

# The Blessed Hope!

**“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” –(Titus 2:13)**

*Diamond & Nugget #133*

Long ago when I was in college and later in seminary as we approached the semester end one could see the anxiety building as students experience the uptake reality of forthcoming final exams and the tension it would not take students too long to ask if the professor planned to do a review of the semester and what the final exam would cover? It was irritating to me to have to sit and listen to such questions as they reflected an obvious ignorance hoping to somehow redeem the hours by cramming for finals.

I learned the important lessons of being ready all the time from my three years in West Germany, where every day was potentially the last day of life. The time was called the “Cold War” era but it could go “Hot” in a heartbeat. As a ‘high priority’ unit with six “Atomic” artillery 280mm guns, we trained more than the average combat unit in the Seventh Army stationed in West Germany. We trained to the point where most of us could do our tasks without thinking once the claxon horns blew our ears off at 4 am!

I was listening to pastor J.D. Farag’s message from Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> when I received an e-mail from an individual wanting to know if I still believed in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. I knew the individual was taunting me since he is one of those ignorant of what the Bible has to say about the times we are in. **J.D. Farag emphasized that we are not in the Tribulation Period and went on to state why so.**

To put to rest any doubts and to provide some comfort to sincere believers I thought perhaps this might be an appropriate time (finals before our departure) to review the essentials and evidence for our belief. But before doing so, I want to share a post by Jonathan Brentner’s “12 Signs the World is Running Out of Normal”. It has not been too long ago that I read his book ‘The Triumph of the Redeemed’. His is a personal story of pain and triumph built upon the Word of God!

## **12 Signs the World is Running Out of Normal – Jonathan Brentner**

Many people say that today is no different than any other time in history. *“Sure, things look bad now, but this was also the case during World Wars I and II. Things have a way of working out so that things eventually return to some semblance of normal.”*

I understand why many question Jesus' soon return given the fact that it's been two thousand years since He promised to return.

In spite of the long wait, I'm convinced that Jesus' appearing is imminent because of the myriad of signs telling us that the Tribulation period is right on our doorstep. I have compiled a list of 12 signs that tell us we are rapidly running out of normal.

If you are weary of waiting and long for the day when you will meet Jesus in the air, I am writing to encourage you; He's coming soon. I am reminded of Wednesday's devotion reference to Matthew 11:28-29, as even I experience that weariness now and then.

If you doubt that the Rapture will happen anytime soon, please take some time to review the following points and read the supporting links.

## **1. ISRAEL'S MIRACULOUS REBIRTH AS A NATION**

Did you know that Isaac Newton predicted that Israel would reappear as a nation? Based on his in-depth study of the books of Daniel and Revelation, he made that startling prediction over 250 years before it happened.

Newton correctly recognized that the fulfillment of biblical end time's prophecies requires Israel's renewed existence. He also wrote that Israel would build a third temple once it became a nation.[i]

On May 14, 1948, Israel miraculously became a nation again. The amazing rebirth of Israel fulfilled the words of Isaiah 66:8, which predicted that it would happen in a "day." Only God could resurrect a nation that had not existed for two-thousand years, supernaturally protect it amid countless wars, and bring it to a place of prosperity such as Israel enjoys today.

### **Did I mention that only God could do such a thing?**

Israel's remarkable rebirth makes today different than any time previous to May 1948.

## **2. THIRD TEMPLE FEVER**

Scripture tells us that the antichrist will defile a still future Jewish temple -(Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:3-4). In a recent article, The Biblical Necessity of a Third Jewish Temple, I demonstrate why the building of the third Jewish temple is a necessity for the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

If we can trust the words of Scripture, there must be a third temple in Jerusalem by the midpoint of the coming seven-year Tribulation. That's when the Bible says the antichrist will desecrate it. Do we see evidence today that this will happen? Absolutely!

Just ten years ago, few people could have imagined today's passion in Israel for the building of their temple. Did you catch the celebration in Jerusalem when the five perfect red heifers arrived there from Texas? The Law requires one perfect red heifer for the purification of the temple and its priests.

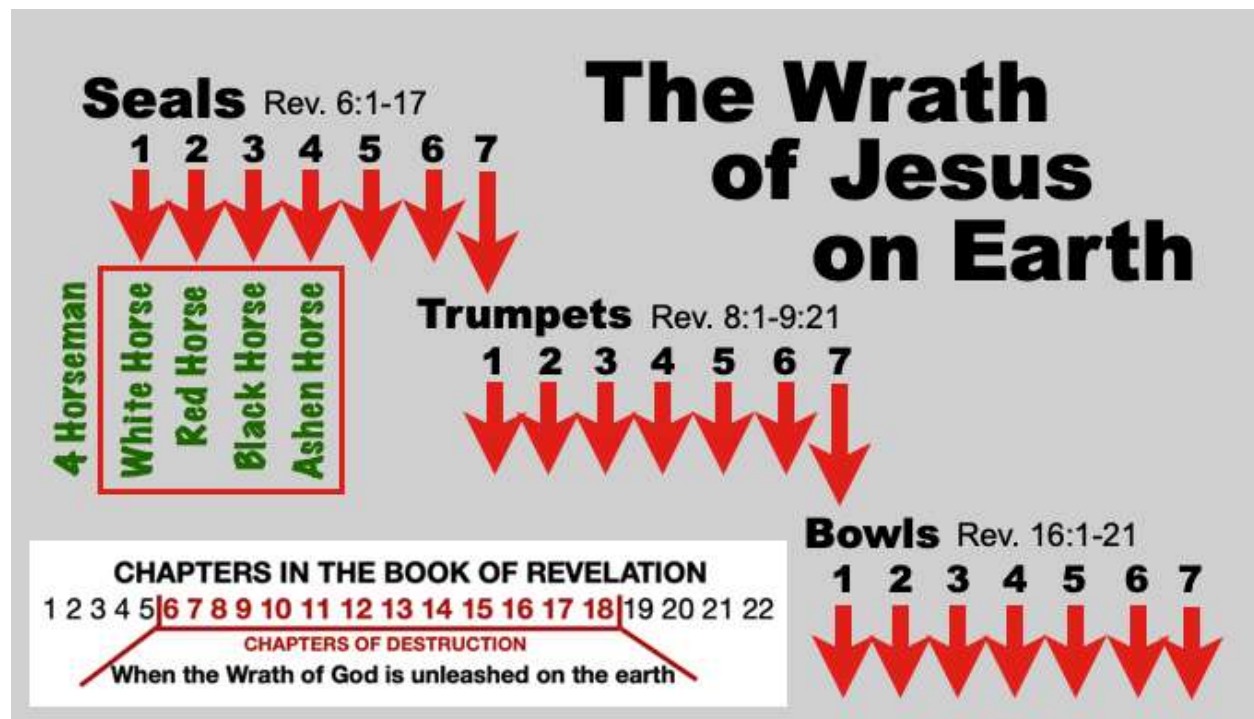
The Temple Institute in Jerusalem has spent over thirty years researching and preparing furnishings for the third temple. They are currently training Levites to serve as priests in it.

The Israeli government is planning infrastructure for the coming temple, which includes a train that will run from the Ben Gurion Airport to the temple mount as they expect a great many visitors will want to visit the new temple. Israel plans to complete this rail system in April of 2023.

This alone makes 2022-2023 far, far different.

### 3. KICKING AND READY

In October, Jonathan Brentner wrote *'Globalism, War, Economic Turmoil, Devaluing Human Life — The Day of The Lord Is Looming'*. In it, he provided evidence for just how close the world is to the conditions described in Revelation 6:1-8. These verses describe what's commonly referred to as the "four riders of the Apocalypse." They are kicking in their stall, ready to start their trek across the planet.



Revelation 6:8 says that the death toll from the chaos caused by these riders will total one-fourth of the world's population, which today would be 2.6 billion people.

World events today demonstrate just how easily the seal judgments could result in such a high death toll. It is easy to jump the gun and conclude the horses are out of the starting gate.

Immediately after the Born Again Believers are rescued from planet earth and taken to heaven, the 7-year Tribulation begins with the release of God's wrath in the form of Seven Seals of Judgment. The first four of these Seals each has a rider on a different color horse.

They are usually referred to as the **Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse** because they usher in a new dispensation—the time of a future 7 years of horrible judgment on those left behind post-rapture. It's important to note that Jesus Himself is the One Who is releasing these apocalyptic horsemen, one at a time.

***“Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals,”*** -(Revelation 6:1)

The amount of worldwide death happening so quickly is hard for American Believers to relate to. Clearly all four horses are released AFTER the Rapture. So if you ARE seeing the Four Horsemen wreaking havoc on the earth, you missed the Rapture. Keep in mind there are thirteen chapters -(Revelation 6-18) that describe what occurs during the last seven years of history on the Earth once Born Again Christian believers have been Raptured or ***“Harpazo”*** home!

#### **4. DIGITAL CURRENCY**

If people can buy and sell goods on a cash basis, it would be impossible for the antichrist to control commerce in the way that Revelation 13:16-18 predicts.

The fulfillment of this prophecy requires the elimination of cash, and that is precisely what we see in our world.

The New York Federal Reserve in the U.S. recently began a twelve-week pilot program evaluating the use of a digital dollar using credit card companies and global banks. Leo Hohmann, a blogger, author, and investigative reporter, wrote this about the coming digital currency:

***“I believe the new Central Bank Digital Currency, or CBDCs, will make their debut in 2023. And this digital currency will tie in directly with the digital health certificates on people’s cellphones in what will become a personal dossier on every individual, tracking and monitoring their movements and behaviors.”***<sup>[ii]</sup>

The normality of using cash for purchases is slipping away and with it any privacy regarding our finances. The digital currency will enable governments to monitor how we spend our money and soon after that, they will control it.

Both India and China are rapidly moving toward a digital currency.

## 5. DIGITAL HEALTH PASSPORTS

At the November 2022 meeting of G20 nations in Indonesia, leaders of the largest economies in the world agreed to work together to implement a “*digital health passport*” that will begin by tracking everyone’s vaccine status and expand from there.

This is also an absolute necessity for what the antichrist has planned for the latter half of the Tribulation. His system must instantly recognize whether one truly has his mark on them, and it will.

**Below is the path that elite powerbrokers of our world have laid out for the future:**

1. Eliminate cash through a worldwide digital currency
2. Combine one’s online identity for banking with a digital health passport
3. Monitor all spending, which is simple with the coming Central Bank Digital Currency
4. Reward or punish people based on their spending habits
5. Totally control all spending
6. Implement what we refer to as the mark of the beast (Revelation 13)

We already see many of these things in China.

## 6. MARK OF THE BEAST TECHNOLOGY

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology, along with the development of gigantic computer databases, also makes today unique from any other previous time in history.

Prior to these technical advances of the past dozen years or so, the antichrist would have needed an exceedingly large number of people in every nation on earth in order to enforce the requirement of his mark for all buying and selling. It would have been impossible.

Now, with recent advances in AI and the **5G** global network, the technology exists for one person to set the parameters and thus control commerce everywhere in the world. These technical innovations not only make the fulfillment of Revelation 13:16-18 possible, but also increasingly likely when one considers the agenda of the globalists!

## 7. IS IT REALLY HUMAN?

How will the coming man of lawlessness exercise the complete control over the earth’s population such as we see in Revelation 13 and elsewhere in Scripture? The answer is trans-humanism.

Trans-humanism is the combination of humans with machines and it’s not only something that the antichrist needs, but it’s also a high priority of the WEF and all the many nations that are now committed to its Great Reset.

Please refer to Trans-humanism: Marching Toward the Mark in which I explain how the globalists' development of technology dovetails perfectly with the fulfillment of Revelation 13:16-18.

Did you know that Joe Biden recently signed an executive order requiring Americans to comply with the push for trans-humanism?

Trans-humanism is a necessary for controlling people in the coming kingdom of the antichrist.

## **8. THE SOON ARRIVAL OF ONE-WORLD GOVERNANCE**

The books of Daniel and Revelation predict that in the last days a worldwide government will exist and that for a short time, the antichrist will rule over it -(Daniel 7:23-25 8:18-26; Revelation 13:1-18).

The UN's Agenda 2030 is all about establishing a global governance by 2030 if not well before that year. The Great Reset of the World Economic Forum (WEF), also known as 'Build Back Better', is the economic companion of Agenda 2030 and both groups have united in their push to establish a one world government.

The rapidly forming one-world government only remains a secret to those who don't want to believe that it's happening.

## **9. THE WORSHIP OF CREATION RATHER THAN THE CREATOR**

In the book of Revelation, we see the presence of a one-world religion under the leadership of the false prophet. Do we see the rise of such a unified religion today? Absolutely! The stage is fully prepared.

In November 2022, religious leaders from all over the world reenacted the giving of the Ten Commandments. However, the top ten things on their minds consisted of worshipping nature, that of preserving their god. Combating climate change has become the religion bringing together many diverse faiths as they worship the creation rather than the Creator.

## **10. WHEN THE WORLD WOBLES**

Since 2001, the earth's magnetic north pole has been moving. An article on the Forbes Magazine website, Earth's Magnetic North Pole Is Shifting Dramatically From A Powerful Tug Of War, discussed how this shift has speeded up in recent years.

Why do I include this in the list of 12 signs? It's because of warnings of what happens when the pole shift may reach forty degrees. That's the point at which the north and south poles will swap places.[iii]

## **What's so significant about this?**

The Bible tells us that during the Tribulation period, the world will wobble (see Isaiah 24:19-20 and Revelation 6:12-17). I find it more than a little curious that what many predict will happen at the time of the pole shift matches what these prophetic passages say will happen during the Day of the Lord. It's much more than a coincidence.

## **11. YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT DO YOU?**

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:2-4 says that scoffers will arise in the "last days" that will mock our hope in Jesus' soon return. Jude 17-18 also warns of "scoffers" that will come in the last days that will ridicule our hope.

This time has surely arrived!

Its commonplace today for people to mock our hope in Jesus' soon appearing. Sadly, even believers and leaders of churches have also joined the chorus of naysayers.

It's because of this mocking that I included two chapters on church history in my book, *'The Triumph of the Redeemed'*. Scoffers today use the relative newness of the word "Rapture" to reject the event that Paul describes for us in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51-58, Philippians 3:20-21, 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, and Titus 2:11-14. It's as if the term itself discredits the words of the apostle in these passages.

Such mocking is all about Satan deceiving people into believing that there's no such event as Jesus' appearing to take His church to glory. Don't fall for his lie.

## **12. PERILOUS TIMES ON STEROIDS ARE HERE**

We live during a time of perilous times on steroids. While the characteristics of this that Paul lists in 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:1-5 have always been evident in some ways since the time he wrote, they now define our world just as the apostle said they would in the last days.

More than at any previous time, we see these nineteen characteristics abounding throughout the world. This is something I have written about many times.

## **RUNNING OUT OF THE OLD NORMAL MEANS THAT JESUS' GLORIOUS NEW NORMAL IS EVER SO CLOSE!**

Just as with King Belshazzar of Babylon, the handwriting is on the wall (see Daniel 5). Perhaps the end will not come as swiftly as it did for this ancient king (the Medes and Persians killed him just hours after Daniel interpreted God's message). The signs, however, reveal that God's judgment will soon fall on this world. After the Rapture of the church, God's wrath will devastate the world.

The good news is that the glorious new normal that Jesus is bringing will last forever.



When Jesus returns and reigns over the earth from Jerusalem, we will experience life in a glorious kingdom as we reign with Him for a thousand years. This will be a “*new normal*” worth celebrating (and we surely will), but the future is even brighter and more joyous! Revelation 21-22 describes the most blissful set of circumstances imaginable.

Refuse to be satisfied with the fake “*new normal*” that the world offers. Once we meet Jesus in the air and return to glory with Him, what we see then will make our very best days in this life seem mundane and boring.

Jonathan Brentner’s 12 points are like icing on the cake for us and should be for you as well. And so now for a review of the most important information on the Pre-Trib. Rapture. If I had been teaching a Bible study on the Teaching or Doctrine of Pre-Tribulation Rapture and you were thinking about what might be on the final exam, the following would be “fair game” for an exam or a final paper.

My experience has been that my college and seminary professors would base their students’ grades on a combination of factors: 1. Attendance, 2. Snap Quiz’s, 3. Two Short Position Papers, 4. A Major Written Term Paper, and 5. The Final Exam!

### **Historically When Was the Pre-Tribulation Rapture First Taught?**

It has long been alleged by those who interpret prophecy allegorically that the pre-tribulation Rapture is a new doctrine and cannot, therefore, be true.

Gary DeMar, President American Vision, says: “A majority of prophecy writers and speakers teach that the church will be raptured before a future tribulational period. But did you know that prior to about 1830 no such doctrine existed. No one in all of church history ever taught pretribulational rapture” (cited from “*Why Christians Will Suffer Great Tribulation,*”

When Demar says the pre-tribulation Rapture did not exist prior to 1830, he is referring to the *The Morning Watch* prophecy journal and the writings of John Darby which popularized dispensational theology in the 1800s.

Though this claim continues to be made, it is patently false.

### **MORGAN EDWARDS (1722-1795)**

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture was taught by prominent Baptist leader Morgan Edwards. His *Two Academical Exercises on the Subjects Bearing the Following Titles; Millennium and Last-Novelties* was published in 1744 in Philadelphia.

Morgan Edwards was one of the most prominent Baptist leaders of his day. He was the pastor of the Baptist church in Philadelphia and the founder of Brown University, the



first Baptist college in America. A summary of life was featured in the *Baptist Encyclopedia*. He was one of the first Baptist historians of repute, his *Materials Toward A History of the Baptists* (1770) providing a foundation for all subsequent works.

Following is what Edwards believed about Bible prophecy:

*“The distance between the first and second resurrection will be somewhat more than a thousand years. I say, somewhat more; because **the dead saints will be raised, and the living changed at Christ’s ‘appearing in the air’ (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4: 17); and this will be about three years and a half before the millennium, as we shall see hereafter: but will he and they abide in the air all that time? No: they will ascend to paradise, or to some one of those many ‘mansions in the father’s house’ (John 14: 2), and disappear during the foresaid period of time. The design of this retreat and disappearing will be to judge the risen and changed saints; for ‘now the time is come that judgment must begin,’ and that will be ‘at the house of God’ (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:17)”*** (Edwards, *Two Academical Exercises on the Subjects Bearing the Following Titles; Millennium and Last-Novelties*, 1744).

We should note that Edwards believed that the tribulation would only be 3.5 years, so he was not promoting a “pre-wrath” or mid-tribulation position.

Edwards first wrote the previous statement in an senior essay while at Bristol Baptist College in Bristol, England, before coming to America. At the beginning of the essay, in a comment addressed to his teacher, Edwards said,

*“And is it come to my lot to treat of the Millennium, or Christ thousand years reign on earth? Thousand pities, sir, that you had not allotted the task to one of these older and abler students! But since it is your pleasure, I will do my possible: and IN THE ATTEMPT WILL WORK BY A RULE YOU HAVE OFTEN RECOMMENDED, VIZ. ‘TO TAKE THE SCRIPTURES IN A LITERAL SENSE, EXCEPT WHEN THAT LEADS TO CONTRADICTION OR ABSURDITY.’”*

This rule of literal interpretation of prophecy is exactly the rule from which Pre-Tribulationist’s work today. It is the rule that I teach on Bible interpretation, first and foremost. History makes up significant portions of the Bible and must be interpreted through a literal perspective.

Edwards bluntly rejected the allegorical approach. Of the millennial kingdom prophecies, he said, *“Miserable work do the Antimillenarians make of these texts.”*

Edwards was writing 175 years before the destruction of the Ottoman Empire’s hold on the land of Israel (1917) and 200 years before the establishment of the modern state of Israel (1948), yet he knew that these things would happen. Consider the following fascinating prediction that he made based on a literal interpretation of Bible prophecy:

*“The Turkish or Ottoman Empire will be demolished; for otherwise the right owners*

*cannot possess their inheritance ... The twelve tribes (as observed before) will return to their ancient inheritance, else how can the twelve apostles be their judges? ... In this united capacity they will rebuild Jerusalem in its place, and the temple in its place on mount Zion; for in this temple will antichrist sit as god, and be the abomination mentioned by Daniel, and referred to by Christ” (Edwards, *Two Academical Exercises on the Subjects Bearing the Following Titles; Millennium and Last-Novelties*, 1744).*

From the case of Morgan Edwards, it is obvious that there were Baptists in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in England and America who held the literal principle of interpretation of Bible prophecy as opposed to the allegorical.

We must remember that most preachers do not leave a permanent record of their teaching. From Paul’s day to ours, the vast majority of sound preachers have been common men as opposed to scholars.

Typically, they are not writers and do not publish books. In the record church history, we only have a tiny glimpse into what was happening, and that glimpse is based on the pittance that has survived of the little that was ever recorded.

*“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty” (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:26-27).*

### **EPHRAEM THE SYRIAN (AD c. 303-373)**

We now go back to two centuries after the apostles. Ephraem is venerated as a “*saint*” by the Catholic and Orthodox churches, but they would not allow him to teach his doctrine of prophecy today.

Ephraem is called “*the Syrian*” because he lived in that region. He was a voluminous writer. Many of his sermons and psalms are included in the 16-volume *Post-Nicene Library*. (The Council of Nicea was held in AD 325, and historians divide the “*fathers*” into Ante-Nicene, before 325, and Post-Nicene, after 325).

Some of Ephraem’s sermons and hymns are used in the liturgy of Orthodox churches.

In the 1990s some of Ephraem’s writings were translated into English for the first time, one of these being *On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and the End of the World, A.D. 373*.

The translation was done by Professor Cameron Rhoades of Tyndale Theological Seminary at the bequest of Grant R. Jeffrey. It was subsequently published in Jeffrey’s 1995 book *Final Warning*.

It is obvious that Ephraem believed in a literal fulfillment of prophecy, including a

Rapture of New Testament saints prior to the Tribulation.

***“For all the saints and Elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins”*** (Ephraem the Syrian, *On the Last Times*).

Observe that Ephraem taught that the saints will be taken to the Lord so they will not see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world, which is exactly what 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:3-9 says.

Ephraem taught a literal antichrist who will sit in a literal rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, a literal 3.5 year Tribulation, a literal Two Witnesses or prophets who will preach in Jerusalem, a literal battle of Gog and Magog.

*“And when the three and a half years have been completed, the time of the Antichrist, through which he will have seduced the world, after the resurrection of the two prophets, in the hour which the world does not know, and on the day which the enemy or son of perdition does not know, will come the sign of the Son of Man, and coming forward the Lord shall appear with great power and much majesty, with the sign of the word of salvation going before him, and also even with all the powers of the heavens with the whole chorus of the saints. ... Then Christ shall come and the enemy shall be thrown into confusion, and the Lord shall destroy him by the Spirit of his mouth. And he shall be bound and shall be plunged into the abyss of everlasting fire alive with his father Satan; and all people, who do his wishes, shall perish with him forever; but the righteous ones shall inherit everlasting life with the Lord for ever and ever”* (Ephraim the Syrian, *On the Last Times, the Antichrist, and the End of the World*, A.D. 373).

Ephraem believed in the imminency of the return of Christ and urged Christians to live godly lives in expectation of His return.

## **EARLY CHRISTIANS TO AUGUSTINE**

Actually, Ephraim the Syrian was not alone in interpreting Bible prophecy literally in his day.

He was living one generation from the era of Augustine (354-430 AD), at which time there was a dramatic change. When Ephraem died in 373, Augustine was 19 years old. It was in the era of Augustine that allegoricalism widely replaced the previous method of interpretation. Prior to this, it was common among Bible believers to interpret prophecy literally. They believed that Jesus Christ would return literally (and imminently), bind Satan, and establish a literal millennial kingdom on earth.

This is admitted by church historians.

William Newell says: *“The early Church for 300 years looked for the imminent return of our Lord to reign, and they were right”* (Newell, *Revelation*).

Phillip Schaff said, "... the most striking point in the eschatology of the ante-Nicene age [prior to AD 325] is the prominent chiliasm, or millenarianism, that is the belief of a visible reign of Christ in glory on earth with the risen saints for a thousand years, before the general resurrection and judgment" (*History of the Christian Church*, 8 vols, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1960, 2:614).

Henry Thiessen says, "It is clear ... that the Fathers held not only the pre-millennial view of Christ's coming, but also regarded that coming as imminent. The Lord had taught them to expect His return at any moment, and so they looked for Him to come in their day. Not only so, but they also taught His personal return as being immediately, with the exception of the Alexandrian Fathers, who also rejected other fundamental doctrines" (Thiessen, *Introductory Lectures in Systematic Theology*, p. 477).

In fact, Augustine, "the father of amillennialism," once believed in a literal millennium himself. He said, "I myself, too, once held this opinion. ... They who do believe them are called by the spiritual, Chiliasts, which we may literally reproduce by the name Millenarians" (Augustine, *City of God*, book 20, chapter 7).

The following statement by Irenaeus is an example of what was commonly believed among the early "church fathers," as they looked forward to Christ's return and the establishment of His kingdom:

"The predicted blessing, therefore, belongs unquestionably to the times of the kingdom, when the righteous shall bear rule upon their rising from the dead; when also the creation, having been renovated and set free, shall fructify with an abundance of all kinds of food, from the dew of heaven, and from the fertility of the earth. ... In like manner [the Lord declared] that ... all animals feeding [only] on the productions of the earth, should [in those days] become peaceful and harmonious among each other, and be in perfect subjection to man" (Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, The Ante-Nicene Fathers).

The church at Antioch long interpreted Bible prophecy literally. Antioch was an important church founded by Barnabas and Paul, and it is from this church that the first foreign missionaries were ordained and sent out -(Acts 11:19-26; 13:1-4). It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.

Some of the preachers associated with Antioch were Lucian (died 312), Theodore (AD 350-428), Chrysostom (AD 354-407), Theodoret (AD 386-458), and Diodorus of Tarsus. These men interpreted Bible prophecy literally and believed in a literal millennium.

In his *History of Interpretation*, F.W. Farrar observed, "Diodorus of Tarsus' books were devoted to an exposition of Scripture in its literal sense, and he wrote a treatise, now unhappily lost, 'on the difference between allegory and spiritual insight'" (Farrar, pp. 213-15).

*“The Antioch’s school’s two greatest exegetes, Theodore of Mopsuestia (AD 350-428) and John Chrysostom (AD 354-407), were ‘anti-allegorical’” (Matthew Allen, “Theology Adrift: The Early Church Fathers and Their Views of Eschatology,” bible.org).*

Some of the early Christians after the apostles even taught a form of dispensationalism. Examples can be found in the extant writings of Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Methodius. Justin Martyr (100-165) believed in four phases of history in God’s plan: From Adam to Abraham, from Abraham to Moses, from Moses to Christ, and from Christ to the eternal state. Irenaeus (120-202) taught something similar, dividing the dispensations into the creation to the flood, the flood to the law, the law to the gospel, the gospel to the eternal state.

## **THE ORIGIN OF THE ALLEGORICAL METHOD OF INTERPRETATION**

The allegorical method of interpretation was invented by false teachers after the apostolic era as the apostasy was growing and spreading toward the formation of the Roman Catholic Church.

A school was established at Alexandria, Egypt, which became the headquarters for the allegorical method of interpretation. Egypt was a place where false teaching proliferated in the first centuries after Jesus Christ. **Clement**, who headed the school from AD 190 to 202, corrupted the Christian faith by mixing it with the worldly philosophy and allegoricalism of Philo. He taught many false doctrines, including purgatory, and believed that most men would eventually be saved even though Jesus said only a few would be (Mat. 7:14). *“Clement saw the literal meaning of Scripture as being a ‘starting point’ for interpretation. Although it was ‘suitable for the mass of Christians,’ God revealed himself to the spiritually advanced through the ‘deeper meaning’ of Scripture. In every passage, a deeper or additional meaning existed beyond the primary or immediate sense” (Matthew Allen, “Theology Adrift: The Early Church Fathers and Their Views of Eschatology,” bible.org).*

**Origen** (AD 185-254) was one of the chief fathers of allegoricalism. He led the school at Alexandria from AD 202 to 232. Though he endured persecution and torture for the cause of Christ under the Emperor Decius in 250, Origen was laden down with heresies. Like Clement, he mixed the truth of the Bible with pagan philosophy. He taught that celibacy was a holy state above marriage, contrary to the teaching of the apostles. He taught baptismal regeneration, purgatory, and the pre-existence of the human soul. He taught that all men, even Satan and demons, would eventually be saved. He taught that the Holy Spirit was the first creature made by God, and denied the full Godhead of Jesus. He did not believe that the Scriptures are wholly inspired by God.

Origen claimed that *“the Scriptures have little use to those who understand them literally.”* He described the literal meaning of Scripture as “bread” and encouraged the student to go beyond this to the “wine” of allegoricalism, whereby one can become intoxicated and transported to heavenly realms. Origen’s commentaries contained a

wealth of fanciful interpretations, abounding in *“heretical revisals of Scripture”* (Frederick Nolan, *Inquiry into the Integrity of the Greek Vulgate*, p. 367).

Another father of allegoricalism was **Augustine** (AD 354-430), one of the fathers of the Roman Catholic Church. He was exalted as one of the “doctors” of Rome. Augustine invented the terrible and unbiblical doctrine of the inquisition that was used by the Catholic Church against Bible believers for more than 1,000 years. The German historian Neander observed that Augustine’s teaching *“contains the germ of the whole system of spiritual despotism, intolerance, and persecution, even to the court of the Inquisition.”* Augustine instigated fierce persecutions against the peace-loving, Bible-believing Donatists who were striving to maintain pure biblical churches. He taught that *“the sacraments,”* such as baptism, were the means of salvation. He taught that Mary did not commit sin. He taught the heresy of purgatory. He was one of the fathers of infant baptism, claiming that unbaptized infants are lost and calling all who rejected infant baptism *“infidels”* and *“cursed.”* He exalted the authority of *“the church”* over that of Scripture.

*“Through Augustine, Origen’s allegorical hermeneutic became the backbone of medieval interpretation of the Bible”* (Matthew Allen, *Theology Adrift: The Early Church Fathers and Their Views of Eschatology*, bible.org).

These heresies grew and became a fundamental part of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches.

When the Protestant denominations (e.g., Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist) broke away from Rome, one of the errors they brought with them was the allegorical interpretation of prophecy and its Replacement Theology.

## THE APOSTLES

When it comes to sound doctrine, the bottom line is not what anyone has or has not taught in church history. It is *“what saith the Lord?”* Period. The Bible is the *sole* authority for faith and practice. It is not one authority among many, and it is not the authority only as confirmed by *“church fathers”* and *“theologians.”*

The bottom line is that the apostles and early Christians interpreted prophecy literally.

***They believed in an imminent return of Christ.***

*“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And **to wait for his Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come”* -(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:9-10).

The apostles and prophets taught that the Lord’s return is **“at hand”** -(Romans 13:12; Philippians 4:5; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:7; Revelation 1:3).



**They believed in a Rapture of New Testament saints.**

# Ramp Up To Rapture

**This is what we  
should be seeing**

## Just Before

Worldwide drug/vaccine use  
Movement toward world gov't.  
Russia /Iran rising to power  
Inflation begins  
Food shortages begin  
Less use of paper currency  
Persecution of Believers begin  
Social and travel restrictions  
Massive death begins  
Discussion/plans to rebuild  
144K Jewish virgins Identified

## Just After

Worldwide drug/vaccine use  
*Rev. 18:23b (sorcery = pharmacy/drugs)*  
World government  
*Rev. 13:3; 17:12-13*  
Russia/Iran invade Israel  
*Ezek 38/39*  
Severe Inflation  
*Rev. 6:5-6*  
Starvation  
*Rev. 6:8*  
Mark of the Beast  
*Rev. 13:16-18*  
Millions of Christian martyrs  
*Rev. 6:9; 7:13-17*  
Total loss of freedom  
*Rev. 13:16-18*  
Billions of humans die  
*Rev. 6:8*  
Jewish Temple Rebuilt  
*Dan. 9:27*  
144K Jewish male virgins  
*Rev. 7:4-8; 14:1-5*

**If this is where  
we're headed**

*But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. 1Th. 5:4-5*



***“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with***



***the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words”*** -(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-18).

**They believed that the New Testament saints would be saved from the Tribulation to come.**

***“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ”*** -(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:3-9).

**They believed in a literal Antichrist.**

***“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God”*** -(2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:3-4).

**They believed in a literal return of Christ and a literal fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.**

***“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began”*** -(Acts 3:19-21).

**They believed in a literal fulfillment of Israel's covenants following the church age.**

***“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins”*** -(Romans 11:25-27).

## OTHER PRE-DARBY PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE QUOTES

### Irenaeus (AD 130 - 202)

*“Those nations however, who did not of themselves raise up their eyes unto heaven, nor returned thanks to their Maker, nor wished to behold the light of truth, but who were like blind mice concealed in the depths of ignorance, the word justly reckons “as waste water from a sink, and as the turning-weight of a balance — in fact, as nothing;”(1) so far useful and serviceable to the just, as stubble conduces towards the growth of the wheat, and its straw, by means of combustion, serves for working gold. **And therefore, when in the end the Church shall be suddenly caught up from this, it is said, “There shall be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning, neither shall be.”(2) For this is the last contest of the righteous, in which, when they overcome they are crowned with incorruption.**”*

- *Against Heresies*, Book 5, 5. 29

### Cyprian (AD 200-258)

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

- *Treatises of Cyprian*

### Victorinus (AD 240-303)

*“And the heaven withdrew as a scroll that is rolled up.” For the heaven to be rolled away, that is, that the Church shall be taken away. “And every mountain and the islands removed from their places intimate that in the last persecution all men departed from their places; that is, that the good will be removed, seeking to avoid persecution.”*

- *Commentary on the Apocalypse*

### Thomas Vincent (1634-1678)

*“the righteous ... suddenly caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; which sight will be fearful and amazing to them, when they perceive themselves to be left behind. ... O the fear and trouble which will be upon the spirits of those unbelieving Christ-less, grace-less sinners ... some of them linked in the nearest relations to them, when their believing relations shall be caught away from them, and carried up into the air, with the rest of the glorious train of Saints, when themselves shall remain below upon the earth ... Friends will be together at that day as at other times, not expecting Christ’s coming ... Suppose that the heavens should just now open and you should hear the sound of the last Trumpet,*

and Jesus Christ should descend. ... all you that are impenitent and unbelievers, would be left behind: and think what terror would fall upon you..."

- *Christ's Certain and sudden Appearance to Judgment* (London,1667), 53-54.

### Joseph Mede (1586-1639)

**"After this, our gathering together unto Christ at His coming...The saints being translated into the air ... and they may be preserved during the conflagration of the earth, and the works thereof: 2 Pet. 3.10. that as Noah and his family were preserved from the deluge by being lifted up above the waters in the ark, so should the saints at the conflagration be lifted up in the clouds, unto their ark, Christ, to be preserved there from the deluge of fire, wherein the wicked shall be consumed."**

- *Mede, Works*, III, 611 [cited in H. Orton Wiley; *Christian Theology*]

### Jeremiah Burroughs (1600-1646)

**"The first thing that shall be done in this great day of Jezreel, shall be the deliverance of the Churches from woeful affliction which they shall be found to be in a little before, For so the Scripture tells us, Dan.12.1. that before this day there shall be a time of trouble such as never was...and at that time thy people shall be delivered...it is therefore called a great day, because of Gods appearing so gloriously in the deliverance of his Church at that day. ... It is a going up, it is a rising... search into these truths of God, that so they may be the better prepared to meet Christ their Bride-groom when he commeth."**

- *An Exposition of The Prophecie of Hosea* (London, 1643), 187, 195.

### Nathaniel Homes (1599-1678)

"all mankind shall rise in their order, Christ the first fruits...afterwards, they that are Christs at his coming...notes a distance of time of above a thousand and a halfe of yeers...the rapture of the Saints into the clouds, to be their present translation into heaven...this our gathering together unto Christ at his coming (so the Apostle calls this rapture, 2 Thess.2. 1.) wee shall from henceforth never lose his presence, but always enjoy it, partly on earth, during his reign of the thousand yeers, and partly in heaven, when wee shall be translated thither. **this rapture of the Saints on high to meet the Lord in the clouds, rather then to wait his coming to the earth. What if it bee, that they may be preserved during the conflagration of the earth, and the works thereof, 2 Pet. 3.10. That as Noah, and his family were preserved from the deluge, by being lift up above the waters in the Ark, so should the Saints at the conflagration bee lift up in the clouds unto their Ark, Christ, to be preserved there from the Deluge of fire, wherein the wicked shall be consumed?"**

- *The Resurrection Revealed* (London,1653), 492,494.

### William Aspinwall (1605-1662)

"If God by some voice from heaven, I mean out of his Churches, say Come up hither,

*Rev. 11. 12, 13. Follow his call, and fear not enemies; though you see them, & they see you ascend up to heaven, you shall be safe. Some commotion or earthquake will ensue, but no detriment to you that obey the voice from heaven, The detriment will be to the enemies themselves..."*

*- A Brief Description of the Fifth Monarchy, or Kingdome, That shortly is to come (London, 1653), 9-10.*

### **John Browne (1582-1659)**

*"the hundred forty and four thousand, who are called Virgins, cannot be said to be the Virgins that attend the Spouse, the Lamb's Wife, seeing that they are upon the Earth after the said Spouse is taken up. ...then will follow the calling of the two Tribes of Judah and Benjamin to Jerusalem...and then the City is built, which bringing back of the ten Tribes will not be completed till after the Saints are taken up, when as before that time both Jerusalem and the Temple will be built, and Sacrifice offered..."*

*- Events of Last Times (London, 1654), 7, 12-13*

### **William Hook (1600-1677)**

*"There are several Resurrections mentioned in the Scriptures. But great troubles will follow this Resurrection [pre-Trib rapture] after a short time...which will shake the power of the Beast...till it come to Armageddon... The Beast lives in Hell upon Earth [tribulation], the Saints in Heaven...when they ascended up to Heaven in a cloud, their Enemies beheld them. They rise up from Antichrist and his Pollutions, and all his earthly and hellish waies...and at last, they shall come with Christ to judge the world. ... "Until then they are protected, somewhat like as when the Egyptians pursued the Israelites into the Red Sea..."*

*- Short Discourse of the Nature and Extent of the Gospel-Day (London, 1673) 13, 18, 20-23.*

### **Anonymous Tract (1699)**

*"those saints that are then alive shall not prevent the rising of the Saints that were dead at the coming of Christ...for the dead in Christ shall be raised first; then the Saints alive in the Body, in this mortal state, shall be changed...in the twinkling of an eye, less than a moment, raise all the dead Saints, and change all the Saints then alive into an incorruptible immortal state... They shall be caught up in the Clouds to meet the Lord in the Air...in this appearing of Christ...but here it's another sight of Christ, viz. as their Judge: for so he will be to the Sinner and ungodly, when he shall come the second time in the Clouds of Heaven...coming to enter upon his Kingdom here on Earth, with all his Saints in a glorified State, after having received their gloried bodies, and after meeting their Lord in the air, prepared for this great Assize and Judgment of the World."*

*- Anon, A Short Survey of the Kingdom of Christ here on Earth with his Saints (London, 1699, 9-11, 14-15.*

### **Oliver Heywood (1630-1702)**

*“the Souls of the glorified Saints shall descend and be united to their own Bodies, and then ascend to meet the Lord in the Air, and the wicked are left behind on their dunghill the earth...the dead shall rise, before the living are rapt up... These congregated Saints shall be admitted into one place, and state of Glory: They are before the throne of God...there is room enough in heaven for all the saints, In my Father’s house, saith Christ, are many mansions.”*

- *The General Assembly: or, a Discourse of the Gathering of all Saints to Christ* (London,1700), 15-16,19-20.

### **Increase Mather (1639-1723)**

*“The Living Saints at Christ’s coming shall be caught up into the Air, that they may escape that Deluge of Fire which will be the Perdition of ungodly Men. ... But before this Rapture of the living, the dead Saints shall be raised. ... They, as to their Bodies, shall not be with Christ before the Bodies of Saints asleep in the Grave shall be with him ... As when the Flood came, there was a Difference make between Noah’s family and the rest of Mankind: Thus when the World shall perish by Fire, no Saint shall be hurt by that Fire, but Sinners shall. ...we may not determine how long the Conflagration shall last. Noah’s Flood continued for many Days and Months, he was a whole Year in the Ark. The Weapons of Ezekiel’s Gog are Seven Years in burning, Ezek. 39.9.”*

- *Dissertation Concerning the Future Conversion of the Jewish Nation* (1709), 15.

### **CONCLUSION**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, do not let anyone rob you of a literal interpretation of prophecy and the imminency of the return of Christ Jesus, which is the believer’s Blessed Hope. We are looking for Christ Jesus, not for the Antichrist.

A large portion of the Bible (28%) consists of prophecy, and much of it has not yet been fulfilled. The portion that has been fulfilled has been fulfilled literally. We think of the great Messianic prophecies of Jesus Christ’s first coming in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. The prophecies are breathtaking in detail, and every detail was fulfilled “literally.”

Further, if we do not interpret prophecy according to the “normal literal” method, there is no way to determine for sure what it actually means.

A literal interpretation of prophecy results in the doctrine that the church is not Israel, and that Israel’s covenants will yet be fulfilled after the church age.

***“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take***

**away their sins”** -(Romans 11:25-27).

The 70th Week of Daniel 9:24-27 pertains to Israel, not to the church. Every event of the 70 Weeks pertains to **“thy [Daniel’s] people, and the holy city [Jerusalem]”** (verse 24). Before God turns His attention, so to speak, to fulfilling Israel’s ancient covenants, including the Davidic covenant of 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7, the Church will be Raptured and will not see the coming of the antichrist and the other signs that immediately precede the glorious return of Christ.

The doctrine of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture is not a minor one. Jesus, Paul, James, and Peter taught that the return of Christ is imminent and is to be expected at any time -(Matthew 24:44; Philippians. 4:5; James 5:8-9; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:7). The early Christians lived in this expectation -(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:9-10).

The doctrine of a Pre-Tribulational Rapture is a great motivator for purifying the Christian life.

1. It encourages the believer in trials and persecutions. **“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words”** -(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:17-18).

2. It keeps the church’s focus on the Great Commission -(Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-48; Acts 1:8). D.L. Moody had it right when he said: *“I look upon this world as a wrecked vessel. God has given me a lifeboat and said to me, ‘Moody, save all you can.’”*

3. It motivates believers to be busy in the Lord’s work -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58).

4. It motivates believers to live obedient lives -(1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1-3; 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:4-7).

5. It motivates believers to separate from evil -(Titus 2:13-14).

6. It keeps believers on the outlook for heresy and apostasy -(2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:3-4; 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:24-28).

In light of the current world situation regarding the Russian invasion of the Ukraine, the mainstream media continue to demonize the Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin as an insane war criminal. I dare say that the Rothschild-owned and controlled media are largely responsible for the enflaming rhetoric intended to provoke an intervention on the part of NATO and the U.S. The press outlets are owned and paid for by the House of Rothschild. All the news services and world wire services are subsidiaries of the House of Rothschild. The White House leadership along with the Pentagon will not tell us the truth that the Ukraine War is over, and we are out of assets to provide the Nazi leader who uses his own people as shields.

Apart from boastful claims of supposed “victories” of the Neo-Nazi junta forces against the Russian military, talks of how much financial assistance is necessary is the usual topic in Kiev. The regime’s front-man Volodymyr Zelensky is never tired of demanding yet another few billion dollars (euros and pounds are good enough, too) per month to support the political West’s favorite puppet regime. However, his most recent statements make every other demand look entirely “reasonable”. Namely, the Kiev regime front-man now wants over \$1 trillion for the supposed “reconstruction” of the country.

During a video address on November 29<sup>th</sup>, Zelensky stated that it would cost more than \$1 trillion to “rebuild” Ukraine. If the number sounds astounding, that’s quite expected, given that it’s over five times the country’s 2021 GDP. However, even this sounds laughable when the second requirement is listed – this “reconstruction” plan would come into effect only after the military superpower with over 6,000 thermonuclear warheads next door is somehow “defeated”. Many have ignored Zelensky’s mind-boggling statements regarding this matter, but he keeps insisting that this is precisely what the Kiev regime needs.

In practice, the Ukraine cannot continue to fight and to recover without continuing aid from the U.S. and other powers. Moreover, if the war drags on as it well may do, the total costs of both the war and recovery states could easily rise well over \$500 billion. Zelensky borders on as a raving maniac or a spoiled child who does not understand the word “NO”! The U.S. is directly responsible for the Ukraine breaking the 2014 Minsk agreement and turning a blind eye to the corruption of Ukraine’s leadership who siphon off foreign aid to buy palatial estates around the world when it becomes all too obvious the war has been lost! Two weeks of winter has led to the freezing of the ground and Russia has amassed three-quarters of a million troops prepared to grind down the Ukraine to ruins and to finish this war!

George Eaton posted a report this morning, November 29, 2022 entitled: “**After Evaluating the Globalists’ Agenda, Nuclear War Is Their Only Option.**” George Eaton is more than just a journalist, he is an objective historical commentator who calls it quite accurately.

*“If the globalists decided to reverse course and stop promoting the war in Ukraine, they would technically and officially be giving up their war against Russia. But their long-term goals of globalism over the people, high prices, green controls and social engineering would remain the same.*

*However, those policies are already proven to be dead ends for society and will lead to an economic collapse. So, how can the globalist maintain control, if the system they are engineering is doomed to collapse? Wouldn’t we then be seeing the immediate direction of things headed for a major financial disaster?*

*How can the wealthy elite maintain control over a society that is in free fall collapse?*



*My point is, the west has no choice, they MUST continue the war in Ukraine to find themselves in any semblance of moving forward with control. If they back down now, the entire system is going to collapse anyway. If they continue the war, even to a nuke exchange, they have the possibility of riding the bucking bronco economy in a positive manner, in control, and headed towards achieving the ownership of new lands and natural resources in Russia. Besides, everything can be blamed on the war and the Russians. And once the Russian territory is acquired they have a new frontier for money investments. They are, in my opinion, committed to continue the war to whatever end that occurs.*

*The globalists don't have an option NOT to destroy Russia, for the simple reason, Russia will at some point lash out and destroy the west after they are attacked, which will cause a retaliation against Russia, which will then lead to total destruction of Russia. However, the destruction of Russia, in the mind of the wealthy globalists, does not destroy the natural resources underground. The sad truth is, they don't care about the human beings on the surface of the land they conquer.*

*What does happen is this: millions die in the west, millions die in Russia, and the entire western world then goes into a "reset" condition of rebuilding and reforming new economies – albeit, absent of the previous numbers of workers that were available. The third world nations automatically depopulate through chaos, famine and local wars.*

*It is a new concept of a global economy system, no longer based on a world of 8 billion people and a high-tech world of conveniences. But instead, a global system that looks more like what the world looked like in the early industrialism of 1900, but with a few technological upgrades.*

*In the past 2 months I have basically placed a lot of my opinions on the shelf and kept an open mind on what might happen. I am now looking to re-evaluate the world system's future and re-calculate what I see, and come up with a fresh perspective.*

*The bottom line is, I'm not seeing a way out of this end result, nothing else computes. So far, what I'm seeing is an intransigent position by the wealthy elite to stay the course on the war, regardless what direction it goes. And if the Russians start to win, the west will increase their military moves accordingly - until it reaches victory against Russia or ends up in a global nuclear war. There is no return to normalcy for the west, that option no longer exists in their mind. Why?*

*Because the economic reality dictates that they must stay the course for ANY type of control they could manage, even after a nuke war.*

*They have already written off the masses as dead meat. They have written off the factories, industries and economies as dead meat. Their concept of the new world does not include what we see now as a functioning system. That reality no longer exists in their minds. Why? Because they see the financial numbers that show they are have unpayable debts and it doesn't add up to*

*being able to salvage the current system. It is over. The only outcome is nuclear war and a reset.*

*Some people still doubt the concept of depopulation by a cabal of wealthy elite. But the concept of using and initiating depopulation has already happened. Millions died from the created pandemic and millions more are dying from the vax, and millions more have been prevented from being born through mass sterility from the vax.*

*The conspiracy to attack the masses and starting depopulation is not something that might happen. Their plan of action has already been initiated, and it has already started to happen and will accelerate even more. What follows next is a machine-like action to utilize wars and starvation as a means to an end – without human sympathy or consideration for the “masses”.*

*We're being set up for war, but the actual moves to precede that war haven't been accomplished, like it was done in WW2. They have left out key planning moves on purpose, for the simple reason they don't intend to save millions of people from the collateral damage of war.*

*It is obvious to me the war planners are depending on nukes as a back up to defend their positions. We don't have the manpower or resources to fight against Russia directly. But nevertheless, we will face them militarily, and when things get dicey, out come the nukes – as planned. The next move by Russia is quite predictable, they will defend themselves and retaliate with nukes.*

*So, the modern warfare we fight today is different than a Viet Nam type war or an Iraqi war. This time it will lead to more war and an upstage into larger weapons. Whereas, the other wars were fabricated and used to make \$ billions in profits for the military industrial complex. But the next world war will be used to depopulate the earth with a 'reset' and “build back better” program. Believe it or not, that concept makes the wealthy elite globalists feel warm and fuzzy all over. The truth is, they have lost their humanity, embraced the evil thoughts of sociopaths and by their actions have become demons incarnate.*

*The average citizen has no concept how devastating a nuclear war will be. The majority of the nukes that will be used have 500 kilotons of explosive power and heat that is many times hotter than the surface of the sun, compared to Hiroshima that had 15 kilotons. The urban areas will not survive.*

*What the U.S. military is very concerned about is, during a war with Russia and after NATO attacks them with nukes somewhere, that the Russians would simply go after the “Big 5”. The Big 5 are 5 major cities in the U.S. that could be hit by sub launched nuclear missiles within seconds off our coast lines. Those cities are: Washington, DC, New York City, Houston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The Russian hyper speed missiles are so fast, that the U.S. has no defense missiles fast enough to stop them. From the time they are launched to the time they hit their targets would be between 30*

*to 90 seconds. Imagine how that would change our world in less than 2 minutes. In one hour the entire western world and Russia would be in flames.*

*Once we get to the fast response war, it is over for our civilization. There is no stopping the fast missiles that can arrive on cities in mere minutes, and in some cases seconds. Some people accuse me of being too pessimistic or negative, so I will interject this positive note: I am positive that things will collapse one way or the other, plan accordingly. And, by all means, stay positive.” George Eaton*

As we wait for Jesus’ appearing, our hearts often grow weary amid the rampant evil of our day and the hardships we encounter. Our cry often becomes one of *“how much longer, O Lord?”*

*If you feel overwhelmed with life at times and long for our Saviour to appear and intervene in our world, please know that I wrote what follows especially for you.*

Our weariness of heart comes from a variety of sources:

- Ongoing health issues of varying intensity
- The limitations that come with aging
- The sickening wickedness in our world that’s growing exponentially
- Government corruption amid over-the-top deception and gaslighting by leaders
- The vile depopulation efforts of the globalists
- The everyday talk of a nuclear World War III
- Various forms of persecution
- The ridicule of our hope in Jesus’ imminent appearing
- Family heartaches
- Abuse from spouses or other family members
- Financial woes

For those of us eagerly watching for Jesus’ return, encountering these things intensifies our longing for the day He takes us up to His Father’s house.

I believe the Apostle Paul also felt this yearning. In Romans 8:23, he wrote: ***“And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”***

The ***“redemption of our bodies”*** happens at the time of the Rapture when Jesus gives us our imperishable bodies. If you sigh with longing for this day to arrive as the result of any of the reasons from the above list, you’re in good company. You likely feel the same inward groaning that Paul felt as he also looked forward to the Lord’s appearing.

It’s our anticipation of the glory ahead for us that encourages weary hearts as we encounter the devil’s opposition through the items listed above. That’s why I’m writing to reassure you regarding the confidence we possess in Jesus’ imminent appearing.

It’s because . . .

## 1. PREMILLENNIALISM IS A BIBLICAL NECESSITY

Premillennialism, which is foundational to a belief in the pre-Tribulation rapture, is a biblical necessity. There must be a time when God restores a kingdom to Israel, which happens after a literal seven-year Tribulation when Jesus returns to the earth. We call this belief “*premillennialism*.” It’s the direct opposite of replacement theology, which falsely claims that God has replaced Israel with the church.

Why is this key to placing the Rapture before the Tribulation? First, those who adhere to replacement theology don’t believe in an actual tribulation. If that’s the case, the Rapture must happen at the time of the Second Coming.

Second, if one doesn’t interpret prophecy in the way that the writers of Scripture intended, one cannot recognize how its words confirm the biblical necessity of a pre-Tribulation Rapture.

## 2. THE RAPTURE IS A BIBLICAL EVENT

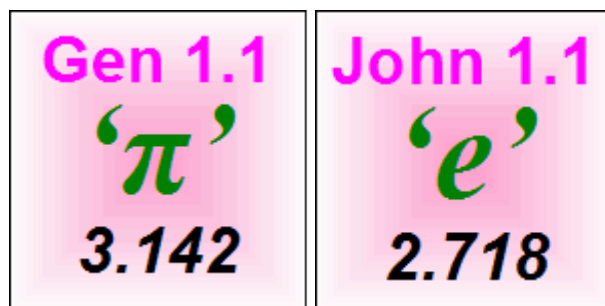
I find it reassuring to always keep in mind that the Rapture is a biblical event.

Consider the following quote from the late Dr. Ed Hindson, a beloved scholar whose insights into biblical prophecy we sorely miss:

*“If you disagree on the timing of the rapture, please don’t tell people, ‘There’s never going to be a rapture.’ No, there must be a rapture or the Bible is not true. There must be a time when the archangel shouts, when the trumpet sounds, and the dead in Christ are raised and the living are caught up (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-18). We may differ on the timing of the rapture but not the fact of the rapture.”*

In other words, there must be a time when the series of events Paul describes in 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-18 happen, or “*the Bible is not true*.” Jesus is coming for us and at that time He will give us imperishable bodies exactly as He promises us in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:50-54. Regardless of what one calls the event these passages describe, they form the basis of our *future* hope in Jesus’ appearing.

However, “*The Bible is True*” and has been confirmed through Gematria, a form of genetic equivalence Biblical DNA, or primary “source code” like that used in computer programming. Encoded in Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 are two of the three basic mathematical properties of the Creator:



The Russian mathematician Ivan Panin, who died in 1942 was an American citizen, brought to the world attention of God's mathematical properties beneath the Greek and Hebrew text. Computer analysis years later during the 1960-1990s has validated that the manuscripts used in our King James Bible are 98.2% accurate, and the 1.8% in question does not present any issue of concern about its content. The secular world has no desire that you know this and never focus on it after his death at 89. His work was mainstream news in the early 1900s.

Ivan Panin said the laws of probability are exceeded into the billions when we try and rationalize the authorship of the Bible as the work of man. He once said: *"If human logic is worth anything at all we are simply driven to the conclusion that if my facts I have presented are true, man could never have done this"*.

*"We must assume that a Power higher than man guided the writers in such a way, whether they knew it or not, they did it and the Great God inspired them to do it"*.

The Bible itself states clearly that it is the literal God-breathed living word of the Creator. The words **"Thus saith the Lord"** and **"God said"** occur more than 2,500 times throughout scripture.

In 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16 it states **"All scripture is given by inspiration of God."** Then in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:20-21 it plainly states: **"No prophecy of the Scriptures is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"**.

Let's take the number seven as an illustration of the way the patterns work. Seven is the most prolific of the mathematical series which binds Scripture together. The very first verse of the Bible **"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"** - (Genesis 1:1), contains over 30 different combinations of seven.

This verse has seven Hebrew words having a total of 28 letters 4 x 7. The numeric value of the three nouns "God", "heaven" and "earth" totals 777. Any number in triplicate expresses complete, ultimate or total meaning.

Also tightly sealed up with sevens are the genealogy of Jesus, the account of the virgin birth and the resurrection. Seven occurs as a number 187 times in the Bible (41 x 7), the phrase "seven-fold" occurs seven times and "seventy" occurs 56 times (7 x 8).

In the Book of Revelation seven positively shines out: there are seven golden candlesticks, seven letters to seven churches, a book sealed with seven seals, seven angels standing before the Lord with seven trumpets, seven thunders and seven last plagues. In fact there are over 50 occurrences of the number seven in Revelation alone. I refer to this multiple(s) of "seven" theme as the "Heptadic Design Feature" of the Bible.

Six years ago I wrote a 2-volume eBook *'The Inspired Word of God; Mathematically Proven True!'* Volume 1 is on my archived file page:

<http://jesusisthewaythetruththelife.com/node/22> Volume 2 is found on my web page:  
[www.pastorbobreid.com](http://www.pastorbobreid.com)

### **A Partial Listing of the Phenomenal Features of Sevens Found in Genesis 1**

- 1 The number of Hebrew words = 7**
- 2 The number of letters equals 28 ( $7 \times 4 = 28$ )**
- 3 The first 3 Hebrew words translated "*In the beginning God created*" have 14 letters ( $7 \times 2 = 14$ )**
- 4 The last four Hebrew words "*the heavens and the earth*" have 14 letters ( $7 \times 2 = 14$ )**
- 5 The fourth and fifth words have 7 letters**
- 6 The sixth and seventh words have 7 letters**
- 7 The three key words: God, heaven and earth have 14 letters ( $7 \times 2 = 14$ )**
- 8 The number of letters in the four remaining words is also 14 ( $7 \times 2 = 14$ )**
- 9 The shortest word in the verse is the middle word with 7 letters**
- 10 The Hebrew numeric value of the first, middle and last letters is 133 ( $7 \times 19 = 133$ )**
- 11 The Hebrew numeric value of first and last letters of all seven words is 1393 ( $7 \times 199 = 1393$ )**

The number "seven" permeates the totality of Scripture because the number speaks of God's divine perfection and perfect order. The actual number 7 appears 287 times in the Old Testament ( $7 \times 41 = 287$ ) while the word "seventh" occurs 98 times ( $7 \times 14 = 98$ ). The word "seven-fold" appears seven times. In addition, the word "seventy" is used 56 times ( $7 \times 8 = 56$ ).

Ivan Panin discovered literally thousands of such mathematical patterns underlying all of the books of the Old Testament before his death in 1942. I refer the interested reader to Panin's book, *The Inspiration of the Scriptures Scientifically Demonstrated*, which discusses these phenomena extensively. Panin and others have examined other Hebrew literature and have attempted to find such mathematical patterns, but they are not found anywhere outside the Bible.

### **The Pattern of SEVENS in Matthew 1:18-25—The History of Christ's Birth**

- 1 The number of words in the seven word passage is 161 ( $7 \times 23 = 161$ )**
- 2 The number of Vocabulary words is 77 ( $7 \times 11 = 77$ )**

**3 Six Greek words occur only in this passage and never again in Matthew. These six Greek words contain precisely 56 letters (7x8 = 56)**

**4 The number of distinct proper names in the passage is 7**

**5 The number of Greek letters in these seven proper names is 42 (7x6 = 42)**

**6 The number of words spoken by the angel to Joseph is 28 (7x4 = 28)**

**7 The number of Greek forms of words used in this passage is 161 (7x23 = 161)**

**8 The number of Greek forms of words in the angel's speech is 35 (7x5 = 35)**

**9 The number of letters in the angel's 35 forms of words is 168 (7x24 = 168)**

This phenomenal discovery by Ivan Panin has been examined by numerous authorities and the figures have been verified. In total, Panin accumulated over forty thousand pages of detailed calculations covering most of the text of the Bible before his death. These incredible, mathematical patterns are not limited to the number seven. There are numerous other patterns. These amazing patterns appear in the vocabulary, grammatical forms, parts of speech, and particular forms of words. They occur throughout the whole text of the Bible containing 31,173 verses.

When you consider the amazing details of this mathematical phenomenon you realize that the change of a single letter or word in the original languages of Hebrew or Greek would destroy the pattern. Now we can understand why Jesus Christ declared that the smallest letter and grammatical mark of the Scriptures was persevered by God's Hand: "***For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.***" -(Matthew 5:18).

There is no human explanation for this incredible and precise structure. It has all been supernaturally designed. We simply gasp, sit back, and behold the skillful handiwork of the God who keeps his promises.

These mathematical facts of confirmation assures us that the event we call the "Rapture" is simply the Lord fulfilling the prophecies contained in the above texts as well those found in John 14:1-3, Titus 2:11-14, Revelation 3:10-11, and others.

***The Rapture is a biblical event.***

### **3. THE RAPTURE CANNOT HAPPEN AT THE SAME TIME AS THE SECOND COMING**

The biblical descriptions of the Rapture and Second Coming differ in ways that make it impossible for one to reconcile the two into one event. *They cannot happen at the same time.*



For example, the place of the resurrection in the differing sequence of events during the Rapture and Second Coming confirms this distinction.

When Paul writes about the Rapture in 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-17 and 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:50-54, he says that the raising of the **“dead in Christ”** happens immediately after Jesus appears. This is hugely significant by the specific defining process order!

With the Second Coming, however, the resurrection of tribulation saints does not occur until *after* a lengthy sequence of events -(Revelation 19:11-20:4), this raising of the dead may not even occur until a day or two or more after Jesus’ return to earth.

There’s another key distinction that comes from these passages. At the time of the Rapture, Jesus resurrects the **“dead in Christ”** -(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:16). In Revelation 20:4, John says that at His return to earth, He raises **“those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus.”** In one instance, all believers rise from the dead while in the other, the apostle only mentions a subset of them.

*If the words of Scripture matter, and they do, then we cannot combine these two events into one.*

#### **4. THE NEW TESTAMENT EXPECTANCY OF THE RAPTURE**

The apostles repeatedly described their readers as eagerly anticipating Jesus’ return for them -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:7; Philippians. 3:20-21; 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:8-10; Titus 2:11-13; James 5:8; James 5:8-10; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:13). New Testament saints watched for the Rapture as though it could occur at any moment. When we say that Jesus’ appearing is imminent, we echo this expectancy. Nothing needs to occur before the Rapture takes place.

As for the Second Coming, the Lord told us that at least two major events would happen before it. In Matthew 24:15-29, Jesus says that the defilement of the temple by the antichrist and the **“great tribulation”** that follows it will happen before He returns to earth. According to His own words, events that have not yet happened must occur before the Second Coming; ***it’s not an imminent event that we can expect at any time.***

*Only a pre-Tribulation Rapture fits as the eager anticipation of Jesus’ appearing that we see throughout the New Testament.*

#### **5. THE EXPECTATION OF THE THESSALONIANS**

The expectation of the Thessalonians for Jesus’ appearing also supports placing the Rapture before the tribulation.

The new converts in Thessalonica grieved when some of their members died. A careful examination of Paul’s response -(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:14-17) reveals the cause of their unnecessary grief; they thought that the dead in Christ would miss out on the joy of the Rapture. In response, the apostle assures them of the primary place that the **“dead in Christ”** will have during Jesus’ return for us.

How could they have thought this way apart from expecting Jesus' appearing to happen at any moment? They, like the apostle Paul, believed Jesus could return for them in their lifetime.

## 6. THE SURPRISE BEGINNING OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

In 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:2-3, Paul tells his readers that the start of the day of the Lord will surprise people ***“like a thief in the night”*** with its ***“sudden destruction”*** from which ***“they will not escape.”*** The day of Lord, a primarily Old Testament term, refers to an extended time of the Lord's wrath on the earth leading up to and including Jesus' return to the earth and subsequent kingdom.

If the day of the Lord were to begin at any time after the seal judgments of Revelation 6 commence, this day would not catch people by surprise. No one will be saying “peace and security” (vs. 3) after the pestilences, famines, pandemics, and wars of the seal judgments kill one-fourth of the earth's population, almost two billion people.

*Since the Rapture must happen before the seal judgments of Revelation 6, it must occur before the start of the Tribulation.*

## 7. THE LORD'S PROMISE THAT WE WILL MISS THE WRATH OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

In 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:9-10, the Lord through the apostle Paul assures the Thessalonians, and us, that we will not experience this time of God's judgment upon the earth known as the day of the Lord,

***“For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.”***

The context of this promise tells us that the wrath Paul has in mind belongs to the Day of the Lord rather than hell. It begins with the ***“sudden destruction”*** that ***“will come upon”*** those taken by surprise at the start of this time of wrath.

We learn from 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:9-10 that the readers of Paul's epistle came to faith in Jesus believing they would not experience this future time of wrath upon the earth.

***“For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”***

***For me, this is a very strong argument favoring a pre-Tribulation Rapture as the Lord promises us that we will miss the Day of the Lord's wrath, which includes all of the Tribulation.***

## 8. JESUS' PROMISE TO THE CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

We have additional verification of the pre-Tribulation Rapture in Jesus' promise to the church at Philadelphia. In Revelation 3:10-11 we read:

***“Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming quickly.”***

This **“hour of trial”** here does not refer to a time of persecution that would come upon a particular church or even all believers, but rather points to a time of suffering that will impact *all the people of the world*, which fits with the events that John describes in Revelation 6-18.

The fact that this testing is specifically for **“those who dwell on the earth”** - (Revelation. 3:10) further confirms its reference to the judgments on earth known as the Tribulation. John uses this phrase eight other times in the book of Revelation -(6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8 12, 14; 14:6; and 17:8). In each instance it either refers to either people impacted by the Tribulation or to those refusing to repent of their sins during this time.

In these chapters, however, the apostle never refers to the church as being on the earth, not even once.

## **9. THE CHURCH CANNOT REMAIN ON THE EARTH DURING THE EVENTS OF REVELATION 6-18**

We know that the Lord has currently entrusted the church with proclaiming the saving message of the Gospel to the nations.

Why then is there the need for the two witnesses that John describes for us in Revelation 11:4-13 if the church is present on earth during this time?

Besides these two spokesmen, in Revelation 14:6–7 John tells us about an angel that will proclaim the Gospel during the Tribulation:

***“Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”***

If the church is present on the earth during the events of Revelation 6-18, why does the Lord need to send an angel to proclaim the gospel? *This only makes sense with a pre-Tribulation Rapture.*

The presence of the 144,000 sealed Jewish believers during this time also points to the absence of the church during this time of judgment -(Revelation 7:1-8). Many believe

they will act as evangelists sharing the Gospel with the lost. Again, why is this necessary if the church remains on the earth during the events of Revelation 6-18?

Furthermore, if the church is still present, such a distinction between believing Jews and Gentiles couldn't exist according to Colossians 3:11. ***“Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.”***

### **THE CRY OF OUR SOUL**

The Lord might catch us up to meet Him in the air today, or we may continue waiting a while longer. I'm certain we live in the season of His appearing, but I don't know how long it will last. I'm hoping it will be Hanukkah this month December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022!

When my heart grows weary from, I return again to the passages of Scripture that promise a glorious future solely because of the blood that Jesus shed for me on the cross.

Jesus is preparing a place for us in glory and He's most certainly returning to take us to where He now dwells in glory -(John 14:2-3, 17:24; Colossians 3:4). He will transform our aging bodies into ones that are immortal and glorious -(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:51-57; Philippians 3:20-21).

Know for certain that the Lord is going to judge the vile wickedness and vile agenda that's openly promoted by most government leaders. Just this morning, I needed to again read Psalm 37:1-20 in order to calm the anger rising inside me because of all the deception, lawlessness, and murderous agenda of those in power in America.

The cry of our soul finds its answer in the certainty that Jesus is coming soon to rescue us from this troubled world before things get a whole lot worse.

***Until Jesus appears, don't let anyone deceive you: the Rapture is a biblical event that must happen before the start of the Tribulation period.***

Share this Blessed Hope with your friends that are unsure or uncertain about tomorrow!

## THE ABC'S OF SALVATION



### ADMIT

Admit you are a sinner and have made mistakes.



### BELIEVE

Believe that Jesus is God's Son, died on the Cross for you, and rose up from the grave on the third day.



### CONFESS

Confess Jesus as the Lord of your life. And commit yourself to a life of following Jesus, and serving others.

(Romans 3:23; John 1:12; Romans 10:9)

Amen

Blessings,

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