

LAMPLIGHTER

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

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Judgment in Jehoshaphat



Observations by the Editor

An Anniversary

Dr. David R. Reagan

April 1st marked the 39th anniversary of this ministry, and my mind was flooded with memories of those very difficult and challenging early years when I set up the ministry in a bedroom of a duplex that my wife, Ann, and I were renting in Plano, Texas.



Dave and Ann Reagan in 1982.

In 1983, one of our trustees gave us five acres of land in a rural area near Princeton, Texas. It did not have any usable buildings on it, so we had to build a new headquarters. We named the property, "Maranatha Acres."



Maranatha Acres in 1983.

In 1984, we moved into the building that has served as our headquarters ever since. It was built to look like a country home.



Fourth Headquarters in 1984.

Since that time, we have added onto our headquarters building, and we have erected additional buildings to provide more office space, a television studio and a home for the caretakers of the buildings and property.



Our Headquarters Complex Today.

Well, as you can see, the Lord has richly blessed us in our mission to proclaim to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, that Jesus is returning soon.

We would like to invite you to join in this effort with us by becoming a Prophecy Partner. Call our office for details.

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First Headquarters in 1980.

About six months later, I was headed down the hall from that bedroom to our master bedroom carrying two large boxes when Ann confronted me and asked where I was going. I told her I had run out of room in my bedroom office and was moving the boxes to store under our bed.

That's when she said, "It's time for you to find an office!" So I rented some space on the second floor of a large house in Plano. One of our founding trustees built me a small sound booth in one of the rooms to use for recording our radio programs.



Second Headquarters in 1980.

In 1982, we purchased a house in Plano and converted it into our third headquarters. We were able to pay it off in one year's time.



Third Headquarters in 1982.

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Judgment in Jehoshaphat



David R. Reagan

The Valley of Jehoshaphat is mentioned twice in the Scriptures, both times in the book of Joel, chapter 3. Let's begin by reading those Scriptures from the *New Living Translation*:

1) "At the time of those events," says the LORD, "when I restore the prosperity of Judah and Jerusalem,

2) "I will gather the armies of the world into the *valley of Jehoshaphat*. There I will judge them for harming my people, my special possession, for scattering my people among the nations, and for dividing up my land . . .

9) "Say to the nations far and wide: 'Get ready for war! Call out your best warriors. Let all your fighting men advance for the attack.

10) 'Hammer your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Train even your weaklings to be warriors.

11) 'Come quickly, all you nations everywhere. Gather together in the valley.'" And now, O LORD, call out your warriors!

12) "Let the nations be called to arms. Let them march to the *valley of Jehoshaphat*. There I, the LORD, will sit to pronounce judgment on them all.

13) "Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread the grapes, for the winepress is full. The storage vats are overflowing with the wickedness of these people."

14) Thousands upon thousands are waiting in the valley of decision. There the day of the LORD will soon arrive.

15) The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will no longer shine.

16) The LORD's voice will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth will shake. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a strong fortress for the people of Israel.

Location of the Valley

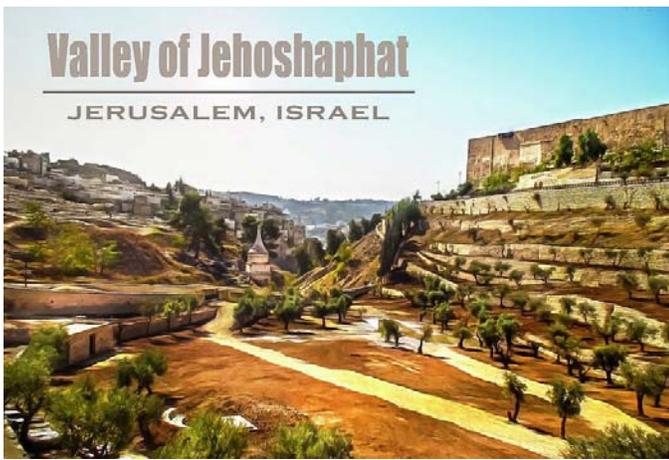
Let's get into this topic by first of all identifying the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

Since the 4th Century, it has been identified with the Kidron Valley in Jerusalem, and continues to be until this day. The Kidron Valley runs north and south and separates the Temple Mount on the west side from the Mount of Olives on the east side.

But, the Kidron Valley is **not** a valley. It is what would be properly classified as a gorge or a ravine.

I was recently at a true valley when I went to California to preach at a church located in the magnificent Imperial Valley. That's a true valley! It reminded me of the Valley of Jezreel in Israel, or the Valley of Armageddon, as Christians call it.

In addition to the Kidron Ravine, many have tried to identify the Valley of Jehoshaphat with one of the sites where King Jehoshaphat fought one of his battles. But I don't believe the name has anything to do with King Jehoshaphat.



The Kidron Ravine identified as the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

The word, Jehoshaphat, means “Yahweh Judges,” and in the context in which it is used, I think it is an obvious symbolic term for the judgment of God that is going to be poured out in the end times during the Great Tribulation — a judgment that will culminate in the Valley of Armageddon, which Joel also refers to as “the valley of decision.”

So, the Valley of Jehoshaphat is a symbolic term for the end time wrath of God during the Great Tribulation that will culminate in the Valley of Armageddon.

The Wrath of God

But before we consider the judgment of God that the world will experience during the Great Tribulation, we need to first consider the concept of the wrath of God. The reason we need to do that is because I have discovered that most Christians, if not most pastors, do not believe in the wrath of God.

If any mention is made of God’s wrath, there is usually an immediate and vehement response that God is a God of love, grace and mercy. And if you point to the wrath of God in the Hebrew Scriptures, as, for example, when He destroyed the world with the Noahic Flood, the response usually is, “But that was the God of the Old Testament. The God of the New Testament is a God of grace, mercy and love.”

One of the most memorable times when I encountered this attitude was in about 1995. I was contacted by the producer of a popular radio talk show in Oklahoma City. He said the host of the program had seen an article I had written about the financial accountability of Christian ministries, and he had liked it. He wanted to interview me about it. I agreed to the interview.

The host began the interview by graciously giving me the opportunity to summarize the fundamental message of my ministry. I responded by saying that God had called me to proclaim “the soon return of Jesus.”

I then explained that this message was like a two-edged sword, with a message for both believers and unbelievers. I pointed out that the message for believers is to commit themselves to holiness and evangelism. I then added, “The message for unbelievers is to flee from the wrath that is to come, by fleeing into the loving arms of Jesus now.”

Before I could proceed with my explanation, the host cut me short. “What do you mean when you refer to ‘wrath’?” he asked.



The Imperial Valley of California.

“I mean that Jesus is going to return very soon to pour out the wrath of God upon those who have rejected God’s love and grace and mercy.”

He responded by saying, “I happen to be a Christian, I go to church every Sunday, and I have never heard anything about God ‘pouring out wrath.’ My God is Jesus, and He wouldn’t hurt a fly!” Then he literally yelled at me, “Your God is a monster!”

That was the end of the interview. He hung up on me. I was not given an opportunity to respond to his misrepresentation of our Creator. If I had been given a chance to respond, I would have quoted the warning Jesus gave in the book of Revelation to the church at Thyatira which was tolerating a false prophetess who was corrupting the whole church. Jesus warned:

Revelation 2:20-23

20) “But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols.

21) “I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality.

22) “Therefore, I will throw her on a bed of suffering, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer greatly unless they repent and turn away from her evil deeds.

23) “I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve.” (NLT)

These verses pretty well destroy the concept of a meek and mild Jesus who wouldn’t hurt a fly!

Of course, I could also have pointed to the fact that the Tribulation begins with Jesus Himself launching the Seal Judgments. In fact, in Revelation 6:16, those judgments are referred to as “the wrath of the Lamb.”

Let me give you another example that occurred more recently, in 2005. It is the example of an enraged pastor.

I was invited to speak to a large church in the Dallas area

where I had spoken several times before. The date of my presentation fell on a Sunday about three weeks after hurricane Katrina had devastated New Orleans.

I decided I would speak about the hurricane, with the intention of pointing out that I believed it to be a remedial judgment of God upon this nation for two reasons. The first reason I mentioned was our nation's strong-arming of Israel to surrender the Gaza Strip to its enemies. I noted that the hurricane had started forming very suddenly near the Bahamas on the last day of the Israeli withdrawal.

The second reason I gave was the immorality of our nation and particularly the city of New Orleans, a city that calls itself, "Sin City USA." The hurricane hit the city just as it was preparing to conduct its annual festival called "Gay Mardi Gras." The 2005 theme of this sexual orgy was "Jazz and Jezebels." In 2004, the event had attracted 125,000 revelers who proudly flaunted their perversion publicly in a garish parade. The event was sponsored by a group called, "Southern Decadence."

All hell broke loose during the following week. You see, the pastor was out of town when I delivered the message. When he returned home and watched a video of the message, he went ballistic! He even checked my speaking schedule on our website and called the next church where I was to speak and warned them about allowing me to present my sermon.

What was he so mad about? Two things. First, he felt it was wrong for me to attribute a disaster to God when it should have been assigned to Satan. Second, he objected to my characterization of the hurricane as being a manifestation of the wrath of God. He insisted that the "God of Wrath" was the Old Testament God, whereas the God of the New Testament is a "God of Grace." The idea of God pouring out His wrath was entirely foreign to him.

These are only two examples of many experiences I have had where Christians have reacted with revulsion against any mention of God's wrath.

Four points need to be made concerning the modern day Church's view of God — four very important points:

1) We need a balanced view of God.

Yes, He is a God of love, grace and mercy. But He is also a God of holiness, righteousness and justice. The prophet Nahum provides us with that balanced view: "The LORD is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in him" (Nahum 1:7). That is the God of love, grace and mercy.

But consider what else Nahum has to say about the nature of God (Nahum 1:2-3):

2) The LORD is a jealous God, filled with vengeance and rage. He takes revenge on all who oppose Him and continues to rage against his enemies!

3) The LORD is slow to get angry, but his power is great, and he never lets the guilty go unpunished.



The Valley of Jezreel (Armageddon).

2) The second thing we need to keep in mind is that God has not changed.

There is no such thing as "the God of the Old Testament versus the God of the New Testament. God has always been a God of love, grace and mercy, just as He has always been a God of holiness, righteousness and justice.

God is immutable. And that means He never changes. He declares this in Malachi 3:6 where He says, "I, the LORD, do not change." The point is reiterated in the New Testament in Hebrews 13: 8 where it says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

3) The third thing we need to understand is that because He is a God of holiness, righteousness and justice, He is going to deal with sin.

I'm convinced that most people think of God as a Cosmic Teddy Bear who winks at sin. That is not the true God of the universe. The Bible makes it crystal clear that God takes sin very seriously and that He deals with it in one of two ways: Grace or Wrath.

Everyone knows John 3:16; few seem to be aware of John 3:36, taken from a sermon of John the Baptist: "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

4) The fourth thing we need to understand about God is that He is sovereign.

God is on His throne. He is in control. Psalm 2 says he laughs at all the plots and schemes of the world's political leaders. He is not laughing because He does not care. His laughter is provoked by the fact that He has the wisdom and power to orchestrate all the evil of Satan and Mankind to the triumph of His Son.

People like to attribute all bad things to Satan. But the interesting thing is that the Bible never does that because the writers believed in the sovereignty of God. They therefore understood that when bad things happen, God allows them either to discipline us or to refine us in righteousness — or for purposes known only to Him.

Satan is not free to do as he pleases. The book of Job makes this clear. Satan could not touch Job or his household or his possessions without God's permission, and even when that permission was granted, Satan was told he could not take Job's life.

Some people argue that the first half of the Tribulation will consist of the wrath of Man and Satan and that the wrath of God will be manifested only in the Bowl Judgments that occur near the end of the Tribulation. But that is not true.

Even during the first half of the Tribulation, when Satan and the Antichrist will be rampaging around the world, they will do so under the sovereignty of God. They will be used by God as instruments of His wrath, just as the Babylonians were used by God to pour out His wrath on Judah (Habakkuk 1:5-11).

Types of God's Wrath

One other thing we need to understand is that there are several types of God's wrath.

- **Consequential Wrath** — This is what might be called “sowing and reaping wrath.” It is the wrath we bring upon ourselves when we reap what we sow through sinful living. Thus, a smoker might be afflicted with lung cancer, and a drunkard may lose his job and family and die of cirrhosis of the liver.
- **Cataclysmic Wrath** — As evidenced in disasters, either natural or man-made, like the 9/11 attacks. God allows these as a way of calling people and nations to repentance. They are usually referred to as “remedial judgments.”
- **Abandonment Wrath** — The wrath exhibited by God when He turns His back on a person or a society, allowing self-destruction (Romans 1).
- **Eschatological Wrath** — The wrath God unleashed on all the world with the Noahic Flood, and the wrath He has promised to pour out on the world during the Great Tribulation that is yet to come.
- **Eternal Wrath** — The ultimate punishment God will inflict upon those who are consigned to Hell.

End Time Wrath

The Judgment in Jehoshaphat is going to be the ultimate example of God's Eschatological Wrath.

It is going to be a seven year period of unparalleled violence, misery and suffering from beginning to end — far worse than Noah's Flood when the suffering ended rapidly as people drowned. God is going to pour out His unmitigated wrath over a period of seven years on those who have rejected His love, grace and mercy.

Because the Bible pictures such incredible horror, I am always astounded when people, including pastors, ask me, “Do you think we are in the Tribulation now?” I can guarantee you that once the Tribulation begins, no one will have to ask that question.

A Tribulation Myth

And that brings me to a myth about the Tribulation that must be addressed. Because Jesus in Matthew 24 referred to the second half of the Tribulation as “the great tribulation,” a misconception has become established that the first half of the Tribulation will be relatively peaceful and that most, if not all, of the horrible judgments described in the book of Revelation will occur in the second half.

That simply is not true. Jesus referred to the second half as the “great tribulation” because He was speaking to a Jewish audience — and for them, the second half will be the time of their great travail — what Jeremiah referred to as “the time of Jacob's trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7). Daniel called it “a time of

distress such as has never occurred until that time . . .” (Daniel 12:1).

But the first half of the Tribulation will be a time of peace for the Jews. That's because the book of Daniel reveals that the Antichrist will make a covenant with the Jews that will protect them during the first half of the Tribulation, even enabling them to rebuild their Temple.

This period of peace will end when the Antichrist goes to Jerusalem in the middle of the Tribulation and declares himself to be God. The Jews will reject him and revolt. The Antichrist will be so enraged that he will spend the next three and a half years trying to annihilate the Jewish people.

He will do this because he will be possessed by Satan, and Satan is determined to annihilate the Jewish people. Keep in mind that Satan hates the Jews with a passion because:

- 1) They are the Chosen People of God.
- 2) Through them, God gave the Bible to the world.
- 3) Through them, God provided the Messiah.
- 4) And God has promised He will bring a great remnant of the Jews to salvation in the end times.

In fact, Jesus Himself said He would not return to this earth until the Jewish people are willing to accept Him as their Messiah (Matthew 23:39).

The Timing of Jehoshaphat

This brings us to the timing of Jehoshaphat. When will the Judgment of Jehoshaphat most likely begin?

Some believe it will begin immediately after the Rapture of the Church. But I think that is a misconception. I believe there must be a gap between the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation.

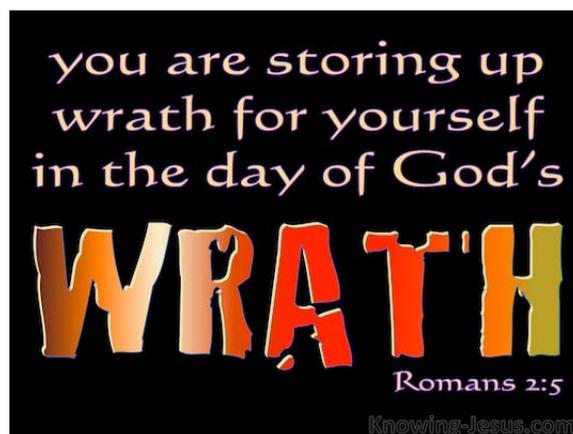
I suspect that two major things will happen during this gap period:

- 1) The Antichrist will rise to power in Europe.
- 2) The War of Gog & Magog will occur.

Regarding the rise of the Antichrist, it is true that he will rise to power in Europe through diplomacy, intrigue, cleverness and the charismatic power of his personality. He will also have supernatural knowledge that will be supplied to him by Satan. But his ascension to the control of the revived Roman Empire will take some time.

And while that is going on, I think it is likely that the Russian invasion of Israel that is prophesied in Ezekiel 38 & 39 (the War of Gog & Magog) will take place.

Traditionally, this war has been placed at the beginning of the Tribulation, and for a good reason. Ezekiel declares it will take place at a time when Israel is living in peace, and the Tribulation is going to officially begin when the Antichrist makes a covenant with Israel that will guarantee its safety.



But the Ezekiel account also says that when the Gog & Magog War is over, the Jewish people will spend seven years burning the weapons from the battlefield. That raises a problem because the Jews are going to be evicted from their land in the middle of the Tribulation when they reject the Antichrist as God and he turns on them in wrath and seeks to annihilate them.

Thus, I have concluded — along with Ron Rhodes — that the War of Gog & Magog will most likely begin at least 3½ to 4 years before the Tribulation begins, during the gap between the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation.

This war will result in the destruction of the military power of the Russians and its Arab allies, including the non-Arab nation of Iran. Ezekiel says the armies will be totally destroyed by the Lord on the mountains of Israel.

Ezekiel further states that the Lord's weapons of destruction will be torrential rains, hail, fire, brimstone, pestilence and a great earthquake — all of which will produce battlefield confusion that will cause the troops to end up killing each other (Ezekiel 38:19-22).

Incidentally, regarding the earthquake, Ezekiel says it will be a "great earthquake" that will shake the entire Middle Eastern area, "collapsing mountains and walls" (Ezekiel 38:19-20). I believe this earthquake will destroy the Dome of the Rock and pave the way for the Jews to rebuild their Temple.

Once the War of Gog & Magog is concluded, I believe the Antichrist will rush to fill the vacuum left in the Middle East by signing his treaty with Israel. And with that area peaceful, he will then launch his campaign to conquer the world.

That campaign will be the beginning of the Judgment of Jehoshaphat.

The Need for Violence

Some seem to think that the world will be so entranced by the Antichrist that the nations will be willing to submit voluntarily to his sovereignty. I do not believe that for a moment.

For one thing, the Muslim world is not going to bow down to a European ruler who is insisting on a one world religion and who thinks he is god. Keep in mind that although the Muslim nations of the Middle East will be devastated by the War of Gog & Magog, the vast majority of Muslims in the world live outside the Middle East in countries like Indonesia, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

Nor will the nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America rush to submit to him. After all, they have spent the last 200 years fighting to free themselves from European colonialism.

So, once the Antichrist has established his power base in Europe, he will have to resort to force — overwhelming force —



Romans chapter 1 indicates that a day will come when God will lift his restraint on Man's evil, and the book of Revelation indicates in chapter 8 that this will result ultimately in a nuclear holocaust. (www.kremlinrus.ru)

to conquer the world. And through his maniacal rampage to conquer all the world, God will pour out His wrath.

The entire Tribulation is going to be a time of unparalleled violence and death, which is the reason that both Jesus and one of the heavenly elders refer to the entire period as "The Great Tribulation" in the book of Revelation (Revelation 2:22 & 7:14).

Unparalleled Violence

Yes, the Antichrist will have to conquer the world with military power, and I believe that is what the Seal and Trumpet

Judgments of Revelation are all about.

God will unleash the Antichrist as His weapon of wrath, beginning with the Seal Judgments, which I believe constitute a conventional world war that will result in one-fourth of Mankind being killed (Revelation 6:8).

And I believe the book of Revelation indicates that this war will morph into a nuclear one called the Trumpet Judgments that will result in one-third of the earth being burned up and another one-third of Mankind being killed (Revelation 8:7 and 9:15).

These are mind-blowing statistics that we need to pause to consider.

- The current population of the world is 7 billion.
- Let's assume that 1 billion are taken out in the Rapture, leaving a total of 6 billion.
- One-fourth of those left behind will die from the Seal Judgments, equaling 1.5 billion, leaving a total of 4.5 billion.
- One-third of those will die from the Trumpet Judgments, equaling another 1.5 billion, leaving 3 billion.
- This means that one-half the world's population is going to die in the first half of the Tribulation!

This is why Jesus said in His Olivet Discourse that the Tribulation would be so terrible that all life would cease to exist if God did not put an end to it (Matthew 24:22).

I think it is also the reason that Jesus said that "men will faint from fear over the expectation of the things which will come upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken" (Luke 21:26). That sounds to me like a reference to a nuclear exchange.

The Jews During the Tribulation

Meanwhile, while the Antichrist is conquering the world, the Jewish people will be living in peace, and I believe that will draw Jews from all over the world to return to their homeland, concentrating them for Satan's final attack.

In the middle of the Tribulation, after the Antichrist has

conquered the world, and after the Temple has been rebuilt, the Antichrist will come to Jerusalem — probably for the dedication of the Temple. He will astonish the Jewish people by entering the Temple and declaring himself to be God!

The Jews will, of course, reject this blasphemy, and the Antichrist will turn on them with a vengeance, determined to annihilate them.

The Purposes of the Judgment in Jehoshaphat

This brings us to the purposes of the Judgment in Jehoshaphat.

Although it will serve to pour out God's wrath on a God-hating Gentile world and a depraved Muslim world, the main purpose of the Tribulation is to bring the Jewish people to the end of themselves so that they will finally turn to God, repent and accept His Son, Yeshua, as their Messiah.

Remember, the seven years of the Tribulation constitutes the last week of Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks of years (Daniel 9:24). Daniel was told that during those 490 years God was going to achieve six things among the Jewish people:

- 1) "Finish the transgression" — The Jews' acceptance of their Messiah
- 2) "Make an end of sin" — The sins of daily life
- 3) "Make atonement for iniquity" — Repentance for rejecting Yeshua
- 4) "Bring in everlasting righteousness" — Establishment of Messiah's kingdom
- 5) "Seal up vision and prophecy" — The fulfillment of Messianic prophecies
- 6) "Anoint the most holy place" — Anointing of the Millennial Temple

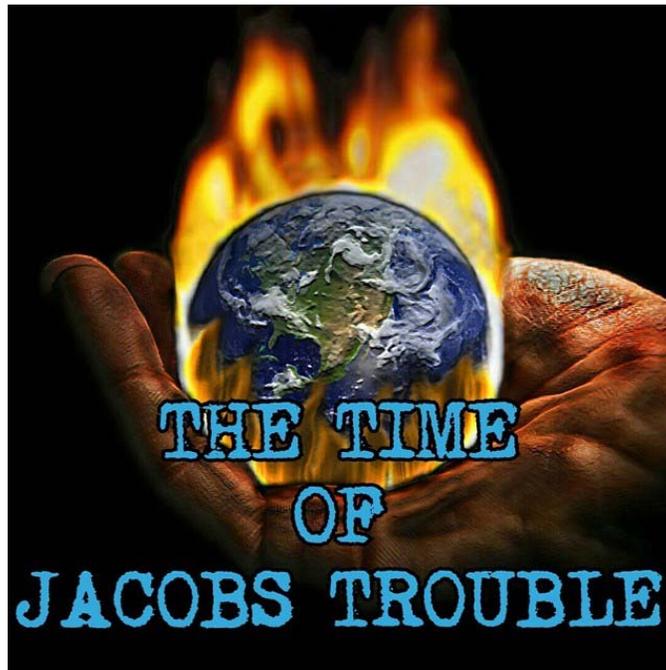
Daniel's 70 weeks of years was put on hold at the end of 483 years when the Jews rejected their Messiah and demanded His crucifixion. That was when God set the Jewish people aside in discipline and began working through the Church.

It was like a timeout in a football game. Well, the timeout is about to end. God is about to send His Son for His Bride, the Church, and then resume the countdown of the final seven years of Daniel's prophecy, when all the goals will be achieved.

Resumed Focus on the Jews

Zechariah says that during the second half of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will succeed in killing two-thirds of the Jewish people, resulting in a holocaust greater than that of the Nazis (Zechariah 13:8-9).

Many of the Jews will flee to the area of modern day Jordan, perhaps to the city of Petra. Daniel says that the Antichrist will



be prevented from entering Jordan in pursuit of them (Daniel 11: 41).

Others will evidently flee throughout the Middle East and continue their revolt against the Antichrist. I say that because Daniel says the Antichrist will ultimately gather an army for a major invasion of the Middle East (Daniel 11:40-45).

While he is doing this, the indication of the Scriptures is that many Jews will return to Israel and Jerusalem. Also, a revolt throughout Asia will occur, producing an army of 200 million that will start marching toward Israel to challenge the Antichrist (Revelation 9:16).

Daniel says that when the Antichrist arrives back in the Middle East with his army, he will rampage

from Syria down through Israel to Egypt and then, according to Zechariah 14:1-2, he will return to conquer Jerusalem. And just as he has conquered half of Jerusalem, he will hear that the Asian army has reached the Euphrates River. This news will motivate him to retreat from Jerusalem to the Valley of Armageddon where he will prepare to confront the invading armies (Daniel 11:14-15).

Sometime during these concluding days of the Tribulation, God will pour out His final wrath in the form of the Bowl Judgments which will destroy the European Empire of the Antichrist in one hour of one day (Revelation 16:1-12 & 18:8-10).

The Second Coming of Jesus

It is at this point that Jesus will break from the heavens in His Second Coming. Revelation says the Church Age saints in their glorified bodies will come with Him (Revelation 19:8 & 14).

He will return to the Mount of Olives from which He ascended into Heaven (Zechariah 14:4). The Jewish people will come out of the city, bow before Him, repent of their rejection of Him and receive Him as their Messiah, crying out, "Baruch Haba B'Shem Adonai!" ("Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" — Matthew 23:39).

Then according to the prophet Zechariah, Jesus will strike the Antichrist and all the armies gathered in the Valley of Armageddon with a supernatural plague that will instantly annihilate them, as if a neutron bomb had gone off (Zechariah 14:12). Zechariah says their eyes and tongues will melt and their flesh will fall from their bodies, resulting in blood up to the horses' bridles (Revelation 14:20).

Incidentally, you and I are going to witness these events of the Second Coming personally because hundreds of millions of us who were taken up in the Rapture will return with Jesus in our glorified bodies. We will fill the Kidron Ravine and the sky above as we watch Jesus replay a day in His life.

Once before He came to the Mount of Olives riding a

donkey as He made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem during the last week of His life (Matthew 21:1-11). Thousands who had heard of His resurrection of Lazarus filled the Kidron and waved palm branches in worship and cried out “Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!” A week later many of those same people were crying out, “Crucify Him!”

It will be very different when He returns. He will be riding a white war charger, the symbol of a victorious general. After He has spoken the plague on the Antichrist and all the armies gathered at Armageddon, He will ride that horse down into the Kidron Ravine and up to the Eastern Gate which has been closed for over 400 years. And as He approaches it, the Gate will blow open, allowing Him to enter the Temple Mount.

That event is described in Psalm 24 in these words:

7) Lift up your heads, O gates, And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in!

8) Who is the King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

The Good News

In conclusion, I must point out that the Judgment in Jehoshaphat is not all bad news. For the book of Revelation clearly teaches that in addition to the Jewish remnant, a great host of Gentiles will be saved during the Tribulation — so many, in fact, that John says they could not be counted (Revelation 7:9).

How will they be saved?

- 1) Responding to the Rapture
- 2) Discovering Bibles
- 3) The testimony of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses
- 4) The Two Witnesses in Jerusalem (Revelation 11)
- 5) The proclamation of the Gospel Angel (Revelation 14:6)
- 6) Responding to the wrath of God

Regarding this last point, Isaiah says, “When the earth experiences God’s judgments, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness” (Isaiah 26:9). Although most will curse God for the judgments, some will be brought to repentance and salvation by the judgments.

As Billy Graham used to say, “The same sun that melts the butter, hardens the clay.” And thus, while the judgments of God will harden the hearts of most, they will melt the hearts of some, bringing them to repentance and salvation.

Conclusion

Let’s end where we began by picking up where we left off in our reading of Joel chapter 3. It describes the result of God’s Judgment in Jehoshaphat. And that, of course, is the Messiah’s glorious Millennial reign which will flood the earth with peace, righteousness and justice, as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9). Here’s how the prophet Joel describes it in chapter 3 of his prophecy:

17) “Then you will know that I, the LORD your God, live in Zion, my holy mountain. Jerusalem will be holy forever, and foreign armies will never conquer her again.

18) “In that day the mountains will drip with sweet wine, and the hills will flow with milk. Water will fill the streambeds of Judah, and a fountain will burst forth from the LORD’s Temple, watering the arid valley of acacias . .

20) “Judah will be filled with people forever, and Jerusalem will endure through all generations.

21) . . . *and I The LORD will make My home in Jerusalem with my people!* (NLT)

And that, of course, is the reason that Ezekiel tells us that the name of Jerusalem will be changed from *Yerushalayim* to *Yahweh Shemmah*, which means “The Lord is There!” (Ezekiel 48:35).

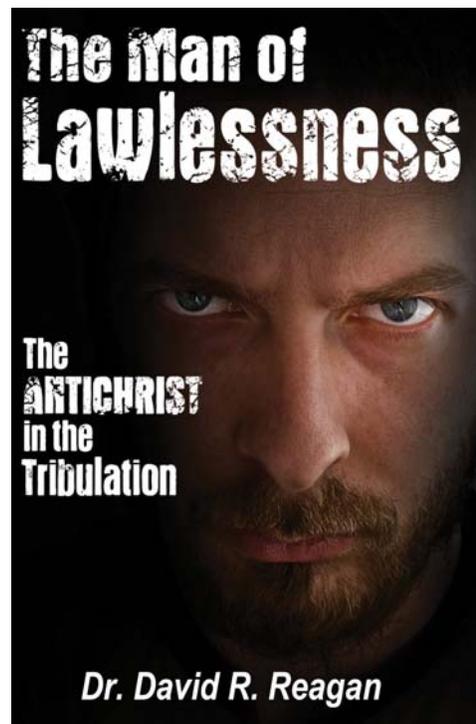
I want to end with the cry of Isaiah. It’s a cry he uttered from the depths of his heart at the end of his book (chapter 64) after having been given vision after vision of the Lord’s Millennial Reign —

1) “Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence —

2) . . . to make Your name known to Your adversaries, that the nations may tremble at Your presence!”

Maranatha! And Hallelujah! ❖

For More Detailed Information About the Great Tribulation



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Amazing Facts About the Tribulation

Tim LaHaye

(Editor's note: The article below was taken from a chapter by Tim LaHaye in the book, *The Popular Handbook on the Rapture* published by Harvest House in 2011. Tim was called home to his heavenly reward in July of 2016 at the age of 90.)



TimLaHaye

The seven-year Tribulation will be the most horrific period in all of human history.

Our Lord Himself spoke about it in His great Olivet Discourse: “For then there will be Great Tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21).

This is, in fact, the most important description ever given about this devastating period, making it obvious that it has yet to occur [as opposed to Preterists who claim it took place in 70 AD when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem].

Another Amazing Fact

Keep in mind that the Tribulation receives more space in the Bible than any other historical period described, whether it be past or future.

Compare, for example, the period known as the Millennial Kingdom. We would be hard-pressed to find a dozen chapters in the Bible that describe this incredible 1000-year period.

And yet the short seven-year Tribulation is mentioned 49 times in the Old Testament, given two chapters each in both Matthew and Luke, one chapter in Mark, and 13 chapters in the book of Revelation, among others.

In fact, the only subject in the New Testament that is given more space than the Tribulation is the subject of Jesus Himself. He is, after all, the principle reason for the existence of the Bible, yet the subject of the Tribulation runs second to the Lord in regard to the allocation of space. That in itself demonstrates just how important this soon to come period of time is.

The Purpose of the Tribulation

While on the subject I would like to explain the reason for this outpouring of calamity. It is a time of judgment — a time when man's false gods of materialism, unbelief and libertine living are dashed to pieces. And though God's wrath takes center stage during the Tribulation, after having studied prophecy for over 60 years, I have come to the conclusion that the supreme purpose of the Tribulation is for God to exhibit His great mercy to mankind.

That's because the judgments He will place on unsaved people are intended to warn them of their need to turn to the Lord while they still can. With Christ's millennial kingdom rapidly approaching, time is of the essence. People must make a decision whether to believe in Jesus as the Messiah or to reject Him. The seven-year Tribulation will present people with one last chance for salvation before the arrival of the Millennial Kingdom.

A Demonstration of God's Grace

There are a number of acts God will perform during the Tribulation that will clearly demonstrate his great mercy, including the sealing of the 144,000 servants of God in Revelation 7:4-8; the saving of “a great multitude [the Tribulation saints] that no one could number” in Revelation 7:9-17; and the release of the “angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth” in Revelation 14:6-7.

These and other acts of God's grace will occur during this most traumatic period in our planet's history, and they will prove just how merciful our God is in desiring that all men be saved.

The events of the Tribulation will cause multiplied millions to call on the name of the Lord and prepare them for the wonderful eternity He has in store for them. ✚



Tim LaHaye is pictured above with Dr. Reagan's daughter, Rachel Houck. The photo was taken during a video shoot with him. Rachel currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer of Lamb & Lion. Tim was a close friend and mentor of Dr. Reagan. In fact, one of the first books Dr. Reagan ever read about Bible prophecy was one written by Tim that was titled, *Revelation Illustrated and Made Plain* (1973).

The Error of Postmillennialism

Dennis Pollock

Antivirus programs have become a standard component of computers these days. Anyone who surfs the net, sends and receives emails, and refuses to guard himself against viruses will surely have an infected computer sooner or later (probably sooner).



Dennis Pollock

In the Church, Christians are often subject to spiritual viruses. These are false and misleading teachings that emerge seemingly from nowhere, and begin to multiply and take on a life of their own. Sometimes these viruses gain a foothold for a while, then lose steam for a season, and suddenly reappear in a slightly altered form to a new generation.

The Heresy of Dominion Theology

Such is the teaching known as Dominion Theology. In other versions it might be called Christian Reconstructionism, Kingdom Now or Postmillennialism. The main idea is to reverse the plain teachings of Jesus and the Apostles concerning the last days.

Whereas an unbiased reading of the Scriptures leads you to the conclusion that the last days will be times of great difficulty and wickedness, this teaching reverses the scenario and predicts

for some kind of escape.

This kind of teaching has a militant sound which is appealing to many. We like the idea of flexing our muscles and going out and changing the world. Perhaps the world isn't doomed after all. Maybe we can save it if we just try hard enough.

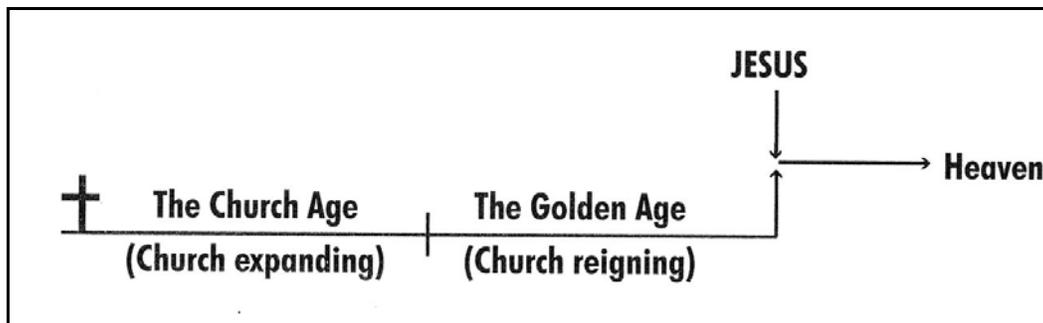
The problem with this doctrine is that it looks a whole lot better at a distance than it does close up — that is if we get “close-up” to the Scriptures. A careful and close scrutiny of what Jesus and the Apostles taught about the last days and Christ's return reveal what a complete fallacy this is.

The worst part of this teaching is that it entirely throws out what the Bible refers to as our “blessed hope” — “the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13). The return of our Lord has no relevance for you if you are convinced you will be building a new righteous world on your own, and that perhaps in a thousand years or so the job will be completed. Jesus couldn't possibly return now — you have too much work to do!

The Main Tenet of Dominion Theology

As we have noted, at the center of Dominion Theology is the idea that the world shall improve and progress more and more over time, transformed by the Church. Every aspect of culture and society will be affected. Christians will infiltrate the movie industry, take control of the government, become leaders in art, science, music, medicine, education, and every other major field. False religions will crumble, atheism will collapse, and agnosticism will disappear as the world turns to Jesus. “The earth shall be filled with the glory of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9).

Of course, Christians have always believed this would be the case, but orthodox Christianity expects to see this when Christ returns and establishes His kingdom rule on this earth. This new theology tells us there is no need to wait for Jesus — we can do this all by ourselves.



The Postmillennial Concept: The Church conquers the world, reigns for a thousand years, and then the Lord returns.

that the Church will eventually dominate every aspect of society and the entire world shall become Christian! There is no reference to Christ returning and accomplishing this — world dominion is strictly the Church's business.

Ministers who believe these things will often make belittling references to the idea of Jesus returning to take His people to Himself. Those who have an eager expectation of the Rapture of the Church are characterized as “sitting around and waiting for Jesus to come.” The real Christians are the ones who are out there changing the culture, transforming society, infiltrating the arts, and creating a Christian world — not looking to the skies

The first argument against such a notion is that, even apart from what the Bible predicts, where is the evidence of this? Is America of the 21st century a more godly nation than the United States of the 1950s? Are our movies and television programs more thoroughly Christian than they were fifty years ago? (Please stop laughing!) Do we have a higher percentage of Americans attending church regularly than there were in 1955? Are Americans more sexually pure than they were back in 1945? The answer is a huge, resounding no!

America is far more secular than at any time in its history.

Never have our movies and TV shows been more filthy and vulgar than today. Never has music been more coarse or the typical language heard in our streets more crude. If we are making moral progress, you would have to get out a microscope to look for it. And in Europe the case is far worse than here in America.

Evidence of the Scriptures

But of course, the ultimate test is the Bible. If you are trying to decide the legitimacy of a teaching, when all else fails, open your Bible and start reading. The Scriptures could hardly be more plain in revealing that our world will be in a morally degenerate condition just prior to the coming of Christ.

Paul wrote, “in the last days perilous times will come. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers . . .” (2 Timothy 3:1,2). This hardly sounds like the glowing, transformed society predicted by the Dominion folks.

In like manner, Paul told the Thessalonian believers that Christ’s Second Coming cannot occur “unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition . . .” (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Then he explains why it is that God will allow the Antichrist to rise to power and rule over the earth: “because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie . . .” (2 Thess. 2:10-11).

A wicked and rebellious world will receive a powerful deluding force in the person of the Antichrist due to their unwillingness to receive God’s truth. They have hated truth and loved falsehood. They have mocked Christ, calling His inspired Word a myth, and ridiculing His commands for sexual purity as primitive and antiquated. Now they shall experience the greatest delusion ever to come on the face of the earth.

You may be saying to yourself, “Well, Paul was kind of a grumpy guy, but the Lord Jesus was so positive — I’m sure He had lots of good things to say about how as we get closer to the end of things, everything is going to get better and better . . .” Don’t be so sure! Jesus declared that the last days would be similar to two previous societies: the days of Noah and the days of Lot (Luke 17:26-30).

Jesus deliberately chose the two most wicked societies and times the Bible records. In both Noah’s generation and Lot’s, the prevailing cultures were so wicked, so vile, violent and immoral that God destroyed every living person, save for the families of Noah and Lot.

Of Noah’s day we read, “The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence” (Genesis 6:11). Of the people who lived in Lot’s day, the Bible tells us, “But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD” (Genesis 13:13). Jesus chose these two cultures to describe the conditions of the last days, saying, “Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed” (Luke 17:30).



The optimistic, unbiblical attitude of Postmillennialism concerning the future of society.

Skirting the Scriptures

The folks who preach Dominion Theology know these verses are in the Bible. They prove a tremendous inconvenience to them, but they often attempt to solve the problem by suggesting that Jesus has already come.

Yes, you read that right — they have somehow managed to convince themselves that Jesus has already come! They don’t always put this out for general consumption, knowing that many Christians just couldn’t stomach such an idea, but if you listen to them carefully you will catch bits and pieces of this bizarre doctrine.

They suggest all the exhortations to watch for Jesus and all the dire predictions of perilous times and calamities in the last days were fulfilled historically in 70 AD when the Romans came and destroyed Jerusalem. In their view, this was the coming of Christ. There is no more return of Jesus to look for — forget about the Rapture and go out and convert the world.

Often, if they speak at all about the return of Jesus, they will refer to it in a mocking tone. How they love to use the phrase, “sitting around and waiting for Jesus to come.” The implication is that if you were as spiritual as they are, you would give up on this foolish notion of Christ returning to take you out of the world, and you would get busy changing the world.

There is an accusation of spiritual wimpiness here: real men change the world while the wimps sit around and hope to escape the world. If you are excited about the return of Jesus you must not be a real man — or a real woman!

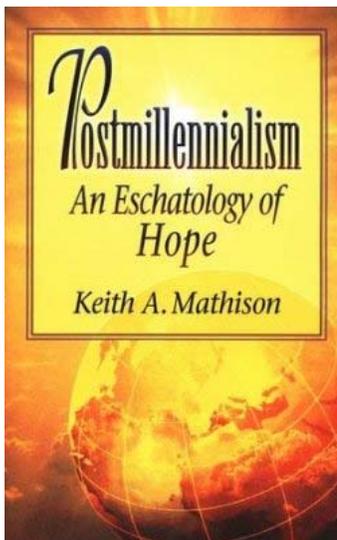
Good or Bad?

Again, the basic question to be answered here is what does the Bible say? Is it a good or a bad thing for Christians to give serious thought to the return of Jesus Christ? Is it recommended or condemned in the Bible?

Of course, this is the ultimate no-brainer. Anyone who has read the Bible the least little bit knows the answer to that. The New Testament is absolutely inundated with exhortations for us to watch for Jesus’ return.

Paul writes, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20). Jesus tells us, “. . . you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately” (Luke 12:36). Peter encourages us, “. . . gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13).

Is there a danger of Christians sitting around and doing nothing as they wait for Jesus? Perhaps so, but in my experience I find that those who have the greatest passion for the return of Jesus Christ are far more likely to be out sharing the gospel and active in their churches than those cold-hearted believers who



never give it the slightest consideration.

The classic example of this was the Apostle Paul. Here was a man who was constantly on the go for Jesus. He was evangelizing non-stop, building churches, healing the sick, and getting himself thrown in jail for his aggressive style of Christianity. Yet, Paul could never stop talking about the day of Christ. The return of Jesus fills his epistles and obviously filled his heart. There is no need to try to reconcile evangelism with eschatology. They are best friends!

The True Motivation

You may ask, "But if you believe you can convert the whole world, won't that serve as a greater motivation than believing that the world is going to fall apart?"

Our motivation for reaching our world should have nothing to do with the percentage that we think may or may not believe. Imagine a Christian businessman who tells you, "I don't think I will ever share my faith with anyone in my office. I know I could never convert the entire office, so why should I even try?" What incredibly stupid reasoning!

So what if you can't convert your entire office? You may be able to win that depressed lady in the cubicle next to you, or that young man you sometimes eat with at lunch. The fact that we don't expect to win the entire world for Christ should never stop us from witnessing.

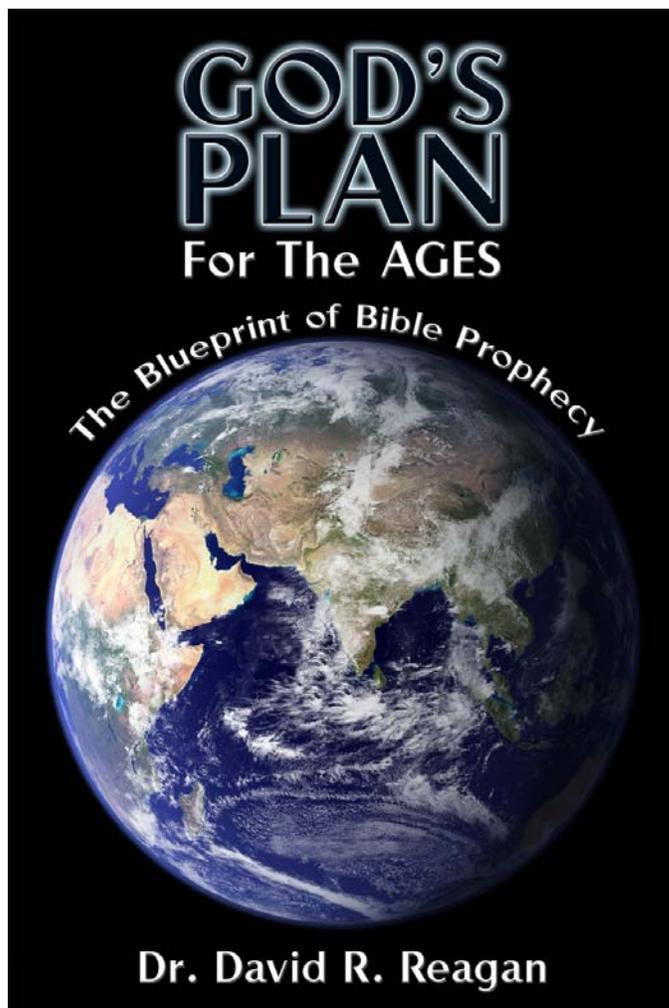
Jesus told us from the outset that the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many will take that path. But He also tells us to go and preach the gospel to all creation, and His love and His Spirit compel us to do just that, regardless of which direction our world is moving.

One of the cardinal doctrines of the Church is the return of Jesus Christ for His people. Paul writes, ". . . we should live soberly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ . . ." (Titus 2:13).

We will not "sit around" as we await His return, but we will work, we will watch and we will not apologize for our love for the glorious return of the King of kings, the mighty God, the One who is called Faithful and True, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ✚

Dennis Pollock served as an Associate Evangelist with Lamb & Lion Ministries for 11 years before deciding to form a ministry of his own called Spirit of Grace. The ministry is headquartered in McKinney, Texas. Dennis specializes in foreign evangelism, with a particular emphasis on Africa. His website address is www.spiritofgrace.org. Dennis is a very gifted preacher, teacher and writer. You can find many of his writings on his website.

Are You Interested in All the End Time Viewpoints?



This book by Dr. Reagan provides an in-depth description of all the end time Bible prophecy viewpoints. They are presented in chronological order as they developed in history. He concludes this section of the book with a comparison and contrast between each viewpoint, and he provides an analysis of the biblical strength of each view.

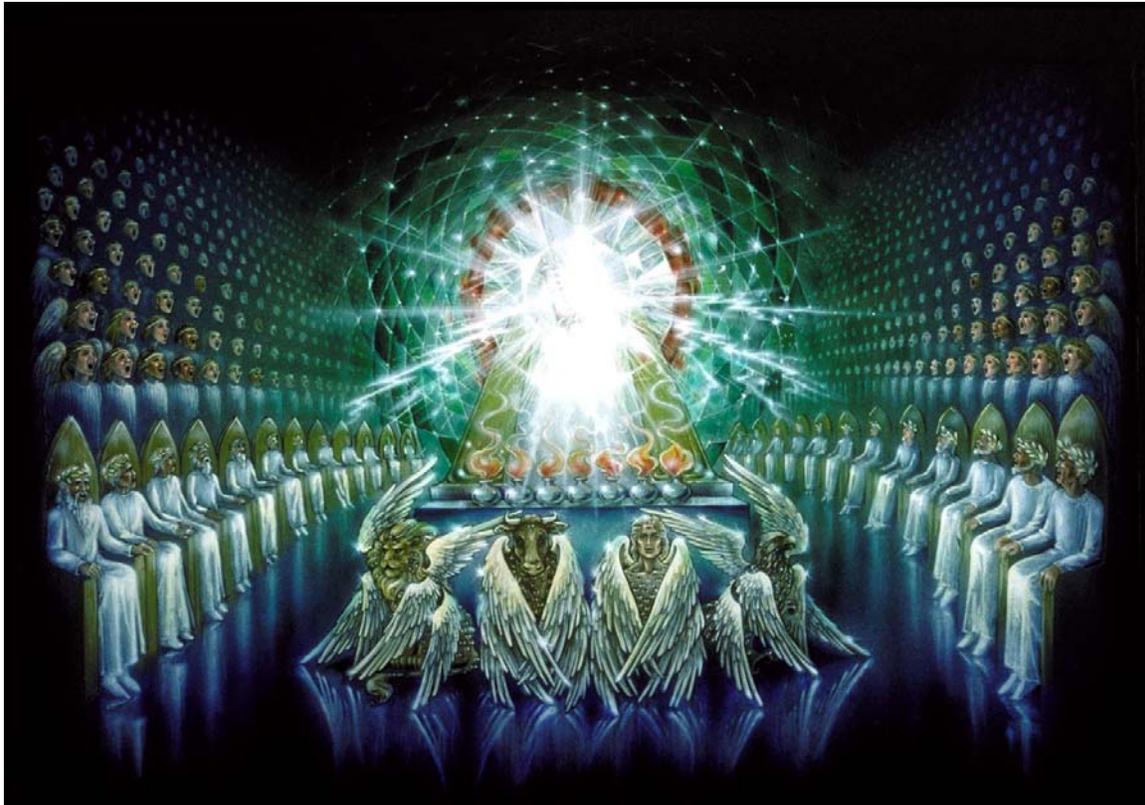
Dr. Reagan produced this book in 2005. A second edition was published in 2010. The book contains 42 chapters, including an epilogue about Psalm 2. Each chapter stands on its own, so it is not necessary to read the chapters in the order they appear in the book.

The book is divided into six parts: 1) Prophetic Significance, 2) Prophetic Issues, 3) Prophetic Views, 4) Prophetic Signs, 5) Prophetic Hope and 6) Prophetic Epilogue.

Jack Van Impe said of this book, "It offers a sweeping, panoramic view of prophetic events unlike anything I have ever studied, even after having read more than 11,000 books!"

The book runs 415 pages in length. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. You can order it through our website or by calling our office. ✚

Who Are the 24 Elders of Revelation 4?



“The Throne Room of God” by Pat Marvenko Smith.
(www.revelationsillustrated.com).

Nathan E. Jones **Lamb & Lion Internet Evangelist**

When the Apostle John was caught up to Heaven, he revealed that God’s throne does not stand alone. Rather, it is situated at the center of a circle of lesser thrones.

He wrote, “Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads” (Revelation 4:4). John, calling himself the Elder, had met the 24 Elders, and in doing so, presented a great mystery. Just who are the 24 Elders?

The first impulse is to identify the 24 Elders as angels, particularly a special elevated class of angels. Such a conclusion is problematic, though. The ancient origins of angels could have certainly earned them the title Elder, but then this would have been the only time in the Bible where angels are called elders.

If not angels, could the 24 Elders be members of humanity? And, if so, which humans? Some theorize that the 24 Elders could be comprised of the 12 sons of Jacob, Israel’s tribal patriarchs, plus the 12 Apostles, with the two groups representing God’s Old and New Covenants. That configuration has a certain logic to it. But, as the last living Apostle, John’s seat should have remained vacant, yet he still counted 24 Elders present.

If not a Patriarch-Apostle combo, what about the 24 Elders being comprised of still another group of men, ones unknown to us? I leave out women only because women were not allowed to serve as elders in the Early Church, and so John would never have recognized a woman with the title of Elder.

I believe in solving this mystery we would be getting warmer if referring to these unknown men as representatives of the Church due to how John described the rewards these men hold, rewards promised only to the raptured Church.

After believers in Christ are raptured up to Heaven, the Bible explains we will undergo the Judgment of the Just. It’s a form of graduation ceremony where we will be rewarded for the good deeds the Holy Spirit performed through our lives.

Some of the rewards Christ will bestow upon the faithful will be immaterial, available to all no matter what the result of the Judgment of the Just. For example, those saved will live forever with their Creator in a loving relationship on the New Earth.

But there will also be rewards that will relate to levels of position, as gloried believers will be granted different degrees of ruling authority during Christ’s millennial reign (Luke 19:11-27). Some of the rewards will be so wonderful that, as the Apostle Paul exclaimed, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Who Are the 144,000 in Revelation 7?

Dr. David R. Reagan

Other rewards will be material in nature, such as special white robes that demonstrate the purity and holiness of “the righteous acts of the saints” (Revelation 6:11; 19:8). And, the Bible describes five different crowns, called in the Greek *stephanos*, which will be bestowed on Christians for meritorious spiritual achievements.

Notice, too, that John described the Elders as casting their crowns in worship before the One on the throne while singing a “new song.” They sang, “You have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:9-10). Their song reveals the origins of the 24 Elders as coming from all the peoples of the world.

Their song certainly proves the 24 Elders are not angels, for these elders needed to be redeemed by Christ’s shed blood, and there is no redemption for angels. Also, angels are never portrayed as wearing crowns.

The 24 Elders had been missing in Isaiah and Jeremiah’s visits to Heaven centuries earlier, showing the Elders had not even been born or given their thrones yet. Once finally in Heaven, the Elders had been given white robes, indicating their newfound purity, and they were also granted ruling authority over the earth. These rewards were promised explicitly to the Church (Revelation 1:6). Therefore, what John was witnessing with the 24 Elders could only be the Church Age saints. I’ll go even further, one of them could even be you!

During King David’s time, 24 elders had been appointed to divide the priesthood into 24 courses with each elder serving two weeks at a time in the Temple. The huge number of priests required a rotation in order to allow all of them their time to fulfill their priestly duties. Skip ahead to Jesus’ promise that those who “overcome” (meaning those who are saved), will get the chance “to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” (Revelation 3:21).

Could it be that these overcomers, in order to get their turn, will be granted a rotational seat upon the heavenly throne? If so, that means you’ll be the one wearing a pure white robe. You’ll be the one wearing a golden crown. You’ll be the one casting your crown in an eternal act of joyous worship towards your Savior who sits upon the very seat over all authority. You may be, at least for a time, one of the 24 Elders! ❖



Nathan Jones

Nathan is available to speak at churches and conferences. You can contact him by email at njones@lambliion.com or by calling 972-736-3567.

I hear this question all the time, and I am always amazed that anyone would ask it. After all, the passage tells us clearly who they are. They are Jews who have been “sealed” as “bond-servants” of God. The passage even goes into detail to explain that they will consist of 12,000 young Jewish men drawn from each of the 12 tribes of Israel.



“The Sealing of the 144,000” by Pat Marvenko Smith.

(www.revelationillustrated.com)

It appears that they will be sealed by the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the Tribulation. And we know that they will be supernaturally protected by God throughout that horrible period of time because they are pictured in Revelation 14 in a flash-forward, standing with Jesus on Mount Zion at the time of His Second Coming.

As “bond-servants” of the Lord, they will, of course, be evangelists in behalf of the Gospel. That is most certainly the reason that their introduction in Revelation 7:1-8 is followed immediately with the revelation of a great multitude of martyrs in Heaven “who have come out of the great tribulation” and “have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:14).

How will these young men come to the Lord? We are not told. My guess is that they will receive Yeshua as their Messiah after God defeats the Russian coalition that comes against Israel in the War of Gog & Magog. We are told in the book of Ezekiel that God will glorify Himself in that war (Ezekiel 39:13) and that He will make His name known in the midst of His people, Israel (Ezekiel 39:7).

So, with all this detailed information about the 144,000, why do people keep asking the question about their identity? It’s due to what’s called Replacement Theology. This is the heresy that teaches that because the Jews killed Jesus, God washed His hands of them and replaced them with the Church. And if you believe that, you cannot accept the plain scriptural teaching that the 144,000 are Jews. So, about 80 percent of Christian commentaries try to argue that the 144,000 Jews are just a symbol for the Church! ❖

“Alas! What Shall We Do?”

Colonel Tim Moore
Lamb & Lion Associate Evangelist

[Elisha’s servant speaking when he realized that he and his master were surrounded by enemy forces.]
“Alas, master! What shall we do?”
Elisha answered, “Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”
Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see” (2 Kings 6:15b-17a).



Elijah reveals God’s army to his servant.



Col. Tim Moore

For several years, I have had the privilege of sharing the message that Jesus is coming soon. In Sunday School classes and church services and prophecy conferences, I’ve implored people to recognize the signs of the times. As foretold by Bible prophecy, they are multiplying all around us and are proclaiming that we are indeed living in the season of the Lord’s return.

Anyone who is conversant with prophetic themes knows that we at Lamb & Lion Ministries separate the signs into six categories: nature, society, spiritual, world politics, technology, and Israel. In fulfillment of Jesus’ prophecy that the signs would be like birth pangs (Matthew 24:8), the frequency and intensity of the signs in every category is increasing.

A Survey of Signs

Nature — In September 2014, *Governing* magazine featured an article with the sub-headline: “Governments throughout the country are touting the need for resilience in the face of ever-more-frequent natural disasters.” Do you think the editors realized that they were documenting the fulfillment of Jesus’ words in Matthew 24:7 and Luke 21:11?

Spiritual — This category has some obvious positive fulfillments, including a leveraging of technology to share the Gospel in every tongue and nation. But there are negative indicators as well. One lament that many Christians express is the drift of the Church in America away from God’s Word. With rare exceptions, the trend has been to move away from the inerrancy of Scripture and the exclusivity of salvation through Jesus alone. Whether by adopting the naturalistic ideology of evolution or watering down the whole Word of God to minimize sin, judgment and hell, too many churches are preaching a different gospel, something Paul warned about in Galatians 1:6-8.

World Politics — The world’s attention continues to focus on Israel and Jerusalem. And, news stories throughout 2018 highlighted Russia’s growing influence in the Middle East and its budding alliance with Iran, especially in Syria. Those two nations are poised to unite against Israel in preparation for a key war of

the end times.

Technology — Technological advances continue to be amazing. Aviation progress — from cloth and wood biplanes to transcontinental airliners that weigh over a million pounds — has all occurred in just 120 years. In 1965, Intel co-founder Gordon Moore predicted that computing power and memory capability would double every two years, while cost would be halved. That has proven true — if underestimated. Regarding the explosion of information, some experts now claim that information is doubling every 12 hours! The Lord told us this would be the case in Daniel 12:4.

Israel — Israel has been recognized as a category unto itself because so many end time prophecies are tied to Jacob’s offspring. For many centuries, few Christians could imagine how God would orchestrate the regathering and re-ascendance of the Jewish people. But, in just the past century, God has indeed proved faithful. He is fulfilling every prophecy concerning the Jewish people, right before our very eyes.

The Most Pervasive Sign

I’ve intentionally left off one category for last. It is the category of society.

While the other categories of signs are evident all around us, some of them can be held at arm’s length by the average Christian. For instance, unless we are personally impacted by a natural disaster, the increase in frequency and intensity may be an academic reality instead of an experienced one. The advance of technology can be a blessing. And if a person attends a biblically faithful church, they may feel immune from the negative aspects of spiritual decline.

But, all of us live in a society that is deteriorating before our very eyes. The culture around us becomes the air we breathe — and if the Lord delays His return, His promise to come again will become increasingly polluted for our children and grandchildren.

Society — At one time, it required a prophet’s discernment to recognize looming threats in this arena. Men like Peter Marshall, David Wilkerson, and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn identified cracks in the foundation and structure of the Christian West years before most people awakened to the trends. Like frogs in a pot, we find ourselves now boiling and wonder when it became so hot.

The hostility toward Christianity in formerly Christian nations has been well-documented. Publicly proclaiming the truths



A sign of the times: Billy Porter and his “husband,” Adam Smith, at the 2019 Oscar ceremonies. (Getty images by Frazer Harrison)

of Scripture regarding a host of social issues is criminally punishable in previously hospitable places like Britain and Canada. But it is here in America that the pace of cultural change is accelerating at such an incredible rate.

Al Mohler of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary says that while, in the past, the sexual revolution’s encroachment on our culture could be measured year by year or month by month, recently it has become week by week and even day by day. This can be proven by considering the position of various politicians on the question of traditional marriage. Just 12 years ago, every leading national politician professed their support for marriage between a man and a woman. Now, the Democratic Party has rejected that definition as altogether unenlightened and unworthy of defending.

Attitudes on life also demonstrate the abandonment of a biblical worldview. A generation ago the liberal mantra regarding abortion was “safe, legal and rare.” In just the past several months the progressive Left has decided to advocate for abortion that is “safe, legal and free.” Never safe for the unborn baby, this procedure is being touted as a non-negotiable position. States like New York, Illinois, and California are eagerly rushing to lock in the most abortion-friendly laws imaginable and mandate taxpayer funding for unlimited abortions.

Is it any wonder that Christians and casual secularists alike are asking, “what in the world is going on?”

Keeping Societal Decline in Perspective

First of all, we can take great comfort in recognizing that these trends and social changes were foretold in Scripture. Bible prophecy tells us that society will break down in the end times. Jesus said, “the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah” (Matthew 24:37). Genesis 6:5 & 11 records the nature of society in Noah’s day:

- the wickedness of man was great upon the earth

- the earth was corrupt in the sight of God
- the earth was filled with violence

Recognizing that reality in our own day proves that Jesus is coming soon. Or, as Adrian Rogers once said, “The world is growing gloriously dark.”

The culmination of all the signs is another proof that we are living in the end times. If any one category of signs was being manifest before us, that would be remarkable. But all the signs are converging simultaneously. Jan Markell is right in saying, “the world is not falling to pieces, rather the pieces are all falling into place.” Do you believe that? Do you cling to that positive hope in the midst of discouraging trends?

Rita Springer’s beautiful song, “This Blood,” contains a line that says, “So I come to tell you He’s alive.” Imagine the first people to hear that glorious news — two women who came to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ decaying body. While they rejoiced, the disciples gathered in gloomy dejection, wondering how Jesus could have allowed Himself to suffer the indignity of death, and pondering their own uncertain future. Like some of us, their immediate frustration and sadness overwhelmed their ability to grasp Jesus’ promises yet to be realized.

Similarly, like a person tempted to fixate on the tragedy of an automobile accident as they drive past, we can become consumed with evil to the point of distraction. Certainly, some of us who have opened our eyes now see the spiritual dimension of forces raging about us. We realize that the decline of our culture and society is a fulfillment of ancient prophecies. Like Elisha’s attendant, we are alerted to the dangers multiplying around us. But, tempted to despair like him, our prayer may be, “Alas, my Master! What shall we do?”

In the months to come I will return to this question. I will address some specific attitudes and actions we should undertake as we live and serve in such a time as this. Generations of Christians have aspired to witness the manifold fulfillments of prophecy we take for granted. They have passed on the baton of faith to us and it would not do for us to falter at the finish line.

There is another reason I am compelled to offer this word of encouragement. When I was deployed to the Middle East during the war in Iraq as an airlift pilot, there was little doubt that we would win the war militarily. That did not lessen the need to uphold the morale of those fighting for good. Embroiled in a stressful daily grind and longing to be home, it was tempting to become discouraged. Good commanders recognize that threat and regularly offer their troops insight to the big picture and assurance of victory. This is why Revelation contains several asides to reassure readers that victory is certain. As we await the ultimate “airlift” from the battlefield at hand, let’s not lose focus.

In future articles, I will draw other lessons from the life of Elisha. This great prophet followed in the footsteps of another. He was used mightily by God to speak truth to his own generation and down through the centuries to us today. Our actions likewise must have a contemporary and a lasting impact.

But, my prayer today follows after Elisha’s. He asked that his attendant’s eyes would be fully opened. Scripture says, “And the LORD opened the servant’s eyes and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around

Elisha” (2 Kings 6:17). Hope quickly surmounted what had seemed a hopeless situation.

I pray that your eyes will be open. In addition to comprehending the obvious forces of evil multiplying all around us, infecting our society, and threatening to undermine the freedom and faith of our posterity, I pray that you will realize that the armies of heaven are on the move.

Speaking of the signs of the times, Jesus said, “When you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door” (Matthew 24:33). While the darkness may be deepening day by day, soon and very soon the Father will send forth His Son to claim His bride, the Church. From that moment for the rest of eternity, we will realize the fulfillment of His first words: “Let there be light;” for we will never know darkness again.

Amen and Godspeed!! ✦

(Colonel Tim Moore leads Lamb & Lion’s pilgrimages to Israel — both our “Footsteps of Jesus” tour and our new “Battle for Israel” tour. He travels wherever he is invited to present messages proclaiming the Lord’s soon return. Email him at “tmoore@lamblion.com” to schedule a speaking engagement or to inquire about Israel pilgrimage details.)

How to Cope With a Pagan Society

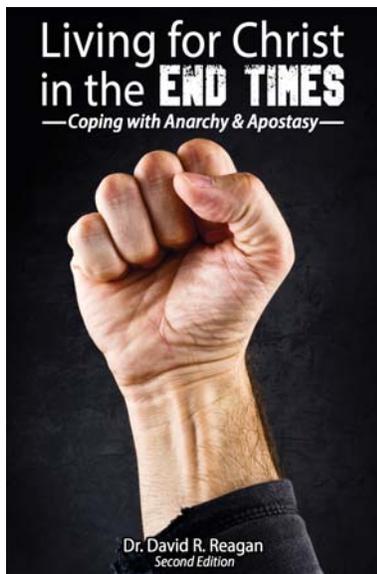
Dr. Reagan’s book, *Living for Christ in the End Times*, was first published in the year 2000. A second edition was issued in 2015.

The first part of the book is titled, “The Descent into Paganism.” It presents a shocking overview of the two greatest challenges to Christian living in the 21st Century — namely, the growing apostasy in the Church and the rapid deterioration of society.

In the second part of the book, Dr. Reagan focuses on how a Christian can live a life of victory in the midst of a pagan society. He presents ten guidelines, such as standing on the Word of God, believing in the power of God, practicing tough faith, persisting in prayer and clinging to hope.

In the third and final section of the book, Dr. Reagan provides the promises of Bible prophecy that assure Christians that they will ultimately triumph over paganism when the Lord Jesus returns to reign in glory and majesty from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem.

The book runs 323 pages in length. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. You can order it through our website at lamblion.com, or you can call 972-736-3567, Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. ✦

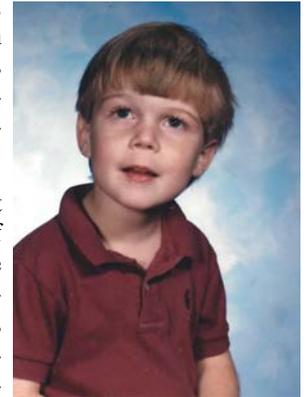


In Memozy

Jason Smith

Dr. David R. Reagan

My step-grandson, Jason Smith, was called home to Heaven on March 22. Jason was 37 years old. My oldest daughter, Ruth, became his step-mom when she married his dad in 1987.



Jason at age five.

Jason was six years old at that time, and he was showing signs of delayed development. During the next three years, his condition deteriorated rapidly. He lost most of his ability to speak. He became incapable of determining what was fictional from what was real. For example, he became afraid of stuffed animals, thinking they were real.

During those three years his parents tried repeatedly to get him diagnosed, and many diagnoses were given, ranging from autistic to lazy X syndrome. But none of these seemed to really fit Jason. Finally, one of his school teachers suggested that he be tested for Metachromatic Leukodystrophy (MLD). And sure enough, he tested positive for this extremely rare genetic disorder. The doctors estimated he had four to ten years to live.

Jason became so uncontrollable that he had to be placed in a children’s care facility in East Texas. He had to live in a padded room and wear a helmet to keep him from hurting himself.

To the society we live in today, Jason’s existence was meaningless. The “Progressives” would argue that such people should either be allowed to die or even be put to death because only “quality life” means anything to them. They scoff at the biblical concept that all human life is precious.

To me, Jason was a living reminder that we live in a fallen world, corrupted by the sin of Man — a world in which the innocent often suffer. It is a world we should never grow accustomed to or comfortable with. We are, instead, to be like aliens who are passing through to a far better world (Heb. 11:13).

Jason’s life and suffering impacted me so deeply that I dedicated two of my books to him. One of those dedications read as follows: “To my grandson who does not know who he is, nor does he know who I am. But one day soon, when Jesus returns, his mind will be healed, and I will enjoy his fellowship forever.”

Jason did not have to wait for the Lord’s return to be healed. He is in Heaven now in his intermediate spirit body enjoying fellowship with the Lord and the saints. One day soon, when the Rapture occurs, he will receive his glorified body that will be immortal and perfect. And never again will he experience suffering. ✦

The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18).

The Rapture Under Attack

Dr. David R. Reagan

Noah preached for 120 years before the Lord delivered on His promise to destroy the world with water. I'm sure that in the final years before the flood came, he must have been severely mocked as a false prophet and a madman. But God was faithful to His promise, and Noah was vindicated in the end.

Likewise today, people are scoffing at the promise of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture, and they are mocking those who are preaching it. We get very sarcastic messages all the time saying, "People have been preaching the Lord's imminent return for a hundred years, and nothing has happened." The irony is that this attitude is one of the signs that we are in the final days of the end times, for the Bible says "that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'" (2 Peter 3:3-4).

The Common and Frequent Criticisms

Let's consider for a moment some of the main criticisms that are being aimed at the concept of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

1 The concept is not in the Bible. The word, Rapture, is not mentioned anywhere in the Scriptures.

First, there are many biblical concepts and words that are not found in the Bible — like Trinity, Atheism, Divinity, Incarnation, Monotheism, Shekinah Glory, and even the word, Bible.

But the word, Rapture, is found in the Bible — in the Latin version, which was the Bible of the Western world for over 1,200 years (from 400AD to 1611). The word appears in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 where, in English, it says that a day will come when the living and dead in Christ will be "caught up" to meet Him in the sky. In the Latin, the term, "caught up," is expressed as "rapiemur," which is a declension of "rapio," meaning snatch, or grab or abduct.

More importantly, the concept of the Rapture is clearly taught in the same passage (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) as well as other passages, such as John 14:1-6 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-58.

2 None of the Church Fathers believed in a Rapture that was separate and apart from the Second Coming.

It depends on your definition of "Church Fathers." All the true Fathers of the Church definitely believed in a Rapture that was distinct from the Second Coming.

I'm speaking, of course, of Jesus who taught the Rapture in John 14:1-6; the Apostle Paul who wrote about it in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15; the Apostle Peter who described the principle of it in 2 Peter 2:4-9; and the Apostle John who does not mention the Church being on earth during the Tribulation (Revelation 6-18).

The later Church Fathers, who lived between 100 and 400 AD, were nearly all Premillennial in their Eschatology, but none of them seemed to pick up on the teaching of the Rapture. And when the Catholic Church endorsed Augustine's concept of Amillennialism around 400 AD, all discussion of end time prophecy became taboo. That viewpoint pictured only one return



of Jesus at the end of the Church Age.

Thereafter, you either accepted Amillennialism or you were burned at the stake, together with your writings.

3 The concept of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture is too new to be true.

This is exactly what the defenders of Roman Catholicism said to Luther about his biblical concept of "salvation by grace through faith."

It is true that the concept of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture was not crystalized in its final form until the writings of Englishman John Darby in the early 1800s, but we now have overwhelming proof that the concept was being discussed by Bible prophecy students for over 200 years prior to the time of Darby. (See William C. Watson's book, *Dispensationalism Before Darby*, published in 2015.)

But then, how could there be any development of eschatology prior to the Reformation which began in 1517? During the Middle Ages, most people could not read, and even if they could, printed Bibles did not exist, nor were there translations available in the common languages of the people.

Once people obtained printed Bibles in their own languages, they quickly realized that the Amillennial view of the Catholic Church was based upon a spiritualization of the Scriptures. That's when a revival of the Premillennial view occurred because it is based upon the plain sense meaning of the Bible's prophecies. And that is also when Bible students began to notice that the Rapture is an event that is separate from the Second Coming.

Nor should the late development of the Pre-Trib Rapture concept be a surprise to anyone because the Scriptures themselves tell us that end time Bible prophecy will not be understood until the time comes for its fulfillment.

For example, the prophet Daniel did not understand the end time prophecies that were given to him. And when he complained about this to the Lord, he was told, "these words are concealed and sealed up until the end times" (Daniel 12:9).

Many end time prophecies are being understood today for the first time because their fulfillment depended on either historical developments (like the re-establishment of the state of Israel) or technological inventions (like the atomic bomb and satellite television).

4 The concept of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture originated with a demon-possessed teenage girl in Scotland in the early 1800s who conjured up the idea in a vision.

This is pure myth. The idea comes from the writings of a man named Dave MacPherson who has made a cottage-industry of writing books in which he makes this ridiculous claim.

It is true that there was a teenage girl named Margaret MacDonald who had seizures and visions about the Lord's return. And it is true that years later, after the concept of a Pre-Trib Rapture had gained acceptance, her husband claimed that she had originated the idea in one of her visions. But this claim can be disproved quickly and decisively by the fact that there is not even a hint of a Pre-Trib Rapture in any of her recorded visions.

And furthermore, as I have already pointed out, William Watson has proved that the idea of a Pre-Trib Rapture had been circulating among Bible prophecy scholars and writers for 200 years prior to Margaret MacDonald. Also, even if it were true that she mentioned such a concept in one of her visions, it would prove nothing. *The test of any doctrine should not be who originated it or when it was originated. The only test should be whether or not it is biblical.* And the concept of a Pre-Trib Rapture certainly stands the test of the Scriptures.

5 The Rapture and the Second Coming are a combined event that will take place at the end of the Tribulation when Jesus returns to earth.

How could this be? These two events have nothing in common except that they both focus on Jesus. Consider the radical differences:

The Rapture	The Second Coming
Jesus appears in the heavens.	Jesus returns to earth.
Jesus appears for His saints.	Jesus returns with His saints.
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.

These obviously are not the same event. We must conclude, therefore, that the return of Jesus is going to be in two stages: first, the Rapture, and then the Second Coming.

6 If the Rapture is an event separate from the Second Coming, then it will most likely occur sometime during the Tribulation, either in the middle or near the end.

But the Bible teaches that the Rapture is imminent (Matthew 24:36,44 and 25:13), meaning it could occur at any moment. If you place the Rapture anywhere inside the Tribulation, then you render it non-imminent, for there are prophecies that must be fulfilled before it occurs. Furthermore, we are told to live looking for Jesus Christ, not the Antichrist.

Also, keep in mind that believers are promised exemption from the wrath of God. One of those promises is found in 1 Thessalonians 1:10 where it says that believers are waiting "for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come." The promise is repeated in the book of Revelation before it describes the horrors of the Tribulation. You will find that promise in Revelation 3:10

where it says, "Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

Some critics argue that the Seal and Trumpet Judgments constitute the wrath of Satan and not God. Therefore, the Church is immune only to the Bowl Judgments that will be poured out at the end of the Tribulation. This argument constitutes a serious challenge to the sovereignty of God — as if Satan is free to do as he pleases. Furthermore, the book of Revelation clearly pictures all the judgments of Revelation as coming from God's throne, and the Bowl Judgments are referred to as the completion of God's wrath, not the beginning (Revelation 15:1).

Conclusion

The Bible refers to the Rapture as our "blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). When Paul completes his detailed description of it in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, he concludes by saying, "Comfort one another with these words." (Verse 18).

At this ministry's annual Bible conference in 2017, one of our guest speakers, Ron Rhodes, pointed to these comforting scriptures when he demonstrated how ridiculous it is to believe that the Rapture and Second Coming are all one event that will occur at the end of the Tribulation. He pointed out that if the Rapture is one and the same event as the Second Coming at the end of the Tribulation, then this is how Paul's great passage about the Rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4 would read:

You will go through seven years of God's wrath. You will also suffer through Satan's furious wrath. You will experience the agonizing Seal, Trumpet and Bowl Judgments which grow progressively worse and are incredibly painful. And many of you will die horrible deaths as martyrs. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

What? I don't think so. Would that encourage and comfort you? It just doesn't work.

The great American pastor, Adrian Rogers (1931-2005), once said, "The world is growing gloriously dark." What he meant by that, of course, is that the Bible prophesies that in the end times society will become as immoral and violent as it was in the days of Noah and that would be one of the signs of the Lord's soon return.

We are witnessing the fulfillment of that prophecy before our very eyes today. It is difficult to watch, but at the same time, it is a sure sign that we are living in the season of the Lord's return. *As the world is falling apart, the signs of the times are falling into place.*

In the midst of the growing darkness, we need hope, and the Bible's promise of a Pre-Trib Rapture is a great source of that hope. ✚

For a more in-depth defense of the Pre-Trib Rapture, see Dr. Reagan's new book, *The Rapture: Fact or Fiction?*, which is advertised on the back cover of this magazine.

We Invite You To Attend Our Annual Bible Conference!



A scene from our 2017 annual Bible conference.

The registration for our 11th annual Bible conference, scheduled for July 12-13 of this year, has surged to over 1,000!

We have moved the conference this year to a much larger venue, so we are praying for a total of 1,500 registrations. We are hoping you will make it a point to attend. We would be greatly blessed by your attendance, and we believe you will be equally blessed.

This is one of the only large Bible conferences in the nation that is free of charge. Yes, you read that correctly — free of charge!

This year, the conference theme will be “Contending for the Faith,” and it will feature presentations defending some of the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Our theme scripture is found in Jude 1:3 — “. . . contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.”

As with all our conferences, this one will begin with a worship concert featuring the Messianic musician, Marty Goetz. This will be his third time as our featured musician.



Marty Goetz

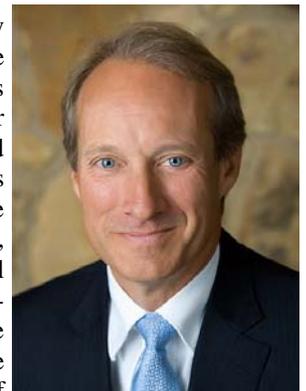
stay over all day Saturday to lead worship before each speaker.

Following Marty’s concert, we will present our keynote speaker for this year’s conference. He will be Kelly Shackelford, who is the founder and director of the largest law firm in America devoted exclusively to the defense of Christian freedoms. The firm is located in Plano, Texas and is named First Liberty Institute because it is dedicated to the defense of

Marty is a Messianic Jew who describes himself in one of his songs as “A Jew Born Anew.” Many of his songs are scriptures beautifully set to music, leaving the listeners spiritually moved and inspired. Marty has the ability to lead you into a place of true intimacy with God, so worshiping with Marty is an experience you don’t want to miss! And, for the first time ever, our featured musician is going to

religious liberty as spelled out in the First Amendment to our Constitution.

Kelly and his staff are literally on the front lines each day in the battle for Christian freedom in this nation. Kelly spoke at one of our previous conferences in 2015, and he captivated the audience with his chilling survey of the attacks on the Christian faith in the public arena, the military and schools — as well as attacks on pastors and their freedom to speak God’s Word in the pulpit. He was recently named one of the 25 greatest Texas lawyers of the past quarter-century by *Texas Lawyer* and is the recipient of the prestigious William Bentley Ball Award for his pioneering work protecting religious freedom.



Kelly Shackelford

Our lineup of speakers on Saturday is outstanding. It includes the following:

- Mike Riddle: “Defending Creationism”
- Mike Gendron: “Defending the Bible and the Gospel”
- Ron Rhodes: “Defending Jesus’ Promise to Return”
- Eric Barger: “Defending the Church from Apostasy”
- Dave Reagan: “Defending the Deity of Jesus”

Our conference venue this year is the Plano Event Center in Plano, Texas. This is a very large facility where we can seat up to 1,500 people. We have arranged for special room prices at several hotels in the vicinity. You can find detailed information on our website at lamblion.com. Although the conference is free of charge, we do require registration, and you can register online at our website (www.lamblion.com).

We will have a plethora of displays from many ministries, and the fellowship will be delightful. This should prove to be a very spiritually enriching weekend, and we sincerely hope you will join us. We love getting acquainted with our TV viewers firsthand. See you in July! ❖

An Historical Novel

Dr. David R. Reagan

I am not a reader of novels, and the reason is simple — I don't have the time. I read voraciously, but I focus on books pertaining to Bible prophecy. When I do have time for recreational reading, I either read biographies or books pertaining to American history. I love biographies.

But when I heard about the new novel titled, *The List*, I decided to at least give it a try since I was told that it is a book about the importance of Bible prophecy and the impact it can have on people's souls.

I got hold of a pre-publication copy on a pdf file, and I fired it up one evening on my laptop computer and started reading. And I kept reading . . . and reading.

I found it to be a fascinating historical novel based on the Scriptures.

The Book's Historical Focus

It zeroes in on the last weeks in the life of Jesus leading up to His crucifixion, and the central characters are Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus — two influential Jewish members of the Sanhedrin, the ruling council of the Jewish people in the time of Jesus.

We know from the Scriptures that Nicodemus was a Pharisee. The Jewish affiliation of Joseph is not mentioned, but the authors assume that he was a Sadducee because of his wealth and influence. He is referred to as a "rich man" (Matthew 27:57) and he was so influential that he had direct access to the Roman governor, Pilate (Matthew 27:58).

The Sadducees and Pharisees were natural enemies due to their differing interpretations of the Scriptures. For example, the Sadducees considered the books of Moses (Genesis through Deuteronomy) to be authoritative, whereas the Pharisees revered all the Jewish Scriptures. Also, the Sadducees did not believe in life after death, whereas the Pharisees did.

So, Joseph and Nicodemus should not have had anything to do with each other. But, as the story develops, these two antagonists are drawn together by their mutual fascination with an itinerant preacher named Yeshua (Jesus). Nicodemus has a large collection of Jewish scripture scrolls, and he begins to search them for Messianic prophecies. As he finds them, he begins to compile a list of them — thus, the title of the book, *The List*.

When Nicodemus begins comparing the prophecies to the life of Yeshua, he becomes convinced that Yeshua is the long awaited Messiah. Joseph is not so certain. They start meeting surreptitiously to compare notes and discuss the possibilities. As they do so, both are aware of the danger to their lives, their families and their seats on the Sanhedrin if it becomes known that they are even contemplating that Yeshua might be the Messiah.

The book is full of surprises, particularly at the end when the trials of Jesus are held. But I will say no more than that, lest I spoil the story for you.

The Authors

The book is the product of two minds — Bill Perkins and Buck Storm. Bill is an expert on Bible prophecy. He is the founder of Compass International Ministries in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. This is the ministry that sponsors the Steeling the Mind Conference which focuses on defending the fundamentals of the Christian faith. Bill is the one who conceived the novel and directed its writing.

But Bill recognized that he was no novelist, so he went looking for one, and he found what he was looking for in Buck Storm. And did he ever! Buck is a poet, songwriter and novelist. And, oh my, can he write! His style is mesmerizing.

The Technique

Bill and Buck resort to the same technique that the Apostle Peter used on the Day of Pentecost when he preached the very first Gospel sermon (Acts 2:14-36). Peter simply stated one prophecy after another, and each time he proclaimed that Jesus had fulfilled it. The result was the salvation of 3,000 souls. Such was the power of fulfilled prophecy.

In like manner, Bill and Buck suggest in their novel that Joseph and Nicodemus came to belief in Jesus through the same process — namely, matching Messianic prophecies with the life of Jesus. I think they are right on target with this assumption.

And the interesting thing is that Bible prophecy continues to have the same impact today. For example, back in the days of the Jesus Movement in the 1960s and 70s, Chuck Smith built the Calvary Chapel Movement through the preaching of Bible prophecy to university students in California.

Ordering the Book

The List is soft bound and runs a total of 370 pages. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping. You can order it at our website (lamblion.com) or by calling our office at 972-736-3567. If you order by telephone, please call Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm, Central time. ❖



Dr. Reagan with Bill Perkins

Book Review

A Unique Book About The Holy Land

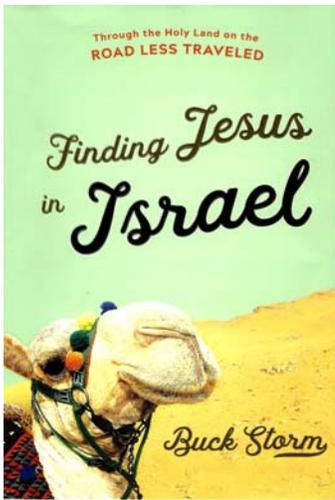
Dr. David R. Reagan

Between 1980 and 2014, I was greatly blessed to be able to visit the Holy Land 45 times — either leading pilgrimage groups or directing video crews. I had to stop going because my wife became too ill for me to leave her for more than two or three days. Needless to say, I'm homesick to return.

My mind is flooded with wonderful memories of my experiences in Israel. Some of these memories are contained in my book, *Trusting God: Learning to Live by Faith* (third edition in 2015).

When I recently had the privilege of meeting Buck Storm, the co-author of the remarkable book, *The List*, my ears really perked up when he mentioned that he had written a book about his travel experiences in Israel. Having read *The List*, I was fully aware of Buck's fantastic writing ability, and I became very interested in reading his book in which he tells about experiences at 29 different sites in Israel.

Two Surprises



Buck graciously gave me a copy to read, and two things caught me by surprise. First, the book is about experiences off-the-beaten-path. Buck was introduced to Israel through a formal tour led by his friend, Bill Perkins. But the book is based on very unusual places Buck visited on personal tours he made with friends. During these visits, he and his traveling buddies stayed at primitive hostels instead of luxury hotels. Needless to say, he met a lot of unique characters along the way, making for very colorful

stories.

The second thing that caught me by surprise in this book is that each chapter concludes with a deep spiritual insight — so deep, in fact, that when I finished reading the book, I felt like I had read a devotional volume rather than a travelogue.

A Sample of the Book

Let me give you an example of what I'm talking about. There is a chapter titled, "A Little Angel Offers Little Sins." He begins the chapter with the following observation:

Israel is still God's place, but step out into the night, and Israel just might break your heart. Because, whether ultra-Orthodox, religious Zionist, traditional Jew, Palestinian, or secular, all Israelis are human. And humans are flawed, broken, fallen creatures. Israel is the world.

Like every other place on the planet, from Thailand to Tacoma, the Holy Land has its own dark side . . .

Buck then proceeds to tell the sordid story of sex trafficking in Tel Aviv. He mentions business cards that the prostitutes scatter on the streets. They are called "tart cards." And he mentions one that said, "A Little Angel Offers Little Sins." It broke his heart because the fact of the matter is that many of the women involved in prostitution are just little girls.

Buck concludes this chapter with one of his many powerful spiritual insights:

We are human. We are weak. But God will be God. He can't change. His eye is on the sparrow . . . and on the lowest sinner. On mountain tops and in valleys, through the miles, He is there, offering love before we ask. He rejoices in our joy. He weeps in our pain because He knows what it is to suffer. When we can't take another step, He smiles, and should we choose, He will pick us up and carry us in His arms.

And He is there where a red light burns on a narrow street, His heart broken to pieces for a little angel.

Please, pray for her.

This is incredible writing by a master storyteller and lover of Jesus.

The book is hardbound and runs 236 pages. It sells for \$25, including the cost of shipping. ✚



Dr. Reagan with Buck Storm and Bill Perkins

Special Offer:

Purchase both books — *The List* and *Finding Jesus in Israel* — for \$35, including the cost of shipping for a savings of \$10. Ask for offer #871.

Order online at www.lamblion.com. To order by phone, call 972/736-3567 Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. To order by mail, write to Lamb & Lion Ministries, P.O. Box 919, McKinney, TX.

Television Schedule

New Stations

We recently added four new regional television stations — one in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina; a second in Cleveland, Ohio; a third in Lexington, Kentucky; and the fourth in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Through all these stations and networks, we have access to over 100 million homes in the United States. This extensive outreach is made possible through the donations of our Prophecy Partners. We invite you to become one of our Partners!

Television Broadcast Schedules

National Networks (10):

Daystar — Wed. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 369, Dish 263, cable, broadcast stations, satellites and web streaming (daystar.com).

Word — Tues. 12:30pm CT, DirecTV 373, Cable, AT&T U-verse, cable, satellites and web streaming (thewordnetwork.org).

CTN — Wed. & Fri. 12:30pm CT, DirecTV 376, Dish 267 and web streaming (ctnonline.com).

GEB — Sat. 5:00pm CT, DirecTV 363 and web streaming (gebamerica.com).

GodTV — Thurs. 8:30am CT, DirecTV 365 and web streaming (god.tv).

NRB — Sun. 4:00pm CT, DirecTV 378 and web streaming (nrbtv.org).

TCT — Sun. 7:30pm CT, DirecTV 377, ten broadcast stations in the Midwest, and web streaming (tct.tv).

Upliftv — Mon. & Fri. 9:30am CT, DirecTV 379 (upliftv.com).

WHT — Sat. 7:00pm CT, DirecTV 367 and web streaming (lesea.com/wht).

Folk — Mon. 7:30am CT, DISH 218 (www.myfolk.tv).

Regional Networks & Area Stations (22):

Arkansas

VTN (The Victory Television Network) — Covering the state of Arkansas, Sun. at 10:00pm, Tues. 10:30am and Sat. at 2:30pm CT (vntv.com).

Colorado

KXTU — Colorado Springs, Sun. 9:00am CT, channel 57, (fox21news.com/soco-cw).

Florida

WTOG-TV — Tampa and St. Petersburg, Sun. 8:30am ET, channel 44 (cwtampa.cbslocal.com).

Georgia

WATC — Atlanta, Sun. 8:30am ET, channel 57 (http://watc.tv).

Kentucky

WBNA — Louisville, Sun. 8:30am ET, channel 21 (wbna21.com).

WDKY — Lexington, Sun. 7:00am ET, channel 56 (https://

foxlexington.com). **NEW!**

Louisiana

FVN — Southern Louisiana broadcast stations and cable, Sun. 12:30am, Mon. 8:30am, and Wed. 7:00pm CT (familyvisiontv.com).

KMCT — Monroe, Fri. 10:30am CT, channel 39 (http://kmct.tv).

WBRL — Baton Rouge, Sun. 9:00am CT, channel 21 (bproud.com). **NEW!**

Missouri

KMCI — Kansas City, Sun. 7:30am, CT, channel 38 (kshb.com/38-the-spot).

KFJX — Joplin, Sun. 7:30am, CT, channel 14 (fox14tv.com).

North Carolina

WCCB — Charlotte, Sun. 7:00am ET, channel 18 (ccbcharlotte.com).

WRAZ — Raleigh-Durham, Sun. 7:00am ET, channel 50 (fox50.com). **NEW!**

Ohio

WUAB — Cleveland, Sun. 7:30am ET, channel 43 (cw43.rocket.us). **NEW!**

Pennsylvania

WPCW — Pittsburgh, Sun. 7:30am ET, channel 19 (https://cwpittsburgh.cbslocal.com).

Tennessee

WNAB — Nashville, Sun. 7:00am CT, channel 58 (http://cw58.tv).

WBXX — Knoxville, Sun. 8:00am ET, channel 20 (wvlt.tv/cw/home — WVLT is a sister station).

Texas

CFNT — Wichita Falls, broadcast station, Fri. 3:00pm CT (cfnt.org).

KCEN — Waco & Temple, broadcast station, Sun. 6:30am CT, channel 9 (kcentv.com).

KDAF — Dallas-Ft. Worth area broadcast station, Sun. 8:00am CT, channel 33 (cw33.com).

KSCE — El Paso, broadcast station, Sun. 10:30am MT, DirecTV & DISH Local 38, AT&T U-verse 38 (ksctv.com).

KUBE — Houston, Sun. 8:00am CT, channel 57, Comcast cable 53, DirecTV & DISH local 57 (http://kubetv.com).

Internet Networks (8):

Our programs are available on demand on these websites:

Lamb & Lion — lamblion.com

HisChannel — hischannel.com

YouTube — youtube.com/user/ChristinProphecy

GodTube — godtube.com

Truli — truli.com

Vimeo — vimeo.com

DailyMotion — dailymotion.com/us

Roku — roku.com ❖

1) Television and Video

Broadcast 52 weeks of our TV program, *Christ in Prophecy*, on ten national networks, 17 regional stations and eight websites. Ended the year with the broadcast of television program number 851.
 Broadcast via Daystar satellites to almost every nation in the world.
 Added 5 regional stations in Waco, Colorado Springs, Nashville, Pittsburgh and Knoxville.
 Produced 27 new *Christ in Prophecy* TV programs and revised 4 others.
 Produced 5 new video albums, and reproduced and distributed thousands of DVD video programs.
 Produced six new *Inbox* videos.

2) Internet and Website

Experienced main website traffic of 185,000+ unique visitors downloading 750,000+ pages per month.
 Sent out 27 e-newsletters to 80,000+ subscribers, sharing biblical messages and the electronic *Lamplighter* magazine.
 Streamed our annual Bible conference to nearly 13,000 live viewers (66,000 total viewers).
 Ministered to 26,000+ Facebook group and page members and 11,700+ Twitter fans.
 Answered thousands of spiritual questions submitted by email and discussion forums.
 Streamed over 370 different *Christ in Prophecy* TV programs.
 Blogged at christinprophecyblog.org posting 159 new articles.
 Exceeded 62,000 downloads of the Lamb & Lion App.

3) Preaching and Teaching

Completed a total of 27 speaking engagements:
 16 Weekend conferences at churches.
 11 Bible prophecy conferences.
 Participated in 68 radio interviews and TV programs.

4) Publications

Published a Holy Land calendar for 2019.
 Continued publishing our books as e-books.
 Continued publishing many of our materials in Spanish.
 Continued publishing a version of our magazine in India.
 Published the book, *The Basics of Bible Prophecy*.
 Provided two chapters for the book, *Deceivers*.
 Published five books in Pakistan and India in native languages.
 Updated and reprinted five of our books.
 Produced 6 issues of the Ministry's magazine, *The Lamplighter*.
 Increased circulation of our magazine to 85,000 (80,000 digital and 5,000 printed).



Dave Reagan, Tim Moore and Nathan Jones.

5) Missions

Supplied \$54,500 for relief aid to Nigerian Christian refugees who are fleeing from Muslim terrorists.
 Provided regular monthly financial support to 22 missions — 7 domestic and 15 foreign.
 Donated a total of \$340,000 in cash and services to missions.

6) Israel

Conducted two Holy Land pilgrimages, including our first "Battle Tour."
 Provided financial assistance to several ministries in Israel.

7) Conferences

Conducted our annual Bible conference with 850 attendees.
 Conducted two regional Bible prophecy conferences in San Jacinto, CA and Houston, TX.
 Provided displays at two national Christian conferences.

8) Finances

Received 24,924 gifts from 5,290 donors.
 Ended the year with 2,858 Prophecy Partners.
 Received re-certification as a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.
 Received a four star rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator for the 14th year in a row.
 Ended the calendar year with all bills paid in full for the 38th year in a row.



Join Us At Sea!



2019 PROPHECY *at sea* September 6-11

Come spend five, fun-filled days at sea, sailing with some of America's Leading Voices in Bible Prophecy!



Dr. David Reagan



Jeff Kinley



Billy Crone



Don Perkins



Tom Hughes

Departing from Galveston, TX with stops in Cozumel and Costa Maya, you will enjoy seminars, personal time with the speakers, question and answer sessions, books and resources, and so much more – all while cruising the beautiful Western Caribbean!

PROPHECYATSEA.COM

Ministry News

Prophecy Cruise —

If you have access to the Internet, you can sign up for our September cruise at www.prophecyatsea.com. If you do not have access to the Internet, then call Paradise Travel Groups at 888/470-1879. Be sure to mention that you heard of the tour through us.

Schedule of Activities —

May:

“Footsteps of Jesus” Holy Land Pilgrimage [Moore] (13-24).

Prophecy Conference at the Watersprings Church of Idaho Falls, ID [Reagan & Billy Crone] (May 31-June 1).

June:

Prophecy Conference sponsored by Hope for Our Times Ministries at the Hyatt Regency Conference Center in Indian Wells, CA [Reagan & Jones plus a host of other speakers] (28-30).

July:

The Lamb & Lion Annual Bible Conference at the Plano Event Center in Plano, TX [see page 21 for a list of participants] (12-13).

Believer’s Class at the First Baptist Church of Forney, TX [Moore] (14).

Food for Thought —



Israel Pilgrimages —

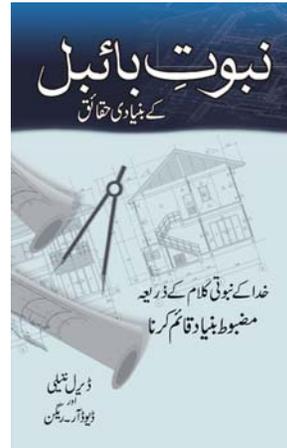
Our next “Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus” tour to the Holy Land is scheduled for August 31 thru September 11. The group will spend two nights in Tel Aviv on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, two nights in Tiberias at the Sea of Galilee, and five nights in Jerusalem. Colonel Tim Moore will be the host. For details, consult our website or call for a brochure. Colonel Moore will also be leading a “Battle Tour” in November. This is a special-ized tour that will take you to biblical battle sites as well as modern ones and those that are prophesied in the future. The specific dates are November 2-13. Again, you can find detailed information on our website, or you can call our office for a brochure. As Dr. Reagan often says, “These pilgrimages will convert the Bible from black and white into technicolor for you.”

Millennial Kingdom Scholarships —

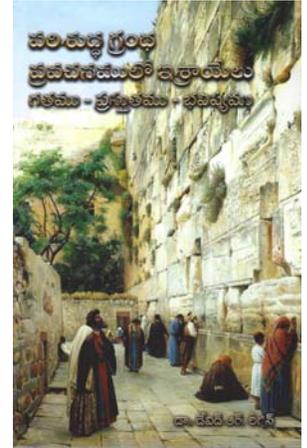
We have established a scholarship fund to enable Millennials to go to the Holy Land. These scholarships are limited to young people between the ages of 18 and 28, and they apply only to our “Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus” pilgrimages. Those interested should check out the details on our website at <https://christinprophecy.org/causes/millennial-kingdom-scholarship>. Or, you can call our office at 972-736-3567. Have a candidate in mind? Email mks@lamblion.com to request a nomination form.

Foreign Publications —

We are actively involved in getting our books translated and published in foreign languages. Nearly every book we have published has been printed and distributed in Pakistan in the Urdu language. The same is true in India where our materials are published in Telugu, as well as other languages of that nation. And Donald Dolmus in Nicaragua translates and publishes our materials on the Internet in Spanish. Several projects are in process right now. For example, our *Basics of Bible Prophecy* book is being translated into the Gujarati language in India and will soon be published there. Recently, we have financed the publication of two of our articles in the Burmese language, and they are being distributed in Myanmar (formerly Burma).



The Basics of Bible Prophecy in Urdu, the primary language of Pakistan.



Israel in Bible Prophecy in Telugu, one of the many languages of India.

We supply the funds for these important foreign publications only when we have them. If you would like to assist with our foreign publications project, please designate your donations for “Foreign Publications.” Thanks!

Special Prophecy Conference —

We want to invite you to attend a wonderful Bible prophecy conference that is scheduled to be held in Indian Wells, California — in the greater Palm Springs area. The venue will be the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort. The dates are June 28-30. This three day conference will feature almost 20 speakers and the Messianic musical group called Lev Shelo (“His Heart”). Both Dr. Reagan and Nathan Jones will be making presentations at the conference. This conference is sponsored by Tom Hughes’ ministry, Hope for our Times. For greater details and to register, go to the ministry’s website at <https://hopeforourtimes.com>, and click on the “Conference 2019” link. ❖



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New Book on the Rapture

Dr. David R. Reagan

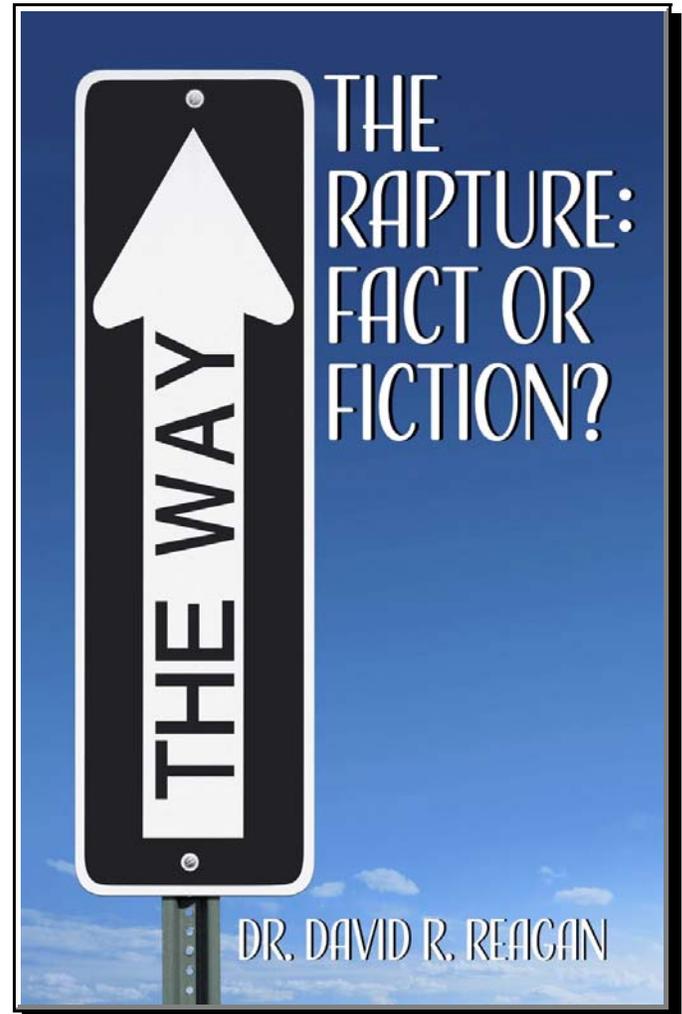
Late last year I was surveying the books in my library about the Rapture, and I noticed that they fell into one of two categories. They were either very theological and academic or else they were down-to-earth but exceptionally long and detailed.

That's when I got the idea of writing a book about the Rapture that would be aimed at the normal everyday Christian, but would be very precise and concise. My goal was to keep it under 100 pages. I almost succeeded. The new book totals 104 pages, including the references.

The biblical promise of the Rapture is a source of great hope to those who know about it, understand it and believe it. One of my passions is to share that hope with as many people as possible, and this book is the result.

Satan hates the concept of the Rapture, particularly the Pre-Tribulation Rapture because he desires that all of us live daily in fear and hopelessness. And because the Rapture is now not only imminent but immediate, based on the signs pointing to the beginning of the Tribulation, Satan is motivating people to attack the integrity of the Pre-Trib Rapture as never before — literally mocking and ridiculing it as sheer nonsense. The irony is that such derision is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy (2 Peter 3:3-4)!

The book is divided into four parts. It begins with an explanation of the concept of the Rapture. The second section focuses on my responses to the 21 most frequently asked questions about the Rapture. In the third section I respond to the 13 major challenges that have been presented to the belief that the Rapture is most likely to occur before the beginning of the Tribulation. The final section presents the spiritual



blessings of believing in the promise of a Pre-Trib Rapture. This section also contains a strong evangelistic appeal to unbelievers.

The book sells for \$15, including the cost of shipping. I hope you will consider ordering two copies — one for yourself and one for your pastor. You can place your order through our website at lamblion.com, or you can call our office at 972-736-3567. If you call, please do so Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm Central time. ✚