*, everyone in Judea should flee to the mountains, without delay, for devastation is soon to follow.

Verses 17-22

Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take out things that are in his house. Let him who is in the field not return back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are with child and to nursing mothers in those days! Pray that your flight will not be in the winter, nor on a Sabbath, for then there will be great oppression, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever will be. Unless those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved. But for the sake of the chosen ones, those days will be shortened.

According to Daniel 9:27, the abomination of desolation occurs precisely three and one-half years into the Tribulation. Revelation 12:15-16 tells what happens then: *“And the woman (Israel) fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days (3 ½ years)...The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.*

Much symbolic language there. The serpent, also called a dragon, is Satan. The woman is Israel. The Flood out of the serpent’s mouth is the Antichrist’s massive forces who try to find where the Jews have fled. God supernaturally conceals and provides for the people of Israel in the mountains. He will shelter them and care for them just as He did for Israel during the Exodus when they escaped from Egypt into the mountain wilderness of Arabia. During the Tribulation, the Jews are turning their hearts back to God, and before the end of it, they will all recognize Jesus as their Messiah. (Romans 11:26)

Verses 23-28

Then if any man tells you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or, 'There,' don't believe it. For there will arise false christs, and false prophets, and they will show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen ones. Behold, I have told you beforehand. If therefore they tell you, 'Behold, he is in the wilderness,' don't go out; 'Behold, he is in the inner rooms,' don't believe it. For as the lightning flashes from the east, and is seen even to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For wherever the carcass is, there is where the vultures gather together.

This is the Second Coming of Christ, the final part of His coming. The Rapture has already happened, at least seven years prior, probably longer, depending on the length of the interval previously mentioned. At the Second Coming, everyone on earth is somehow enabled to see Jesus' return. The cryptic line about the carcass and vultures is indicative of the judgment against unbelievers that is meted out at that time. This passage says more about that: *"The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* (Matthew 13:41-42)

If we take a moment to study the context of Christ's return, it will make our Lord's reference to carcasses and vultures understandable. Just before Jesus' return, the armies of the world are gathered around Jerusalem, preparing to fight God himself. The Antichrist has deceived people into thinking God is not really God, but is some sort of evil megalomaniacal extraterrestrial being that is masquerading as God.

Revelation 16:14-16 says that *"demonic spirits, performing signs...go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty...and they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon."* The saga continues at Revelation 19:11,13-21: *"Then I saw heaven opened, and*

behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war...He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. These...were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Now back to what Jesus said about vultures. He destroys the armies surrounding Jerusalem, and God's angels snatch up everyone in the entire world that are unbelievers. They are killed in like manner as those who were attacking Jerusalem. Let us now continue with our analysis of Matthew Chapter 24.

Verse 29

But immediately after the oppression of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken;

The passage above refers to the end of the Tribulation, just before the Second Coming of Christ. The passage below is the Second Coming.

Verses 30-31

and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. He will send out his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Some misinterpret this line: “gather together his chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.” This is not a post-trib Rapture as some contend. This is merely a gathering of people that became Christians after the Rapture and managed to survive the Tribulation. As we have already seen from Revelation 19:14, the previously raptured saints are returning with Christ: “*And the armies who were in heaven, having been clothed in pure, white, fine linen were following Him upon white horses.*” Only Christians are spoken of in Scripture as being clothed in pure, white, fine linen. Scripture portrays the Church as the Bride of Christ. In Revelation 19:7-8, we read, “*The marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure*” So the armies following Christ are the Christians raptured before the Tribulation. Malachi 4:3 promises the righteous: “*You shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.*” So the armies following Christ on white horses are the Bride of Christ. These previously raptured Christians are returning with Him to rule and reign. Christians will inherit the earth, just as Jesus said.

Lots of things happen at once when Christ returns. First He deals with the wicked, as explained above. The believers who were previously raptured return with Christ, following Him down from the sky all mounted on white horses. (Revelation 19:14) Jesus touches down on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4) from which He gave this discourse and also from which He ascended into heaven. The mountain splits in half, creating a valley through which the Jews escape to safety (Zechariah 14:4) while Jesus destroys the armies of

Antichrist. After the angels dispatch all the unbelievers in the world (Matthew 13:41-42), then the angels gather up all living believers and transport them to Jerusalem to welcome their Lord and King. (Matthew 24:31)

Verses 32-35

Now from the fig tree learn this parable. When its branch has now become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that the summer is near. Even so you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Most certainly I tell you, this generation will not pass away, until all these things are accomplished. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Here we have another often misunderstood passage. People have claimed this passage tells us we can observe signs of the times to tell when the Rapture is close. They say that Israel is the fig tree and that the Rapture will happen before the generation of 1947 passes away. That is incorrect. Jesus says, “*when you see all these things.*” What things? Certainly not Israel becoming a nation, for that was not mentioned at all by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse. The only things mentioned by Jesus were things that happen after the Rapture. This is speaking to Jews and to believers who find themselves in the Tribulation. Jesus is saying that the beginning of sorrows and the Tribulation will all transpire within the lifetime of those who see them happen.

In other words, from the Rapture, through the birth pains, through the seven-year Tribulation, to the end when Christ returns - that will all happen before the generation that sees all of those things passes away. How long is that? A biblical generation is typically 40 years. That is how long Israel wandered in the wilderness until all those who refused to enter the promised land had died. If 40 years is meant, we can expect it to be less than that from the Rapture to the end of the seven-year Tribulation. If it meant before the last person of

that generation dies, it could be a length of 80 years or so. I tend to believe it may be 40 to 50 years.

The passage below is not sequential in time, as the other paragraphs were. Jesus has finished the central part of his discourse and is now making a general statement about all he has said. He refers to “that day and hour.” That is symbolic. It is not a literal day or hour, but a time period. He is speaking of the beginning of that period of time, which starts in earnest with the Rapture and the seven-year Tribulation.

Verses 36-41

But no one knows of that day and hour, not even the angels of heaven, but my Father only. "As the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days which were before the Flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ship, and they didn't know until the Flood came, and took them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and one will be left; two women grinding at the mill, one will be taken and one will be left.

“No one knows that day or hour.” As I have said, this is figurative. A literal 24-hour day is not meant. “Day” refers to a time period, as in the Day of the Lord. Jesus is saying that no one knows when the period of Rapture, Beginning of Sorrows and the Tribulation will come upon the world. The “day” Jesus refers to starts with the Rapture of the Church. No one knows when that will happen. Jesus warns that it will be just like the days of Noah. The wicked had no idea that destruction was coming. It came suddenly. The righteous were delivered, the wicked perished. In the same way, Jesus will save his followers and take them out of the world before the beginning of sorrows comes in full. The unsaved will be left to suffer through the Tribulation. *“One will be taken, one will be left.”*

Verses 42-44

Watch therefore, for you don't know in what hour your Lord comes. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched, and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore also be ready, for in an hour that you don't expect, the Son of Man will come.

Again, Jesus warns that we will not know when he is coming. Herein He is giving a hint of the Rapture. If you have ever had anything stolen, you know how unexpected it is. One day I walked out of a restaurant and could not find my truck. Where did I park? I wandered around the parking lot a few minutes until the realization dawned on me that my truck had been stolen. It was so completely unexpected. If only I had purchased a club to put on the steering wheel. It was too late now. There was nothing I could do about it. It will be like that, only much worse, for those who miss the Rapture. He is coming when we do not expect. By the way, if the Rapture of the Church does not happen in your lifetime, know this: No believer will miss the Rapture. As you recall from 1 Thessalonians 4:16, *“The dead in Christ shall rise first then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds...”* No Christian will miss out on the Rapture.

There is a parallel passage from the Book of Luke which adds this:

So be careful, or your hearts will be loaded down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day will come on you suddenly. For it will come like a snare on all those who dwell on the surface of all the earth. Therefore be watchful all the time, praying that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will happen, and to stand before the Son of Man. (Luke 21:34-36)

In the passage above, we read that the time of horror will fall like a snare upon *“all who dwell on the surface of the earth.”* The only way to be counted worthy to escape is to put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and follow Him. Then you

will go up in the Rapture and escape “*all these things that will happen.*” And let me repeat what Jesus says: He says, “ALL these things WILL HAPPEN.” Though they seem fantastic, strange, and beyond belief, they will happen. Jesus says so.

11

Babylon the Great

Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come! (Revelation 18:10)

The Book of Revelation predicts that during the Tribulation, there will be a great evil city called Babylon that will be utterly destroyed. (You might want to review Revelation Chapters 17 and 18 before proceeding.) Whether Babylon is its actual name or whether the name is symbolic is a matter of debate. It will be a real city, but there is precedent for the name to be symbolic. For example, Revelation 11:8 speaks of Jerusalem figuratively as Sodom. See also the reference to some city called Babylon in 1 Peter 5:13.

There are a number of theories on what the future Babylon will be. Some say it will be the ancient city of Babylon rebuilt. This seems unlikely unless the time of the end is very far in the future. Today the site of Babylon is nothing but desert sand and a few ruins. A large metropolitan city that is a worldwide center of trade cannot spring into existence overnight. Furthermore, Scripture says that ancient Babylon will never be rebuilt:

"Babylon...It will never again be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation. As I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah along with their neighboring towns," declares the Lord, "so no one will live there; no people will dwell in it." (Jeremiah 50:35,39-40)

Another popular theory is that the City of Rome is the Babylon of Revelation. There are a number of things that seem to fit, most notably the geological feature of the seven hills of

Rome. Revelation 17:9 speaks of Babylon sitting on seven mountains. Rome is called the City of Seven Hills. However, Revelation 17:10 tells us the passage is not speaking of literal mountains, for it says of the mountains, “*those are seven kings.*”

Furthermore, Chapter 17 refers to Mystery Babylon, not Babylon the Great. These are two different things. The first is a religion; the second is a city. Mystery Babylon of Chapter 17 is a religion that was associated with seven kingdoms, whereas Chapter 18 refers to Babylon the Great, a city. There is no mention in Scripture of the city of Babylon being associated with mountains or hills. So the city of Rome cannot be Babylon.

Mystery Babylon of Chapter 17 refers to the false, idolatrous religions that were practiced in all seven of the beast kingdoms referred to in Revelation 17:9-11. During the Tribulation, this will manifest as a one-world false ecumenical religion that pretends to be Christian. The city of Babylon, referred to in Revelation Chapter 18, has had some partial fulfillment. Although ancient Babylon, ancient Rome, and Papal Rome do indeed contain some elements that foreshadow Babylon the Great that will exist at the time of the end, yet the actual Babylon of the Book of Revelation is something else.

New York City

I consider New York City to be a likely candidate for being the Babylon of the end times. We must remember, America after the Rapture will not be the America we know today. It will have plunged into evil along with the rest of the world. Scripture says that Babylon the Great will be a seaport and a world-wide epicenter for trade:

The merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise any more; Every shipmaster, and everyone who sails anywhere, and mariners, and as many as gain their living by sea, stood far away, and cried out as they

looked at the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like the great city?' They cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had their ships in the sea were made rich by reason of her great wealth!' For in one hour is she made desolate. (Revelation 18:11,17-19)

New York City has Wall Street, the New York Stock Exchange, and the United Nations. The officially named *One World Trade Center* opened in New York in 2014. New York has one of the busiest ship harbors in the world, and the city represents the economic strength of the world's premier super-power. The world's economy is keyed to the American dollar. If New York fell, it would rock the world.

Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and she has become a habitation of demons, a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her sexual immorality, the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from the abundance of her luxury...the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise any more; merchandise of gold, silver, precious stones...and people's bodies and souls. (Revelation 18:2-3, 11-13)

New York is well known for being a center for human trafficking, pornography, and every kind of licentiousness. Today New York City is on the news every night. While their police department is being defunded, rioters are burning, looting, and killing. Wicked liberal politicians have unloosed lawlessness upon the streets of the city.

Yet this is nothing compared to what will happen to the city and to America after the Rapture. New York will plunge headfirst into vile rebellion against God and His laws. It will become an epicenter for hate against Christians and Jews.

Scripture tells us that when a Christian abandons Christ and becomes an apostate, his last state has become worse than

the first (2 Peter 2:20). So shall it be with America. When all the Christians are taken to heaven in the Rapture, the liberals will take over. America, which once was a Christian nation that sent missionaries to the world, will throw itself into debauchery with zeal.

The description of New York's destruction by the fire sounds very much like a nuclear attack. Rev 18:18 says, "*Everyone...stood far away and cried out as they looked at the smoke of her burning...*" Daniel 11:39 says that the Antichrist "*will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god.*" I believe the "*strongest of fortresses*" could be America. Indeed, we are the most powerful nation in the world today. The "*foreign god*" could be Allah. This passage may indicate that the Antichrist will coordinate with a Muslim nation or nations to attack America, and in particular, New York City.

As we speak, Iran is enriching uranium for nuclear weapons. The Institute for Science and International Security reports that Iranian scientists have reached "nuclear weapons breakout capability." The report concludes Iran does not yet have a nuclear weapon but does have enough low-enriched uranium for a single nuclear weapon.⁵¹ Perhaps radical Muslims in Iran (who worship a foreign god) will conspire together with the Antichrist to attack New York, which is situated in the United States, the strongest of fortresses.

It may be more than coincidence; indeed, it may be a sign that on Long Island, smack dab in the heart of the metropolis of New Your City, is a suburb that was founded in 1872. It is called Babylon.

⁵¹<https://www.cnn.com/2013/11/07/world/meast/irans-nuclear-capabilities-fast-facts/index.html>

12

Israel Becomes a Nation

I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. (Jeremiah 30:1)

Some last day prophecies have been fulfilled in our lifetime. This has engendered interest among Bible scholars and brought renewed excitement about our Lord's return. Many of the last day prophecies speak of things that happen with the nation of Israel in the final days of history. For example, Scripture says that the Tribulation, also called "the time of Jacob's trouble," will come after Israel is regathered as a nation:

I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it...We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace...Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble... (Jeremiah 30:1-9)

The first part of this prophecy (Israel becoming a nation) was fulfilled in the 20th Century. That certainly makes you wonder if the second part of the prophecy (the Tribulation) may not be far off.

For centuries these references to Israel have puzzled Bible scholars because Israel had not been a nation for nearly two-thousand years. How could these prophecies be fulfilled when there was no Israel in existence?

Titus of Rome destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70, and the Jews of Israel were dispersed among the nations. Israel was no more. Many could not imagine that a nation extinct for nearly two millennia could ever exist again. Such a thing had

never happened before. No nation had ever reappeared after disappearing for so long. In an attempt to solve this enigma, some theologians manufactured a theory called *Replacement Theology*, which said that the Church had replaced Israel. They said all references in Bible prophecy that speak of Israel now refer to the Church. That is a false teaching which is easily disproved from Scripture:

Thus says the Lord, Who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night... "If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever." (Jeremiah 31:35-36)

Is Israel still a nation before God? Go out at night and look up. If you see the stars, then rest assured, Israel is still a nation in His sight, and every prophecy regarding her will be fulfilled. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew."* (Romans 11:1-2) Replacement Theology is an unbiblical doctrine.

Many biblical prophecies predicted Israel would be gathered from many nations after her dispersion in AD 70. For example:

I will restore the fortunes of Jacob...When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will be proved holy through them in the sight of many nations. (Ezekiel 39:27)

I will gather you up from all the nations and bring you home again to your land. (Ezekiel 36:24)

Thus says the Lord GOD, "I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries among which you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel." (Ezekiel 11:7)

Those who could not imagine Israel as a nation again supposed such prophecies as these only referred to Israel's return from the Babylonian and Assyrian exiles of the 6th and 8th centuries BC. But those exiles do not fit the description in the text, which says the Jews would be gathered out of many nations and from "*all the nations.*" That did not happen with the Babylonian/Assyrian exiles. They only went to two nations, and they were led captive there, not scattered. So the prophecies had to refer to some future event.

The Jews were scattered from their homeland in the 2nd century AD and remained dispersed for almost 2,000 years. The change in the geopolitical landscape changed with the first World War, and the land of Israel came under the control of Britain, who declared their support for this land being set aside as a homeland for the Jewish people. Jews then began emigrating to their ancient homeland. After Hitler's holocaust killed 6 million Jews during World War II, emigration increased dramatically. In May 1948, Israel was officially declared an independent state by the United Nations. In fulfillment of prophecy, the Jews flocked to Israel from all over the world. Israel becoming a nation again is a reminder that the end-time prophecies of the Bible will all be fulfilled, no matter how unlikely it may seem.

13

Mystery of the 7th Kingdom

They are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven... (Revelation 17:10-11)

If you have not read Revelation Chapters 17 & 18 recently, you might want to do so now. Those two chapters contain some of the most fascinating and cryptic prophecies of the entire Bible.

What I have written thus far in this book is basic stuff that can be corroborated by what scholars have written in Bible commentaries. However, in this chapter I shall present something you will not find in any commentary. It is my educated guess as to what is prophesied in Revelation, Chapter 17. If my interpretation is correct, then in 1933 there was a significant fulfillment of prophecy. This prophecy has to do with the coming of the Antichrist, and its fulfillment may indicate the return of Christ is much closer than some think.

Daniel 8:23 has this ominous prophecy: *“And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.”* This is the Antichrist, an evil ruler, opposed to God’s people that arises in the last days, after the Rapture, to rule the world with impunity.

Revelation Chapter 17 gives us a mysterious, complex, symbolic picture that offers clues to the identity of the Antichrist. The Apostle John did not understand all of the vision, but he recorded it as he saw it. Daniel Chapter 12 also

speaks of end-time events, and in Verse 9, the angel says, “*Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.*” Now that the end times are so much closer, many of these prophecies are unlocked and are being understood. The angel said: “*None of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.*” (Daniel 12:10)

The Mystery of Lawlessness

In 2 Thessalonians 2:7, the Apostle Paul told us, “*The mystery of lawlessness is already at work...*” Ever since God’s creation, Satan has been scheming against God and His people. God’s plan really got moving when he chose the Hebrews to be His chosen people, to be “*a light to enlighten the gentiles.*” (Luke 2:32)

So as God moved forward with his plan, Satan moved forward with his. The “*mystery of lawlessness*” is Satan’s plan. The passage we are about to study will give us some insight into the devil’s schemes.

Satan has endeavored for thousands of years to bring forth a nation to destroy Israel and derail God’s plans. Jesus said, “*Salvation is from the Jews.*” (John 4:22) Since Israel is central to God’s plan, the destruction of Israel is part of the devil’s “*mystery of lawlessness.*” Whenever you hear someone bashing Israel, you are hearing someone influenced, either directly or indirectly, by the *mystery of lawlessness*, the demonic antichrist spirit at work in the world.

Nations have been hating on Jews and trying to wipe them out for thousands of years. Government leaders today try to solve the “Middle East problem” but they can’t. They can’t because they don’t understand the real enemy is Satan, and it is a spiritual war with powerful demonic forces at play. It is the mystery of lawlessness at work.

Over the centuries, Satan has endeavored to conjure up a nation that would harass and defeat Israel. History shows

many such nations, and scripture speaks of seven of them in particular. We are going to study Revelation 17:8-11. This scripture speaks of a “*beast*” which has seven heads. It says, “*Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having...seven heads.*” (Rev 13:1) This beast represents Satan’s attempts to get nations to destroy Israel. The seven heads represent seven specific kings or kingdoms that Satan uses to do this.

Associated with each of these seven “*beast kingdoms*” is an antichrist figure, a king that directs the hatred and animosity toward the Jews. Here is where it gets complicated. Sometimes the scripture uses “*beast*” to refer to all of these beast kingdoms, and other times it uses “*beast*” to refer to the king of one of the kingdoms, specifically to the one that will be *The Antichrist*. By studying the context, you can determine which is meant.

Although the Bible speaks of many antichrists coming, it also says that there will be one big one – “*The Antichrist*” – that will come at the very end of the age. The Bible says he will be an extremely evil dictator, a man of “*fierce countenance*” with supernatural power. By lies, cunning and military might, he gains control of the earth, establishing a one-world government with “*authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.*” (Rev 13:7) Scripture says, “*he will destroy to an extraordinary degree.*” (Daniel 8:24) He is called “*the man of sin,*” *the Beast,*” “*the little horn,*” and “*the Antichrist.*”

The Seven Kings

Clues to the identity of *The Antichrist* are found in Revelation, chapter 17. If you are not familiar with that portion of scripture, you might want to take out your Bible and read that chapter before proceeding. The key passage is this:

Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having...seven heads...Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are

seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.” (Rev 13:1, 17:9-11)

This passage begins with “*Here is the mind which has wisdom,*” which means we need to put our thinking caps on and think outside the box to decode this passage. There is a woman mentioned in this passage. Who is she? The woman that sits on the beast is a false religious system that is associated with each beast kingdom. More about that later. The main point I want you to examine now is that the seven heads represent seven kings. Look closely at verse 9 where it tells us the heads are seven kings:

The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings. (Rev 17:9)



The seven-headed beast symbolizes seven “*beast kingdoms.*” A beast kingdom, as has been said, is a kingdom that Satan has used (or will use) to attempt to annihilate God’s people Israel. It is a kingdom that Satan infuses with his antichrist spirit. John said, “*You have heard that Antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come.*” Each of these seven empires has had an unholy hatred of the Jewish people and has taken action to destroy the race. All of them have been

intensely anti-Semitic, pagan and worshiped false gods. The attributes of a Beast Kingdom are:

1. Persecutes God's People with supernatural hatred.
2. False religion with emperor worship at its core
3. A powerful, militant, cruel and dictatorial regime

The Identity of the 7 Beast Kingdoms

The following passage gives us clues to help us identify the seven kingdoms or kings:

...five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. (Rev 17:10)

Five have fallen - This tells us that five beast kingdoms in John's time had already come and gone. The Five were Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia, and Greece. All of these kingdoms persecuted Israel and had fallen by John's time.

One is - This means that the sixth beast kingdom existed in John's time, and that was Rome. Rome ruled cruelly over Israel and in AD 70 destroyed Jerusalem and the Jewish temple. Rome worshiped its Caesars, idols and various gods.

Christians were tortured and fed alive to lions while Roman citizens watched in glee. Roman soldiers crucified Christ on the cross and the Roman empire cruelly persecuted the Christian Church. Daniel 7:7 describes the Roman empire as a *"beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth."*

The other has not yet come - This speaks of the Seventh Kingdom. Now here it becomes fascinating. The mysterious coming 7th beast kingdom had not arisen in John's time.

Has it come yet? Here is a clue: *"...and when he comes, he must remain a little while."* (Rev 17:10). The "he" refers to the king of the seventh beast kingdom. That kingdom won't last hundreds or thousands of years. As kingdoms go, it will

have a very short life. It will only be around “*a little while.*” Since this is the seventh and last beast kingdom when it arises, the earth will be very close to the end of the age. Has this last kingdom arisen yet? Let’s examine the clues.

The seventh kingdom will be a beast kingdom that comes after John’s time. Remember, the 6th kingdom was the one that “*now is,*” which was Rome. So the 7th kingdom would be a kingdom after the fall of Rome. Since it is a beast kingdom, it will have the three trademarks of a beast kingdom, but being the 7th beast kingdom, it will have a fourth attribute: It will only be around a little while. To summarize, the 7th Kingdom would be a kingdom that -

1. Persecutes God’s People (Jews or Christians) with a strange supernatural hatred.
2. Characterized by false religion or philosophy with Caesar (dictator) worship at its core.
3. A powerful militant cruel dictatorial regime.
4. A kingdom that has arisen for only a short while and then was gone. “*...and when he comes, he must remain a little while.*” (Rev 17:10)

Is this kingdom still in our future, or could it be that it has already come? Have any kingdoms come since Rome that fit the criteria? Can you think of a regime that hated the Jews with unbelievable hatred - a regime associated with a false religion led by a fierce, cruel deified dictator whose reign lasted only a little while? Anything coming to mind?

If you are thinking of the Nazi regime led by Adolf Hitler, you are thinking what I am thinking. Here are the four prophesied attributes of the 7th Kingdom as they manifested in Nazi Germany:

- 1. Persecution of God’s People** – Hitler’s holocaust killed six million Jews. He hated the Jews with a supernatural hatred. He also hated the Christian Church. He tolerated it and gave lip service to it as he rose to power, but gradually

his intentions to destroy the Church became evident. After he was finished with the Jews, he intended to start in on the Christians. He subtly began replacing Christian holidays with Pagan Nazi festivals. Note some of these quotes from Hitler:

Do you really believe the masses will ever be Christian again? Nonsense. Never again. The tale is finished...but we can hasten matters.

The parsons will be made to dig their own graves.

It is through the peasantry that we shall really be able to destroy Christianity, because there is in them (the German people) a true religion rooted in nature and blood.

One is either a German or a Christian. You can't be both.

- 2. False Religion** – The core of the Nazi religion was total devotion to Hitler and worship of him as a god. School children were taught to sing, “*Adolf Hitler is our saviour, our hero. He is the noblest being in the whole wide world. For Hitler we live. For Hitler we die. Our Hitler is our Lord, who rules a brave new world.*”⁵²

Before Hitler spoke, a party leader would announce: “*The party is Hitler, Hitler is Germany, and Germany is Hitler!*” The Nazi religion or philosophy was Aryanism, with a mixture of occult mysticism mixed in. Their goal was to breed a super god-man from pure German stock.

⁵² There was a YouTube video of an old film of German children singing this in the 1940s but YouTube has removed it as part of the current movement to erase history.

The god of the Nazi religion (besides Hitler himself) was a pagan impersonal natural god, constituted of the harsh forces or laws of evolutionary nature that gave preeminence to the survival of the fittest, which they believed gave the German people the moral right to rule the world and exterminate whoever was weaker.

Hitler said, *“The old beliefs will be brought back to honor again...The whole secret knowledge of nature, the divine, the demonic...we will wash off the Christian veneer and bring out a religion peculiar to our race.”*

Hitler’s statements reveal a religion featuring Satan’s lie, initially fostered upon Eve in the Garden of Eden, that man can become God. Said Hitler, *“We don’t want people who keep one eye on the life hereafter. We need free men who feel and know that God is in themselves.”*

- 3. A Powerful, Cruel Dictatorship** – Hitler’s *blitzkrieg*, or “*lightning war*,” featured overwhelming military force that occupied other nations at an alarming rate. Hitler’s fascination with armament knew no bounds, and he was infamous for his cruelty. Forgetting to give the Nazi salute with “Heil Hitler!” could get you in a lot of trouble.

Hitler’s Nazi Germany was like nothing else. Its rapid rise to power and its fierce wickedness were coupled with Hitler’s uncanny mesmerization of the German people. This formidable combination could only be stopped by the united power of the rest of the world.

More books have been written on Hitler than any other antichrist-type figure that ever lived. Is any face better known than his? Take a picture of Roosevelt, Stalin, Mussolini, Churchill, and Hitler and show them on college

campuses around the world. Everyone will know Hitler's face, but not so with the others. It would be strange if such a kingdom as Hitler's were not mentioned in scripture, for he stands alone as something peculiar and unique.

- 4. A Kingdom of Short Duration** – Nazi Germany only lasted 12 years; from 1933 to 1945. *“and when he comes, he must remain a little while.”* (Rev 17:10) Nazi Germany was a beast kingdom that only lasted a short while, just as the prophecy predicted. Hitler's Nazi Germany killed more Jews than any other beast kingdom.

The seventh king was Hitler. He fulfills the predictions of the prophecy perfectly. His kingdom was Nazi Germany. In 1933 when Hitler came to power, the prophecy of the seventh kingdom was fulfilled.

The Beast That Was, Is Not, and Will Come

Let's reread the passage before we proceed:

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the Abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.” (Rev 17:8-11)

That's a lot to wrap our brain around so let's just consider this one line for now:

The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction... The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the Abyss and go to destruction...”

This passage tells us that *the* Antichrist is one of the seven kings, yet he is also an eighth king? How can the eighth king also be one of the seven? There is only one way. One of the seven kings is going to reign a second time, thus making him also an eighth king, yet still one of the seven. But how is that possible? How can a kingdom reign twice? Let's think about that: One of the seven beasts is also going to be an 8th beast with an 8th kingdom. Somehow one of these beasts is going to have a second coming. Satan often copies what God does. Just as Jesus has a second coming, the Bible is giving us clues that speak of a second coming of The Antichrist.

Which of the seven kingdoms will also be an eighth? I submit that the 7th Kingdom of Adolf Hitler will also be the eighth beast kingdom, which will be the kingdom of the final main Antichrist of the Great Tribulation. Let me present the evidence.

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss . (Rev 17:8)

The Antichrist beast comes up out of the Abyss. What does that mean? What is the Abyss? The scripture says about the Abyss: *Who will descend into the Abyss? (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).*” (Romans 10:7). In this passage, Paul uses it specifically to mean the realm of the dead. This scripture shows that the Jewish mindset was that the Abyss was considered a place for the dead, or at least some dead. However, the term Abyss is also used in another context: *And he said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the Abyss.* (Luke 8:31). In this instance, the Abyss referred to is something different than just merely the place of the dead. It is a place where evil spirits may be confined. Revelation 20:1-3 reveals more information about the Abyss:

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the Abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the Abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Not only is the Abyss a place where evil spirits do not want to go, but we see in the above passage that it is also a place where Satan will be confined for a time. God can imprison spirits in the Abyss, and he can let them out if he chooses to.

What are evil spirits? In demonology, many demonic spirits are considered by some to be the disembodied spirits of the antediluvian giants, the Nephilim who were killed in the Flood of Noah. (See Genesis Chapter 6) Demons want the freedom to roam the earth and to inhabit bodies since they no longer have a body of their own. They can't do that if they are imprisoned in the Abyss, and that's one reason they dread going there.

In the context of Revelation 17:8, we can think of the Abyss as a place where the disembodied spirits of at least some of the very wicked dead are held. It appears to be a particularly deep and dark recess of Hell, which God uses to imprison extraordinarily evil beings.

Scripture says that the beast comes up out of the Abyss. The question arises, how did he get there in the first place? Who, what, and where was this beast before God threw him into the Abyss? We know that the Antichrist is a man, for the Bible calls him "the man of sin." So God must have thrown a man, or the soul of a man into the Abyss at some point in time prior to his coming up out of the Abyss. All this would seem to indicate that the beast will be someone coming back from the dead, not as a ghost or spirit but as a human being. Either the Antichrist's body is still intact in the Abyss, or (and I think

this more likely) Hitler's spirit will come out of the Abyss and then re-inhabit his resurrected body.

Since Scripture says clearly that the Antichrist "*was, and is not, and is about to come up...*" and that he has a kingdom for only a short while and then later returns, it all seems to add up to the Antichrist being someone who comes back from the dead. Furthermore, Scripture says that the beast had a "*fatal wound (that) was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after...the beast who had...come to life.*" (Rev 13:1,3,14)

Some believe that what comes out of the Abyss is Satan himself and that he possesses the Antichrist. That is not possible because Satan is not now confined in the Abyss. He is eventually thrown into the Abyss, but that doesn't happen until the end of the tribulation. Satan is the prince of the power of the air, and he is free to roam at this time. Furthermore, scripture makes a clear distinction between Satan and the Antichrist (the beast). For example: "*They worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast...*" (Revelation 13:4)

Some say it is a fallen angel that comes up out of the Abyss, and that fallen angel, or demon, possesses the Antichrist, but that doesn't jibe with scripture, which says explicitly that it is the beast himself, the Antichrist, the man himself, which comes out of the Abyss. The Scripture says that the Antichrist is a man. Scripture calls him the "*man of sin,*" emphasis on "*man.*" Therefore, it is a man that comes up out of the Abyss, not an evil spirit.

Now, if a man is in the Abyss, how did he get there? Souls of men are not born in the Abyss. They are created at conception and are in the body. So there is only one way for the beast, the *man of sin*, to get to the Abyss. He has to be born on earth and then die, and then his spirit is confined in the Abyss.

For all of these reasons, I think the beast coming up “*out of the Abyss*” means that the *man of sin* himself is coming out of the Abyss. God resurrects that man’s body, and the spirit of that man is released from the Abyss, and that wicked soul is reunited with his resurrected body.

We have seen so far that one of the seven kings has a second coming: “*The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven.*” But why do I say that it is the seventh king that is the one that is resurrected and reigns twice? Consider the following passage:

And they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. “ (Rev 17:8 KJV)

The world will be astonished by wonder when they SEE the beast. Why do they wonder? Because they realize that he WAS, and then he WAS NOT, and now HE IS!

Now all of the seven kings *were*, that is, they used to exist. All of them *are not*; that is, they don’t exist today. But one of them will come back to life and reign a second time, and everyone will be amazed that he lives again. For people to be amazed at that, they will have to know what that king looked like when he reigned the first time. Now consider this: Only one of these seven can come back and have everyone know that he is a former king because only one of these kings existed during the time of photography and television. We know how this one looks and how he talks!



King of Fierce Countenance

And in the latter time...when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up...he will destroy mighty men and the holy people. (Daniel 8:23)

I believe Adolf Hitler was the 7th beast, the “*king of fierce countenance*” (Daniel 8:23) that was prophesied to come. He is the only one of the seven that can come back from the dead and astound the world because everyone knows that he was, and then he was not, and they will wonder when they see that he is again. He is the only one that can fulfill the prophecy such that, “*those who dwell on the earth...will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.*” (Rev 17:8 NASB)

It has been over seventy years since Hitler reigned, yet you can turn on television nearly any day of the week and go to Discovery or History channel and see documentaries about Hitler and Nazi Germany. Hitler is the most infamous man in history. His face and his fierce countenance are recognized the world over as the epitome of evil, and numerous vile organizations still worship him.⁵³

⁵³ Note this recent video of American high schoolers singing a Nazi song and giving the Nazi salute. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZakBudfZ88>



Adolf Hitler will rise from the dead; his soul shall come up out of the Abyss and be reunited with his resurrected body. Hitler will be the coming Antichrist. In his second coming, he will be *The Antichrist!* He may not be recognized at first. He will have supernatural powers of deception. His true countenance may at first be concealed, but at some later point in time, he might mimic Christ and have his own transfiguration. Perhaps when he sits down in the Jewish temple proclaiming himself to be God (2 Thessalonians 2:4) his countenance will be fully revealed and show that he is indeed Hitler. Nothing could be more astounding, revolting, and frightening for the Jews. Nothing could be more of an abomination to the Jews. Hitler, the architect of the holocaust, will have a statue of himself erected in the Jewish temple. That will truly be an abomination to the Jews, and that is exactly what the Bible calls it in Matthew 24:15: The Abomination of Desolation.

Although the idea of God resurrecting Hitler sounds so astounding as to be unbelievable, there is precedent. At the time of Christ's resurrection, God resurrected many people from the dead.

And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.” (Matthew 27:51-53)

Scripture tells us in 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8, *“he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed...”* The presence of the Holy Spirit alive in all believers has been a restraining force, holding back evil. Once the Church is raptured, the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit upon evil is removed with the Church. Then the Antichrist can be revealed, and the world will accept him. God will then give the wicked world the man they want. God will resurrect Hitler, and the world will be amazed when they see him and say, *“Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?”* (Revelation 13:4)

Although some may object that God has never resurrected a wicked man before, we must realize that many strange things happen during the Great Tribulation. Angels fly through the sky, declaring God’s truth. Scorpion-locusts sting people and torment them so severely that they try to kill themselves and yet they can’t die. Two Witnesses preach in Jerusalem, and fire comes from their mouths to kill anyone who would harm them. Eventually, they are killed, and then after three days, they are resurrected and caught up to heaven. The sea turns to blood. Remarkable things happen during this time. Jesus said it would be like no other time of trouble in history. One of the most wicked men of history coming to life is not out of place in such a scenario.

Recap

Seven Beast kingdoms are mentioned in Scripture. A beast kingdom opposes God and His people. The kingdoms are:

1. **Egypt** – Pharaoh (Thutmosis III) enslaved the Jews, and he tried to destroy the race by ordering all the male children drowned. See Exodus 1
2. **Assyria** – Exceedingly wicked kingdom, and its destruction of Israel was severe. In 722 B.C. Tiglathpileser (See 2 Kings 15:29) took the 10 northern tribes into captivity. (See 2 Kings 17:7-23).
3. **Babylon** – Nebuchadnezzar marched on Israel on three occasions – 606, 589, and 586 B.C. He destroyed Solomon’s temple and took the two southern tribes into captivity and put an end to the rule of King David’s royal reign. This empire was represented in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream as the “head of gold.” See Dan 2:31, 36-38.
4. **Medo-Persia** – In 474 B.C. in the reign of Xerxes, the evil Haman of Persia plotted to kill all the Jews in 127 provinces in Persia. Esther interceded on behalf of her people (Esther 7:3-6). This empire was represented in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream as the “breasts and arms of silver.” See Dan 2:39, 8:20.
5. **Greece** – After Alexander the Great died, his kingdom was divided among four generals. Of these four, Seleucus was given Syria to rule. Then ensued the rule of an evil and prideful king, Antiochus Epiphanes. A great persecutor of Israel, he was responsible for sacrificing a pig on the altar, desecrating the rebuilt Jewish temple, and murdering large numbers of Jews (Dan 11:31). This empire was represented in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream as the “belly and thighs of brass.” See Dan 2:39, 8:21-25.
6. **Rome** – Several Roman rulers personified the evil persecution of the saints: Nero, Domitian, and Titus who was responsible for the utter destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD and the dispersion of the Jews throughout the world. The Roman empire

was represented in Nebuchadnezzar's dream as the two legs of Iron, representing the split of Rome into eastern and western domains. (Daniel 2:40-43).

7. **Nazi/Germany** – After the Roman empire, The Apostle John reveals that a mystery kingdom will arise before the final 10-nation revived Roman empire (Rev 17:10,11). I believe John was prophesying about Adolf Hitler and his Third Reich, which had an unholy hatred of the Jew. The Holocaust was a period of extreme anti-Semitism, demonstrating the most horrendous and uncivilized acts toward the Jewish race. Hitler/Germany only ruled for a short period, just as the Bible predicted. The king of the seventh kingdom was Adolf Hitler, and scripture says he will have a second coming. When he comes again it will be as the leader of the eighth kingdom. He will then be the final Antichrist.

Consider how plainly Scripture speaks of the Antichrist coming back to life:

Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads...I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after...the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.” (Rev 13:1,3,14)

Interesting to note is this: The word “*slain*” in Rev 13:3 is the Greek word “*esphagmenen*” which means literally “*slaughtered to death.*” Young’s Literal Translation reads at verse 3, “*And I saw one of its heads as slain to death.*” Hitler shot himself in the head while ingesting cyanide poison, and then his body was soaked with gasoline and burned. I would call that being “*slaughtered to death.*”⁵⁴

⁵⁴To see a short interview with the Nazi SS officer who burned Hitler's body, see this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yZUUhOsGYk>

Hitler's Body Burned

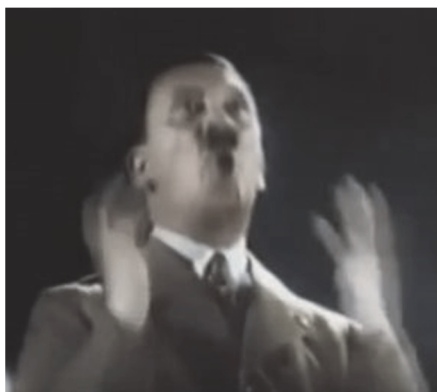
After the bodies burned a few hours, they were buried in a shell crater outside Hitler's bunker. The shallow grave was discovered by Soviet forces who exhumed the partially burned bodies of Hitler and his wife. They were then re-buried outside of Berlin.

In June of that year, the Soviets re-buried the body again in a forest near the town of Rathenau. Eight months later, they moved it again - this time, to the Soviet Army garrison in Magdeburg. In 1970 the Soviet leadership became concerned that Hitler's grave might become a shrine for neo-Nazis. His body was secretly dug up once more. A KGB officer named Vladimir Gumenyuk was assigned the task of leading a team to dispose of Hitler's body once and for all.

After exhuming the body, the team disguised themselves as sportsmen out on a fishing trip. They drove into the mountains, deep into the forest, stopping at a small stream. There, in a spot screened by trees, they soaked the remains in gasoline and burned the body thoroughly until it was nothing but ashes. Then Gumenyuk took the ashes up onto the top of a cliff and scattered them into the wind. He swears he will take the secret location to his grave. The amazing thing is that this destruction of Hitler's body was predicted in Scripture:

I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. (Daniel 7:11)

Indeed, Hitler was "slaughtered to death" more than any man. Mankind has done its best to be rid of him, yet when the world has wholly abandoned God, this man of sin shall return.



“There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words.” (Rev 13:5)

Quick Revival Theory

Books, movies, and teachings suggest that the Antichrist would be shot in the head and very shortly thereafter come back to life, amazing the world. Let’s consider that scenario, and I will demonstrate that such a depiction is not accurate. The portrayal of the Antichrist being wounded in the head is not necessarily correct. If you look at the passage closely, you see that it is not the Antichrist himself who is wounded in the head. The prophecy says in verse one, it is the beast coming up out of the sea that has *“one of his heads”* slaughtered to death. The beast in verse one is not the Antichrist. That beast is all seven kingdoms together as the mystery of lawlessness. Each head of that beast is a king of one of those kingdoms. In subsequent verses where it speaks of *“one of his heads”* having a fatal wound, it is referring to one of the seven kings as the Antichrist, which is also called a beast. So it is not speaking of the Antichrist’s head being fatally wounded; it means the Antichrist himself is fatally wounded. I reiterate, it is the Antichrist himself being killed, slain, and slaughtered to death, not just wounded in the head.

Furthermore, the *“quick revival”* scenario doesn’t fit the facts. If the Antichrist is killed and comes back to life in only a day or so, that does not allow time for the eighth kingdom

also to be one of the seven. Remember, the first reign of the seventh king is only for “*a little while*,” and then he returns, coming up out of the Abyss. None of that fits in a scenario where the Antichrist is killed for a few hours or days. But if you understand that Antichrist is killed, or slaughtered to death, during a time of past history as Hitler was, and then comes back to life many decades later, then suddenly everything falls into place. Also, the “*quick revival*” theory does not fit the “*was, is not, yet is (or will come)*” passages.

Nearly all views recognize that the Antichrist has a resurrection of some sort. The prophecy specifically says that the Antichrist “*came back to life*.” (Rev 13:14 NLT). The only difference is that in my suggested scenario, it is not a short-term quick revival situation. Instead of hours or days between death and resurrection of the Antichrist, I propose decades of years. A final point is that in the age of modern medicine, many people have been wounded severely, been shot in the head, even had their heart stop beating, and were brought back and survived. The quick revival scenario would not be all that impressive to the modern world, not so much as coming back after decades, which would truly cause the whole world to wonder and say, “*Who is like the beast?*” Scripture says: “*those who dwell on the earth...will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.*” (Rev 17:8 NASB)

To give a quick synopsis: Four passages of scripture point to the Antichrist being a resurrected man coming back from the dead at a later time in history with a second coming of his kingdom.

- “*The beast that comes up out of the Abyss...*” (Rev 11:7)
- “*The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven...*” (Rev 17:11)
- “*Was, is not, yet is...*” (or “*will come*”) (Rev 17:8)
- “*His fatal wound was healed...has come to life.*” (Rev 13:14)

Ten Similarities Between Hitler and The Antichrist

If the second coming of Hitler is the final Antichrist, then we should expect to see a semblance between Hitler and what the Bible says the Antichrist will be like. Interestingly enough, there is an astounding plethora of eerie similarities. What Hitler tried to do, wanted to do, and had tendencies toward, we will find in his second coming to reach complete fulfillment.

1. **The Holocaust** – Hitler killed six million Jews (God’s chosen people) and persecuted and murdered Christians as well. Scripture says of the Antichrist: *“Then the beast was permitted to wage war against the saints and conquer them...”* (Rev 13:7). The Antichrist will institute a second holocaust.
2. **World Domination** – Hitler desired to conquer the entire world by war, not just Europe, as is commonly thought. He intended to attack and conquer the United States mainland. Hitler was consumed with the idea of burning New York City to the ground. Germany began work on a long-range bomber -- the notorious *Amerika Bomber* -- which would be capable of flying to New York and back without refueling. Hitler also embarked on a crash building program of super-battleships, and he began accumulating air and sea bases on the Atlantic coast to facilitate attacks on the United States. In April 1941, Hitler secretly pledged that he would join Japan in a war to attack the United States on her own soil. The Antichrist will have the same plans for world domination: *“The beast was permitted to wage war...and it was given authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation.”*
3. **A Fierce Countenance** – Hitler’s ferocious face and his angry animated oratories spiced with hatred to the Jews are legendary. The book of Daniel describes the

Antichrist as “*a king of fierce countenance*” (Daniel 8:23)

4. **A False Prophet** – Heinrich Himmler was second in command after Hitler. Himmler was devoted to Hitler and was fanatically dedicated to infusing the Nazi party with the religious and occult undertones of their philosophy. Hitler spoke of Himmler as “*my Ignatius of Loyola*.” Hitler was referring to Himmler’s religious function in the Third Reich. *Ignatius of Loyola* was the Catholic priest who founded and commanded the religious order of the Jesuits. The Jesuit priests were bound by a vow of special obedience to the Pope. Hitler’s analogous comparison between Himmler and Ignatius shows both Himmler’s religious position within the Nazi party as well as his special devotion to Hitler. Heinrich Himmler was Hitler’s false prophet. The Antichrist will also have a false prophet. Rev 13:11-18 tells of the false prophet who seduces the world to worship the Antichrist and his image.
5. **Revived Roman Empire** – Hitler referred to his reign as the “*Third Reich*.” According to Wikipedia, “*Reich is typically used in German to designate a kingdom or an empire, especially the Roman Empire*.” The First Reich was the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation, which lasted from the coronation of Otto I as a Holy Roman emperor in 962 to 1806 when it was dissolved in the Napoleonic wars. The Second Reich was from 1871 to 1919, when Germany was defeated in WWI. The Third Reich was Hitler’s reign from 1933 to 1945. The Fourth Reich will be when Hitler returns as the Antichrist. Scripture says that the last beast kingdom of Antichrist will be a revived Roman Empire. (Daniel 9:26 & 2:40-43) Daniel 9:26 calls the Antichrist “*the prince who is to come*,” and says that the people of that evil prince will “*destroy the city and the sanctuary*.” That happened when Titus of Rome destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70. This means that the

people of the Antichrist will be Romans. Therefore the Antichrist arises out of a revived Roman Empire, and such an empire is the very thing that Hitler saw himself as bringing back, and he will do it to the uttermost when he comes again. Germany was in the heart of the old Roman empire. Hitler tried to revive it. When he comes again, he will succeed.

6. **No Interest in Women** – Hitler’s relationship with women was strange. Hitler created a public image of a celibate man, dedicated entirely to his political mission and the nation. He did have girlfriends. Four of them attempted suicide. Two succeeded. Eva Braun was with Hitler for 14 years, and they often cohabited during that time. However, Eva became so frustrated with Hitler’s lack of interest in intimacy that she asked Hitler’s physician, Dr. Theodor Morell, to give him hormone injections. Eva complained to her close friends that Hitler gave more affection to his dog than to her. Her jealousy prompted her to kick the dog when Hitler was not around. Hitler refused to marry Eva, saying he was married to Germany but relented mere hours before they both committed suicide. Scripture says the Antichrist will have no interest in women: *“Neither shall he regard...the desire of women.”* Although women desired Hitler and even tried to kill themselves over losing him, he had no regard for their desire for him. The tendency in Hitler to avoid an ordinary domestic life will be more pronounced when he returns. (Daniel 11:37)
7. **No Regard for Any God** – Hitler gave lip service to God in writing and speeches only to fool the public for political reasons. Historically speaking, Germany was a Christian nation, but Hitler himself had no regard for the Christian God of the German people. Privately he derided Christianity as a foolish myth. The entire emphasis in Nazism was to extol Hitler as the messiah and fuhrer. Scripture says of the Antichrist: *“Neither*

shall he regard the God of his fathers...nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.” (Daniel 11:37)

- 8. Honoring the God of Forces** – In his book *Mein Kampf*, Hitler speaks of the forces or laws of nature and how the biological evolution of man has proceeded based upon the survival of the fittest. He wrote that these evolutionary laws prove the right of a strong nation to conquer the weaker. In his rhetoric, he seems to elevate these evolutionary laws or forces to be equivalent to God. Himmler, who some called “Hitler’s witch doctor,” led a mystical brotherhood that devoted itself to strange and elaborate occult rituals. Fortune tellers, psychics, and astrologers all sat on the advisory committee of the SS. Large sums of money were portioned off for Himmler’s occult research. When Hitler’s Italian ally, Mussolini, was captured and imprisoned in a secret location, occultists were employed to discern his hidden location successfully. Crack SS troops were quickly flown out on a successful rescue mission to retrieve Mussolini.

Scripture says of the Antichrist: *“But in his estate shall he honour the god of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not...”* (Daniel 11:38). When Hitler returns as the final Antichrist, he will have Satan’s power, but he won’t call it that. He will say, as a highly evolved human, he has learned to “use the force.” Reminiscent of Darth Vader’s transcendent powers, so also the Antichrist will wield supernatural Satanic power. This God of forces is not a god in the classical sense, since the sentence before says that Antichrist honors no god at all. The “*god of forces*” is just what Hitler and his regime called god; principles of nature, metaphysical, occult laws to force their evil will upon the natural world. Young’s Literal Translation calls it “*the god of strongholds.*” which is reminiscent of

Ephesians 6:12: *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”* and 2 Co 10:4, which tells us that the Christian’s weapons are *“mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.”* This falls right in line with what the New Testament tells us; that the Antichrist is *“the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders...”* (2 Thessalonians 2:9).

To review, scripture says the Antichrist does not *“regard any god”* yet it also tells us he will *“honor the god of forces.”* The god of the coming Antichrist is an impersonal power that can be appropriated by occult practices. Thus, the Antichrist does not honor *“any god”* in the sense of a conventional deity – yet he honors the interpretive system of esoteric metaphysical pseudo-science that seeks to relegate the real power of the universe to an eternal force that can be harnessed for personal ambitions. In other words, Satan’s power, wrapped in a cloak of occult mysticism.

- 9. A Foreign God as an Ally** – Hitler met with Al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, the highest-ranking Muslim political leader in Palestine. Al-Husseini was virulently anti-Semitic, being devoted to their Islamic scripture, which says, *“kill the Jews wherever you find them.”* Hitler had Al-Husseini regularly broadcast propaganda over Nazi-controlled radio stations. Al-Husseini said the Muslims under his sway *“were prepared to cooperate with Germany with all their hearts and stood ready to participate in the war.”* At Himmler’s suggestion, Hitler raised a division of Muslim SS. While Hitler used Islam to further his aims, he simultaneously planned to invade

America.⁵⁵

The Bible says this about the Antichrist: “*He will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god*” When Hitler returns as the Antichrist, he will do the same thing again. Although he has no regard for any god, he will use the help of a foreign god, Allah, to accomplish his purposes. The Antichrist will use Muslims as an ally against Israel and to attack a super-power that defends Israel - America. Today radical Israeli-hating Islam is on the rise. Iran is chanting “Death to America.” All the players of the end times are falling into place.

- 10. The Religion of the Third Reich and 666** – The religion of Nazism had a three-fold center upon man. First and foremost, Hitler was their god. It was all about him. Everyone had to greet one another with *Heil Hitler* or risk death or imprisonment. Secondly, the German people were the master race. The Nazi religion said the German people had descended from gods in the heavens that had inhabited mythical Atlantis. Third, they were going to engineer a race of supermen. They intended to create the *Urbemensch*, which translates as over-man, beyond-man, or superman.

To accomplish this, they merely had to exterminate inferior races and individuals while manipulating the gene pool through control of who is allowed to mate. The Nazi plan implemented eugenics programs designed to improve the genetic quality of the human population through forced sterilization and abortion of babies from stock that was considered inferior.

⁵⁵ See the book, *Target America: Hitler's Plan to Attack the United States* - <https://www.amazon.com/TARGET-AMERICA-Hitlers-Attack-United/dp/0275966844/>

The Nazi's Lebensborn program encouraged single German girls of "pure blood" to mate (not marry) with SS officers who were selected for their especially Aryan pure blood to provide more highly evolved offspring.

Hitler said, *"It is my ultimate aim to perform an act of creation, a divine operation, the goal of a biological mutation which will result in an unprecedented exaltation of the human race and the appearance of a new race of heroes, demi-gods and god-men."*⁵⁶

The Antichrist will take this to a whole new level, putting himself forward as the example of the next level of evolution, and he will have a breeding program that is literally out of this world.

⁵⁶ <http://thirdreichocculthistory.blogspot.com/2013/04/the-genesis-of-ubermensch.html>. This site contains many Hitler quotes as well as delineating the beliefs of Hitler's occult religion.

14

The Mark of the Beast

He causes all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, and the free and the slave, to be given marks on their right hands, or on their foreheads; and that no one would be able to buy or to sell, unless he has that mark, the name of the beast or the number of his name. (Revelation 13:16-17)



Now we shall consider the mark of the beast --

Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six. (Revelation 13:16-18)

If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment

ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” (Revelation 14:9-11)

What is the mark of the beast exactly? The mark indicates that the bearer has pledged their worship and loyalty to the Antichrist. It will probably include some type of chip-like technology that links to a person’s financial account. The Antichrist will insist on a cashless society wherein all transactions have to be done through scanning this mark.

Revelation 13:18 says, “*Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.*” The beginning phrase, “*Here is wisdom*” tells us this is a puzzle to solve. Indeed, it is the mother of all riddles. It is, to borrow a phrase from Winston Churchill, “a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma.”

The number was originally penned in Greek and looks like this: $\chi\xi\xvarsigma$ and it is transliterated as *Chi–Xi–Stigma*, which are the numbers 600, 60, and 6. Let’s not add them and make six hundred sixty-six, as is usually done. Instead, let’s take them individually, as a triad of numbers. Scripture gives us a clue, “*the number is that of a man.*” Man was created on the sixth day. In scripture, the number 6 represents man or mankind.



666 in the Original Greek

Consider that each of these three numbers represents a man or men. Remember that the philosophy of Hitler’s regime was centered on three groups of men – Hitler, the German race, and the soon-to-be-created super-race of men that they intended to make. Think of Hitler as the single fuhrer. He was

the 6 (*Stigma or ζ*). The German or Aryan people were the 60 (*Xi or ξ*). The superman race they wished to breed to take over the whole world would be the 600 (*Chi or χ*).

When Hitler comes back as the Antichrist, he will have a new breeding program. He will promise to alleviate sickness and prolong life through the creation of a superman race, claiming this is the next step in human evolution. He will claim his demonic superpowers are an example of the new man. Scripture says, “*God will send them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie...*” (2 Thessalonians 2:11). This could be Antichrist’s big lie, built upon the foundation of the theory of evolution.

The Antichrist’s program will be much more extensive and diabolical than Hitler’s first attempt. Through the help of supposed benevolent aliens, who are actually evil spirits, he may encourage strange genetic manipulation, perhaps once again through fallen angels interbreeding with humans as in Genesis Chapter 6. More on that in the next chapter. Daniel 2:43 may indicate this when it says, “*they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men...*” He will promise miraculous health and wealth to those who follow him and declare their allegiance to him and his plans by taking the mark of the beast.



Hollywood movies have frequently floated the idea that alien life seeded earth with the DNA instructions to trigger man’s evolution. Consider the increase in UFO sightings, the interest in paranormal activity, and the frequent promotion of

evolution on television. When you take all that together, it is easy to see that Satan is laying the groundwork for the Antichrist's master plan of deception.

To recap, in the Antichrist's second reign, the 6 (*Stigma*) is the Antichrist, the 60 (*Xi*) will be those who follow him and take his mark, and the 600 (*Chi*) represents the Antichrist's plan to mix the seed of fallen angels with the seed of men to create a super-race that will (he will say) travel to the stars and rule the universe. Satan was the first to pompously say, "*I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars...I will be like the Most High...*" (Isaiah 14:13-14).

The Antichrist is said to be "*a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences*" (Daniel 8:23). Young's Literal Translation has it, "*understanding hidden things.*" It may be that due to Hitler's soul being confined with demons in the Abyss for a time, he comes back as Antichrist with an otherworldly intelligence and understanding of quantum physics and dimensions that allow him to manipulate reality through Satanic power, which he will use to sell his big lie.

The correlation between Hitler and the mark of the beast (600, 60, 6) is as follows: Both Hitler and the coming Antichrist have an occult religion that is man-centered, first upon Hitler or the Antichrist, secondly upon the Germans or Antichrist's followers, thirdly upon all of mankind being a super-race or the Antichrist as the example and leader of all men to rule the universe.

This interpretation of the 666 is my own idea. I have not seen it suggested anywhere else. Whether it is correct, I do not know. I submit it to the judgment of the Church and put it out there for everyone's consideration. In any event, the correlation between Hitler's plans and what the Antichrist will likely do is interesting to ponder.

The Woman Who Rides the Beast

While we are considering the religion of Hitler and the Antichrist, I must say a few words about the woman who rides the beast. Revelation 17:3,16-17 says:

I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns...And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will...



The ten horns represent the revived Roman Empire, which will be a ten-nation confederacy that is led by the Antichrist. The woman represents false pagan religion in each of the beast kingdoms. In the eighth kingdom, that is, Antichrist's kingdom, this will manifest as an end-time worldwide pseudo-Christian religious system that is associated with a great city. Antichrist will at first have a symbiotic relationship with this world-wide religion, probably for political reasons. This church will claim to be Christian but will be completely apostate.

We see the forerunner of this in mainline denominations that ordain homosexuals, deny the accuracy of the Bible and promote ecumenicism that seeks to include Muslims and is willing to sacrifice biblical truth to unite the churches into one organization. This tendency coalesces after the Rapture into an apostate one-world super church. With all Christians gone from all Catholic and Protestant churches, they will come

together as one great religious organization that cooperates with the Antichrist. Nevertheless, Antichrist still hates her for the simple reason that she represents Christian history and still carries the Christian name. It is a challenge to Antichrist's power, so he destroys her after they use each other for a time.

Interestingly, Hitler had a similar attitude to the mostly lukewarm Christian churches in Germany. He tolerated them, used them, worked with them, and they with him. Nevertheless, Hitler had plans for their destruction at some point. Of the Christian ministers, Hitler said, "*If I ever have the slightest suspicion they are getting dangerous, I will shoot the lot of them...we have no sort of use for a fairy story invented by the Jews.*" The same strange antithetical dichotomy existed between Hitler and occultists and astrologers. His regime was infused with them and used them, yet later Hitler turned on them and put them in concentration camps.

Change Times and Law

Daniel 7:25 says, "*He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law...*" The NIV has it, "*try to change the set times and the laws...*" Hitler tried to change Christian holidays to pagan Nazi festivals, and he instituted what came to be known as the *Nuremberg Laws*. These laws were designed to preserve the supposed Aryan purity of the German race by controlling who could marry. For this, Germany copied the laws passed by the American Democratic party to prevent blacks and whites from marrying. They simply substituted the word "*Jewish*" for "*Negro*."⁵⁷

⁵⁷ <https://aeon.co/ideas/why-the-nazis-studied-american-race-laws-for-inspiration>

The Antichrist will no doubt attempt to alter the world's calendar, which counts time from the advent of Christ, for he will hate that. It can be expected that any holidays with any Christian history will be outlawed. Laws that support individual freedom will give way to laws that support a hive mentality centered upon one-world government and worship of the Antichrist.

In conclusion, I reiterate, if it is true that Nazi Germany was the seventh kingdom, a major end-time prophecy has been fulfilled, which makes us realize that our Lord's return may indeed be very close! A Scripture passage comes to mind: "*Understanding the present time...The night is nearly over; the day is almost here...*" (Romans 13:11-14)

Who will follow Hitler in his second coming? Practically the whole world, and you can see the world turning increasingly antisemitic. Once all the Christians are raptured, no one will be left that even cares what Hitler did to the Jews. By then, the real history of Hitler will have been erased from the world's universities, replaced with a fake history complementary of Hitler. Even now it is happening. I posted this information on Hitler in a YouTube video. It was removed by YouTube.⁵⁸ YouTube sent me an email, saying that such information was illegal in several European countries. The list of countries they provided included the areas that are likely to be part of the ten-nation confederacy of the Antichrist. It is becoming politically incorrect to connect Hitler with a coming Antichrist.

When World War II ended in 1945, John F Kennedy wrote:

Within a few years Hitler will emerge from the hatred that surrounds him now as one of the most significant figures who ever lived. He had boundless ambitions for his country which rendered him a menace to the peace of the world, but he had a mystery about him in the way that he lived and in the manner

⁵⁸ You can see the video on Vimeo here: <https://vimeo.com/340574062>

*of his death that will live and grow after him. He had in him the stuff of which legends are made.”*⁵⁹

The last words of Hitler to his aid, Heinz Linge, just before he killed himself, are ominous. He had informed him that he was committing suicide and that his followers should “*break up and scatter to the West.*” To which his aid replied, “For whom should we fight now?” Hitler, in a monotone voice, said, “*Für den Mann der kommt nach mir*” which translates, “*For the man who comes after me.*” Was Satan speaking through him of the coming of his Antichrist?

⁵⁹ *Prelude To Leadership – The European Diary of John F. Kennedy – Summer, 1945.* Regnery Publishing, Inc. Washington, DC. p 74

15

Return of the Nephilim

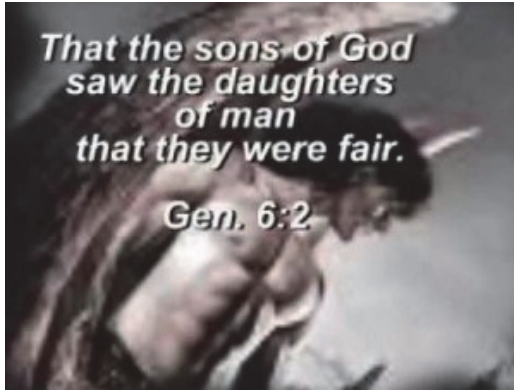
They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men but they shall not cling to one another, even as iron does not mingle with clay.” (Daniel 2:43)

Daniel Chapter 2 recounts Daniel’s vision of the great image, which portrays four coming kingdoms. You might want to read that chapter. The legs of the image represent Rome. On this the scholars agree. The ten toes of the image are typically interpreted to represent a 10-nation confederacy in the same basic geographic area as the old Roman empire, which is in existence during the Tribulation. This is generally referred to as a revived Roman empire. The iron and clay of the toes represent the fact that “*they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men.*”

The question is, who is the “they.” It is not clear from the context. Commentators suggest that it is the people of the ten different countries who intermingle with each other in marriage. I find that explanation less than satisfactory. People have been marrying other nationalities throughout time and with modern travel this has become commonplace. Such a thing would not be noteworthy. But the real problem is the phrase “seed of men.” It would seem to indicate that “they” are something other than men.

The Bible tells us that just before the Flood of Noah, fallen angels engaged in intercourse with humans. If you have not read the account such an idea might strike you as incredible. Since this is such a shocking concept, we will spend some time

on the biblical foundation for that idea. Let's review the unique passage that mentions this.



“Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose...The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. The Lord said, ‘I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.’ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.” (Genesis 6:1-8)

The Living Bible makes it even clearer:

“It was at this time that beings from the spirit world looked upon the beautiful earth women and took any they desired to be their wives... In those days, and even afterwards, when the evil beings from the spirit world were sexually involved with human women, their children became giants, of whom so

many legends are told. When the Lord God saw the extent of human wickedness, and that the trend and direction of men's lives were only towards evil, he was sorry he had made them..." (Genesis 6:1-6 TLB)



There are two terms here that we need to understand to interpret this scripture correctly. Those are the terms, *sons of God* and *Nephilim*. What is meant by *sons of God*, and what is a *Nephilim*? We will take a look at the two leading theories regarding this passage of scripture, examining the context, and other scriptures that shed light on the matter. We shall also consider how 1st and 2nd century church leaders interpreted Genesis 6, as well as the opinion of Jewish scholars.

The Sethite Theory

There are some who claim that the idiom *sons of God* does not refer to angels but say that it refers instead to the sons of Seth, who were supposedly righteous, marrying the daughters of Cain, who were supposedly evil.

There are several problems with that interpretation. First of all, there is nothing in the context to indicate that. It is purely conjecture. The rule of thumb in biblical hermeneutics is that if the plain sense makes good sense, any other sense is liable to be nonsense. Secondly, the passage makes no sense if read that way. Why would there be any comment at all about sons of Seth marrying the daughters of men? So what? Men had been marrying women all along. And why would these marriages result in the children being giants called Nephilim? And why would it use the phrase *daughters of men*? Why not just say women?

The sons of Seth theory also fails to explain why men suddenly noticed that the daughters of men were beautiful. Men had been marrying women and having children for over a thousand years, and only now they suddenly realize they are beautiful? And what about the daughters of Seth – are we supposed to assume they were all ugly, so they had to marry the daughters of Cain? That interpretation reads way too much into the passage that isn't there to begin with. The passage makes perfect sense if you understand it was the angels of God who noticed that the daughters of men were beautiful but to force it to say that men suddenly noticed that women were pretty is a bridge to far.

It is clear from the context that the phrase *daughters of men* is used deliberately to delineate contradistinction to the phrase *sons of God*, indicating that the sons of God were not sons of men, that is to say, not human. Ignoring this grammatical antithesis of the passage destroys its meaning. If you look closely at the sentence, you see that there are three groups mentioned:

- Group 1- Men
- Group 2 - Sons of God
- Group 3 - Daughters of Men.

To wit, “When **men** began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, that the **sons of God** saw that the **daughters of men** were beautiful...” The plain sense

of the passage is that the *sons of God* were something different from the *men* in this passage. To force it to say that the sons of God were men begs the questions as to why it doesn't just say "they" to refer back to the men, since that is the word used at the beginning of the sentence. Furthermore, if the "sons of God" were not supernatural beings, then what explanation is there for the offspring being something remarkable?

Finally, we must ask, if the sons of Seth were so righteous (as the theory claims), why were they destroyed in the Flood? Genesis 6:12 says, "*...all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.*" This demolishes the line of reasoning that claims the sons of God were the righteous sons of Seth. Only Noah and his family were considered righteous and saved from the Flood.



Angelic Interpretation

In every instance where the phrase *sons of God* is used elsewhere in the Old Testament, it refers to angels in heaven:

...the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them." (Job 1:6)

*Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth...
When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God
shouted for joy? (Job 38:4,7)*

A son of God denotes a being who has been directly created by God. In the New Testament, Adam is called a son of God because he was directly created by God. Born-Again Christians are also called sons of God by virtue of the new birth they experience when they get saved. *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature...”* (2 Co 5:17). God directly creates a new man within us (Col 3:10).

Angels are beings that are directly created by God. Thus, the designation sons of God can be accurately applied to them. In the Old Testament, the phrase never refers to men. So we see that the phrase *sons of God* refers to angels elsewhere in the Old Testament, and finally we see that the passage in Genesis 6 is nonsensical if it is not interpreted as referring to angels.

We must remember that angels, even fallen angels, are inter-dimensional entities. We see in scripture that they can appear solid, eat food and appear completely human, or have some other tangible physical effect, yet still be of a spiritual, ethereal nature. Remember the scripture: *“show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.”* (Hebrews 13:2) Also recall the two angels who visited Lot. The angels appeared so human that the homosexual townspeople wanted to rape the angels. They had no clue they were angels. Angels, whether good ones or fallen ones, can take on physical form.

The *Codex Alexandrinus Septuagint* version of the Old Testament supports the angelic theory. It translates the passage as *“angels of God”* instead of *“sons of God.”* The Septuagint is a Greek translation of the Old Testament. Septuagint means seventy, so-called because seventy Jewish scholars did the translation from Hebrew to Greek. Those scholars confirm that the phrase in Genesis 6 means *“angels of God”* and so translated it. This tells us what the Jewish

perspective on this passage was. The Septuagint, by the way, was the translation used by Jesus when he stood in the temple and read Isaiah 61:1-2. (Luke 4:18-19)

Early Church Fathers

This angelic view was widely held by early church leaders immediately following the time of the apostles in the first century. It was supported by Flavius Josephus, Philo, Eusebius, and many of the Ante-Nicene Fathers, including Justin Martyr, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Tertullian, Irenaeus, Athenagoras, and Commodianus up until the fourth century.

Justin Martyr wrote concerning Genesis 6, saying, *“But the angels transgressed this appointment, and were captivated by love of women, and begat children who are those that are called demons.”* The Jewish historian Josephus agrees, saying, *“For many angels of God coupled with women...”*

It was not until much later that the Sethite theory became popular. Julius Africanus (160-240 AD) was the first to misinterpret Genesis 6. Later Augustine would popularize the Sethite theory as well. John Calvin also perpetuated the Sethite interpretation. But if we harken back to what the early Church believed and the Jews of Jesus’ time, they adhered to the plain sense of the passage, that it was the angels of God who are meant by the phrase “sons of God.”

The Pseudepigrapha

There are several writings that, although not considered to be scripture, nevertheless are valuable in showing what the Jewish mindset or interpretation was on a given subject as well as its history. The book of Jude even quotes from one of them, the Book of Enoch. This shows that, even though these writings are not part of the canon of Scripture, even the apostles found some things in them noteworthy. These writings make it clear that the Jews, at least of Jesus’ time, accepted the angelic theory of Genesis 6.

And it came to pass when the children of men began to multiply on the face of the earth and daughters were born unto them, that the angels of God saw them...that they were beautiful to look upon; and they took themselves wives of all whom they chose, and they bare unto them sons and they were giants. (Jubilees 4:1-2)

And it came to pass when the children of men had multiplied that in those days were born unto them beautiful and comely daughters. And the angels, the children of the heaven, saw and lusted after them, and said to one another: 'Come, let us choose us wives from among the children of men and beget us children.' (Book of Enoch 6:1-3)



The Objection

Those who adhere to the Sethite theory argue that scripture says that angels are not capable of having sex, and they quote the following verse in support: *“But Jesus answered and said to them, ‘You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.’”* (Matthew 22:29-30)

This argument is easily refuted. First of all, this says nothing about sex capabilities but speaks about marriage. Secondly, this passage is speaking of the ordained state of “angels in heaven.” It is not talking about fallen angels on

earth that have left their ordained state of being. We know that it cannot possibly be saying that fallen angels are not capable of sex, for another New Testament passage of scripture clearly says that they not only are capable of sexual activity but that they have engaged in it:

*Remember too the angels, how some of them were not content to keep the dominion given to them but abandoned their proper home; and God has reserved them for judgement on the great Day, bound beneath the darkness in everlasting chains. Remember Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighboring towns; **like the angels, they committed fornication and followed unnatural lusts; and they paid the penalty in eternal fire, an example for all to see.**” (Jude 1:6-7 NEB)*

Unless someone can explain how a fallen angel can commit fornication without having sex, this objection is wholly dismissed. It is also protested that fallen angels would be called sons of God. It is said that demons are never called sons of God. First of all, fallen angels are not necessarily the same thing as demons, but that is another subject. The fact is, there is no evidence that these particular angels were fallen before they engaged in sexual sin with the women of earth. It is their leaving their realm that caused them to be fallen:

And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation...Even as Sodom and Gomorrah...in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh...Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh...” (Jude 1:6-7 NASB)

As sons of God, they saw that the daughters of men were beautiful. That in itself was not sinful. It was leaving their abode and fornicating with them that was sinful, and that was when they became fallen angels. So the appellation of “sons of God” is not a misnomer, since they had not yet fallen.



What is a Nephilim?

We shall now consider the word, Nephilim. This is not an English word. It is an obscure Hebrew word of uncertain meaning. It appears only two places in the Bible. Its exact meaning is a mystery. That's why many modern translations don't translate the word at all but simply bring the word straight over from the Hebrew.

The KJV and some other translations guess the meaning of the word and render the word as *giants*. Although the context in the two places where it is used in scripture indicates the Nephilim were indeed giants, the Hebrew word Nephilim carries more meaning than merely *giant*. Many linguists suggest the literal meaning of the word would best be translated *the fallen ones*.

When the fallen angels interbred with women, the offspring were a hybrid that the Bible calls Nephilim. The root word is taken from the Hebrew *nephal*, which means *to fall*. Their fathers, the fallen angels, fell into sin, and their offspring, according to scripture and other historical writings, also behaved with extreme wickedness. The Nephilim themselves were fallen, sinful creatures. Their murderous rampages caused many innocent people to die in battle against them. The etymology of their designation as Nephilim is based on the fallen nature of their parents and also the evil nature of the Nephilim themselves. Thus, *the fallen ones* is descriptive of everything about them.

GIANTS' SKELETONS FOUND.

Cave in Mexico Gives Up the Bones of
an Ancient Race.

Special to The New York Times.

BOSTON, May 3.—Charles C. Clapp, who has recently returned from Mexico, where he has been in charge of Thomas W. Lawson's mining interests, has called the attention of Prof. Agassiz to a remarkable discovery made by him.

He found in Mexico a cave containing some 200 skeletons of men each above eight feet in height. The cave was evidently the burial place of a race of giants who antedated the Aztecs. Mr. Clapp arranged the bones of one of these skeletons and found the total length to be 8 feet 11 inches. The femur reached up to his thigh, and the molars were big enough to crack a cocoanut. The head measured eighteen inches from front to back.

The New York Times

Published: May 4, 1908

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Scripture says that at the same time, the Nephilim came on the scene, wickedness on the earth increased exponentially. The *Pseudepigrapha* tells us that the Nephilim, besides being giants, were quite intelligent and possessed paranormal powers. They were sex-crazed, stealing wives from men and even from each other. They committed cannibalism and bestiality. The Jewish historian Josephus says of them, "*For many angels of God coupled with women, and begat sons that proved unjust, and despisers of all that was good...*"

By their great size and intelligence, they became rulers. They taught mankind a plethora of sinful practices. The *Pseudepigrapha* lists charms, enchantments, magic, alchemy, astrology, and the creation of weapons of war as some of the things they taught. It is supposed by some that the great megalithic structures found around the world, some of which defy explanation of their construction, were built by the

Nephilim. Interesting enough, we see that the *Nephilim* were the first to teach abortion:

And the fifth was named Kasdeja: this is he who showed the children of men...the smittings of the embryo in the womb, that it may pass away...” (Enoch 69:12a)

It was commonly thought by the Jews of Jesus’ time that the demonic spirits that roam the earth are the disembodied spirits of the dead Nephilim. Justin Martyr (100 to 165 AD) writes that the Nephilim demanded worship and explains that the gods of Greek mythology were one and the same as the Nephilim:

But the angels transgressed this appointment, and were captivated by love of women, and begat children who are those that are called demons; and besides, they afterwards subdued the human race to themselves, partly by magical writings, and partly by fears and the punishments they occasioned, and partly by teaching them to offer sacrifices, and incense, and libations, of which things they stood in need after they were enslaved by lustful passions; and among men they sowed murders, wars, adulteries, intemperate deeds, and all wickedness. Whence also the poets and mythologists, not knowing that it was the angels and those demons who had been begotten by them that did these things to men, and women, and cities, and nations, which they related, ascribed them to god himself, and to those who were accounted to be his very offspring, and to the offspring of those who were called his brothers, Neptune and Pluto, and to the children again of these their offspring. For whatever name each of the angels had given to himself and his children, by that name they called them. (Justin Martyr, Second Apology)

Nephilim in Canaan

Ostensibly, all the Nephilim were destroyed in the Flood. Yet, it is interesting to note that scripture says that the Nephilim were on the earth after those days. “*The Nephilim*

were on the earth in those days, and also after that...” (Genesis 6:4) What were “those days”? These were the days before the Flood, so this would seem to indicate that the Nephilim were on the earth also after the Flood. How could this be, for we know that God pronounced a severe judgment upon these angels who sinned by taking women as wives:

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah... (2 Peter 2:4-5)

So how did we get Nephilim after the Flood? There are a couple of possibilities. We must consider that the scripture doesn't say when God cast these angels into hell. It may be that God didn't execute punishment upon them until much later. Assuming the fallen angels still could return to the spirit realm and survive the Flood, it may be that God delayed judgment. Then, if the fallen angels didn't heed the warning of seeing their progeny drowned, but continued fornication with earth women after the Flood, this would explain the existence of Nephilim “*also after that.*”

Another possibility is that another group of angels committed the same sin after the Flood. We just don't know. We do know that when the Israelites reached the promised land, they found that Satan had inspired the Nephilim to inhabit the land, no doubt as opposition to the plan of God for Israel. Those who went into the promised land to spy it out came back with a bad report:

We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us.” So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. “There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like

grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight. (Numbers 13:31-33)

The mention of it being a land that devours its inhabitants is probably a reference to the infamous cannibalism of the Nephilim. Some claim that this passage doesn't prove there were Nephilim in the land because the spies gave a false report. But the scripture does not say that the spies gave a false report. Scripture says they gave a "bad report," that is to say, they left out the good things, concentrated on the bad, and claimed they could not possibly take the land. Caleb did not refute what they said. He did not call them liars. Instead, he said, "*We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.*" (Numbers 13:30). Caleb didn't say the Nephilim were not there. He said they could overcome them.

Furthermore, in verse 21 it says, "*they came to Hebron where...the descendants of Anak were...*" and verse 33 says, "*the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim...*" This is not part of the spy's report but is the testimony of scripture. This is conclusive proof that there were Nephilim in the land of Canaan after the Flood.

Most of the inhabitants of the land were Nephilim, for verse 32 says, "*all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.*" God told the Israelites to wipe out these Nephilim nations completely. When it is understood that these were the wicked cannibalistic hybrid offspring of fallen angels, the severity of God's decree is better understood.

The Return of the Nephilim

Are the Nephilim going to return in the last days? Some say so and point to Matthew 24:37: "*For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.*" It is said that since Nephilim existed in the days of Noah that there will be Nephilim in the days just before Christ's return. To be fair, I must point out that this may carry the analogy too far. This

passage only says that some things will be the same relative to Christ's return and Noah's day. Not all things will be the same. There will be no flood and no ark. What will be the same? Jesus tells us plainly, "*of that day and hour no one knows...*" That is the point of what he is saying. Jesus points out that in Noah's day, people were doing business as usual right up until the Flood came. No warning. That's what will be the same: There will be no warning. Whether or not the presence of Nephilim is one of the things that will be the same is conjecture.

Yet it is conceivable. It should be noted that in Revelation we find that the restraining force against the evil principalities and powers in heavenly places is reduced and that demonic forces are loosed upon the earth. Fallen angels and demons are limited today by what God allows. During the Tribulation, not so much. It may be that the Nephilim will return during the Tribulation.

Wild Beasts

God will allow tremendous evil to transpire during the Tribulation. The cohabitation of fallen angels with women today is probably something that any angel would fear to do today, but that is not necessarily the case during the Tribulation. Demons will do whatever they can get away with.

We see in Revelation some terrifying things:

*I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by **the wild beasts of the earth.**" (Revelation 6:8)*

During the Tribulation, wild beasts will roam the earth, killing people. How could such a thing be? Man has weapons to vanquish dangerous wildlife easily. What is this talking about? What kind of wild beasts? One of the Pseudepigrapha writers says that the Nephilim "*went to the daughters of men*

and took their wives by force from their husbands according to their choice and...taught the mixture of animals of one species with the other in order therewith to provoke the Lord; and God saw the whole earth and it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon earth, all men and all animals.” (Jasher 4:18)

If the Pseudepigrapha is reporting the truth,⁶⁰ The Nephilim interbred different species of animals. How strange. We know that one species cannot interbreed with another, but the pseudepigraphs tell us that somehow the Nephilim managed this. What happens when a fallen angel or a Nephilim attempts to breed with an animal? We do not know. Perhaps in the last days, there will be attempts by fallen angels to manipulate the DNA or the gene pool of animals such that they will create monsters, wild beasts of the earth that will devour mankind.



Yes, terrible things happened in the past. Fallen angels interbred with women and created a hybrid race of monster-giants called Nephilim. Who knows but that similar things will happen during the Tribulation?

⁶⁰ *The Pseudepigrapha is not the word of God and may or may not be reporting fact.*

But now for the good news: Just as God saved Noah and destroyed the Nephilim and the evil world in the Flood, so also He will save us, not with an ark, but with the Rapture of the Church. Christians are not going to be on earth during the terrible Tribulation. Jesus is returning, and all those who are saved will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and return with Him to heaven. If you don't know Jesus, you might want to get ready for giant monsters. Better yet, turn to Jesus! Those of us who have given our lives to Jesus will not be here for the fearful atrocities that are coming. Terrible times are ahead, but Christians need not fear; we are not going to be here!



16

The Stage is Set

When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. "For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation." (Luke 19:41-44)

There is much for us to learn from what Jesus says in the passage above. Jesus laments that the Jews did not recognize he was their Messiah. He speaks of the horror that is going to come upon them, saying to them it is because "*you did not recognize the time of your visitation.*" The Jewish people were awaiting their Messiah. They didn't realize that Jesus was the one they awaited. Jesus is saying that they could have known from Scripture the exact time of his first advent and thus realized He was their Messiah.

Daniel 9:24-27 predicted to the very day when Jesus would come. That passage says that it would be 483 years from the going forth of the command to rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah would come. Nehemiah 2:1-8 contains the order to rebuild Jerusalem and also the exact date of the decree: The 20th year of King Artaxerxes in the month of Nisan. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, that was 445 B.C. Exactly 483 years later takes you to the month of Nisan (April) in A.D. 32, when Jesus made his Triumphal

Entry into Jerusalem, riding upon a donkey's colt, as prophesied. (Matthew 21:1-17)

Yes, the Jews could have known the time of their visitation. They failed to care enough to examine the Scripture and figure it out. If they had cared enough, they could have seen the proof in Scripture of who Jesus was. Because they rejected Him, the Roman army would destroy Jerusalem, and the Jews would be scattered to the four winds. The lesson: When a country turns its back on Jesus terrible things can happen. The same is true of a person who turns their back on the Lord.

America – A Christian Nation

With that as a background, let us consider the spiritual state of America. I need not present any statistics to make the claim that America has drifted from its moorings. I grew up in the 1950s and 60s in a small town in central Illinois. No one locked their cars or even the doors of their homes. Bike locks didn't exist, for there were no bike thieves.

Homosexuality was practically non-existent. They were not called "gay" back then. They were called queers, not to be mean, but because everyone understood there was something not right about a man that was not attracted to the opposite sex.

Lesbianism and transgenderism were not even words in anyone's vocabulary. The Boy Scouts was for boys, not boys and girls camping together, as is done today. Not one parent would have stood for such nonsense back then. The ladies' room was for women, not for men who make believe they are women. The stores closed on Sunday because it was understood that was the Christian Sabbath, and people needed time off to be with their families and go to Church on Sunday morning.

America was founded as a Christian nation. Many Liberals do their best to try to debunk that idea, but it is a fact

nevertheless. Following are some quotes from our founding fathers, which proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the core values upon which America was founded came from Christianity.

These statements are so well known they need no reference. To see the sources, one may enter the quote in a search engine and see that they are so well documented as to be common knowledge. We begin with a prayer written in the prayer journal of the first president of the United States:

O eternal and everlasting God...direct my thoughts words and work. Wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the lamb and purge my heart by thy holy spirit. Daily frame me more and more in the likeness of thy son Jesus Christ, that living in fear and dying in thy favor I may, in thy appointed time, obtain the resurrection of the justified unto eternal life... Bless oh Lord the whole race of mankind and let the world be filled with the knowledge of Thee and Thy son Jesus Christ. - George Washington.⁶¹

It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible. – George Washington.

The Declaration of Independence laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity – John Adams, 2nd President of the United States, 1st Vice President of the United States, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, Signer of the Bill of Rights, Signer of the 1st Amendment.

The general principles upon which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I

⁶¹ <https://www.georgewashingtoninn.com/a-prayer-journal-by-george-washington>

https://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/prayerandcounseling/intercession/washington_prayer.aspx?mobile=false&q=spirituallife/prayerandcounseling/intercession/washington_prayer.aspx

will avow that I then believe and now believe that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence of the attributes of God. – John Adams, 2nd President of the United States.

We recognize no sovereign but God and no King but Jesus – John Adams and John Hancock.

The Christian religion is the best religion that has ever been given to man. – Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States.

Cursed be all that learning that is contrary to the cross of Christ. – James Madison, 4th President of the United States and primary author of the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Congress of the United States recommends and approves the Holy Bible for use in all the Schools. – The United States Congress, 1782.

There is a book, the Bible, worth all the other books ever printed. – Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, a founding father who famously said, “Give me liberty or give me death!”

It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religion but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ – Patrick Henry.

Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers and, it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers. – John Jay, 1st Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Bible is the best of all books for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue therefore to read it and regulate your life by its precepts. – John Jay, 1st Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

That all may bow to the scepter of our Lord Jesus Christ and that the whole earth may be filled with his glory. – John

Hancock, Signer of the Declaration of Independence and Governor of Massachusetts.

Let the children be carefully instructed in the principles and obligations of the Christian religion. This is the most essential part of education. Benjamin Rush, Signer of the Declaration of Independence.

I have lived a long time, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? – Benjamin Franklin.

Education is useless without the Bible. The Bible was America's basic text book in all fields. God's Word, contained in the Bible, has furnished all necessary rules to direct our conduct. – Noah Webster, heralded with the title “Father of American Scholarship and Education.”

One of the beautiful boasts of our municipal jurisprudence is that Christianity is a part of the Common Law...There never has been a period in which the Common Law did not recognize Christianity as lying at its foundations...I verily believe Christianity necessary to the support of civil society. -
- Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story, 1779-1845, founder of Harvard Law School.

In regard to this Great Book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Saviour gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it. – President Abraham Lincoln.

I am busily engaged in the study of the Bible. I believe it is God's word because it finds me where I am. – President Abraham Lincoln.

Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon, and embody the teachings of, the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and

to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian. This is a Christian nation. – United States Supreme Court, 1892.

Let every Student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life. – Original Student Handbook of Harvard University, 1646.

I believe that the next half century will determine if we will advance the cause of Christian civilization or revert to the horrors of brutal paganism...The choice between the two is upon us. -- President Theodore Roosevelt, 1909.

We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a nation, without reckoning with the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic. – Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd U.S. President

Those forces hate Democracy and Christianity as two phases of the same civilization. – President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

As Commander-in-Chief I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the armed forces of the United States. – President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

We must acknowledge that the life of Christ was based on principles which are necessary to the development of a democratic state. – First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country. – President Calvin Coolidge.

Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first the most basic expression of Americanism. Thus the Founding Fathers of America saw it, and thus with God's help it will continue to be. -- President Dwight Eisenhower.

Of the many influences that have shaped the United States of America into a distinctive nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible. -- President Ronald Reagan.

That should be sufficient to make it evident that the United States of America was founded upon Christian principles. Our founding fathers believed the same and said so. It should also be adequate to illustrate how much our country has drifted from that ideal.

To all those quotes above, I add this bit of history: The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in the 1950s and 60s was rabidly atheistic. Not surprising, since socialism is at its core a godless antichristian philosophy. The Russians delighted in ridiculing the people of the United States for believing in God.

The space race began when the Russians beat us to outer space. The Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human launched into space. When he returned, he taunted the United States with these words: *"I looked and looked and looked, but I didn't see God."* The Soviet government made a propaganda poster showing the cosmonaut smirking as he was allegedly looked for God. The poster has the subtitle, *"No God!"* in Russian.



A Kremlin propaganda poster produced at the time featured an image of the cosmonaut floating in space and the slogan, "There is no God!" via Youtube

I remember well Russia taunting us with that. I was in first grade. I recall the general feeling in America at the time. We all thought, no wonder the Soviet Union is such an evil,

miserable and backward place with starving people living in squalor. It is because they have foolishly denied the existence of God. And that was the absolute truth. *“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”* (Romans 1:22)

The Fall of America

Now it is America that is progressively denying God. For many, “In God We Trust” has become barely more than a slogan on our money. Godless men and women are gaining control of our government and turning America away from God. They glorify sin and lawlessness while complimenting and encouraging those who burn and pillage while they defund the police. These people are steering our country towards socialism, the same godless philosophy that has brought totalitarianism, poverty, and death to every country where it has been tried.

John Adams said, *“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”* America is falling away from its foundation of faith and righteousness, the very characteristics that brought America freedom and prosperity. We lose our Christian character at the peril of our liberty and prosperity. Our founding documents are unique and wonderful, but without righteousness, they are only paper.

Today we are shocked at the liberal’s animosity to all things good and wholesome about America. They refuse to stand for the national anthem and pour out their vitriol over the flag and our Constitution. Why do liberals hate America so? Because America has traditionally stood for God and righteousness, and they hate both. That’s why former President Obama wanted “to fundamentally change America.”

Jesus said, *“The world...hates me because I testify that its works are evil.”* Liberals hate a righteous America for the same reason. They don’t want anyone or anything telling them that they will give an account before God on judgment day for

the sins they approve. They don't want to hear that unrepentant homosexuals will be thrown into the lake of fire. They don't want to hear that abortion is murder. They don't want to submit to law and order, as the scriptures enjoin, so they burn and pillage and blame the police when their actions bring tragedy and chaos.

On June 28, 2006, Senator Obama said, *"Whatever we once were, we are no longer a Christian nation - at least, not just."* Then on April 6th, 2009, President Obama doubled down with a more emphatic statement, leaving out the "just." *"One of the great strengths of the United States...is we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation."*

Obama, in his first statement, was heralding the fact that we are not just a Christian nation but have many faiths. That is nothing to brag about. That is a travesty. We used to be a Christian nation. In 1892 the United States Supreme Court said so when they declared, *"This is a Christian nation."*

We began as a Christian nation, and we have fallen away from that, and Obama is proud of it. Just fifty years ago, no president would have dared make such an abominable utterance. The people would not have stood for it. Obama should hang his head in shame for making such a statement. He is celebrating becoming a nation of heathens instead of Christians. George Washington and Abraham Lincoln would turn over in their graves.

In the second quote, Obama leaves out the "just." He is glad that we don't consider ourselves a Christian nation. He says that not being a Christian nation is one of America's "great strengths." The founding fathers would not agree. Being tolerant of other beliefs and allowing people to be heretics, atheists, and heathens while showing them the love of Christ is who America used to be, and should still be. That is not the same thing as celebrating the widespread embracement of false religions that send people to Hell, which is precisely what Obama was doing. A nation turning away from Christ to other religions is not a great strength, as Obama says. It is

perilous for the country. What kind of man, who professes to be a Christian, is happy about a nation turning away from Jesus? Diversity of religion in a land that was once predominantly Christian is not a strength. It is a cancer.

In June of 2015, the Supreme Court Declared Same-Sex Marriage Legal in All 50 States, and President Obama flooded the Whitehouse with rainbow lights in celebration. God does not consider homosexuality marriage. He calls it, “*Men committing shameful acts with other men...*” (Romans 1:27). He calls it an abomination. (Leviticus 18:22). In California the General Assembly recently passed legislation that will reduce criminal punishment for homosexual adults who prey upon underage children. The bill (SB 145) was introduced by homosexual Senator Scott Wiener (D). Under the new law, when homosexual adults sodomize or perform oral sex with underage children, they will no longer be assigned to California's sex offender registry. Under the new law, a 24-year-old adult having homosexual relations with a 14-year-old child will no longer be considered a sex offense worthy of report.

The Silent Pulpit

While America is sliding into sin, where is the outcry from the Christian Church in America? Why is the Christian community not howling with outrage? Why is not every pulpit aflame with fiery sermons denouncing these departures from our Christian heritage? Why is not every Christian pastor in America urging his congregation to write letters to their representatives? I promise you that such debauchery and denial of our Christian heritage would not have been tolerated before 1950. How the mighty have fallen!

Today the prospect that a pastor should preach about current political events is anathema. “Don’t preach politics, stick to the Gospel,” is the modern outcry. This is heard so often that most Christians believe this is how it should be. It was not always this way. As a point of fact, from the very

beginning of Christianity, the Church was quite vocal about political decisions and current events. John the Baptist was beheaded for daring to point out the sin of a head of state.

One example from the early days of Christendom is the denunciation of the brutal Roman gladiator games. This was a political hot potato at the time. Christian leaders spoke out sharply against this prevalent practice. Tertullian (160 – 225 A.D.) preached about it. Most Christian pastors actively campaigned against it, and opposed government leaders that promoted the games. They denounced attendance of the games, declaring they were sinful, and admonished Christians to boycott the games. This lone voice of protest from Christians against the carnage of the Roman games resulted in the abolishment of this cruel practice.

Prior to and during the American revolution, pastors taught and spoke from the pulpit on political topics and issues. In her book, *The New England Clergy and the American Revolution* Alice Baldwin demonstrates that the political activism of Christian pastors and their bold rhetoric from the pulpit is what formed the consensus of American sentiment on freedom and justice and that without their political vocalizations to their congregations, there would have been no American revolution. Her book contains many examples of fiery sermons that touched upon the politics of the time.

As a point of fact, if it were not for a great Christian revival that swept the nation in the early 19th century, the slaves would not have been set free when they were. The Second Great Awakening was a Protestant revival that began around 1790 and continued into the 1830s. Historians believe that ideas put forth during this revival inspired abolitionists to oppose slavery. Before and during the Civil War, it was from the pulpits, which were anything but silent, that the impetus to free the slaves was heard. Not only was slavery denounced by northern pastors, but preachers openly criticized pro-slavery politicians right from the pulpit. One must ask, how much

longer would slavery have continued if preachers of the time had been silent on political matters?

When did all this change? When did Christians adopt the idea that their pastors should be silent, no matter what wickedness politicians cooked up? Today we need, more than ever, fiery and bold sermons against political wickedness. Politicians that promote evil and foolishness should be marked from the pulpit. We had this in the past, and it changed the course of human events for the better. But today our nation is adrift in a storm, yet still we suffer from a silent pulpit. Jesus said, *“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste...it is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out.”* (Matthew 5:13)

The Cost of Indifference

If you give evil an inch, it will take a mile, as illustrated by the actions taken by the city government in Houston in 2014. The city issued subpoenas requiring pastors to submit their sermons to the city. Any ministers failing to comply would be held in contempt of court and could be thrown into jail. The lesbian mayor wanted to make sure that no pastor read any Bible passages about homosexuality. The city government was no longer satisfied that the Church stay out of politics. They were now going to make sure that political power ruled the Church and controlled what they said. Once upon a time, such things only happened in Red China and Communist Russia. Now they happen here in America.

Not all have been deceived by the liberal’s call to hate America’s moral foundation. Yet far too many are apathetic to the danger. Apathy is our greatest enemy. Plato said, *“The penalty good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.”* How true that is. Christians, more than any, should be involved in politics, and the preacher even more so. And as Albert Einstein said most succinctly, *“The world is in greater peril from those who tolerate or encourage*

evil than from those who actually commit it.” True is the maxim: “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

At Gettysburg Lincoln said, *“Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure...”* Today we are in another kind of war. A spiritual war wherein Satan and his liberal minions would steal out from under us the righteousness of our nation, which is the very underpinnings of our liberty. Jesus said, *“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”* (John 8:36) He was speaking of freedom from sin and spiritual death, but also of physical liberty in this life. America has been free because of its past fidelity to Jesus. We have had peace because of our association with the Prince of Peace. America forsakes Jesus at her own peril.

President Ronald Reagan warned, *“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”*

Goodness Begat Greatness

A world traveler who came to America in the 17th century made this profound observation:

“I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her fertile fields and boundless forests, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her rich mines and her vast world commerce, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her public-school system and her institutions of learning, and it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her

democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."

Just as Israel faced destruction when the people turned their backs on Jesus, so also America will eventually meet its demise if she does not return to the Lord. Jesus says to America what He said to the Church in Ephesus: *"Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place -- unless you repent."* America gained her freedom and independence because of her dependence upon God and His Son Jesus Christ. America can lose her blessings by declaring her independence from God. As it is written, *"Godliness makes a nation great, but sin is a disgrace to any people.* (Proverbs 14:34).

Let there be preachers who come in the spirit and power of Elijah, who, like John the Baptist, courageously speak truth to power. Oh, that pastors everywhere would proclaim with the authority of God, "Homosexuality is sinful!" May the preacher quote the Apostle Paul to the socialist, *"If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."*⁶² Let it be announced with indignation to the abortion doctor, *"Thou shalt not kill!"* It is time - no, it is past time - for the pulpits of America to once again flame with righteousness.

The Stage is Set

The "mystery of lawlessness" is at work around the globe and across America, steering the world towards one-world globalism and anti-God lawlessness that is setting the stage for the Antichrist. That man of sin waits in the wings. Satan is

⁶² 2 Thessalonians 3:10

poised to strike, waiting for his opportunity. His chance will come, “*when the transgressors are come to the full.*” We have just chronicled some of the wickedness in which the transgressors are engaged. It seems to me they have nearly “come to the full.”

It will happen in a flash, in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye – the Church will be gone. Those pesky troublesome bible-thumpers will finally be out of the way. But the world will find they have sown the wind only to reap the whirlwind. (Hosea 8:7) Then Satan, seeing his chance, will take center stage. Let us heed the words of our Lord to the dead Church at Sardis:

Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. (Revelation 3:3)

How much better to hear the words of our Lord to the Church in Philadelphia:

Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. (Revelation 3:10-11)

17

How Soon is the Rapture?

"Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book." (Revelation 22:7)

Will the Rapture happen in our lifetime? How soon will it be? The biblical answer is, we don't know. It will come when unexpected. It could be tomorrow, next year, or in twenty years. It could even be in a hundred years, or a thousand years, but I doubt that very much.

I am going to venture my opinion that it is more likely to come sooner than later. The passage from Revelation above says he is coming "quickly." The Greek word translated "quickly" is *tachy*. Many versions translate that word as "soon." It can mean either or both. The definition of *tachy* is: *Shortly, without delay, soon, or suddenly by surprise, or readily*. Moments after the Rapture, many will be surprised it came sooner than they expected. It will be over in a flash, in the blink of an eye. It will happen quickly and it will certainly be, "suddenly by surprise." We should regard the coming of Christ as imminent. The rapture can occur at any moment. The imminent coming of Christ means that there are no signs that need fulfilling before He comes. When He comes, it will be speedy and swift. Following are my reasons for believing the Rapture could be very close.

Modern Weaponry

In 1945 we dropped two atomic bombs on Japan and the world entered a new era. The bombs dropped on Hiroshima

and Nagasaki were atomic. What we have now are thermonuclear weapons that use fusion instead of fission. The difference? Thermonuclear weapons are much more powerful. The United States tested a thermonuclear hydrogen bomb at Bikini Atoll in 1954. The resulting explosion was over 1,000 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

Today there are 13,865 thermonuclear warheads in the world. Nine countries have them: The US, UK, Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea. Proliferation of nuclear weapons among rogue underdeveloped countries such as North Korea or Iran is particularly troubling as they are less likely to care about the ramifications of nuclear war.

The extent of war and death pictured in the book of Revelation is indicative of a nuclear exchange. Isaiah 51:6, speaking of the Tribulation, says, "*The people of the earth will die like flies.*" Jesus said, "*unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive.*" (Matthew 24:22) For the first time in history humanity has the destructive force at its fingertips to call down the apocalypse.

Rampant Sin

Scripture describes the last days as a world where non-Christians have become exceedingly evil:

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. (2 Timothy 3:1)

The Bible also says that the Antichrist comes when "*the transgressors are come to the full,*" (Daniel 8:23) which is in

line with the above passage that seems to indicate common decency and civilized behavior will have deteriorated throughout the world. We are certainly seeing that play out before our eyes. If you aren't convinced, turn on the evening news.

Israel Reborn

The Tribulation comes after the Jews return to their homeland:

I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it...We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace...Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble... (Jeremiah 30:1-9)

Israel became a nation in 1948. The passage above seems to link the Tribulation with the regathering of Israel, as if they were possibly going to take place in the same time period.

The Two Witnesses

Revelation Chapter 11 speaks of two witnesses that testify in Jerusalem during the Tribulation until the Antichrist kills them. Revelation 11:9 says, *"Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days..."*

Eighty years ago the fulfillment of that prophesy was technologically impossible. The technology required to fulfill Revelation 11:9 did not exist before the last century. On July 10, 1961, America launched Telstar 1 into space. It was the world's first active communications satellite. The satellite age opened the door to worldwide instant news reporting.

The Internet came on the scene in the 1990s, and then in 2007, the first iPhone was released. It is now possible for the people of every nation to pull a phone out of their pocket and watch the live news. We now live in an age when "tribes and

tongues and nations” have instant visual access to the news. Now everyone in the world will be able to view the dead bodies of the two witnesses. This is just one more domino that had to fall into place for certain end-time prophecies to be fulfilled.

Increased Knowledge and Travel

Scripture indicates that there will be an explosion in travel and knowledge prior to the Tribulation:

And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time...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. (Daniel 12:1,4)

Just over a hundred years ago people got around on horseback and it has been that way for the entire history of man until this past century. Now we fly across oceans as a matter of course. We’ve sent men to the moon and have landed ten robotic spacecraft on Mars. Truly men run to and fro. Our knowledge in every area of science is vastly increased. We walk around with smart phones in our pocket, little computers more powerful than anything that was on the lunar lander. Knowledge has increased exponentially and rapidly in the 20th and 21st Centuries. The revelations of Daniel are understood. They have been unsealed. According to Daniel 12:1,4 three events mark the time of the end. The revelation in Daniel becomes understood, and travel and knowledge increase. Those three things have happened, indicating we may be in the time of the end.

Modern Electronics

As previously discussed, an electromagnetic pulse from the sun happens about every 150 years. The last one was 161 years ago. Today the world depends upon micro-electronics for survival. The next Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) will trigger an EMP that will devastate the world. The Book of

Revelation predicts death, disease and famine on an unprecedented scale, just as would happen if an EMP occurred.

The possibility of an EMP attack from a nuclear weapon has already been discussed. The dual threat of a CME or a nuclear EMP presents a threat that was not even a concern in the 1960s. Today we are at tremendous risk. Though we know the danger, politicians refuse to take action to protect the electrical grid and harden essential electronics. President Trump has expressed his concern over the danger but Congress refuses to act. The refusal to deal with the danger can only be attributed to the blindness brought on by sin. Jesus had warned that when the blind lead the blind they both fall into a pit (Matthew 15:14).

West Coast Earthquake

Life Magazine touted San Francisco, where 6.2 percent of the people are homosexual, as the “Gay Capital of America.” Indeed, nearly 5 percent of adults in California are homosexual. Prosecutors in Oregon financially destroy bakers who won’t bake cakes for homosexual weddings. Democrat politicians are defunding the police in major cities of California and Oregon while rioters are killing, burning and pillaging at an unprecedented level. The entire west coast of America is awash in sin. As has been noted, with the increase in sin, a decrease in God’s protection may follow. It may be time for Christians to flee the west coast as Lot fled Sodom and Gomorrah.



Seventy miles off the shore of Northern California, Oregon and Washington is the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a region where two tectonic plates are colliding. The two plates have not moved in over 300 years, but have been building tension between them the entire time. Scientists tell us that Cascadia releases a major quake every 250 years. The last one was in 1700 AD, 320 years ago. It is 70 years overdue and the stress between the plates is building.



Experts tell us that the likelihood of a magnitude-9.0 earthquake from Cascadia in the next ten years is around 40%. The quake itself will be devastating to the cities on the coast of Oregon and Washington. After the quake, the resulting tsunami will destroy what is left of them. The immediate deaths could exceed 10,000. More than 30,000 people could be injured, and the approximate economic losses could be as much as \$70 billion. Water treatment and sewage disposal will be out of commission, causing the spread of disease. Gas and

electrical fires will abound. Roads will be destroyed so it will be practically impossible to escape, or even get to a hospital, even if one can be found that isn't destroyed. A Cascadia event will spell the worst natural disaster in the history of North America.



But wait, it gets worse: New evidence found by geologists at Oregon State University shows that a Cascadia earthquake can trigger earthquakes along the Northern San Andreas fault with “minimal or no separation time.” In other words, A quake in California can instantly trigger a Cascadia event, and vice versa. So it won't just be Oregon and Washington that gets hammered. It will be California as well. The major cities of the California coast - San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego – they are all at risk. The entire west coast of the United States could be devastated in one day.

USGS scenarios project more than 1,800 deaths and 50,000 injuries from a major Southern San Andreas fault earthquake. At least 3.5 million homes would be destroyed, with \$289 billion in reconstruction costs. If both the Cascadia and the San Andreas faults give way simultaneously, which is very possible, then add the death toll from both together. It would be - rather it will be – a catastrophe of biblical proportions. The ensuing collapse of the U.S. economy would have repercussions felt around the world.

Earthquakes have been with us from the beginning. The difference is that we have built huge metropolitan cities along

fault lines that we know produce massive earthquakes every few hundred years. The next big one is overdue.

Summary

I believe the current precariousness of man's existence indicates that we are in a time period that may very well be the end of days. When you consider today's modern weaponry, the rampant increase in sin and lawlessness and factor in that Israel has been reborn as a nation, it is readily apparent that the stage is set for the last days. Add in the fact that for the first time in the history of the world, the prophecy in Revelation 11:9 can be fulfilled via the Internet and satellite television. Add to that, the explosion in knowledge and travel predicted to come prior to the Tribulation and then consider the incredible vulnerability of our electronic world to EMP. Then there is the vulnerability of cities built upon major fault lines. Taken together we see an overwhelming correlation of Scripture and current events which indicates a coalescence of conditions for a perfect storm. The Rapture could literally happen at any moment.

18

How to Be Saved

Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy. (Revelation 19:10)

Studying end-time prophecy, or eschatology, as the scholars call it, is fun. It is a fascinating challenge to solve the puzzles and unravel the cryptic and mysterious meanings of the ancient prophecies. But that is not the main point of prophecy. Scripture says that *“Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”* In other words, the whole point of end-time prophecy is to point to Jesus. He is the main event.

The purpose of prophecy is to bring people to Jesus, to bring them to repentance and faith in the Son of God. When people realize that Jesus could come at any moment, they realize that putting off a decision for Christ is a very foolish thing to do. That is the effect that prophecy should have. It should bring people to a decision for Christ.

We are not promised tomorrow. Even if the Lord does not come today, no one knows when death may come unexpectedly. That is why the Bible says, *“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”* (Hebrews 3:15) and *“Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”* (2 Corinthians 6:2)

How can a person be saved? How do you become a Christian? How exactly do you do it? Let me first say how you don't do it. Being a Christian doesn't mean you just try to do good. It doesn't mean you just start going to church. It does not mean you become a Bible scholar. There is not any outward ceremony or form of works that you can do to be

saved. Jesus said, “*The kingdom of God is within you.*” (Luke 17:21) In other words, it is a matter of the heart.

God created us to have fellowship with Him. To talk with Him every day, to commune with Him, to make Him a real part of our lives. He wants us to recognize His authority over us. He wants us to live life the way He intended, with love, fairness, kindness, wisdom, and virtue. It is so easy for us to ignore him and do our own thing and live life on our terms instead of His. When we are honest with ourselves, we realize we have not lived our life completely the way God would have wanted us to. That realization brings us to the first step in being a Christian.

The first step in becoming a Christian is to repent. Repent of whatever we have done in life that we know is wrong. Repent of running our own life instead of endeavoring to live it the way Christ wants us to. Repentance means more than just being sorry; it means to turn around, to turn away from sin and towards God.

The second step is to put your faith in Christ. Faith means we believe all that Jesus said about sin, righteousness, and the judgment to come. It means that you believe the Bible when it says that Jesus rose from the dead. It means believing that Jesus is who He said he was. He is our creator, our Lord and God. That is who Jesus claimed to be. If you believe in Jesus, then you accept all his words with a living faith that changes you from the inside out. In other words, you commit your life to Jesus and determine to follow Him all your days.

The third step is to solidify your faith with action. Tell someone about your decision. The Bible teaches that salvation is not something far off and unattainable, but that it is very near, that it is “*in your mouth and in your heart.*” (Romans 10:8) The Bible explains how to be saved in Romans 10:9-10:

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be

saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

When the Philippian jailer asked the apostles, “Sirs, *what must I do to be saved?*” They answered, “*Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.*” (Acts 16:30-31) When Peter preached to the crowd on the day of Pentecost, they asked, “*Brothers, what shall we do?*” Peter answered by saying to them: “*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*” (Acts 2:37-38)

Confessing faith in Christ with the mouth is integral to salvation, as it solidifies the decision of the heart with action. Baptism gives an opportunity for a confession of faith and is something that should follow soon after one decides to follow Christ. Baptism itself doesn’t save you, but it allows one to proclaim the reality that has already happened in the heart. It is a critical first step of obedience that helps solidify the reality of your new life in Christ. Once you have turned to Christ in faith, you should not delay, but make plans to be baptized as soon as is practicable.

The Bible teaches that when a person puts faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit enters and changes one’s being to the core. A miracle happens. Jesus said that those who repent and put their trust in Him become born again. (John 3:1-8) The Apostle Paul said that they become a new person: “*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*” (2 Corinthians 5:17) The Living Bible paraphrases it this way: “*When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!*”

Choosing to follow Christ is not something that one does lightly. Being a Christian is not an easy path. Jesus said, “*Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.*” (Matthew 7:13) Jesus said to count the cost. Luke 14:28 reads, “*For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does*

not first sit down and count the cost...” (Luke 14:28) One may need more information before they can believe. For these, I recommend reading the New Testament, starting in the Book of John. I also suggest reading *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel.

Some say that God is love and he won't send anyone to hell. By this excuse, they evade committing their life to Christ. To these, God says in Romans 2:4-5:

Do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. (Romans 2:4-5)

No matter what you have done in your life, no matter what sins you have committed, God will forgive everything if you put your faith in Christ. Jesus died on the cross for you so that His shed blood would wash away your sins. The Scripture says, *“Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”* (Romans 10:11) I vote for that! I have done some shameful things in my life, and I am so thankful that God has dropped those things into the sea of forgetfulness, never to be remembered again. Hebrews 8:12 says, *“I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”* (Hebrews 8:12)

Jesus said, *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”* (Revelation 3:20) You can open that door right now with a prayer. If you have never given your life to Christ, I encourage you to pray the following prayer or make a prayer of your own. The words don't matter. What matters is that you make such a prayer sincerely from the heart:

O Lord, I come to you and ask forgiveness for leading my own life and not following you. Please forgive all my sins. I'm

sorry, and I turn away from my sins, and I turn towards you, Lord Jesus, I believe in you. I believe what you have said. I believe you rose from the dead. I worship you as my Lord and God and commit my life to you. Jesus, come into my heart and life. Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit to me and change my life. Amen.

That's it. If you have never prayed that before and you sincerely prayed it now, you are born again. You may not feel any different, but you are different. The Bible says so. Most importantly, you now have eternal life. How can you know? Because God says so:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God (John 3:16-18)

Your next step is to find other Christians to fellowship with. You need a good church where they believe and preach the Bible. God told Israel to observe one day in seven as a Sabbath. Christians need one day a week for physical rest and spiritual refreshment. Be in church every week. You don't need to do that to be saved. You are already saved. But you need that to maintain your fellowship with God. You just promised to follow Him, and that involves Church. If you have not been baptized, ask to be baptized.

If you do not already have a Bible, get one. I recommend a modern version such as the New American Standard Bible, or the English Standard Version, or the New International Version. You can get Bible versions on a smartphone as well. Begin reading in the New Testament. Read some every day. Pray before you read and ask God to make it come alive for you. He will. It will become food for your soul. Keep this passage in mind: *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."* (Hebrews 13:8) As you read of what Jesus did

for people in Bible days, you can be assured that He does those same things for people today.

Once you have Christ in your heart, you can look forward to Jesus leading you and guiding you each day. And you can look forward to His return in the Rapture – when he takes us home to the place He has prepared for us. You do not have to worry about the coming Tribulation. The Rapture will happen before that begins, and you get to miss all the horrors. And if you die before Jesus comes back, you can look forward to immediately being in the loving presence of Jesus and being reunited with friends and family members that know the Lord.

A Final Exhortation

The Scripture warned of a coming time when people would no longer believe in the predictions of the Bible. Consider 2 Peter 3:2-7:

Remember the predictions of the holy prophets...knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing...They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." For they deliberately overlook this fact...the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are...being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

The Apostle Peter is saying that in the last days, there will be scoffers who ridicule the idea of Jesus returning and of judgment coming. They will say that nothing has changed since the beginning of creation. Peter says they will deliberately overlook the fact of God's previous judgment on the earth with the world-wide flood of Noah's day.

Is that not precisely what we see today? Such denial of truth is taught in every public school and university. "The earth," they say, "is millions of years old. Man has been on the scene for five million years. The Flood of Noah is a myth."

It is just as the Bible predicted. According to the Bible the world of Noah's day (3298 BC) was entirely flooded with water. All of mankind, along with the animals, perished. This biblical truth is rejected even though real science firmly supports this. And this denial was prophesied to happen: "*For they deliberately overlook this fact...the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.*" They deny the very words of God and ridicule those who believe them. As it is written, "*They became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools.*" (Romans 1:33)

Jesus' apostles taught unequivocally that Adam and Eve were the first people⁶³; that they lived, according to Jesus, at the "*beginning of the world.*" (Luke 11:50-51) The genealogical records of the Bible show Jesus as a descendent of Adam. (Luke 3:23-38) Adam, therefore, is just as real as Jesus.

There were ten generations from Adam to Abraham (Luke 3:34-38), and Matthew 1:17 says, "*So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.*" The point is, according to the Bible, the world has not been here millions of years and will not be here for millions more. That is a Satanic delusion. The genealogical records of the Bible put the beginning of the world, according to the words of Jesus, about 6,000 years ago. It has been nearly 2,000 years since Jesus ascended to heaven. He will return and then this age of grace will come to an end.

Jesus and his apostles spoke of the world-wide flood of Noah as a historical event that stands as proof that God will once again judge the world. Belief in Jesus means believing His words. You can count on what He says and put no stock

⁶³ 1 Corinthians 15:45 says "*The first man Adam became a living being.*"

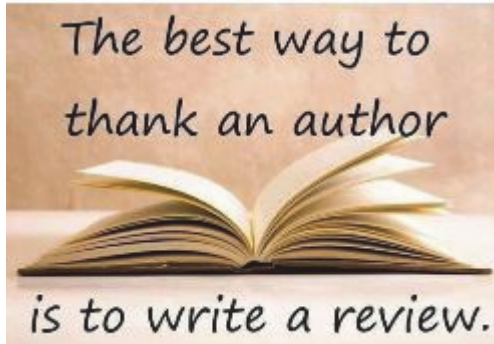
in what the world says. As Peter said to the crowd on the day of Pentecost, *“Save yourself from this corrupt generation.”*

Many of the prophecies of the end times are so fantastic that they seem unbelievable, but they will happen. Jesus said, *Behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book...Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me...* (Revelation 22:7,12)

I leave the reader with these words from the prophet Habakkuk:

For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come... (Habakkuk 2:3)

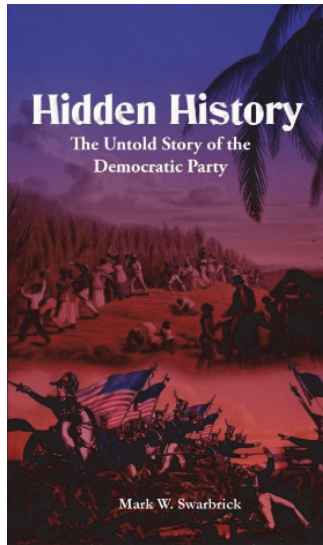
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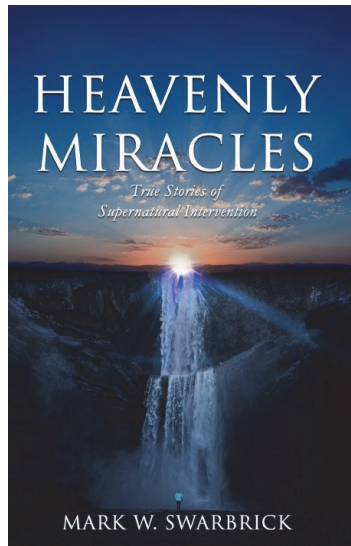
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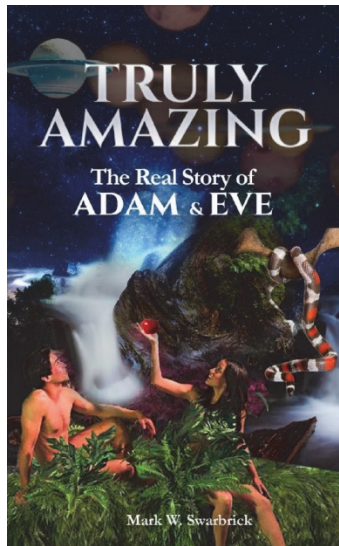


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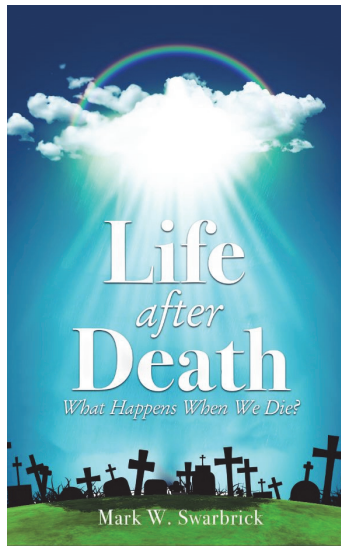


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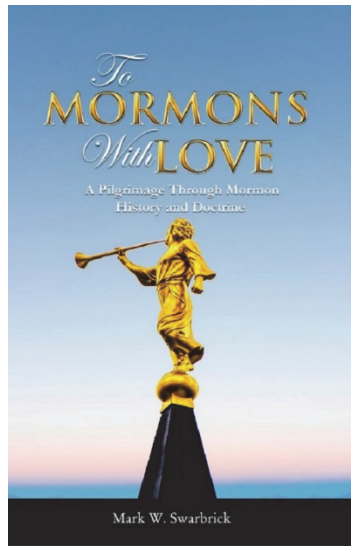
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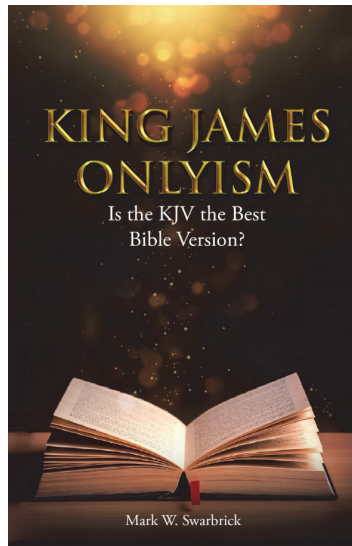


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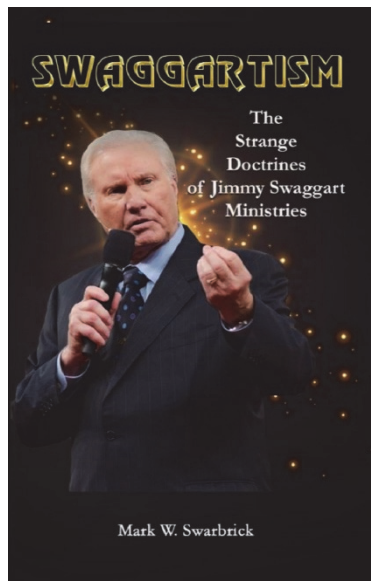
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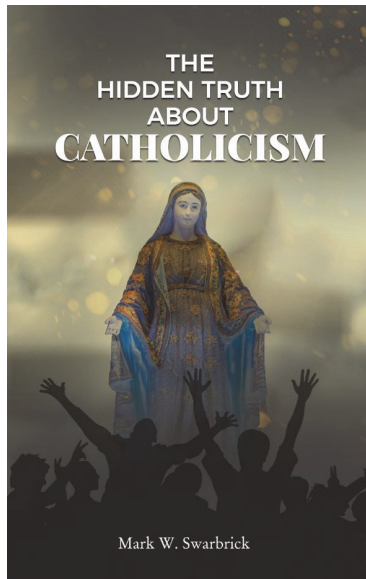
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I pray this writing has helped you. If it has, I would appreciate hearing from you. If you have questions and would like to talk, please contact me. I would love to be your friend. You may email me at:

Pastor-Mark@ChristianAnswerMan.com