



# LAMPLIGHTER

*"Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place." - II Peter 1:19*

Vol. XXXVII

January 2016 February

No. 1

## The Pre-Tribulation Rapture: A Myth or a Reality?



## *The Lamplighter*

is published bi-monthly  
by Lamb & Lion Ministries

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 919  
McKinney, TX 75070  
Telephone: 972/736-3567  
Email: [lamblion@lamblion.com](mailto:lamblion@lamblion.com)  
Website: [www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com)



Chairman of the Board:  
Gene Hunt

Founder & Director:  
Dr. David R. Reagan

Web Minister & Evangelist:  
Nathan Jones

Assistant Evangelist:  
Tim Moore

Media Minister:  
Trey Collich

Chief Operating Officer:  
Rachel Houck

Director of Finance:  
George Collich, Jr.

Director of Services:  
Leo E. Houck

Media Associate:  
Brett Everett

Media Assistant:  
Jack Smith

Media Assistant:  
Heather Jones

Finance Associate:  
Kay Bien

Finance Associate:  
Reva Frye

Ministry Associate:  
Cathie Grubb

Ministry Associate:  
Jana Olivier

Ministry Associate:  
Joyce Shurtleff

Web Associate:  
Steven Stufflebean

Ministry Assistant:  
Tony Privitt



*The Lamplighter* can be viewed free of charge on the ministry's website at [www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com). It can also be received free of charge via email. The printed version is available by subscription. Contact us for information on rates and the publication schedule by calling 972-736-3567.

# Observations by the Editor

## Attacks on the Pre-Trib Rapture

It seems like almost every week these days I am confronted with a fresh attack on the concept of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

Some of the attacks are frivolous, some are silly, some are mean-spirited, and some are based on misconceptions. Few are substantive and biblical in nature.

A frivolous one that is repeated *ad infinitum* is the assertion that the word, Rapture, cannot even be found in the Bible. If that were true, it would be irrelevant for the names of several biblical concepts are not found in the Bible — such as Trinity, Shekinah and the word, Bible! And then there are words we use all the time to describe attributes of God, none of which can be found in the Bible. I have in mind words like “omniscience” which means all-knowing, “omnipotence” which means all-powerful, and “omnipresence” which means present everywhere.

But the fact of the matter is that the word, Rapture, can be found in the Bible. It appears in the Latin Bible in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, where English language Bibles refer to believers being “caught up” to meet Jesus in the sky when He returns for His Church. A word doesn’t have to be in English for it to be a biblical word. After all, the Latin Bible was the definitive translation used in the Western world for over a thousand years (400 AD to 1530).

A silly attack on the Pre-Trib Rapture that has been bouncing around since 1973 is the idea that the concept came from a 15 year old demon-possessed Scottish girl who began to have visions in the 1830s about the return of the Lord. I deal with this nonsense in the issue’s feature article.

A very mean-spirited attack is contained in a recently released video album that I analyze in detail in the feature article in this issue. It focuses on trying to besmirch the reputations of anyone they think was involved in developing the doctrine of a Pre-Trib Rapture.

A frequent attack that is based on misrepresentation is one that claims that




**Dr. David R. Reagan**


those who believe in a Pre-Trib Rapture are “escapists” who have no interest in the world’s problems. Nothing could be further from the truth. Every Pre-Trib advocate I know of is very much concerned about societal problems and speaks out on them forcibly.


Nonetheless, the myth is perpetuated in articles like the one that was recently published by an English publication called *Christian Today*. In the article, the author referred to those who believe in a Pre-Trib Rapture as “the fundamentalist fringe” who are “burying their heads in the sand” and who have a “laissez-faire attitude toward societal problems” — all because they are “zombie Christians that are merely souls waiting for heaven, rather than ambassadors for Christ.” This is a totally fictional straw man.


One characteristic of all these attacks is a lack of emphasis on biblical evidence that the Pre-Trib doctrine is invalid.

Most of these critics try to characterize the Pre-Trib doctrine as something Satanic in nature that is designed to destroy people’s faith once the Tribulation begins and there is no Rapture. I think the exact opposite is true. I believe Satan hates the doctrine with a passion because it gives Christians great hope.✝

 **Blog:** [lamblion.us](http://lamblion.us)

 **Facebook:** [lamblion.com/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lamblion.com/facebook)

 **Twitter:** [christnprophecy](https://twitter.com/christnprophecy)

 **YouTube:** [youtube.com/user/ChristInProphecy](https://www.youtube.com/user/ChristInProphecy)

 **Lamb & Lion App:** [lamblion.mobi](https://lamblion.mobi)

# In Defense of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture

**Dr. David R. Reagan**

A pastor in California recently issued a video album titled, “Left Behind or Led Astray?”<sup>1</sup> It is a very hard-hitting documentary film that is designed to debunk the concept of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

The album contains two DVD discs that run a total of 4 hours and 22 minutes. The presentation is very tedious and highly repetitious, to the point of quickly becoming downright boring. It was tiresome, to say the least. I wanted to shout “Hallelujah!” when it finally ended — and in order to prepare this review, I had to sit through it twice!

The video was produced by Joe Schimmel, the pastor of Blessed Hope Chapel in Simi Valley, California. He also serves as president of an apologetics ministry called Good Fight Ministries ([www.GoodFight.org](http://www.GoodFight.org)). It is this ministry that actually produced the video.

Pastor Schimmel is a Premillennialist who believes in a Post-Tribulation Rapture. In other words, he believes that the Rapture and the Second Coming are all one event that will happen at the end of the Tribulation. The purpose of this video documentary is to disparage the doctrine of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

## An Exercise in Character Assassination

The program begins with a very irenic spirit, emphasizing that differences in opinion about the nature and timing of the Rapture should not divide Christians. It also ends with the same spirit as the host, Pastor Schimmel, gives a big bear hug to Colin Le Noury, the director of the oldest Pre-Trib Rapture ministry in the world — namely, The Prophetic Witness Movement International in England.

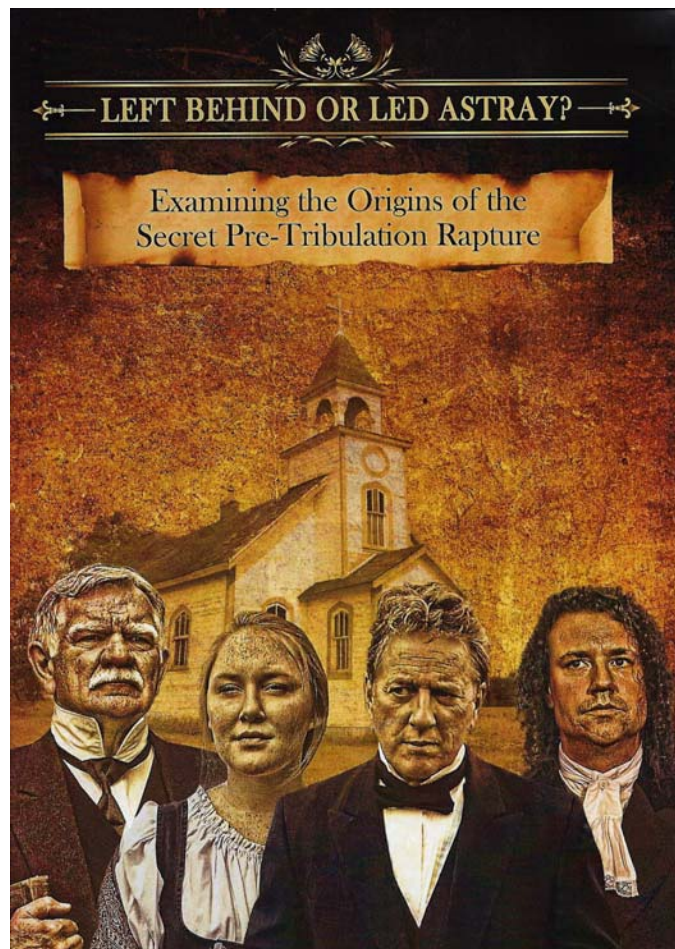


**Joe Schimmel**

But between those irenic book-ends there is an all-out effort to besmirch the reputations of every major person that Schimmel considers to have played a role in the development of the Pre-Trib doctrine. He begins with a “sinister” 16th Century Spanish Jesuit priest named Francisco Ribera, followed by an 18th Century Baptist pastor from Wales, Morgan Edwards, who ends up being defrocked for immo-

rality, and then quickly focuses on another “devious” Latin American Jesuit Priest, Manuel Lacunza, who wrote in the 19th Century. He then ties that priest to Edward Irving, a “flamboyant and eccentric” English prophecy teacher who also ends up being defrocked for heresy. To make matters worse, he spends most of the four hours of the program trying to prove that the real turning point in the development of the Pre-Trib doctrine came in 1830 when a 15 year old Scottish girl named Margaret MacDonald got caught up in Charismania and began to experience emotional seizures and visions that were demonic in nature.

The concept of a Pre-Trib Rapture was supposed to have emerged from all these warped people, only to be picked up by



another Englishman, John Darby, who systematized the doctrine and then falsely claimed he had originated it. Darby then supposedly became a dogmatic and tyrannical cult leader. When the doctrine spread to the United States, it was popularized by C. I. Scofield in his popular study Bible. The only problem being that Scofield was a drunk, a crook, a jail bird, a shyster and a ruffian, among other nefarious things!

And then there is Clarence Larkin, the great illustrator of prophetic truths who turned out to be involved in pyramidology. And if that is not enough to turn your stomach against the Pre-Trib Rapture doctrine, then consider some of the doctrine’s modern day proponents like Chuck Missler and J. R. Church who are portrayed as dabblers in astrology. Whew! By the time you get to the end of the video you feel like you have been watching an episode from some slimy modern-day TV reality program.

And then there is their treatment of the foremost contemporary spokesman in behalf of the Pre-Trib Rapture doctrine — namely, Tommy Ice, the director of the Pre-Trib Research Center located in the Dallas, Texas area. He is derisively written off as “Tim LaHaye’s bulldog.” I found that label particularly interesting in view of the fact that two of the leading experts featured in the video are Jacob Prasch and Dave MacPherson, both of whom come across as sarcastic, mocking, vilifying pit bulls who make Tommy Ice look tame in comparison.

## An Irrelevant Focus

Personally, I found all this character assassination totally irrelevant to the question of the validity of the Pre-Trib Rapture doctrine. After all, the only people God has to work through here on this earth are sinners. Take Morgan Edwards, for example. Yes, he was defrocked when he experienced what appeared to be an emotional breakdown and stopped attending church and started drinking. But no mention was made of his many years of faithful service to the church in Wales, Ireland and here in the United States after he emigrated to this country in 1761. Nor was there any mention of the fact that he co-founded the first Baptist university in the American colonies, known today as Brown University. Oh, and also, no mention was made of the fact that he was completely restored to the church and thereafter lived an exemplary life.<sup>2</sup>

And then there are the two Jesuit priests who believed the Rapture would occur 45 days before the end of the Tribulation and the return of Jesus. Over and over we are reminded that they were Catholics who were members of the sinister Jesuit Order — as if nothing good could ever come from a Catholic priest. On that basis, I guess we will have to fault the revival of the true Gospel by Martin Luther in the 16th Century since he was also a Catholic priest.



**Martin Luther**

great warrior, a true statesman, and a great reformer.”<sup>3</sup> Later, after he came to power, Hitler paid further tribute to Luther by saying:<sup>4</sup>

Martin Luther has been the greatest encouragement of my life. Luther was a great man. He was a giant. With one blow he heralded the coming of the new dawn and the new age. He saw clearly that the Jews need to be destroyed, and we're only beginning to see that we need to carry this work on.

## Margaret MacDonald

And then there is Margaret MacDonald, the hyper-Charismatic 15 year old Scottish girl who supposedly affirmed the Pre-Trib Rapture in her emotional trances in 1830 which are portrayed as demon-induced. They have an actor portraying her in the video, and she is shown over and over and over again throughout the tedious four hours of the program sitting in the corner of a room rocking back and forth and looking terribly distressed.

I grew up in an Amillennial church where I never once ever heard the word, Rapture. After attending that church for 30 years, if you had asked me to define the Rapture, I probably would have said, “It is a sensation you feel when your girlfriend kisses

you.” I came to a belief in a Pre-Trib Rapture through my study of the Scriptures, and it was years later before I ever even heard of Margaret MacDonald.



**Todd Strandberg**

Todd Strandberg, the founder of the Rapture Ready website, has written, “I cannot recall ever hearing any Pre-Trib speaker say, ‘I believe in the Rapture because Margaret MacDonald told me so.’”<sup>5</sup> He goes on to say that he searched all the prophecy books in his library written by those with a Pre-Trib viewpoint, and he could never find even one reference to Margaret MacDonald. He concluded, “It was like looking for the cartoon character, ‘Where’s Waldo.’ Only in this case, no Waldo was to be found.”<sup>6</sup>

I first heard of Margaret MacDonald when a Pre-Trib critic told me that the Pre-Trib Rapture doctrine had to be false because it originated with a teenage Scottish girl who experienced a demonic seizure. That perked my curiosity, so I went searching for this girl, and I found her in a book written by Dave MacPherson in 1973 entitled, *The Unbelievable Pre-Trib Origin*.<sup>7</sup> Since that time, MacPherson has written at least six subsequent books on the topic, several of which come across as being nothing but the original book with a new title. As one writer has put it, “MacPherson has dedicated his life to full time Rapture hating . . .”<sup>8</sup>



**Dave MacPherson**

I will never forget how amazed I was when I finished reading MacPherson’s book. That’s because the book had an appendix that contained Margaret MacDonald’s prophetic vision, and I could not find even so much as a hint of a Pre-Trib Rapture in what she supposedly said. Here was a whole book dedicated to the proposition that this girl was the originator of the doctrine and not one trace of that doctrine could be found in the vision that MacPherson presents as proof!

And what is really amazing is that Pastor Schimmel admits this in his video program when he says:<sup>9</sup>

Our personal position at Good Fight Ministries is that Margaret MacDonald’s end time Rapture vision is convoluted, and we can’t say for sure that Margaret MacDonald had a partial Pre-Trib Rapture in mind . . .

The fact of the matter is that this young woman’s vision was about the Second Coming, and the only novel things about it were, first, her unbiblical concept that it would be “secret and invisible” rather than an event that “every eye will see” (Revelation 1:7), and second, that it would consist of a partial rapture of Spirit-filled saints.<sup>10</sup>

The claims concerning the importance of Margaret MacDonald in the development of the Pre-Trib concept of the

Rapture are so silly that Todd Strandberg was motivated to write:<sup>11</sup>

From reading the writings of anti-Rapture authors, one would think we Pre-Tribbers would be reverencing MacDonald as Catholics do Mary. But clearly we don't. Pre-Tribbers don't go around reciting, "Hail Margaret full of grace, blessed art thou among visionaries, pray for us sinners at the time of the Rapture."

### Doctrinal Development



The Pre-Tribulation concept of the Rapture did not suddenly appear on the scene in the 1830s. It had been developing slowly over a long period of time, with strands of it coming from various sources.

One of the cardinal concepts of the doctrine is imminency, which is the biblical idea that the Lord can return at any moment. This was clearly taught by the early Church Fathers.<sup>12</sup> The point here is that for the Lord's return to be imminent, there must be a Rapture that is separate and apart from the Second Coming because there are many prophecies that must be fulfilled before the Lord returns to earth. In other words, the Second Coming is not an imminent event.

Evidence of the specific idea of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture has been found in a sermon preached sometime between the 4th and 6th Centuries by a person who referred to himself as "Pseudo-Ephraem." In the sermon he said, "For all the saints and elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins."<sup>13</sup> The later Second Coming of the Lord is mentioned at the end of the sermon.

Another early reference to the idea of a Rapture separate and apart from the Second Coming can be found in the writings of an individual known as Brother Dolcino who was a member of a 14th Century sect called the Dulcinites. He taught that after the Antichrist made his appearance in the world, the true believers would be "transferred into Paradise" where they would remain until the Antichrist dies.<sup>14</sup>

A two-stage concept of the Lord's return was proposed by Joseph Mede (1586-1639) in a letter written in 1627. However, he did not place the Tribulation between the two advents. Rather, he pictured the Church being taken to Heaven and remaining there until the earth had been cleansed with fire to prepare it for the Lord's reign.<sup>15</sup>

A book published in 1674, written by Thomas Collier, rejects the idea of a Pre-Trib Rapture, indicating that the idea must have been circulating at that time.<sup>16</sup> A few years later in 1687, Peter Jurieu published a book in which he taught that Christ would come in the air secretly to Rapture the saints and return to Heaven before the battle of Armageddon.<sup>17</sup>

In the 18th Century, two men — Philip Doddridge (1738) and John Gill (1748) — wrote commentaries on the New Testament in which they used the term, Rapture, and spoke of it as imminent.<sup>18</sup> Tommy Ice observes that "it is clear that these men believed that this coming will precede Christ's descent to the earth and the time of judgment."<sup>19</sup> Two other authors — James MacKnight (1763) and Thomas Scott (1792) — taught that the redeemed would be carried to Heaven, where they would be secure until the time of judgment ended.<sup>20</sup>

### Morgan Edwards

Tommy Ice claims that one of the clearest references to a Pre-Tribulation Rapture before the time of John Darby is to be found in the writings of Morgan Edwards.<sup>21</sup> Almost a century before John Darby systemized and popularized the Pre-Trib Rapture viewpoint, Edwards proposed a Rapture 3½ years before the return of Jesus. This did not mean he believed in a Mid-Trib Rapture because he viewed the second half of Daniel's 70th Week of Years to be the Tribulation.

Edwards first wrote about this novel viewpoint in a college essay in 1742. It was published in book form in 1788. I think it is interesting to note that when he originally wrote the essay, it contained a note to his supervising professor in which he said, "I will work by a rule you have often recommended, viz, 'to take the scriptures in a literal sense, except when that leads to contradiction or absurdity.'"<sup>22</sup>

### Edward Irving



Edward Irving

In the early 19th Century the foremost Bible prophecy teacher in England was a Scottish minister named Edward Irving (1792-1834). Through a series of Bible prophecy conferences, he and his followers developed the concept of a Rapture separate and apart from the Second Coming.<sup>23</sup> It is believed that his ideas originally came from a book published in 1812 by a Jesuit priest from Chile

named Manuel Lacunza.<sup>24</sup> In this book he proposed a Rapture that would occur 45 days before the end of the Tribulation. Irving translated the book and published it in English in 1827.

After toying with a number of different ideas, Irving finally concluded that the Man Child pictured in Revelation 12:5 was the Church and the child's ascension to Heaven represented the Rapture of the Church before the last 3½ years of Daniel's 70th Week of Years.<sup>25</sup> This was considered to be a type of Pre-Trib Rapture since Irving viewed only the last 3½ years to be the Tribulation.

### John Darby

John Darby (1800-1882) agreed with Irving in his early writings, also identifying the rapture of the Man Child as the Rapture of the Church, despite the fact that Revelation 12:5 is clearly speaking of the birth and ascension of Jesus.<sup>26</sup> It was not until about 1846 that Darby began to teach a Rapture that would

occur before the beginning of Daniel's 70th Week of Years.<sup>27</sup>

Darby utilized his training as a lawyer to systemize Dispensational eschatology. He was also the one who effectively popularized the belief, and in the process, he made seven trips to the United States where his doctrine was enthusiastically received.

### Irving vs Darby

Incidentally, one of the major issues raised in Pastor Schimmel's video is how much Darby borrowed from Irving. He argues that Darby was heavily influenced by Irving and the papers that flowed from his prophecy conferences. He also argues that Pre-Trib scholars have tried to ignore Irving's influence because they are embarrassed by the fact that he was a Charismatic and that his life career ended tragically by being defrocked for heresy.



John Darby

I have detected evidence of this in the writings of Tommy Ice, one of the Pre-Trib Rapture's foremost defenders. When he discusses Edward Irving, he dismisses him out of hand by labeling him an historicist, whereas Darby was "a consistent futurist."<sup>28</sup> This may have been true, but what does it have to do with the issue of what they believed about a Pre-Trib Rapture? The answer is nothing. Tommy has also labeled me as an "inconsistent futurist" because I believe that end time prophecies are being fulfilled today, and yet I believe in a Pre-Trib Rapture.

I think Pastor Schimmel is correct on this point. I don't think there is any doubt that Darby was influenced to some degree by his personal association with Irving and by his writings. But the fact that Irving's career ended in disgrace does not invalidate his prophetic studies. For example, I happen to believe that many of the doctrines of the Catholic Church are terribly unbiblical, but I am not going to throw out the doctrine of the Trinity just because it happens also to be a Catholic doctrine.

I think this brief historical survey makes it clear that a number of people with varied backgrounds were seriously considering the idea of a Rapture separate and apart from the Second Coming long before John Darby came on the scene. And the interesting thing is that more and more ancient examples of people separating the Rapture from the Second Coming are being found continually.

### Too New to be True?

This brings us to one of the major arguments that Pastor Schimmel and the experts he features on his video present against the Pre-Trib Rapture doctrine — namely, it is too new to be true.

He starts out emphasizing this point by proving that none of the early Church Fathers had such an idea. As I mentioned earlier, the Church Fathers taught the imminence of the Lord's return, but they evidently had not thought deeply about their teaching because as I have already pointed out, there can be no imminence without a Rapture that is separate and apart from the Second Coming.

It is always dangerous to base doctrine on the teachings of the Church Fathers. For one thing they were all vehemently anti-Semitic which led them to be proponents of Replacement Theology — the idea that God has replaced Israel with the Church.<sup>29</sup> And with regard to prophecy, the greatest of the Church Fathers (in the sense of the one who had the greatest impact on the Church's eschatology) was St. Augustine who spiritualized God's Prophetic Word and came up with the theory of Amillennialism. (Prior to Augustine, the vast majority of the Church Fathers had held a Premillennial viewpoint.) Amillennialism was quickly adopted as doctrine by the Catholic Church around 431 AD and has remained the orthodox view of the end times for Catholicism to this day.<sup>30</sup>

Once Amillennialism was adopted as orthodoxy there could be no further development of prophetic viewpoints because the Roman Catholic Church did not tolerate doctrinal alternatives. Anyone who came up with an interpretation of the Scriptures that varied from Catholic doctrine on any point was burned at the stake, together with their writings.

All that changed with the Reformation in the 16th Century. The masses got hold of Bibles, and people began to study God's Word on their own. That led to many doctrinal challenges. The in-depth study of Bible prophecy began in earnest, and the Premillennial view of end time prophecy was revived. Also, people began to challenge the concepts of Replacement Theology, arguing that God has not replaced Israel with the Church and that God still has a purpose for the Jewish people.

The idea of salvation by grace through faith, revived by Luther in the 16th Century, could have been declared to be "too new to be true." I'm sure some made that allegation. The same can be said of Premillennialism. After all, neither one had been taught in the Church for almost 1,100 years. And the idea that God still has a purpose for Israel was just unthinkable.

The point I am making is that there are some very good reasons why developments in the study of Bible prophecy were delayed.

There's another very important point that must be made in response to the argument of "too new to be true." It should be kept in mind that the Bible itself states that some end time prophecies will not be understood until the time comes for them to be fulfilled. Daniel was told this (Daniel 12:8-9) as was Jeremiah (Jeremiah 23:20 and 30:24).

### The Timing of the Rapture

Another argument against the Pre-Trib Rapture that is repeated over and over throughout the video is that "there is not one verse in the Bible that states that the Rapture will occur before the Tribulation begins." In fact the video begins and ends with a childish offer of \$10,000 to anyone who can produce such a verse.

It is true that the Bible does not provide us with a declarative statement about the timing of the Rapture. Its timing is something that must be determined by inference or deduction. The same is true, for example, of the timing of the War of Gog and Magog which is described in Ezekiel 38 and 39. Some place that war in the middle of the Tribulation while others argue it will start at the beginning of the Tribulation or that it will take place before the Tribulation begins.

But the idea that the Rapture will occur before the beginning of Daniel’s 70th Week of Years is not something that was manufactured out of nothing. It is biblically based. Simply stated, the Church is promised immunity from the wrath of God (1 Thessalonians 1:10), and scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments describe Daniel’s 70th Week of Years as a time for the pouring out of God’s wrath upon the world (Jeremiah 30:4-7 and Revelation 6:17).

Further, there is no purpose for the Church in the Tribulation. This is true because the entire seven years of the Tribulation are part of the 490 years God has set aside for achieving His purposes among the Jewish people (Daniel 9:24-27).

And then there is the important issue of imminency. The scriptures urge us to live looking for the coming of the Lord and that His appearance could occur at any moment (Matthew 24:36 42, 44). Why should I be looking for the Lord if there are many prophecies that must be fulfilled before He can return, as is the case when you place the Rapture after the beginning of the Tribulation or combine it with the Second Coming at the end of the Tribulation?

**The Rapture vs The Second Coming**

The one view of the Rapture’s timing that seems unsustainable to me is the Post-Trib view of Pastor Schimmel. This is the view that combines the Rapture with the Second Coming as all one event. How can that be when the descriptions of the two events are so radically different? How could they possibly be talking about the same event? Take a look at Figure 1 and consider the differences:

Figure 1	
1 Thessalonians 4	Revelation 19
Jesus <b>appears</b> in the heavens	Jesus <b>returns</b> to earth
Jesus appears <b>for</b> His Church	Jesus returns <b>with</b> His Church
Jesus appears as a Deliverer	Jesus returns as a Warrior
Jesus appears in Grace	Jesus returns in Wrath
Jesus appears as a Bridegroom	Jesus returns as a King

The only thing these two passages have in common is that they both focus on Jesus. If you combine them into one event, you end up with a strange Yo-Yo Rapture whereby the saints are caught up to Jesus in the sky and then immediately return to earth with Him.

Another problem with Pastor Schimmel’s Post-Trib view is that it does not provide for a population for the Millennial reign of Jesus. If the Rapture and the Second Coming are all one event, then all saints, living and dead, will be glorified when Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation. And since the Bible says that when Jesus returns, He will consign to death all those who have not accepted Him as Lord and Savior (Matthew 25:31-46), where then do you get the people who will enter the Millennium in the flesh and who will repopulate the earth?

In contrast, the Pre-Trib view provides a Millennial popula-

tion because Christians — both living and dead — are glorified at the time of the Rapture. Then, seven years later when Jesus returns to earth, all those saved during the Tribulation and who live to the end of it, are allowed to enter the Millennium in the flesh.

There’s another sticky problem with Pastor Schimmel’s Post-Trib view. It has to do with the fact that the Bible teaches that no one can know the day or the hour of the Lord’s return. But the book of Revelation reveals that when the Antichrist signs a treaty with Israel, launching the Tribulation, Jesus will return exactly 2,520 days later (Revelation 11:3 and 12:6). So, those alive at the time the Tribulation begins will be able to calculate the exact date of the Lord’s return. Therefore, the statement that no one can know the day or the hour must apply to the Rapture and not the Second Coming, and that makes the Rapture an event that is separate and apart from the Second Coming.

**Preaching the Gospel to all the World**

Strangely, one of the most important arguments that Pastor Schimmel emphasizes against the Pre-Trib Rapture is that it takes the Church out of the world before it has finished its task of proclaiming the Gospel to all the world.

I say this is a strange argument because the Bible never says that the Church will accomplish that task. Rather, it teaches that the task will be accomplished by an angel who will be sent forth before the final pouring out of God’s wrath. This angel will circumnavigate the globe, proclaiming the “eternal Gospel” to “every nation and tribe and tongue and people” (Rev. 14:6).

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-3**

The cornerstone passage that Pastor Schimmel uses throughout his video to attack the Pre-Trib Rapture is found in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2. It reads as follows:

- 1) Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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 . . .

Pastor Schimmel argues that these verses clearly teach that the Rapture (“our gathering to Him”) will not occur until two things take place: the great apostasy and the revelation of the Antichrist. Since the Bible teaches that the Antichrist will not be revealed until after the Tribulation begins, this passage means the Church will be on earth during the Tribulation.

The problem is that almost every time this verse is quoted, the second verse is left out, making it sound like the “it” in verse 3 is referring to the “gathering” in verse 1. But when you read all the verses, it becomes obvious that the antecedent of “it” is really not the “gathering.” Instead, it is “the day of the Lord.” The gathering refers to the Rapture. The “day of the Lord refers” in this context to the Tribulation and the Millennium.

This passage is actually a very strong proof text for a Pre-Trib Rapture. Paul had obviously taught the Thessalonians about the Rapture and that it would occur before “the day of the Lord,” or the beginning of the Tribulation. But someone had sent them a fake letter from Paul claiming the day of the Lord had begun. Accordingly, they thought they had missed the Rapture! Paul tries to assure them that has not happened because the day of the Lord, the Tribulation, will not begin until the apostasy occurs and the Antichrist is revealed.

### A Mystery

I wonder why a biblical doctrine that is supposed to be so wrong has been so marvelously blessed by the Lord?

The first best-selling Bible prophecy book in history was *Jesus is Coming*, written by William E. Blackstone and published in 1878.<sup>31</sup> Blackstone was an American Evangelical and Christian Zionist. The book sold multi-millions of copies worldwide and was translated into 48 languages. It is still in print today. In the book, Blackstone affirmed his belief that the Jews would be gathered back to their homeland, and he endorsed the concept of a Pre-trib Rapture.

The Scofield Study Bible, first published by the Oxford Press in 1909 became the most popular such book in the world, and continues to be distributed worldwide today.<sup>32</sup> Scofield was an ardent advocate of the Pre-Trib Rapture.

And then there are the sermons of Harry Ironside at the Moody Church in Chicago and W. A. Criswell at First Baptist Church in Dallas. Both taught the Pre-Trib Rapture, and their books have been greatly blessed with widespread distribution.

Or consider the fact that Hal Lindsey’s Pre-Trib book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*,<sup>33</sup> was the number one best selling book (except the Bible) for ten consecutive years (1970-1980), only to be outdone by the *Left Behind* series of books by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins which have sold more than 60 million copies.<sup>34</sup>

I think the Lord is trying to provide hope to His people in the midst of a rapidly darkening world by assuring them that they will escape the Tribulation that is on the horizon.

And yes, I used the word, escape. That word drives Post-Trib advocates like Pastor Schimmel up the wall because they think that Christians are called to suffer for the Lord during the Tribulation. But Jesus Himself is the one who used the word when He said that when we see all the end time signs converging, we are to pray that we might “escape all these things that are

about to take place . . .” (Luke 21:36).

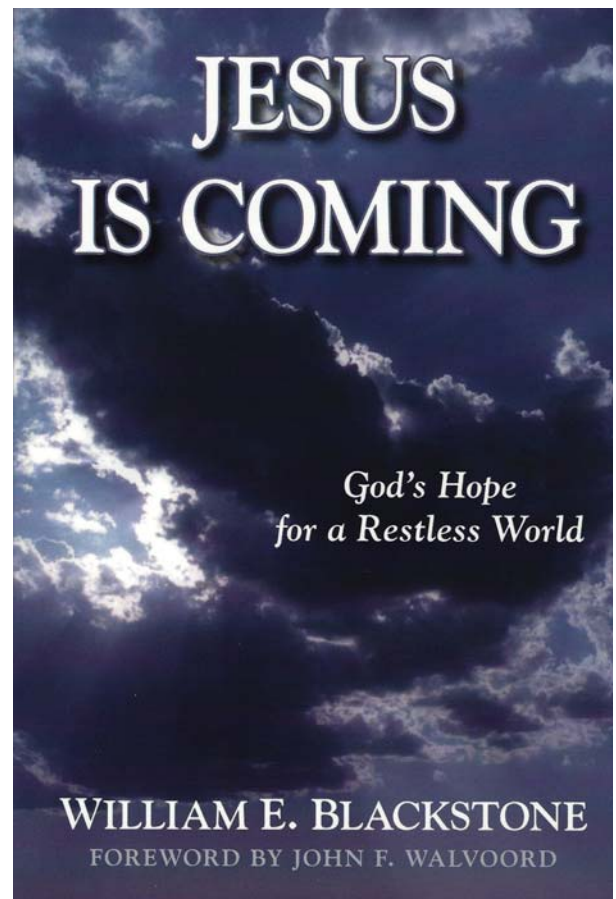
### Conclusion

I see no biblical basis for combining the Rapture and the Second Coming. I believe the Bible clearly teaches that the Lord’s return will be in two stages — first, the Rapture and then the Second Coming.

There is plenty of room for disagreement about the timing of a Rapture that is separate and apart from the Second Coming. I believe the best inference of the Scriptures is that the Rapture will occur before the Tribulation begins. Those who do not agree with that viewpoint should at least recognize that it is biblically based, and they should offer biblical arguments against it rather than rely on character assassination. ✚

(Note: The references for this article are attached to the copy that is posted on our website at [www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com).)

## A Prophecy Classic



Written in 1878 by William E. Blackstone, this is the third revised edition published in 1908. It is a masterpiece of scripture analysis and presentation. This was the most influential book written about Bible prophecy in the 19th Century.

It is thrilling to read his confident prediction that God will regather the Jews and re-establish them in the land of Israel. He also presents compelling arguments in behalf of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church. 254 pages. \$20 including the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. ✚

# An Update on the Origin of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture

Dr. David R. Reagan

After I had finished writing the feature article in this issue, I was introduced to a phenomenal new book by Dr. William C. Watson entitled, *Dispensationalism before Darby: Seventeenth-Century and Eighteenth-Century English Apocalypticism* (Silverton, OR: Lampion Press, 2015, 341pages).

This is a scholarly book that is not intended for the general reader. Dr. Watson earned a B.A. degree in history from California Polytechnic State University, an M.Div. from Talbot School of Theology, an M.A. in European history and a Ph.D. in 17th and 18th Century English history from the University of California, Riverside.

While he served as a graduate student in the 1980s and early 90s, he helped compile the Short Title Catalogue of English Works published between 1473 and 1800. He has served as a Fulbright Scholar to Moldova and as an adjunct instructor at the University of Colorado, Boulder. For the past 20 years, he has been a professor at Colorado Christian University.

## Specialized Research

During the past decade, Dr. Watson has focused on researching historical archives in the United Kingdom concerning the eschatology of English clergy during the 17th and 18th Centuries. In the process, he discovered many Bible prophecy books that had been overlooked, misplaced or forgotten for the past three hundred years.

Dr. Watson used more than 350 primary sources in compiling his new book (page viii), and he quotes these sources at length to provide context. Concerning the concept of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, he concludes that “very little of what John Nelson Darby taught in the mid-nineteenth century was new” (page 177). He points out that most of the sources that he quotes in the book have not been previously cited in the debate about the origin of the Pre-Trib Rapture — “most likely because they have not been read for centuries” (page 177).

## The Results of the Research

His research clearly shows that by the end of the 17th Century, the concept of a Rapture that is separate and apart from the Second Coming had become a commonplace concept. He names seven authors who held a “pre-conflagration” view of a rapture

that would take the saints out of the world before it was consumed by fire. He identifies six other authors who were “clearly Pre-Trib.” And he names four who were not Pre-Trib but who refer in their writings to the existence of others who were. He notes that the use of the word, Rapture, was also widespread, with some even referring to those who would be “left behind” (pages 177-178).

This interpretation of a Rapture separate and apart from the Second Coming continued to be espoused by Bible prophecy experts throughout the 18th Century. Their timing of the Rapture varied, but by the end of the century, “more than a generation before Darby, belief in a Rapture of the church before a great tribulation was commonplace in Britain” (page 262). In fact, Dr. Watson demonstrates that “the belief was held not only by Baptists . . . but also by leading Anglicans . . . and even by Scottish Presbyterians . . . (page 262).

Historian Paul Boyer had already come to this conclusion in his book, *When Time Shall Be No More; Prophecy Belief in Modern American Culture* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1994). He wrote (page 88):

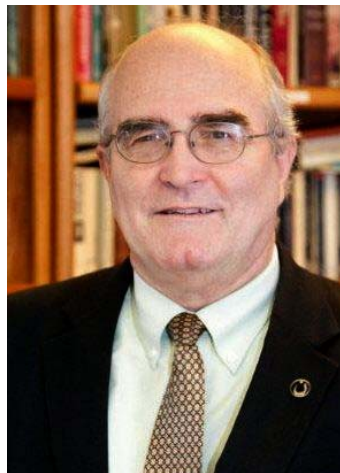
In a sense, Darby’s system contained nothing new. His focus on the future fulfillment of prophecy followed the eschatology of the early Christians. Premillennialism had been an option for Protestant evangelicals since Joseph Mede’s day (1586-1639), while rudimentary forms of “Dispensationalism” go back at least as far as Joachim of Fiore (1135-1202). Even Rapture doctrine . . . can be found in the writings of early interpreters, including Increase Mather (1639-1723). But Darby wove these diverse strands into a tight and cohesive system that he buttressed at every point by copious biblical proof texts, then tirelessly promoted through his writings and preaching tours.

The point is that the concept of a Pre-Trib Rapture did not simply drop from the sky into John Darby’s lap in the 1830s. It was a concept that had been slowly developing over a several hundred years in the writings of Bible prophecy scholars from a variety of Christian traditions.

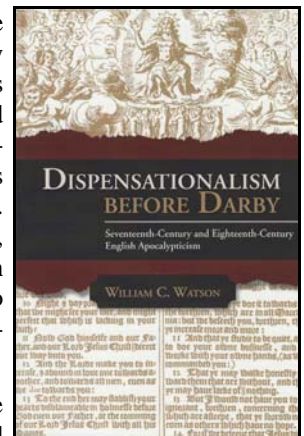
## Conclusion

The idea that the concept of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture originated with a couple of Jesuit priests, that it was reinforced by the ravings of a 15 year old demon possessed girl, and that it was put in its final form by a defrocked Presbyterian minister is, to put it mildly, absurd.

And in the process, the scholars who did develop the concept were not developing anything new. Rather, they were restoring a lost truth — just as did Martin Luther.✚



Dr. William C. Watson



# Another Thousand Years Before Gog?

Nathan Jones

“Whatever Russia’s presence might mean today, we know Gog won’t show up for at least another thousand years!”

This bold exclamation was made by author Brian Hennessy in response to the opening question he posed in a recent article for *Israel Today* magazine: “Do we need to worry about Gog and Magog?”<sup>1</sup> Following a resounding no, he also adds that anybody who may be concerned that a prophetic war by that name is currently brewing between a great coalition of Islamic nations led by Russia against an unsuspecting Israel are, he chides, needing to “reconsider some things” because their concern is “completely misplaced.”



Nathan Jones

## The Gog-Magog War

First off, what is this Gog that Mr. Hennessy is writing about? According to the 2,600 year old prophecy found in Ezekiel 38-39, Gog is the “prince of Rosh,” with Rosh being the ancient name for the Russian people. Whether Gog is a prophetic designation, a demon or a man, this covetous leader from Russia will be pulled with “hooks” by Yahweh out of the “remote parts of the north” to march his army south against Israel for the purpose of plundering her (Ezekiel 38:1-12). Gog’s specified allies are the modern-day nations of Turkey, Iran, Libya, the Sudan and the half-dozen ‘Stan nations. They form a horde so massively powerful that Israel has no chance of surviving.

Gog is in for a surprise, though, for this incursion is all part of Yahweh’s plan to gather Israel’s enemies on the “mountains of Israel” in order to “execute judgment upon him [Gog] with plague and bloodshed . . . torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him” (38:22). Yahweh’s purpose for personally causing the supernatural destruction of the invading armies is not just to satiate His wrath, but “so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations” (38:23).

Russia today has thrust itself into Middle East politics in Syria’s civil war and is in the process of creating a coalition of Islamic nations whose every breath is to cry out for the destruction of Israel. But, no — according to the article’s author — this spectacular war will not be a current-era event. Instead, he points to Revelation 20:7-9 and places the Gog-Magog War at the end of the Millennial Kingdom: “When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth — Gog and Magog — to gather them for battle. In number they

are like the sand on the seashore.” Hence, Mr. Hennessy’s admonition that people today should not be concerned that current Middle East tensions are brewing up a Gog-Magog War.

## Comparisons

Is it biblically correct to equate Ezekiel’s prophecy with the Apostle John’s prophecy, the latter a prophecy which clearly occurs at the end of Christ’s thousand year reign? After all, both accounts describe a great number of invaders led by Gog and Magog. And, Israel’s riches that Gog covets could have come from the Lord’s blessings during the Millennial Kingdom. Also, in both accounts Yahweh uses supernatural methods to destroy the invaders. But, those are as far as the similarities between the two accounts go.

The fact of the matter is that the differences between Ezekiel 38-39 and Revelation 20 are many. For one, the Ezekiel war in chapters 38-39 is followed by chapters 40-48 which describe the Millennial Kingdom. In contrast, Revelation 20 describes the Millennial Kingdom and is immediately followed by chapter 21 describing the Eternal State.

Second, the invading rulers do not match. Gog is in control of an Islamic coalition against Israel in Ezekiel’s account, whereas Satan is in control of a global coalition against Jesus in Revelation’s account.

Third, the invading armies do not match. Ezekiel describes a coalition of Russia and Muslim nations attacking Israel. Revelation’s scope is much larger, with the invaders coming out of the “nations in the four corners of the earth.”

Fourth, the battlefields do not match. The Ezekiel war occurs on the “mountains of Israel,” while the Revelation war is “on the broad plain of the earth.”



Fifth, Israel’s faith in God does not match in the two accounts. Ezekiel 36-39 describes a newly reborn nation of Israel that has yet to have put their faith in God’s Son. The Revelation 20 account has Jesus physically reigning on earth over a believing remnant of Jews for a thousand years.

Sixth, the Ezekiel account says that Israel will spend seven months burying the bodies of the dead soldiers (Ezekiel 39:11-12). But Revelation 20:9 says the bodies of the invaders will be incinerated by fire from heaven. Furthermore, since the

Revelation battle occurs at the end of the Millennium, the invaders' bodies will be immediately resurrected and judged at the Great White Throne Judgment, after which they will be consigned to Hell (Revelation 20:11-15).

Seventh and last, the Ezekiel account portrays Israel burning the invaders' weapons for seven years (Ezekiel 39:9). This could not occur after the Revelation war since it will be at the end of the Millennium, after which God will consume the earth in fire in order to reformat it into the new, eternal earth.

### Conclusion

Since the two accounts are so clearly different, there are in truth two Gog-Magog wars, one that occurs in the prophetic "latter days" leading up to the Tribulation and a second war at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. John is either using the term "Gog and Magog" in Revelation 20 to draw a comparison between the two epic wars, or possibly even inferring that Russia will once again be the leading nation when Satan brings a worldwide coalition against Jesus at the end of the Millennium.

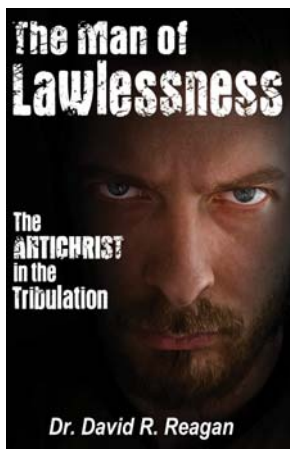
So, should people be worried? In the Ezekiel account, God is portrayed as focusing on Israel when He reveals Himself so obviously to the world, which sounds very much like a post-Rapture event. Church Age believers, I believe, will have already been raptured and so will not witness Ezekiel's cataclysmic war, and therefore should not be concerned. But, unbelievers left behind by the Rapture certainly will see it and so should be very worried.

Knowing that, where do you stand with Jesus Christ? ✚

#### Notes:

1) Brian Hennessy, "Do We Need To Worry About Gog and Magog?" [www.israeltoday.co.il/NewsItem/tabid/178/nid/27599/Default.aspx](http://www.israeltoday.co.il/NewsItem/tabid/178/nid/27599/Default.aspx).

## For More Detail Information



If you would like to pursue your study of the Gog and Magog wars in greater detail, together with what the Bible has to say about the Great Tribulation and the rule of the Antichrist, you need to get a copy of Dr. Reagan's book, *The Man of Lawlessness: The Antichrist in the Tribulation*.

The book features a 36 page prophecy forum in which 22 Bible prophecy experts respond to five questions about the Antichrist, such as: Will he be a Jew or a Muslim? Will he be killed and

resurrected? Where will his headquarters be located? Is he alive today?

The book is 221 pages long. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. To order, call 972-736-3567, Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. ✚

# Great Articles about the Rapture

Dr. David R. Reagan

Dr. Andy Woods has written a great series of articles about the Rapture — a total of 31 to date — that can be found archived at [www.bibleprophecyblog.com/p/andy-woods.html](http://www.bibleprophecyblog.com/p/andy-woods.html).



Dr. Andy Woods

Bible Exposition. Andy currently serves as the senior pastor of Sugar Land Bible Church. He also serves on the faculty of The College of Biblical Studies in Houston.

Dr. Woods majored in Business Administration and Political Science at the University of Redlands in California. He then obtained a law degree from Whittier Law School, practiced law, and taught business and law courses at Citrus Community College in California. In 1998, he began taking courses at Chafer and Talbot Theological Seminaries. He later entered Dallas Theological Seminary where he earned a Master of Theology degree and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in

In his very insightful articles, Andy characterizes the Pre-Trib Rapture doctrine as "a traditional doctrine that is now being recovered." He says that those who attack the doctrine as "too new to be true" are guilty of a "recency fallacy." This is the idea that the veracity of something is determined by when it arose in history. Thus, the older the doctrine, the more legitimacy it has. But Andy asserts that "the veracity of something is not determined by what time in history the teaching arose. This is because the standard of truth is, "does the concept harmonize with biblical revelation regardless of the chronological era when the idea arose?" He adds, "Just because an idea is taught early on in church history does not necessarily make it true." He then gives the example of the fact that many of the earliest Church Fathers taught baptismal regeneration (salvation by baptism).

Andy sums up his argument with these words, "Early ideas are untrue if they are not biblical. Conversely, late ideas can be true if they are biblical. Consistency with Scripture determines an idea's truthfulness and not when the idea originated."

Andy further points out that the argument of "too new to be true" was used against the Protestant Reformers. At the Diet of Worms in 1521, John Eck sought to discredit Luther's teachings on the grounds that they could not be found in the writings of the Popes and Church Fathers. According to Andy, Luther responded by noting that his doctrines could be found in the writings of a Church Father who was far more significant than Eck's sources — namely, the Apostle Paul! The same is true of the Pre-Trib Rapture. ✚

# Is the Pope the Antichrist?

Dr. David R. Reagan



The recent visit (September 2015) of Pope Francis to our nation prompted many questions about him. One of the most common was whether or not he could be the Antichrist.

My answer to that question is, “Yes and no.” Let me explain.

Pope Francis is definitely not the Antichrist who will serve as the world’s supreme leader during the seven years of the Tribulation. That person, according to Daniel 9:26-27 will be a political leader of Roman heritage. Also, according to Daniel, he will arise out of a revived Roman Empire (Daniel 2:31-45).

Yet, Pope Francis, like all the popes before him, is an anti-christ according to 1 John 2:22 which says, “Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ [Messiah]? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.” How does this passage relate to the Pope? Because the Jesus he proclaims is not the Jesus of the Bible.

The biblical Jesus finished His work of salvation on the Cross when He cried out, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). The Bible says that His once and for all perfect sacrifice completely satisfied the wrath of God (Romans 5:9 and 1 John 2:2). In contrast, the false Jesus of Catholicism is only a “gate opener” to Heaven, enabling Catholics to save themselves through the Mass and Sacraments.<sup>1</sup>

Another important difference is that the Jesus of the Bible is the sole mediator between God and Man (1 Timothy 2:5), whereas Catholic doctrine teaches that Mary is also a mediator. Consider the words of Pope Pius IX when he proclaimed, “God has committed to Mary the treasury of all good things, in order that everyone may know that through her are obtained every hope, every grace, and all salvation. For this is His will that we obtain everything through Mary.”<sup>2</sup>

To put it another way, the Pope denies that Jesus is the Messiah because he argues that faith in Jesus alone is not sufficient for salvation. Here’s how one expert on Catholicism has put it:

Basically, salvation is attained through baptism and good works. It is maintained by good works and participation in the sacraments. If lost, it is regained through the sacrament of penance

which only a Roman Catholic priest can administer. Add to this purgatorial cleansing after a person dies, and you can see that salvation is an arduous process.<sup>3</sup>

In summary, “Roman Catholicism preaches a Jesus who was unable to purge all sin or pay the complete penalty for sin.”<sup>4</sup>

## Names and Titles

Further, consider the facts that the Pope takes the title of “Vicar of Christ,” allows people to call him “Holy Father,” and accepts worship of himself. His title, his name and his acceptance of worship constitute blasphemy.

The word “vicar” means “stand-in” or “substitute.” Does the Pope consider himself to be a substitute Christ? Apparently so. In 1302, Pope Boniface VIII, in an *ex cathedra* in his *Bull Unum Sanctum* proclaimed, “We declare, say, define and pronounce that it is absolutely necessary to salvation for every human creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff.”<sup>5</sup> In like manner, in 1890, Pope Leo XIII declared, “. . . the supreme teacher in the Church is the Roman Pontiff. Union of minds, therefore, requires, together with a perfect accord in the one faith, complete submission and obedience of will to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff, as to God Himself.”<sup>6</sup>

These so-called “infallible” statements are, to say the least, absolutely blasphemous.

The true Vicar of Christ on this earth is the Holy Spirit, not the Pope.

There is only one “Holy Father” and that is the Creator of this universe. The term is found only one place in the Bible and that is in John 17:11 where Jesus refers to God in His farewell prayer with His disciples as “Holy Father.” Thus, to call the Pope “Holy Father” is to acknowledge him as God.

As for allowing people to worship him, the Bible makes it crystal clear that no one is to be worshiped except Almighty God. When the Roman soldier Cornelius fell at the feet of Peter, whom the Catholic Church claims to have been the first Pope, Peter rebuked him by saying, “Stand up, I too am just a man” (Acts 10:25-26).

All of this explains why it is so sickening to me to see video clips on the Internet of Christian leaders, even so-called Evangelicals, fawning over the Pope.



Pope Francis is shown above meeting at the Vatican in June of 2014 with American Charismatic leaders, including James Robison, Kenneth Copeland and John Arnott.

## The Pope’s Speeches

I found the Pope’s speech to the joint session of our Congress to be outrageous. Think of it — he was the first Pope in history to address a joint session of Congress, and yet,

during the entire speech, he never once mentioned Jesus! It's enough to make you wonder if Jesus is irrelevant to him.

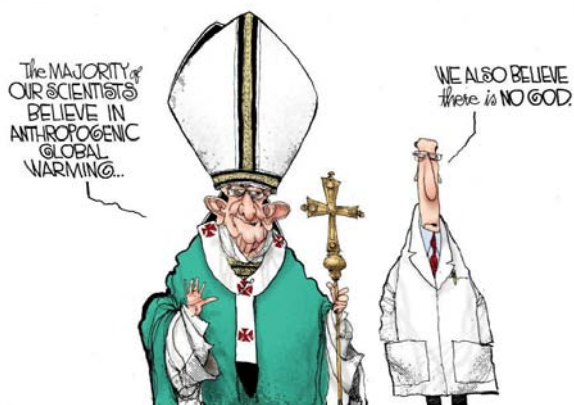
It reminds me of the first thing Pope Francis did after his election to the papacy. He announced that he would visit the Roman basilica dedicated to the Virgin Mary to pray that she would protect the Church.<sup>7</sup> Not once did he mention Jesus.

And then, consider his speech to the United Nations. Once again, he made no mention of Jesus! Instead, he talked glowingly about how much he admired the United Nations — which happens to be one of the most inept, biased and corrupt organizations in the world.

What a contrast to the speech that the former president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, gave to the United Nations in 2012. He began with lavish praise of Allah, urging him to “hasten the emergence of your chosen beloved” (referring to the Islamic Messiah called The Mahdi). And he ended the speech by talking for several minutes about how the world will be transformed by the Mahdi.<sup>8</sup>

But the so-called “Vicar of Christ” could not find it in his heart to mention Jesus even once. Rather, he focused on global warming and the re-distribution of wealth.

PHILIP ZINGOREN BUSINESS DAILY  
© 2015 @ CREATOR5.COM



Cartoon by Michael Ramirez of *Investor's Business Daily*.

### The Pope in Prophecy

Does the Pope have any role in end time Bible prophecy? It is very likely that he will serve as the Antichrist's right hand man, referred to in the Scriptures as the False Prophet (Revelation 19:20). I say this because the False Prophet is pictured as serving as the head of a worldwide religion that supports the rule of the Antichrist. And in today's world, the Pope is the most likely candidate for this role.

As a Jesuit priest, Pope Francis is particularly interested in bringing the “separated brethren” back into the fold to be included under the umbrella of the Roman Catholic Church. And the apostasy that is so rampant among Protestants today — even among Evangelicals — is paving the way for this return to happen.

Take the Emerging Church Movement for example. The leaders of this movement seem no longer to be interested in doctrinal differences — even fundamental ones like whether salvation is by works or by grace through faith. Their empha-

sis is on feelings and experiences. A former Catholic, Mike Gendron, explains it this way:

One of the major influences that is paving the road back to Roman Catholicism is The Emerging Church movement. Proponents say it's time for Christianity to be reinvented for a new generation. It must become more relevant to a postmodern generation. They say the best way to reinvent Christianity for the present generation is to reintroduce ideas and experiences from the past . . . The experiential attractions which are being promoted by the Emerging Church include: statues, prayer stations, incense, liturgy, candles, icons, the sacraments and calling communion the Eucharist. It is easy to see how this movement complements and encourages the Vatican's “new evangelization program” to win the “separated brethren” back to the “true church.”<sup>9</sup>

### Conclusion

My final word: Don't be suckered by Pope Francis. He is a dangerous antichrist with the veneer of an “angel of light” and a “servant of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). ✚

Note: The reference notes for this article can be found with the copy that is posted on our website.

## An Insightful Book about Catholicism

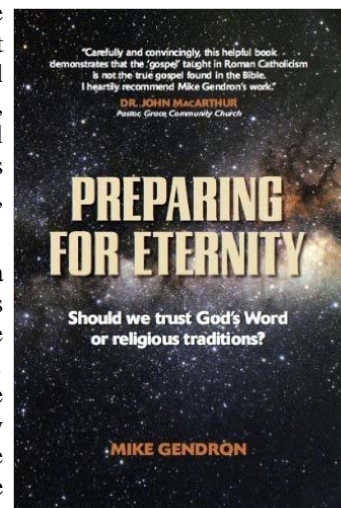
Mike Gendron, the founder and evangelist for Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries in Plano, Texas, has written a very insightful book about the biblical errors of Catholicism. It is titled, *Preparing for Eternity*.

For 34 years Mike was a devout Catholic and a zealous defender of Catholicism as the one true Church. But in 1981 he began to realize that the Bible is the supreme authority for knowing truth, and the truths of the Bible did not line up with Catholic doctrines.

This led to a crisis of faith, and in 1985 he left the Catholic Church. In 1988 he gave up a successful career in corporate management and entered seminary. In 1991 he established his ministry which aims to share the true Gospel of the Bible with Catholics.

This book answers over 100 questions that are commonly asked by Catholics about God, Jesus, the Bible and salvation — among other spiritual topics. It is a book that is enlightening for both Catholics and non-Catholics.

192 pages. \$20, including the cost of shipping. ✚



## “Give me the high country.”

**Tim Moore**

So said Caleb at age 85. When ten of the original twelve spies sent to explore the Promised Land cowered at the size and strength of the Canaanites, this young man from the tribe of Judah boldly proclaimed, “We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.” (Numbers 13:30)

Because of Caleb’s bold faith, God promised to preserve him through the wandering, saying, “My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it” (Numbers 14:24).

Following 40 years of wandering, when the children of Israel were ready to enter the Promised Land, only Caleb and Joshua remained from the original group that left Egypt. Later, after enduring many years of war and toil to actually possess the land, Caleb still followed where God led — confident that the Lord would give into his hand the territory He had promised.

### A Modern Day Caleb

Earlier this year, I reflected on the providence of God with another seasoned believer who has followed the Lord fully and whose eyes are still on God’s high country.



Raymond Berry, Pro Football Hall of Famer, is a man whose heart is wholly devoted to the Lord and who is constantly looking up as he awaits the appearance of our Blessed Hope — Jesus Christ.

Berry became famous playing for the Baltimore Colts in the 1950s and 60s. His prowess on the football field made him one of the greatest NFL players of all time. Berry set several



**Tim Moore**

league records. In his 12 years as an NFL wide receiver, he only dropped two passes and averaged 14.7 yards per catch — meaning that a pass to Raymond Berry statistically guaranteed a first down. Those performance numbers have rarely been matched. That is why he was a six-time Pro Bowl player and named to the all-NFL team.

Partnered with Johnny Unitas, he helped lead the Baltimore Colts to two NFL championships. The duo’s tireless attention to detail and drills — extending long after the rest of the team had finished practice each day — gave them an uncanny ability to execute plays and complete passes.

They demonstrated their unprecedented level of ball-passing perfection in the 1958 NFL Championship Game. In that one game Berry caught 12 passes for 178 yards and a touchdown. He was the critical player in overtime, catching three consecutive passes to advance the Colts into field goal range. To this day that game is referred to as “The Greatest Game Ever Played.”

### A Radical Conversion

But, even as a star player and nominal Christian, Raymond Berry realized something was missing in his life. His friend and fellow player Don Shinnick, who came to the Lord during a Campus Crusade for Christ, told him, “Raymond, you need Jesus.” “Shinnick was not put off by my ignorance about the Lord,” Berry says. “He kept pressing.” Soon, Berry relented and asked, “How do you go about this?”



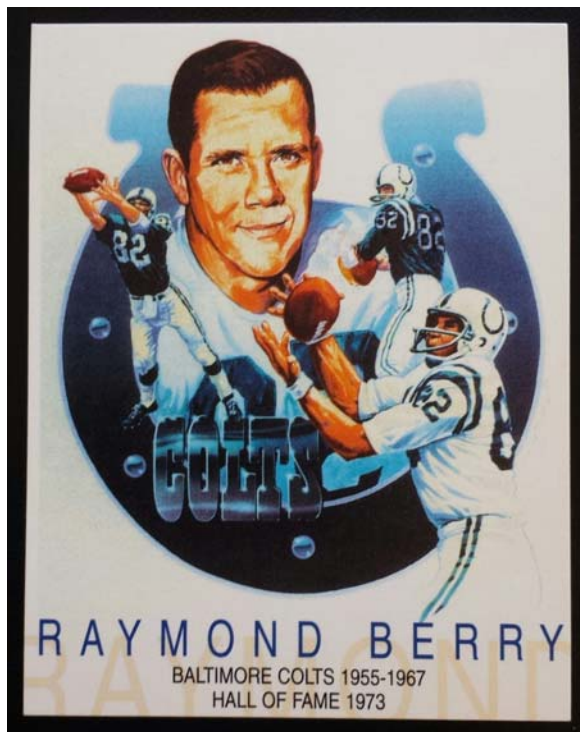
**Tim Moore is shown above with Raymond Berry and Tim’s father, Larry Moore.**

Although Berry describes his initial statement of faith and Shinnick’s evangelical explanation as simple at best, the Lord filled his heart and began changing him immediately.

One of the first things Raymond noticed was conviction concerning his language and behavior. Teammates soon discerned a change too. He began showing a genuine interest in people instead of merely looking past them. Thankfully, Raymond’s wife, Sally, was also a new believer and so they grew in their faith together.

Over the next several years, he crossed paths with a number of committed believers. Berry credits Bobby Richardson — the famous New York Yankee second-baseman who later served as a national Fellowship of Christian Athletes leader — as a spiritual mentor early in his Christian walk.

At one point, Raymond Berry felt led by God to develop a film to explain his techniques for pass receiving. He emphasized drills to develop muscle memory and proficiency. The determination to practice and improve his skills soon transferred to his Christian growth and training. Following his own drill and repetition habit, he started to memorize Scripture, writing verses on index cards that he carries to this day.



### Current Interests

Raymond expresses gratitude that many players today offer a clear public testimony of their faith in Christ. He mentioned Seattle Seahawks Quarterback Russell Wilson, who bore faithful witness following both his Super Bowl victory in 2014 and his stinging defeat in 2015, as well as Tim Tebow, Chad Henning, and Peyton Manning.

As my father and I learned when we visited Raymond's Craftsman-style house in Tennessee, he still enjoys talking about football. Football memorabilia fills his office — photos, footballs, jerseys. He can recite statistics and games and knows hundreds of players and coaches from the last 50 years.

His desk, though, is piled with Bibles and evangelical tracts. A notebook filled with the names of hundreds of people he regularly prays for sits beside them. His eyes sparkle and his spirit comes alive when he talks about his experience with the greatest story ever told and declares that Jesus is coming again soon!

### A Heart for Israel

From the moment of his salvation, Raymond says the Lord turned his attention to the Jewish people. He developed a deep love for the Jews and for Israel, a love he describes as a "real phenomenon that can only be explained by the working of the Holy Spirit." Soon after his salvation, he was also exposed to the imminence of Christ's return and introduced to "The Jewish Hope" magazine. He even made a point to meet

its editor, Dr. A.U. Michelson. These encounters convinced him that the miraculous reestablishment of the nation of Israel proves that we are living in the season of the Lord's return.

Raymond's love for Jews and the land of Israel resonates so strongly that he has prepared a detailed plan to share his love for Israel with hundreds of people. He wants to bring friends and family on a pilgrimage to Israel for a month or more. When we met, Raymond had just returned from his own 10-day visit to Israel. Reflecting on his trip, he grinned and said, "The Lord's feet are going to stand again on the Mount of Olives!"

### A Burdened Heart

Only one thing grieves Raymond Berry's heart. With the discernment of 82 years, he realizes America is in decline. "I am really burdened about the USA," he said with a wavering voice. "I believe our days are numbered. God has given a judgment on America because of our national sins. The leaders we have elected at the national level have led us to turn our back on Israel, and we will be held accountable."

Still, following the mandate of Scripture, Berry testified, "I pray for our country and I pray for Obama, because he is completely lost and dangerous."

### Living with an Eternal Perspective

When Caleb as an older man proclaimed his confidence in the Lord, he and Joshua were the last two old men standing — all the rest had fallen by the wayside as Israel wandered in the wilderness. His bold witness encouraged the younger men who fought beside him. Generations later, when the Messiah came to earth as a baby, of all the people in Israel, only Simeon and Anna were recognized for faithfully anticipating His arrival. In the twilight of their life, they were eagerly awaiting their Blessed Hope.

Raymond Berry is a living testimony of faithfulness to the Lord. What inspires most is not his past exploits on and off the football field, but his continuing determination to serve the Lord with boldness. At an age when many folks are slowing down and enjoying their retirement years, Raymond Berry is still looking toward the Lord's high country. He tirelessly shares his testimony and expresses love for Israel and the Jewish people. But it is his unflagging desire to take family and friends with him to the Promised Land that makes him a modern-day "mighty man of God."

Lamb & Lion Ministries is supported by many seasoned believers who are mighty men and women in their own right. They are also looking toward God's High Country — eagerly awaiting "the appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ." As all of us do that, let's pour into the younger men and women around us — those who will continue bearing fruit until the Lord does come. And, may our hearts overflow like Raymond Berry's with determination to bring others with us to the Lord's Promised Land. ✚

Tim Moore serves as an Assistant Evangelist for Lamb & Lion and is available to speak at churches and conferences.

# Remembering Andrae Crouch

Dr. David R. Reagan

When I was growing up in the 1940s and 50s, the only Christian music I remember was Southern Gospel and the hymns sung by George Beverly Shea, neither of which really resonated with me. And thus, I clearly remember the heady days of the late 1960s and early 70s when Contemporary Christian Music hit the scene. It exploded like a bomb, causing some to scream in horror and others, like myself, to praise the Lord.

One of the pioneer leaders of this new musical form was a Black man from California named Andrae Crouch.



At the time, Andrae was only about 30 years old, and he was full of vigor, excitement and zeal for the Lord. He seemed to come out of nowhere, but he had actually been involved in music ever since he was born in San Francisco in 1942. His parents were devout Christians, and he started playing the piano at the church they attended when he was 11 years old. He wrote one of his signature songs, "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power," when he was only 14.

In the mid-60s he formed a group called "Andrae Crouch and the Disciples," and they began singing at churches in California. His twin sister, Sandra, was part of the group. Their first album was produced in 1968, and one great song after another began to flow after that — songs like "Through It All," "Bless His Holy Name," "Soon and Very Soon," "Jesus is the Answer" and "My Tribute."

In 1979, Andrae disbanded his group and continued with a solo career that went well until 1982 when he was pulled over by a Los Angeles policeman for driving erratically. When he agreed to have his car searched, some cocaine was found, and he was arrested. No charges were ever filed, but the incident received widespread publicity, and his Christian music career came to an end.

Thereafter he focused on making a living by writing and arranging music for secular singers, television programs and



movies. He wrote songs for movies like *The Color Purple* and *The Lion King*. He received an Oscar nomination for the song he wrote for *The Color Purple*. During this time he developed a close friendship with Michael Jackson and assisted him with some of his albums. Andrae's song, "Soon and Very Soon," was sung at Michael's memorial service.

In 1994, after the death of his father, Andrae and his sister took over the church in Pacoima, California that had been founded by their parents — called Christ Memorial Church of God in Christ. They continued serving that church as co-pastors until January 2015 when Andrae died of congestive heart failure at the age of 72.

His sister issued the following statement: "Today my twin brother, womb-mate and best friend went home to be with the Lord . . . I tried to keep him here, but God loved him best."

I loved him too. I had the privilege of seeing him twice in concert. I never had the opportunity to meet him personally. But his music deeply impacted my soul, as it did many other people. During his career, he was awarded 7 Grammys and 6 Dove Awards. And in 2004 he became only the third Gospel artist to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The greatest tribute I can pay to him is to share with you the words of the song he wrote to pay tribute to his Creator:

## My Tribute

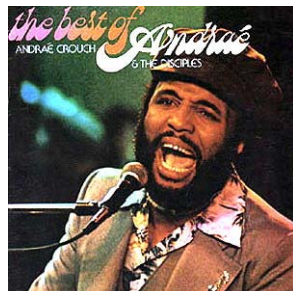
How can I say thanks for the things  
You have done for me  
Things so undeserved yet You gave  
To prove Your love for me

The voices of a million angels  
Could not express my gratitude  
All that I am, and ever hope to be  
I owe it all to Thee

To God be the glory, to God be the glory  
To God be the glory for the things He has done  
With His blood He has saved me  
With His power He has raised me  
To God be the glory for the things He has done

Just let me live my life and  
Let it be pleasing Lord to Thee  
And if I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary

With His blood He has saved me  
With His power He has raised me  
To God be the glory  
For the things He has done ✝



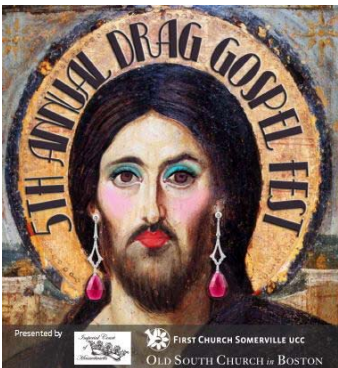
## Church of Blasphemy —

The First Church Somerville, located in Somerville, Massachusetts, is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, our nation's most liberal denomination — the one that President Obama identifies with. The church recently announced that God is now a transgender and has changed Himself into a woman!

A member of the church who describes himself as “the drag queen in residence,” recently posted the following message on the church's website: “God is good all the time! That means God is a diva, and girl . . . We at FCS believe ‘God don't make no junk.’ So whether you are straight, gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgendered or still playing hard to get, Jesus loves you and so do we! Amen baby! So come and get yours at this here church!”



Cross-dressing and living it up on Sunday morning.



In October the church sponsored its 5th annual “Drag Gospel Fest.” Members were encouraged to come to church dressed contrary to their natural gender. Flyers for the event featured Jesus wearing earrings and makeup!

One commentator summed up her reaction by stating that the church's blasphemy is just one manifestation of the “tsunami of perversion” that is sweeping Christendom today.

*“But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons . . .” (1 Tim. 4:1)*

## Terrorist Motivation —

After the horrific terrorist attacks in Paris in November, the TV pundits continued to talk about the motivation being either the poverty of the attackers or the hijacking of Islam by radicals. Bernie Sanders, one of the candidates for the Democrat nomination for President, even blamed terrorism on global warming! These nonsensical conclusions have to be motivated by either political correctness or spiritual blindness. The truth is that Islam is, and always has been, a brutal religion — advancing by the sword and keeping people enslaved by the sword.

The so-called “radicals” are simply doing what their holy book, The Quran, commands them to do — kill all non-Muslims.



Yet Saba Ahmed, founder of the Republican Muslim Coalition, said in an interview on MSNBC: “Terrorists are not a representative of Islam in any way whatsoever.” She went on to state: “ISIS should go back to the basic teachings of Islam . . . they have hijacked our religion.”

This is propaganda garbage. The fact of the matter is that ISIS has returned to the basic teachings of Islam. Consider:

“Fight in the way of Allah . . . and slay them [the unbelievers] wherever you find them and drive them out . . . and fight them until . . . their religion is for Allah” (Sura 2: 190-193).

“To fight non-Muslims until you exterminate all other religions, leaving Islam as the one and only religion in the world” (Sura 2:193 & 8:39).

“Take not Jews and Christians for friends . . . He among you who takes them for friends is one of them . . . Choose not for friends such of those who received the Scripture before you [Jews and Christians] . . . But keep your duty to Allah” (Sura 5: 51, 55, 57).

“[For those who do not submit to Allah] their punishment is . . . execution or crucifixion, or the cutting off of hands and feet, from the opposite sides, or exile from the land” (Sura 5:33).

Does this sound like a peaceful, loving and tolerant religion? Pastor Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Church in Dallas has summed up the reality of Islam very well in the following words:

“Islam is a false religion that will lead you to Hell. It is based on a false book that is based on a fraud. It was founded by a false prophet who was leading people away instead of to the one true God.”

## Normalizing Insanity —

In a recent article, Tom Trinko, a columnist for AmericanThinker.com, responded to society's attempt to normalize the concept of a transgender person, by observing that in reality there is no such thing as transgendered. That is because one's sex is not merely a matter of what one wants it to be. And that, in turn, is because sex is biological and not psychological. Here's how he illustrated his point:

The reality is that the only time a man is trapped in a woman's body is before he's born. Similarly, a man can no more will himself to be a woman than he can will himself to be Napoleon . . . Now, men and women can suffer from gender identity confusion, but while we should strive to help those who think they're something they're not, the right way to do so is not to enable their delusions. If an Elvis impersonator suddenly declared that he was Elvis, no sane person would think that the loving response would be to start calling him The King. Showing true love to people who identify as transgendered is helping them love who they truly are, not telling them that they have to change because they're not good as they are.

These observations are what is called, “common sense,” something that is rare these days. ✚

## A Thoughtful Poem —

The theme of our annual Bible conference this year was “Messages for a Rebellious Nation.” One of our staff members, Jana Olivieri, was motivated by the presentations at the conference to write the poem below.

Jana has been with our ministry for four years. She serves as assistant to our Chief Operating Officer. She also assists with incoming calls, and her cheerful voice is the one that most callers initially contact. She is married and has two sons. Her husband, Danny, is afflicted with MS, but he continues to minister to many people as a prayer warrior.

### Message for a Rebellious Nation

Jana Olivieri

We have crossed the line and are sliding off the slippery edge  
We got just what we wanted; now He’s lifting the hedge

Demanding and declaring our brazen laws of lawlessness  
Flying our flagrant flags of false freedom in the face of His  
Holiness

Apostasy seeks to hide the Truth with its blatant new-age-  
friendly light  
Abandoning tear-stained altars of old, leading unrepentant souls  
to a hopeless plight

Watchmen on walls trumpet the call, “Lift up your heads, your  
Redemption draws near!”  
While we choose as a nation to just change the station, holding  
hands over apathetic ears

Countless abortions and climbing every second, our babies are  
lambs sent to slaughter  
We’re rocked to sleep by wolves-dressed-as-sheep, humming  
their lethal lullaby to our sons and daughters

In the name of tolerance, intolerance abounds, and a sword-  
wielding religion threatens to dominate  
And the voices of saints martyred cry out from a heavenly altar,  
“How long, O’ Lord must You wait???”

Remember from where you have fallen, O’ Church, before your  
candle is removed from its stand  
Behold, the Bridegroom stands at the door . . . **Repent! The Day  
of the Lord is at Hand!**

## A Precursor of American Christianity Today —

Andrew Robinson, pastor of Hazel Grove Full Gospel Church in Stockport, England, has written about the terrible state of the Church in England during the 18th Century. What he shares sounds like the American Church today.

Quoting from a book titled, *Christian Leaders of the 18th Century*, the author, John Charles Ryle (1816-1900) wrote:

The nation was politically, religiously and morally bankrupt. Mediocrity and sterility characterized the pulpits of the land. The Gospel was seldom preached . . . So appalling was the state of the Church, that when one celebrated evangelical minister, William Romaine (1714-1795) filled the pews of St. George’s Church in London to overflowing



## Food for Thought

with his passionate preaching, he was removed from his post by the rector because he attracted too many hearers and the regular seat holders took offense.

Even the renowned lawyer, William Blackstone (1723-1780) reported that after listening to every clergyman of note in the London area, he “did not hear a single discourse which had more Christianity in it than the writings of Cicero, and that it would have been impossible for him to discover from what he heard, whether or not the preacher was a follower of Confucius or Mohammed or Christ!”

Ryle further observed that “the clergy were dissipated, worldly and uncaring of God’s flock.” Further, “they seemed determined to know everything except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

2 Timothy 4:3-4

*3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,*

*4) and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*

## Brief Thoughts —

“While we can make good use of suggested Bible reading plans, the point of reading Scripture is not to follow a plan but to discover a Person.” — Dr. Steve Harper, professor and author.

“The same people calling Bruce Jenner ‘brave’ and applauding his right to ‘be himself’ are the same people who condemned Tim Tebow and told him to keep his feelings to himself.” — Author unknown.

“Don’t waste your time trying to guess the time of Jesus’ return. Rather, be ready all the time because Jesus could come at any time.” — Ed Hindson, Liberty University.

“If there were no God, there would be no Atheists.” — G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936), English writer and Christian apologist.

“The Roman Catholic Church is the most successful and durable global organization of all time. And, it has the most powerful Chief Executive Officer of them all — the Pope.” — Wilfred Hahn, Christian economist.

“You’ve heard of the ‘Three Rs.’ Let me tell you about the ‘Four Ps.’ When we had PRAYER, the PLEDGE and a PADDLE in school, we didn’t need the POLICE in school!” — Unknown.

“An inevitable revolution is coming because our politics, culture, education, economics and even philanthropy are so polarized that our nation can no longer resolve its differences.” — James Piereson, university professor and foundation chairman.

“Saying Muslim terrorists are motivated by anything other than their religion is equivalent to responding to the KKK conducting a cross-burning by saying, ‘We have no idea what motivates these people. Could be a lack of good jobs. Could be a fascination with white sheets. It’s a mystery.’” — Tim Wildmon, president of the American Family Association. ✚

## A Fascinating Interview



Dr. Reagan with Rafael Cruz

Dr. Reagan recently had the privilege to interview Rafael Cruz, the father of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, one of the candidates for the Republican presidential nomination.

The interview was not about his son. Rather, it focused on Mr. Cruz's life and his Christian worldview. He told how he grew up in Cuba under a ruthless military dictator named Fulgencio Batista. He joined the Castro resistance movement while in high school and was arrested and tortured.

Rafael fled to the United States, arriving in Austin, Texas with a hundred dollar bill. He got a job washing dishes and entered the University of Texas. When Castro was able to overthrow the Batista regime in 1959, Rafael returned to Cuba, only to discover that Castro had replaced the Fascist government with a Communist one that was far more oppressive. Once again, he fled to the United States.

In 1970 he moved to Canada to work in the oil industry. While there his wife gave birth to their son, Ted. In 1975 Rafael experienced a religious conversion. He decided to leave the Catholic Church and form an Evangelical ministry. In the 1980s, he participated in the Religious Roundtable, a Christian and Jewish religious organization that worked to elect Ronald Reagan. Today, he works from his home in Carrollton, Texas, a Dallas suburb, and is a minister and director of an organization called Grace for America.

On our program, Rafael talked about the importance of Christians standing for righteousness, including participating in our political system. He emphasized that our nation is drifting toward a Socialist system that will result in a great curtailment of freedoms, particularly our free exercise of religion. He kept pointing out that if America loses its freedom, there will be no place left to flee to.

Mr. Cruz also pointed out that one of the fundamental causes of our nation's drift toward secularism and paganism is that Christians do not vote according to Christian values, evaluating candidates on how they stand on abortion, sexual perversion, gambling, and Israel.

He ended the interview by pointing out that the Bible tells us how to vote. The instructions are contained in Exodus 18:21 where Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, told him how to select men

to help him govern the Children of Israel:

“... You shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them, as leaders . . .”

To summarize, we are to vote for those who are qualified, who fear God, who are truthful and who are honest. And the requirement of fearing God means men who know His Word and believe it and honor it.

This fascinating interview was aired during the week of November 8. Copies are available on DVD for \$10, including the cost of mailing. The program will be aired again in early 2016.✚

### Television Broadcast Schedules

#### National Networks:

**Daystar** — Wed. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 369, DISH 263, Cable, AT&T U-verse 563, Broadcast Stations, World Satellites, & Web Streaming ([daystar.com](http://daystar.com)).

**TBN** — Tue. 3:30 CT, DirecTV 372, DISH 260, Cable, AT&T U-verse 560, Broadcast Stations, World Satellites & Web Streaming ([www.itbn.org](http://www.itbn.org)).

**TCC (The Church Channel)** — Sat. 8:30pm CT, DirecTV 371, DISH 258, Broadcast Stations, World Satellites, & Web Streaming ([churchchannel.tv](http://churchchannel.tv)).

**NRB (National Religious Broadcasters)** — Sun. 4:00pm CT, DirecTV 378 & Web Streaming (<http://nrbnetwork.tv>).

**WHT (LeSea World Harvest TV)** — Sun. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 367, AT&T U-verse 578, Galaxy Satellite 15 & Web Streaming ([lesea.com/wht](http://lesea.com/wht)).

#### Regional Networks:

**Family Vision Network** — Sun. 12:30am CT, Mon. 8:30am, and Wed. 7:00pm, Three Broadcast Stations and Cable throughout Southern Louisiana.

**KSCE** — Sun. 10:30am MT, Broadcast Station in El Paso, TX. DirecTV & DISH Local 38, Cable, AT&T U-verse 38, & Web Streaming ([ksce.tv](http://ksce.tv)).

#### Internet Networks:

Our programs are available on demand on these websites.

**HisChannel** — [HisChannel.com](http://HisChannel.com)

**LightSource** — [LightSource.com](http://LightSource.com)

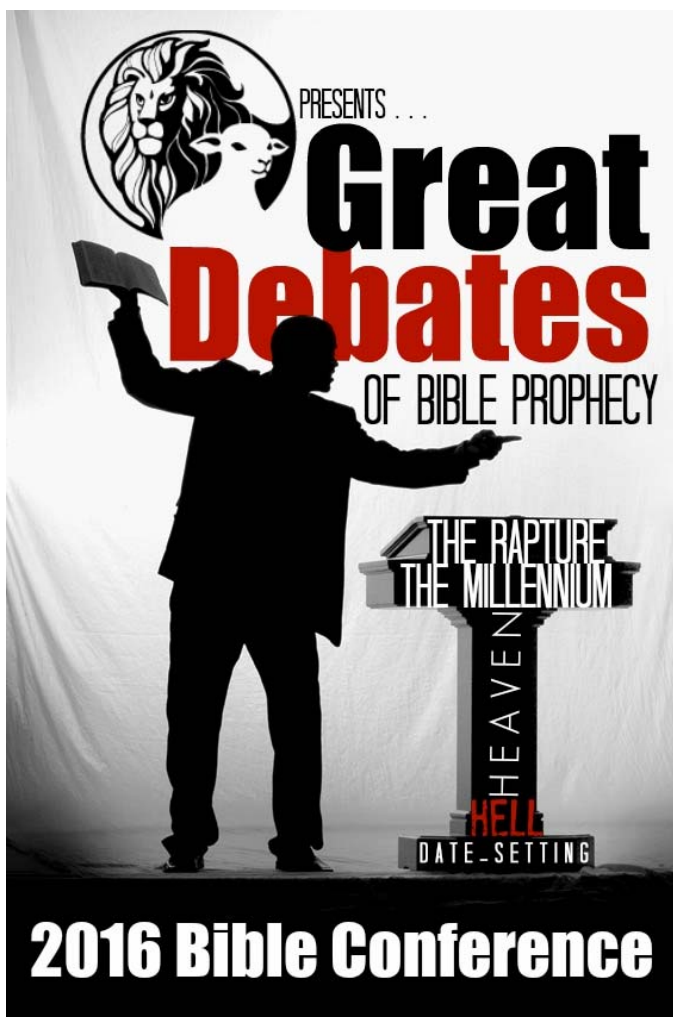
**YouTube** — [YouTube.com/user/ChristinProphecy](http://YouTube.com/user/ChristinProphecy)

**Vimeo** — [Vimeo.com](http://Vimeo.com)

**GodTube** — [GodTube.com](http://GodTube.com) via [LightSource.com](http://LightSource.com)

**DailyMotion** — (European equivalent of YouTube.) [DailyMotion.com/us](http://DailyMotion.com/us)

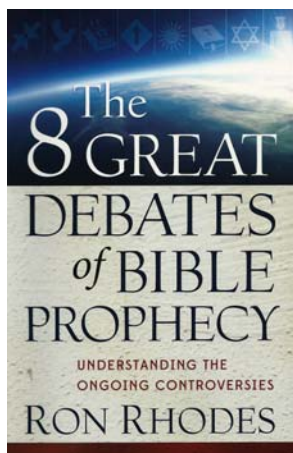
**Lamb & Lion Ministries** — [LambLion.com](http://LambLion.com)



Our 2016 Bible Conference will open for registration on January 1st. You can register through our website at [www.lamblion.com](http://www.lamblion.com) or by calling our office at 972-736-3567.

The conference is scheduled for Friday evening and all day Saturday on July 15 & 16. The conference site will be the Courtyard Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Allen, Texas, a northern suburb of Dallas.

The conference will begin on Friday evening with a banquet featuring a concert by Chuck Girard and a presentation by David Hocking. The banquet seating is limited, and the cost of the banquet will be \$50 per person. The five conference presentations on Saturday are free of charge, but seating limited, so registration is required for both the banquet and the Saturday sessions.



The conference theme for 2016 will be "Great Debates of Bible Prophecy." The theme was inspired by an outstanding book titled, *The 8 Great Debates of Bible Prophecy*. The book's author, Ron Rhodes, will be one of our featured speakers. Copies of the book are available from our ministry for \$20, including the cost of shipping and handling.

For the past two years our conferences have focused on Bible prophecies related to the deterioration of society and apostasy in the Church. This conference will deal with controversies related to the interpretation of important prophetic concepts:

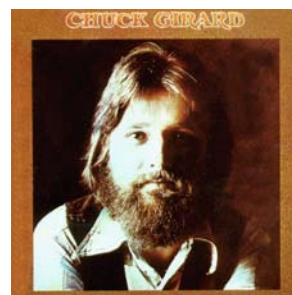
- 1) Nathan Jones: "The Millennium: Literal or Symbolic?"
- 2) Ron Rhodes: "The Rapture: Pre, Mid, Late or Post Trib?"
- 3) Tim Moore: "Date-Setting: What Can We Know?"
- 4) Dennis Pollock: "Heaven: Ethereal or Literal?"
- 5) Dave Reagan: Topic to be announced.

At the Friday evening banquet, Dr. David Hocking will speak on "Israel Today: The Jews or the Church?" Dr. Hocking has been preaching and teaching the Bible for over 50 years. He is the author of more than 30 books, and he has been broadcasting on the radio since 1970. His current radio ministry is called Hope for Today and is headquartered in Tustin, California. Dr. Hocking is an internationally recognized expert on Israel in Bible prophecy.



Dr. David Hocking

The featured musician at our 2016 conference is going to be a remarkable man named Chuck Girard. Chuck is one of Christendom's most gifted song writers, recording artists and worship leaders. He is recognized as one of the pioneers of the Contemporary Christian Music Movement that began in the late 1960s and early 1970s.



1975

In his early twenties Chuck became disillusioned with life, and like so many of his generation began experimenting with drugs. This led to a five-year search for God through LSD, eastern religion, and a committed "hippie" lifestyle. His search ended in 1970 at Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa when he found true spiritual reality through accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior. Girard was already in a group call LOVE SONG, and along with the conversions of the band members came the radical change in their message. Previously playing clubs, preaching "peace and love," and LSD as the way to find God, they now had a new message, and with this change helped blaze the path for the beginnings of what would become known as "The Jesus Movement" and Contemporary Christian Music. Chuck played with LOVE SONG for the next three years before launching a solo career with his first album, CHUCK GIRARD, that produced his most renowned song "Sometimes Alleluia."✙



Chuck today.

# Thanks from Dave!

In behalf of all of us here at Lamb & Lion Ministries, I want to thank all of you who responded so generously and quickly to our appeal for funds to purchase a new van for the ministry.

When I made the original appeal for funds for a new van, I stated that we would need between 30 and 35 thousand dollars, including tax, title and license. Those numbers were based on what a couple of people told me it would take.

But then, I started doing some research. The first thing I discovered is that the Dodge Grand Caravan is the only vehicle that provides for all the second and third row seats to fold into the floor, a needed feature for us in hauling materials to meetings. Next, I checked on the cost of that particular van and discovered that the basic unit with no frills sells for around \$26,000 — \$10,000 less than my original appeal! I reported all this to the staff, and we had special prayer for God to provide the necessary funds.

One hour after that prayer meeting, our Financial Director, George Collich, called me and reported that he had just received a phone call from one of our Prophecy Partners in the Houston area who reported that he and his two sons were going to send checks for \$5,000 each for the van! The next day, I went to the Dodge dealership in McKinney and found a basic van priced at

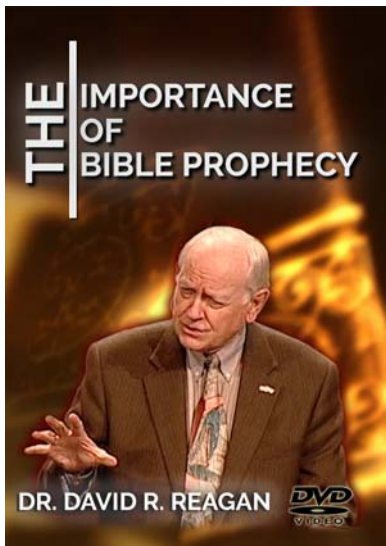


**George Collich and Dave with the Ministry's new Dodge Grand Caravan. George is the Ministry's senior staff member (25 years) and serves as the Ministry's chief financial officer.**

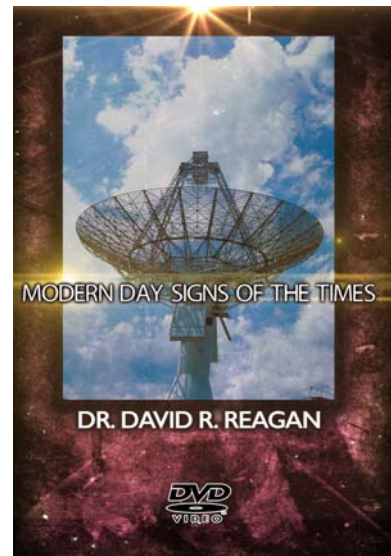
\$26,600. The following day George went to the dealership to negotiate. He was able to get an unbelievable price of \$22,000 due to the fact that the 2016 models had just arrived, and the one we were looking at was a 2015. Also, the van had a small dent in the rear bumper. The final price, with tax, title, and license was \$23,841! **PRAISE THE LORD! ❖**

---

## Two New Video Programs



This is Dr. Reagan's most frequently delivered message. This particular presentation was filmed live as he presented it to a prophecy conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. Reagan begins by pointing out that Bible prophecy has been declared a "distraction," "irrelevant," and "pie-in-the-sky." He then proceeds to give nine reasons why all Christians should be interested in studying God's Prophetic Word. DVD. \$20, including shipping. ❖



Are there any signs of the soon return of Jesus that are unique to our day and time? The answer is, "Yes!" In this fascinating presentation filmed before a live audience, Dr. Reagan presents an overview of signs that exist today that have never existed before. He focuses on five end time prophecies in the book of Revelation that have been fulfilled in recent years. He then proceeds to identify several others. DVD. \$20, including the cost of shipping. ❖

# Conference Reports

We ended the year with participation in a series of wonderful Bible prophecy conferences in California, Louisiana and Kentucky.

In September, Dr. Reagan and his traveling companion, George Collich, flew to California where Dave spoke at two conferences that were held back-to-back.

The first was at a remarkable church in the Imperial Valley, located about 100 miles due east of San Diego. The specific site of the conference was Christ Community Church in El Centro, California. David Hocking of Hope for Today Ministries in Tustin, California, was the other speaker at the conference which began on a Friday evening and ran through Sunday morning. A surprise visitor at the conference was Tim LaHaye who drove in from San Diego, together with his wife, Beverly.



**Pictured above, left to right: David Hocking, David's brother, Don, Pastor Walter Colace, Dave Reagan and Tim LaHaye.**

Immediately following the conference in El Centro, Dr. Reagan began speaking at another conference at the San Diego Worship Center where Art Evans serves as pastor. This was an annual conference that is sponsored by Don Perkins' ministry, called According to Prophecy. Don is the only full time Black evangelist in America whose ministry is devoted to the teaching and preaching of Bible prophecy. He is very blessed to have the enthusiastic support of his pastor, Art Evans.



**Pastor Art Evans, Don Perkins, and Dave Reagan.**

In October, Dave and George drove to Hammond, Louisiana where Dave spoke at the first Bible prophecy conference to be sponsored by Don McGee's Crown & Sickie Ministry. Don founded his ministry in 2002, and it has been greatly blessed by the Lord. One of the highlights of this conference was music by Jack Hollingsworth, the vocalist for our TV program. Jack and his wife, Sally, have both been sidelined with illness for a couple of years. It was a delight to be able to minister with them again.

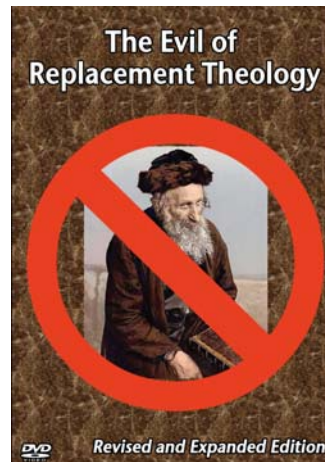


**Don McGee**



**Jack & Sally**

Dr. Reagan began the month of November by speaking in the Dallas area to a regional convention of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America. This was an exciting conference with outstanding speakers and very anointed worship leaders — like Ted Pearce, Joel Chernoff and Marty Goetz. Dr. Reagan spoke about the evil of Replacement Theology, and his presentation was received with great enthusiasm. That presentation is available on the DVD album pictured below for a cost of \$20, including shipping.



In mid-November, Dave and George flew to the Lexington, Kentucky area where Dave conducted the third annual Bible prophecy conference at Grace Bible Church in Winchester. This is another remarkable church pastored by a wonderful man of God named Lee Cruse. The church is located in a former elementary school where Pastor Cruse served as the principal for 20 years! This conference was heavily attended by supporters who came from Lexington and Louisville and

from a number of surrounding states like Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.



**Our Assistant Evangelist, Tim Moore, showed up at the conference in Winchester, Kentucky with his mom and dad, Larry and Sammie. They are pictured above with Dr. Reagan.**

Dave was scheduled to complete the year by speaking in early December at the annual Pre-Trib Conference in Dallas. He was assigned to present a review of the anti-Rapture video that is featured in the main article in this magazine. ✚

# Ministry News

## Speaking Schedule —

### January:

Dr. Reagan and Nathan Jones at the North Hialeah Baptist Church in Hialeah, FL (29-30).

### February:

Open for invitations.

### March:

Dr. Reagan at the Summit Church in Wichita, KS (18-20).

### April:

Dr. Reagan at the Mid-America Prophecy Conference in Tulsa, OK, sponsored by Prophecy Watch Ministries (14-16).

### May:

Dr. Reagan at First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, TX (6-7). Note: Pastor Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Church in Dallas will also be speaking at this conference.

### June:

Annual Lamb & Lion Israel Pilgrimage led by Tim Moore (18-29).

### July:

Annual Lamb & Lion Bible Conference at the Marriott Conference Center in Allen, TX (15-16).

## Meetings and Conferences —

Due to the illness of his wife, Ann, Dr. Reagan is trying to limit his out-of-town speaking engagements to one a month during 2016. He has no limit on the number of speaking engagements he is willing to accept within the Dallas - Fort Worth area.

But our other two evangelists are available for speaking engagements anywhere. They are Nathan Jones and Tim Moore. Please consider inviting one of these men to speak at your church. You can find detailed information about Nathan and Tim on our website at [www.lamblion.com/about/staff](http://www.lamblion.com/about/staff).



Nathan Jones



Tim Moore

**Missions** — Thanks to all of you who responded so generously to our appeals in behalf of various foreign missions during 2015. The major appeal throughout the year was for refugee relief funds for persecuted Christians in Nigeria. The money you provided enabled thousands of Christians fleeing from Muslim terrorism to be housed, fed and clothed. Unfortunately, this is a

continuing problem in that nation. Please pray for the godly man who is heading up the refugee assistance. His name is Standfast Oyinnu. We also appreciated funds you supplied for Hands of Luke Ministries in Juarez, Mexico and our publishing efforts in both Pakistan and India.

To begin the new year, we would like to request assistance for the orphanage that is run by Pastor Remegio Blanco in the Philippines.



The orphan children being cared for by Pastor Blanco in the Philippines are pictured above standing in front of the pastor's church. The man on the far right is pastor Blanco's son, Joseph.

## New Calendar —



Our Holy Land calendar for 2016 is available for distribution. It includes 12 beautiful photos of scenes in Israel in addition to the cover photo of men praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The calendar sells for \$10, including the cost of shipping.

## Israel Pilgrimage —

Our next pilgrimage to Israel is scheduled for June 18-29. It will be led by Tim Moore. The group will spend two nights in Tel Aviv on the Mediterranean shore, two nights in Tiberias at the Sea of Galilee, and five nights in Jerusalem. From beginning to end, the trip takes 12 days. Call our office for details, or email us at [lamblion@lamblion.com](mailto:lamblion@lamblion.com). ✚



**LAMB  
& LION  
MINISTRIES**

P.O. Box 919, McKinney, TX 75070  
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid

**PAID**

McKinney, TX 75070  
Permit No. 11

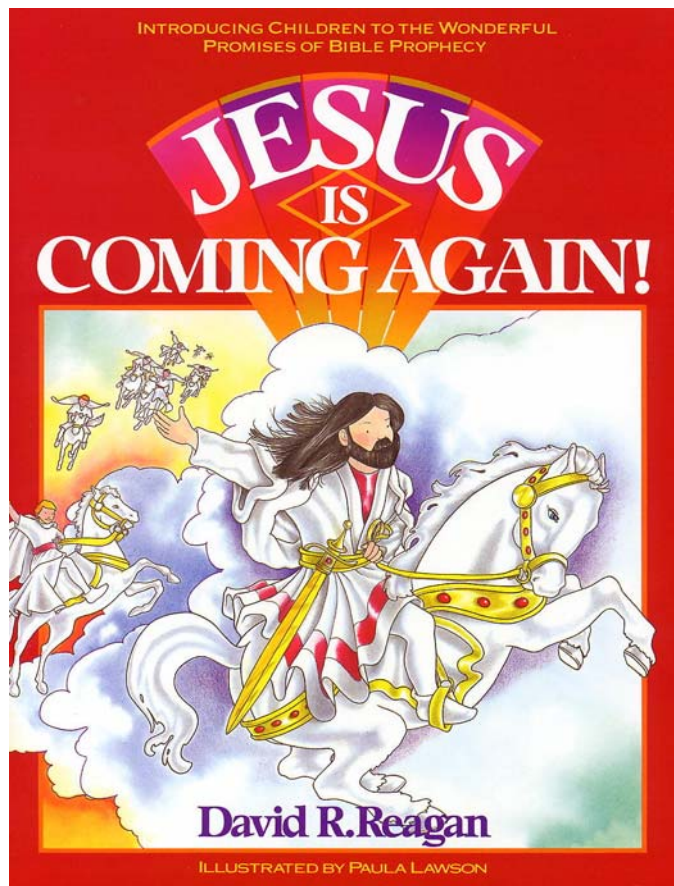
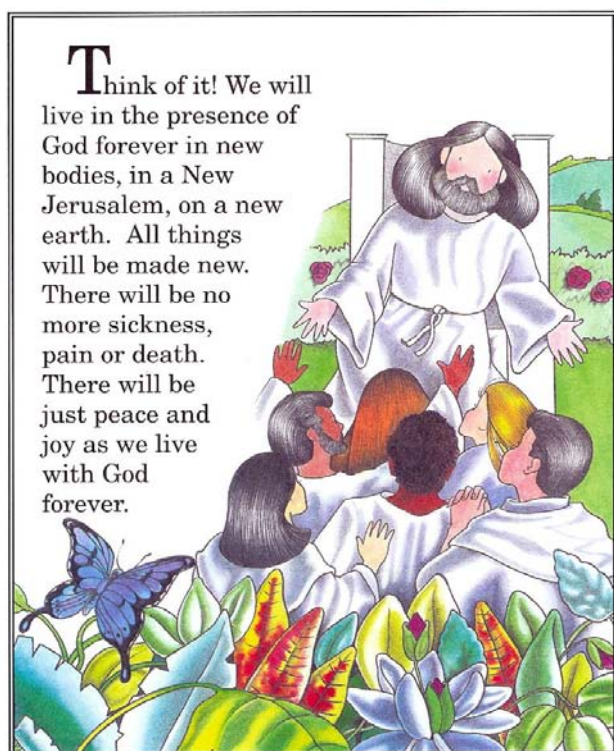
## A Unique Children's Book

Dr. Reagan's Bible prophecy book for children was first published in 1992, and ever since that time it has been one of our best sellers. It has been re-printed numerous times, but it has never been revised because it does not need to be.

The book presents an overview of end time events, focusing on the positive promises of God, such as the resurrection of believers, the gift of glorified bodies, and life with Jesus eternally on a redeemed and perfected earth.

The book is large in size (8x10 inches) and runs 28 pages in length. It is illustrated with beautiful full-color pictures from start to finish. Below is an example of one of the illustrations.

### *Eternity*



The book is appropriate for pre-school and elementary school children. It contains scripture notes and teaching tips for parents. It is also available in Spanish.

The book sells for \$10, including the cost of shipping (\$7 each in quantities of 10 or more). This is a good presentation item for children in recognition of Sunday School attendance or achievement in Scripture memorization.

Dr. Reagan is willing to personally sign each book, including the name of the child to which the book is to be presented. ✚