

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 #182

Ten days ago, Oliver Anthony's gritty coal country ballad "[Rich Men North Of Richmond](#)" was published on YouTube. The song has become the blue-collar political anthem for millions of Americans ahead of the 2024 presidential election cycle.

On Thursday, Anthony revealed his real name is Christopher Anthony Lunsford. He said the viral response to the song blew him away and only anticipated it would get hundreds of thousands of views, not millions. As of Friday, the song ranks number one on [iTunes](#).

Lunsford is a former factory worker and lives in the forgotten part of the US, Appalachia, an area plagued with an opioid crisis and abandoned factories. The song tells the story of working-class folk who struggle daily while being ignored and mocked by political elites just north of Richmond.



Lunsford detailed in a [lengthy Facebook post](#) that he turned down a \$8 million deal from stunned music industry executives:

People in the music industry give me blank stares when I brush off 8 million dollar offers. I don't want 6 tour buses, 15 tractor trailers and a jet. I don't want to play stadium shows, I don't want to be in the spotlight. I wrote the music I wrote because I was suffering with mental health and depression. These songs have connected with millions of people on such a deep level because they're being sung by someone feeling the words in the very moment they were being sung. No editing, no agent, no bullshit. Just some idiot and his guitar. The style of music that we should have never gotten away from in the first place.

Since [going viral nine days ago](#), he has received over 50,000 messages from people reacting to the song. He said some messages include stories about "Suicide, addiction, unemployment, anxiety and depression, hopelessness and the list goes on."

Lunsford provided more details about who he exactly is...

My legal name is Christopher Anthony Lunsford. My grandfather was Oliver Anthony, and "Oliver Anthony Music" is a dedication not only to him, but 1930's Appalachia where he was born and raised. Dirt floors, seven kids, hard times. At this point, I'll gladly go by Oliver because everyone knows me as such. But my friends and family still call me Chris. You can decide for yourself, either is fine.

In 2010, I dropped out of high school at age 17. I have a GED from Spruce Pine, NC. I worked multiple plant jobs in Western NC, my last being at the paper mill in McDowell county. I worked 3rd shift, 6 days a week for \$14.50 an hour in a living hell. In 2013, I had a bad fall at work and fractured my skull. It forced me to move back home to Virginia. Due to complications from the injury, it took me 6 months or so before I could work again.

From 2014 until just a few days ago, I've worked outside sales in the industrial manufacturing world. My job has taken me all over Virginia and into the Carolinas, getting to know tens of thousands of other blue collar workers on job sites and in factories. I've spent all day, everyday, for the last 10 years hearing the same story. People are SO damn tired of being neglected, divided and manipulated.

In 2019, I paid \$97,500 for the property and still owe about \$60,000 on it. I am living in a 27' camper with a tarp on the roof that I got off of craigslist for \$750.

There's nothing special about me. I'm not a good musician, I'm not a very good person. I've spent the last 5 years struggling with mental health and using alcohol to drown it. I am sad to see the world in the state it's in, with everyone fighting with each other. I have spent many nights feeling hopeless, that the greatest country on Earth is quickly fading away.

He concludes with:

That being said, I HATE the way the Internet has divided all of us. The Internet is a parasite, that infects the minds of humans and has their way with them. Hours wasted, goals forgotten, loved ones sitting in houses with each other distracted all day by technology made by the hands of other poor souls in sweat shops in a foreign land.

When is enough, enough? When are we going to fight for what is right again? MILLIONS have died protecting the liberties we have. Freedom of speech is such a precious gift. Never in world history has the world had the freedom it currently does. Don't let them take it away from you.

Just like those once wandering in the desert, we have lost our way from God and have let false idols distract us and divide us. It's a damn shame.

Meanwhile, the [political left is triggered by this song for speaking the truth](#). And the country music industry is "confused by man actually from the country making actual music."

Enjoy the song at the link below. It struck a chord with me when I first learned of it. Most of us my age and younger know what it is like to say, "I can't catch a break!" <https://youtu.be/sqSA-SY5Hro> As the pressure continues to squeeze people all over the world, I am reminded that hope grows in suffering.

If 'Bidenomics' was actually working, the average folk wouldn't care about protest songs. But they do. And that's very telling the "Rich Men North of Richmond" better wake up and stop ignoring the working poor amid the worst inflation storm of a generation ahead of the 2024 presidential election cycle. Don't count on it happening.

Justin Johnson says, Hope allows people to suffer pain for a greater reward; endure trials in order to achieve a greater goal; and willingly sacrifice for something they cherish. Yet, for some people there is nothing greater than their suffering.

This is where the Scriptures are needful. It is through the patience and comfort of the scriptures that we can have hope -(Romans 15:4). The Bible plainly describes the greatest evils of this world and the great suffering that has resulted from it, but it also provides a greater hope.

With the revelation of the mystery of Christ, the Lord gave the greatest source of comfort to those that suffer: an eternal hope of glory.

"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" –(Colossians 1:27)

Through the sufferings of this world we can now hope upon the glory of God! This glory is greater than anything you can suffer on this earth:

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” –(Romans 8:18)

Hope by Faith

The only way to reckon the greatest sufferings of this world unworthy is through the eyes of faith which come by hearing the word of God (Rom 10:17). If we walk by sight we will not see much hope. We must trust by faith that God is able to do what he promised:

“Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.” –(2nd Corinthians 4:14)

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;” –(2nd Corinthians 4:17)

We can only glory in tribulations knowing what we do by faith. Our faith encourages us to patiently endure -(Romans 12:12). The endurance then produces a knowledgeable experience about the suffering. Through Paul's experience he made this statement about suffering:

“...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” – (Philippians 4:11)

This experience then finally works your hope of glory, without which your suffering would be vain.

“...we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:” –(Romans 5:3-4)

Suffering is Real

Suffering is not to be ignored. Neither is it something we should resign ourselves unto. There is a treatment for suffering called hope and it comes by faith in the word of God rightly divided.

It is only by faith in what the Scripture says that we can have sufficient hope to endure the greatest sufferings of this life. There are some very real sufferings in this world from which you cannot be saved except by God's hope of glory in Christ Jesus -(Romans 8:24-25).

The sufferings may not go away until our promotion to glory, but we will always have this hope:

“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.” –Galatians 5:5

Suffering is real. So is hope.

Forty-five years ago, I claimed as my own those words of Paul in Philippians 4:11. It has not always been easy to stay true to those words but for what amount of time I have, I can say that “Complaining” has not been my lot. The other passage I claimed was Philippians 2:14: **“Do all things without complaining and disputing,”** As events have unfolded, I have been sustained by those words for a decade living with disability from Lymphedema of the lower legs and feet.

I began this series as an encouragement for those of you who at a time when the globalists hatched their Hegelian Dialectic hoax to “Depopulate” the world as well as merge human DNA with AI. After 180 segments, I still believe and am more than confident that the Lord Jesus Christ will deliver on His Promise in Revelation 3:10: **“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.”**

The article by Dr. Nathan E. Jones that follows is real encouragement to me and others. Nathan became an associate with Dr. David Reagan when Lamb & Lion Ministry at the time the radio program expanded to a television format. Since joining Dr. Reagan, Nathan earned his Doctorate Degree while serving as staff evangelist. I trust that you will find Nathan’s article to be a blessing and encouragement for you to hold on to. The ride is getting bumpier and crazy by the day but I am not discouraged, exhausted at times but encouraged.

Why I Believe in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture 11 reasons why Jesus will come back before the Tribulation By Nathan E. Jones

Frequently I am asked to explain or defend the end-time view of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church. For that topic, lots of Bible verses, readings and references rattle around in my skull. I can extract each like a Powerball out of an air machine and present it to the inquiring mind, but never in a linear, comprehensive manner in which I particularly appreciate. And so, this article is my attempt to organize my brain on the Pre-Tribulation Rapture view. You’re welcome to come along on the journey!

Taking It to the Bedrock

My belief that there will be a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church stands on the bedrock of the following foundational tenets:

A) The Bible is the Word of God

The 66-book canon called the Bible is God’s inerrant, infallible message to mankind, explaining His purposes and plans for the ages (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21). No other document can be reliably trusted, nor remotely reach the bar for the requirements of authentication that the Bible attains to so easily.

B) The Bible is to be Interpreted Literally

God means what He says and says what He means. God wants His creations to know His will plainly. While God does indulge in picturesque descriptions and parables, an explanation almost always follows or context is provided for explanation. Spiritualization of text, therefore, has no proper place in interpreting Scriptures. Any eschatological viewpoint must then be thrown out if it is based on the reader's desire to spiritualize the Bible into whatever ethereal meaning they desire. Take the Bible for its plain sense meaning.

C) The Church and Israel Are Separate Entities

Israel is not the Church and the Church is not Israel. A believer in Christ becomes a member of the Church, whether Jew or Gentile (Rom. 1:16), but a member of the Church does not become a form of spiritual Israel. God's promises to Israel as a people and nation (see next tenet) are not the same as for the Bride of Christ, the Church.

D) A Literal 1000-Year Millennium

The Bible describes a future, literal 1000-year time period. The Greek word "chilias" for "one thousand" appears six times in Revelation 20, clearly marking the time period as having 1000 literal years. The purpose of this time period is for Jesus Christ to have an earthly kingdom from which to base His rule and to fulfill His promises (Gen. 13:14-17; 15:5,18-21; 2 Sam. 7:16-19; Isa. 10:21-22; 11:1-2; Jer. 23:5-8; 30:22; 31:31-34; Ezek. 11:18-20; 34:24; 36:24-28; Mic. 7:19-20; Hos. 3:5; Rom. 11:26-29).

E) A Literal 7-Year Tribulation

An upcoming time period has been set aside for God to pour out His wrath upon the evil of the world, to regather Israel back into its land, to force Israel to acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah, and for the Messiah to return and fight for His believing remnant (Deut. 4:26-31; Isa. 13:6-13; 17:4-11; Jer. 30:4-11; Ezek. 20:33-38; Dan. 9:27; 12:1; Zech. 14:1-4; Matt. 24:9-31). This time period begins with a covenant between Israel and the Antichrist (Dan. 9:27). The length of the Tribulation is seven years long, described in a variety of ways as "one seven" year block (Dan. 9:27), consisting of two "times, time and half a time" (two years + 1 year + half a year; Rev. 12:14), or two "1260 days" periods (Rev. 11:3), or two "42 month" periods (Rev. 11:2; 13:5).

F) Jesus Will Return Again to Earth

The Bible says Jesus will physically return again to earth (Zech. 14:1-21; Matt. 24:29-31; Mk. 13:24-27; Lk. 21:25-27; Rev. 19). Jesus returns is to defeat His enemies, set up His throne, restore Israel, rule with "a rod of iron" and share His authority with those who overcame in Him (Mat. 19:28; 25:31; Acts 1:3-6; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21).

G) The Bible Teaches About a Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:17 speaks of an event called "the Rapture", Latin "rapio," Greek "harpazo," which means "to catch up, to snatch away, or to take out." "After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever." Paul states that the concept

of the Rapture is meant to encourage believers during this Age (1 Thes. 4:18). Other New Testament references on the Rapture are Jn. 14:1-4; I Cor. 15:51-58; and 1 Thes. 4:13-18.

These bedrock statements about the Bible and its interpretation provide the foundation in which to analyze the following reasons for why I believe the Bible teaches a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church.

1) The Bible describes the Rapture and Second Coming as different events.

The Bible must see the Rapture (Jn. 14:1-4; I Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thes. 4:13-18) and the Second Coming (Zech. 14:1-21; Matt. 24:29-31; Mk. 13:24-27; Lk. 21:25-27; Rev. 19) as separate events, because when the verses are compared they describe two very different scenarios:

Rapture — believers meet Christ in the air

Second Coming — Christ returns to the Mount of Olives to meet the believers on earth

Rapture — Mount of Olives is unchanged

Second Coming — Mount of Olives is divided, forming a valley east of Jerusalem

Rapture — living believers obtain glorified bodies

Second Coming — living believers remain in same bodies

Rapture — believers go to heaven

Second Coming — glorified believers come from heaven, earthly believers stay on earth

Rapture — world left unjudged and living in sin

Second Coming — world is judged and righteousness is established

Rapture — depicts deliverance of the Church from wrath

Second Coming — depicts deliverance of believers who endured wrath

Rapture — no signs precede it

Second Coming — many signs precede it

Rapture — revealed only in New Testament

Second Coming — revealed in both Old and New Testaments

Rapture — deals with only the saved

Second Coming — deals with both the saved and unsaved

Rapture — Satan remains free

Second Coming — Satan is bound and thrown into the Abyss

Since the Rapture and Second Coming clearly are different events that do not occur at the same time, this would rule out a Post-Tribulation Rapture scenario.

2) The Rapture is described as occurring at any time without warning.

Jesus stated in Matthew 24:42,44 to “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come... So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” Not only do believers in Christ not know when to expect Him, but the Father Himself seems to have left Jesus out on the exact time His Son is to return. As Jesus stated in Matthew 24:36, “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” These and other verses (Mat. 24:36,42,44,50; 25:13; 1 Thes. 4:18; Tit. 2:13; 1 Jn. 2:28; 3:2-3) indicate that Jesus’ arrival will come when nobody expects it.

The Second Coming, on the other hand, is preceded by many events, such as the rise of the Antichrist (Rev. 12:13-17; Zech; 13:7-9), a treaty with Israel (Dan. 9:27), the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple (Mat. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 11:1-2), as well as plagues and judgments and persecutions destroying most of the world’s population (Rev. 6-18). The Book of Revelation reports these events as occurring during the 7-year Tribulation, which Revelation reveals precede the Second Coming.

Because the Rapture could happen at any moment and without warning and the Second Coming is preceded by so many signs, then the Rapture and Second Coming must be different events. The Rapture has to occur before the seven years’ worth of signs, because Christians are called to look for the Lord’s return rather than signs such as the Antichrist’s arrival. Once the signs begin, then the seven year countdown begins towards its end with Christ’s return at the Second Coming.

Jesus’ imminent return dismisses any of the other viewpoints related to a rapture that occur within or at the end of the Tribulation.

3) The Rapture and the removal of the “Restrainer” occur at the same time.

In 2 Thessalonians, the church at Thessalonica was afraid due to a false report that they had entered the Day of the Lord (Tribulation) and had somehow missed the Rapture. The Apostle Paul assured them that the Antichrist would not be revealed until a restraining force would be taken away so that the Man of Lawlessness could be revealed.

Because the revealing of the Antichrist coincides with the beginning of the 7-year Tribulation starting with his peace treaty with Israel (Dan. 9:27), then the Restrainer has to be removed before the Tribulation. As the Holy Spirit also works in salvation (Jn. 16:8-11; 1 Jn. 5:7) during the Tribulation, then it is the Church that must be the Restrainer that is removed. Therefore, the Rapture and the removal of the Church must coincide, and at the beginning of the seven years.

4) The Tribulation is for Israel’s redemption.

Jeremiah 30:7 describes the Tribulation as the “time of Jacob’s trouble” — “How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it.”

In the Book of Matthew, whose primary audience is the Jews, Jesus explains to his Jewish followers what life will be like during the Tribulation. Also, Revelation 12 describes picturesquely a woman who gives birth and has to flee due to persecution during the Tribulation. The context shows the woman is Israel. And again, the Battle of Armageddon is the world against Israel. Two-thirds of the Jewish people will be killed from these battles. These texts and others show that the Tribulation is meant for the redemption of the Jewish people.

Why are the Jews the object of persecution during the Tribulation? For one, Satan hates the Jewish people for giving the world the Scriptures and the Messiah, as well as he wishes to thwart God's promises to the Jews (see Bedrock #4). Secondly, the Jews have to be so desperately brought low that they finally call out to their Messiah "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (Mat. 23:39; Lk. 13:35). The Tribulation, then, is used for Israel's redemption which also results in the punishment of the wicked. The Church does not fit into this scenario, and are left out of the purposes of the Tribulation. They would need to be removed — caught up — before the Tribulation begins.

5) The Tribulation is not for the Church.

The Tribulation is God's wrath upon the unbelieving world, and not for those who are saved from Christ's resurrection to the Rapture — called the Church. Yes believers have suffered all throughout human history, but there is a special time (just like the Flood) set apart called the Day of the Lord for God's wrath. Christians suffering and the Tribulation/Day of the Lord are different.

True believers in Christ during the Church Age, represented by the Church of Philadelphia, are promised in Revelation 3:10, "Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth." Paul states in 1 Thessalonians 1:10, "and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath." He also states in 1 Thessalonians 5:9, "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:9 states, "Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" Ephesians 5:6 states, "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient." Colossians 3:4 states, "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." Again and again, Scripture states the Church is not meant to endure God's wrath.

6) God's wrath involves the whole 7-Year Tribulation.

The view that the Rapture will occur at the mid-point of the Tribulation is based upon 1 Corinthians 15:52 which states that the Rapture will occur at the blowing of "the last trumpet." This Mid-Tribulation Rapture view then declares this trumpet to be the last of the seven trumpets in Revelation 11 that is blown at the mid-point of the Tribulation. Why of the 114 references to trumpets in the Bible these two are identified as one and the same only defies sound Bible study. The context clearly shows the last trumpet of 1 Corinthians 15 is blown for believers whereas the seven trumpets of Revelation 8, 9 and

11 are sounded for unbelievers. The Revelation trumpets therefore can have no relevance for the Church.

Proponents of the Pre-Wrath Rapture view believe the Rapture will occur about three-quarters of the way through the Tribulation, about five years or shortly thereafter, with up to four comings of Christ. According to Dr. David Reagan in his article The Pre-Wrath Rapture:

“Those who espouse this viewpoint believe that the Seal Judgments are the wrath of Man and Satan and that they continue throughout the first half of the Tribulation and into the second half, right up to the three-quarters point, or shortly thereafter. They place the Trumpet Judgments in the last quarter of the Tribulation and the Bowl Judgments in the first 30 days following the end of Daniel’s 70th Week of Years.”

But, isn’t it Jesus Himself who breaks the seals that launch each of the Revelation 6 seal judgments which occur at the beginning of the Tribulation? Also, the seven angels who blow the trumpets that initiate each of the trumpet judgments are given their trumpets at the throne of God (Revelation 8:2). And, Revelation 15:1 states that the bowl judgments at the end of the Tribulation finish the wrath of God, not begin His wrath.

Because these judgments are initiated by Jesus Himself at the beginning of the Tribulation, the whole Tribulation must be God’s wrath, which the Church is exempt from.

7) The Old Testament and Revelation leave the Church out of the Tribulation.

The focus of the Tribulation — to pour out God’s wrath on the earth just like the Flood (Isa. 24:22; Zeph. 3:8; 1 Thes. 5:3; 2 Thes. 2:12) and to bring the Jewish people to accept Jesus as Messiah (Mat. 23:39; Lk. 13:35) — is addressed by the Old Testament and the Book of Revelation to the unbelievers and the Jewish people. In any biblical content concerning the Tribulation/Day of the Lord, the Church cannot be found.

The whole concept of the Church was a mystery to the Old Testament prophets. They focused on the nation of Israel. The Book of Matthew is written to the Jewish people, whom Jesus is addressing in Matthew 24. In the Book of Revelation, chapters 2 and 3 cover the Church Age, but then there is no mention of the Church until after the Tribulation/Day of the Lord chapters 6-18. In Chapter 19, the Church returns to the texts and can be found, not suffering, but celebrating with Christ at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and preparing to return with Jesus to earth.

8) The Church is busy elsewhere during the Tribulation.

While the 7-year Tribulation is occurring, the Bible records the Church will be busy with three events. None of the three have to do with suffering on a world being destroyed.

The first event the raptured Church will participate in is a judgment by God — the Judgment of the Just. This judgment on works is not to determine eternal destiny, but to determine degrees of reward (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 19:6-9).

The second event is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. This feast celebrates the spiritual marriage of Christ's Bride — the Church — to her Savior. Revelation 19:7-9 shares this wonderful celebration, "Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, 'Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' And he added, 'These are the true words of God.'"

The third event follows the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and is the Church's preparation to follow the King of Kings into the Battle of Armageddon at the conclusion of the Tribulation. This event is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Zech. 14:1-21; Matt. 24:29-31; Mk. 13:24-27; Lk. 21:25-27; Rev. 19:11-21). Revelation 19:14 identifies the Church in their "fine linen, white and clean," which was given to them during the first event — the Judgment of the Just. The Church and angelic forces follow the King of Kings into His Second Coming to the earth, but only Jesus Himself will engage in battle and with mere words defeats the nations in siege against Jerusalem.

9) There needs to be sheep to separate from the goats.

If the Church is raptured at the end of the Tribulation, receives their glorified bodies, and then immediately u-turns back with Christ for the Second Coming as the Post-Tribulation Rapture view holds, then what believer in Christ will be available for the Sheep and Goats Judgment of Matthew 25? The only people left on earth would be unbelievers, called goats. No believer — sheep — would be available for God to put into the sheep category.

Since those who are in glorified bodies will be like the angels in that they aren't given in marriage or reproduce (Matt. 22:30; Mk. 12:25), then a believing, unglorified, human remnant must make it into the sheep category and go on to produce the nations during the Millennial reign of Christ (Ezek. 43:13-27; Isa. 19:21; Isa. 65:20-22; Rev. 20:7-10). This would mean that people would need to come to Christ during the Tribulation yet after the Rapture to produce this Millennial population.

10) The Bible shows God rescues the righteous from His wrath.

Being a Christian means having to endure suffering and trials at the hand of man (Jn. 16:33; Phil. 1:27; 1 Thes. 3:3; 1 Pet. 4:12-13). But, the Bible has many examples of those who put their faith in God are exempt from God's wrath. Noah and his family were removed from the Flood waters that in God's wrath were used to judge and cleanse the earth. Lot and his wife and two daughters were made to leave Sodom and Gomorrah before God burned the towns up with fire and sulfur. Rahab's family was set apart when Joshua's army invaded Jericho.

Could believers be miraculously protected during the Tribulation, like the Israelites were during the plagues on Egypt? Yes, the 144,000 Jewish evangelists from Revelation 7 and 14, for instance, will be divinely protected. But, the slaughter of believers during the Tribulation will be so massive that they are certainly not under any special protection (Rev. 7:9-17; 20:4).

11) The Pre-Tribulation Rapture view is not too new to discount.

Some will argue that the Pre-Tribulation Rapture view is just “too new” to be considered viable. Critics will point to the origin of the modern Pre-Tribulation view and credit John Nelson Darby (1800-1882) with its founding. But, is that assessment historically accurate? Indeed, it is not.

The Early Church fathers’ such as Barnabas (ca.100-105), Papias (ca. 60-130), Justin Martyr (110-195), Irenaeus (120-202), Tertullian (145-220), Hippolytus (ca. 185-236), Cyprian (200-250), and Lactantius (260-330) wrote on the imminent return of Jesus Christ, the central argument for the Pre-Tribulation Rapture view.

Biblical truth is determined by Scripture, and not how that teaching has been perceived at different times during history. When Augustine began spiritualizing the Bible, his view of a non-literal interpretation took hold of the church until the Renaissance, obliterating the Premillennial and Pre-Tribulation Rapture views in favor of Amillennialism. But, some Medieval writers such as Ephraem of Nisibis (306-373), Abbot Ceolfrid’s Latin Codex Amiatinus (ca. 690-716), and Brother Dolcino wrote statements that distinguish the Rapture from the Second Coming.

When the chains of allegorical interpretation began to fall off beginning with the Reformation in the 1400 and 1500s, writers such as Joseph Mede (1586-1638), Increase Mather (1639-1723), Peter Jurieu (1687), Philip Doddridge (1738), John Gill (1748), James Macknight (1763), Thomas Scott (1792) and Morgan Edwards (1722-1795) all wrote concerning the Rapture occurring separate from the Second Coming. Even in the more modern church, those like William Witherby (1818) were precursors to John Darby in support of the view. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture view is indeed then not only biblical, but supported throughout Church history.

Closing Thoughts

I thank you for coming down this mental journey with me concerning why I believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church. Hopefully it has confirmed or challenged some of your eschatological ideas. Bear in mind, though, that one’s end-time views have no bearing on the doctrine of salvation. What is to be celebrated is that our salvation will one day lead us upwards to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ forever and ever.

The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ at the Rapture as the Morning Star

Usual Cycle of Venus Between Evening and Morning Star

The planet Venus which is commonly known as either the "Evening Star" when it is in the evening or the "Morning Star" when it is in the morning sky. The planet Venus usually alternates about 9 months each section of its cycle as morning star and evening star with about 18 months for a full cycle. However part of the beginning and ending time of each of its periods as morning and evening star it is too close to the Sun to be easily visible. Although we can't say for sure that this will be the case, it would certainly fit the Biblical symbol of the morning star if the rapture of the church in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to the air for His church before His much more glorious coming in glory to the earth about seven years later at the end of the tribulation just as Venus as the morning star appears in the sky before the rising sun. However we can't say for sure if this will be the case but the astronomical phenomena of Venus as the morning star occurs just less than 50% of the time.

Spiritual Analogy of the Morning Star to Jesus Christ's Coming for His Church According to Revelation 22

The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ with His Church from Heaven at the end of the Great Tribulation in power and great glory is referred to as the rising sun in some scriptures in contrast to His coming for the Church at the rapture before the Tribulation starts when He will come more subtly and less visibly to people on Earth only to the air or near outer space.

The reference to the Lord Jesus Christ coming as the bright and morning star is in Revelation 22:16-17 as follows: ***"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride(the true Church) say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life (the Holy Spirit) freely."*** -(Revelation 22:16-17)

Spiritual Analogy of the Morning Star to the Lord Jesus Christ Coming for His Church in 2nd Peter 1

The Lord Jesus Christ as the day star which means morning star from the original Greek will also come to indwell in all true believers or in this age Christians' hearts at the time and from the time of His coming as the morning star on forever. This is because we will then be changed into new spiritual bodies and have our old sinful natures cast off with just our new godly hearts we received left for the Lord Jesus Christ to full indwell (arise in our hearts). Of course we receive godly new hearts when we are born again or born of the Holy Spirit the moment we trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour that He died for our sins and rose from the dead to give us new life. A reference to this is in 2nd Peter 1:19 as follows:

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye(you) do well to take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place(this world), until the day dawn, and the day star(morning star) arise in your hearts:" -(2nd Peter 1:19)

Spiritual Analogy to the Morning Star for the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Church from Revelation 2

Finally because we will once Jesus comes for His Church to transform us in casting off our old hearts and giving us new heavenly or spiritual bodies we will be able to fully receive Him and a relationship with Him in a way not fully possible under current circumstances on Earth, even for the most committed or faithful Christians. This is what I think is meant in Revelation 2 about giving believers the morning star as follows:

“And he that overcometh ... And I will give him the morning star.” –(Revelation 2:26, 28)

Satan as Lucifer or Morning Star and Relation to the Lord Jesus Christ as Morning Star for the Church

Finally the Lord Jesus Christ's coming for the Church to the air, or near outer space, at the rapture to take us and I hope also you who are reading this article to Heaven will be a bitter blow to Satan the devil on at least two counts. This will of course happen before the Great Tribulation breaks upon the Earth and its remaining inhabitants. One count by which Satan will likely resent the Lord Jesus Christ coming as the morning star for the Church at the Rapture is that the air or atmosphere of Earth or near outer space is one region the devil is said to have control of in Ephesians 2 in the New Testament and Satan will likely intensely resent it when he is given a major defeat by the Lord Jesus Christ in Satan's home turf there. Since believers in Jesus then won't have anything in our hearts or bodies that would be susceptible to Satan's attacks or temptations he will also be frustrated and angry that he won't be able to cause us to fall into sin anymore starting at that time. Another reason Satan will resent the Lord Jesus Christ coming as the morning star for the Church is that one of the names of Satan in the Old Testament it seems from before he rebelled against God and fell is Lucifer which means morning star in Latin in Isaiah 14:12. Perhaps this is something else that is meant by the Lord Jesus Christ coming as a thief in the night by his stealing, sanctifying or taking to himself in a godly meaning the title "Morning Star". The word in the New Testament of "Morning Star" is the Greek word phosphorus.

A Hope in Jesus Coming as the Morning Star for the Church in the Near Future

Two things should also be kept in mind finally that believers in the Old Testament and Christians at this time are not to be dismayed at the signs in the heavens like the heathen in Jeremiah 10:2 meaning astrology. However on the other hand God Himself says in connections with the creation of the stars which would include planets that they are also for signs in Genesis 1:14.

It is interesting to note that the concept of the “morning star” is not the only concept that is applied to both Jesus and Satan. In Revelation 5:5, Jesus is referred to as the Lion of the tribe of Judah. In 1st Peter 5:8, Satan is compared to a lion, seeking someone to devour. The point is this, both Jesus and Satan, to a certain extent, have similarities to

lions. Jesus is similar to a lion in that He is the King, He is royal and majestic. Satan is similar to a lion in that he seeks to devour other creatures. That is where the similarities between Jesus, Satan, and lions end, however. Jesus and Satan are like lions in very different ways.

The idea of a “bright morning star” is a star that outshines all the others, and Jesus is the One who is called “bright.” Satan was a morning star. Jesus, as God incarnate, the Lord of the universe, is the BRIGHT and morning star. Jesus is the most holy and powerful “light” in all the universe. So, while both Jesus and Satan can be described as “morning stars,” in no sense is this equating Jesus and Satan. Satan is a created being. His light only exists to the extent that God created it. Jesus is the light of the world (John 9:5). Only Jesus’ light is “bright” and self-existent. Satan may be a morning star, but he is only a poor imitation of the one true bright morning star, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

The idea persists throughout the Bible that Satan is a want-a-be, -(Isaiah 14). His goal as a fallen angel is to be greater than God. As is the case in Hebrew and Greek Gematria, even Satan’s number “666” is inferior to Jesus as “888”. Satan cannot create, he can only recruit. We see this obsession in the world today this idea to change human DNA, to achieve androgynous being. Androgyny is the possession of both masculine and feminine characteristics. Androgyny may be expressed with regard to biological sex, gender identity, or gender expression.

When androgyny refers to mixed biological sex characteristics in humans, it often refers to intersex people, who are born with congenital variations that complicate assigning their sex at birth. In comparison, hermaphroditism is the possession of both male and female reproductive organs. We see this in the image of Baphomet.

Today, the Baphomet in the form of Eliphas Levi’s Sabbatic Goat is one of the most recognizable occult images in the world, with strong ties to artistic and popular culture. It directly inspired the iconic Devil card from the Rider Waite Tarot system. The Sigil of Baphomet, depicting the Sabbatic Goat within an inverted Pentagram, has been adopted as the modern Church of Satan’s logo. Baphomet also made the news recently when members of the Satanic Temple attempted to have an eight foot tall Sabbatic Goat statue erected beside the Monument of the Ten Commandments at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

With its long and deeply symbolic history, Baphomet is a powerful icon that garnishes fear and respect to this day. Baphomet has been transformed by time and culture into a rich icon of our modern occult heritage. It also serves as a poignant reminder of the dangers of state-sponsored, religiously justified oppression.

With the mapping of the human genome two decades ago, it was only a matter of a few short years before geneticists began to assert their goal to “be like God”. Recent boasts that life can be created without sex has since crossed the barrier once the exclusive domain of God.



In organisms that reproduce sexually, embryonic development is the part of the life cycle that begins just after fertilization of the female egg cell by the male sperm cell. The resulting fusion of these two cells produces a single-celled zygote. The world of microbiology and genetics has transformed the Creation process once exclusive to the God of the Universe to that of the scientist. CRISPR-Cas9 has been offered as God's replacement, notwithstanding the unknown potential for harm. It is unleashing all the potential for extinction of the Species. No one can begin to imagine the dark side of CRISPR.

The CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing technology, for which biochemists Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, has the potential to do just that. So do other forms of scientific technologies. We should therefore always be aware of the ethical choices these technologies can pose.

In the case of CRISPR, those choices are complex. CRISPR has many functions; one of these is that it can be used to treat disease. Yet the far-reaching, more fraught promise of this technology—one about which scientists seem at once excited and cautious—lies in its ability to eliminate from the gene pool what medical science identifies as faulty or abnormal genes that cause difference in individual people. Certainly, goes the logic of CRISPR's promise, the goal of ridding future generations of

terrible diseases that cause suffering and death and deplete resources, seems an unquestionable enterprise.

But Doudna herself has recognized that CRISPR carries with it “great risk.” In a *‘New York Times’* interview on October 22, 2020, she warned of the unknown consequences of embryo editing, cautioning researchers to wait to use CRISPR for these ends.

As disability studies scholars and women with genetic differences who are experts in thinking about the consequences this technology will have for actual human beings, we have grave worries that the use of these “genetic scissors” will, in the future, cut people like us out of existence without others even noticing. Scientists who use CRISPR could see editing genes such as ours out of the gene pool as entirely uncontroversial.

This attitude, in fact, would be consistent with wider societal views. The idea that ridding society of genetic differences that count as disease or defect is an undeniable “good” continues to be pervasive in our society. Americans generally see no problem with editing genes linked to broad swaths of people like us; after all, supporters of this view may argue, editing out a gene-linked condition is different from editing out a person, and curing disease is an indisputably good thing.

But our genetic conditions are not simply entities that can be clipped away from us as if they were some kind of a misspelled word or an awkward sentence in a document. We are whole beings, with our genetic conditions forming a fundamental part of who we are. Still, many Americans—including medical providers and even some people with genetic differences—consider lives such as ours as not worth living as they are.

Further, the common belief that ridding disease and anomaly from society is an incontrovertible good can lead very quickly from the actual possibilities of science to fantasies of “improving” humanity where we would all become some aspirational version of personhood that is somehow better, stronger, smarter, and healthier. But CRISPR’s tantalizing offer to achieve the supposedly “best” kind of people at the genetic level is an uneasy alert to those who are often judged to be biologically inferior—one we know all too well. People like us whose being is inseparable from our genetic condition would be the first to go.

There are many bad things that could happen after we edit genes, like accidentally causing other genetic diseases like cancer, diabetes, and maybe even undiscovered genetic diseases! Some genes even influence our personality, so how are we sure we are not changing who someone is, and what are the consequences socially when we change someone's physical appearance? Someone with this kind of technology could use it for evil purposes like making a certain species more dangerous and sending it to another continent making a very powerful invasive species. Or even creating a bioweapon! What would happen if this technology malfunctioned? Before CRISPR, editing genes was very dangerous because you could not choose what genes were going to be edited. Giving the possibility of killing someone; The possibilities are

endless on what could go wrong and the consequences could easily carry on into future generations.

The risks of CRISPR have not deterred mad scientists around the world obsessed with immortality through gene editing. In the eyes of the elite, achieving “immortality” or eternal life is the Holy Grail. No expense will be spared, no risks avoided, and as Klaus Schwab stated as recent as two weeks ago, we are gods and nothing will stop us; and you will have to die! Through the Covid-19 scam, everyone has become the lab rats for their experiment intended to achieve eternal life.

Man’s search for immortality led in many directions, but the most prominent answer given by many fairy tales and folk tales is of an Elixir of Life, or Immortality. This Elixir is a mythical magical potion that cures all kinds of diseases, as well as granting immortal life to the drinker.

Man has always wanted to live a long, stress free and healthy life on earth. The Elixir of Life represents the ultimate achievement of that dream, and is therefore of fantastic value. Simply put, it is man’s wish for immortality, delivered in liquid form. A vaccine will do quite well for most in this quest.

The Four Dates to be Watching

The subject of Biblical Astronomy is not a well-known or studied discipline; however, it is a holder of Divine Knowledge, of which has held my interested in since 1996. By watching the video link it may help you understand why I consider September 19th, 2023 as being an important sign for the Rapture. It was Blessed Hope #179 that I first brought into this picture of “The Bright and Morning Star!” It may help you to go back and read it for what I shared on Tuesday, 08/15/2023 - [The Blessed Hope, Part 179](#)

It is in Job 38:32 where we find the term **“Mazzaroth” – “Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?”** This lone reference is the key reference intimating to the reader the concept of the Gospel in the Stars; the Hebrew word **“Mazzaroth”** is translated “Zodiac” in English.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7UyLsFrimo>
[Rapture - Jesus, the bright AND morning star - YouTube](#)

Web July 21, 2023 · Rapture - Jesus, the bright AND morning star. In the weeks surrounding August 15, 2023, Venus will change its position as evening star into its position as the morning star... Its greatest brilliance of illumination falls on September 19th, 2023.

When the late Dr. Barry Setterfield referred to the end of the Zodiac (Biblical **Mazzaroth**), he was referring to the constellation Leo the Lion, which is the last constellation—the Omega, so to speak. There are twelve constellations along the ecliptic and Taurus is the ninth, so it is near the end. The redemption story of mankind

is told through these twelve constellations and they are prominently featured in Scripture. This isn't astrology, it's Bible. Virgo is the first constellation—the Alpha. The sun, moon, and planets continuously travel along the ecliptic from Virgo, to Libra, to Scorpius, to Sagittarius, to Capricorn, to Aquarius, to Pisces, to Aries, to Taurus, to Gemini, to Cancer, to Leo, and then the cycle starts all over again. Remember that the story of redemption begins with the woman in painful labor (think Genesis 3:15–16, Mary in Bethlehem, and finally Revelation 12) and ends with the reigning Lion.

- Feast of Trumpets, aka Rosh HaShanah [**September 15th -17th, 2023**]
- UN General Assembly [**September 18th-26th, 2023**]
- COP28 Meeting in Dubai, UAE [November 30th-December 12th, 2023]
- Venus will be at its brightest in the morning sky on **September 19th, 2023**]

The above dates are fixed by destiny. By that I am saying the prophecies embracing these calendar events are for all intent and purpose “History being told in advance!” Short of World War 3, I can see no foreseeable indicators things will change. Prince Charles coronation this past May 6, 2023 jump started the Satanic “Seven” year plan to save the planet bovine excrement. There is no need to speculate whether this will change, it can't. It is Biblical destiny and Prince Charles knows he has but a short time to kill, steal, and destroy and wreak as much havoc as he and his minions can create.

I do believe that World War 3 is on the horizon but the restraining power of the Holy Spirit has been holding back the inevitable. This war will result in the death of one-third of the world's 8-billion people. It is the Jesuit-controlled Vatican that has been at work from behind the scenes of geo-political events to provoke a war with Russia. On Sunday, August 20th it was reported that NATO countries are going to give Ukraine 71 spare U.S. F-16 fighter planes for the so-far failed Ukraine counter-offensive that has cost the Ukraine 50,000 young lives in the past three weeks alone.

MEAT AND DAIRY BAN COMING SOON!

How can there be global talks to address climate change while putting meat and dairy on the plates of the delegates?

Over 70,000 participants are expected to attend the 28th annual climate change conference in Dubai later this year. It marks a key milestone when the world will take stock of its progress on the Paris Agreement, and Vegan Australia wants to highlight to them the destructive impact of animal agriculture on the climate and environment.

PROPHECY BEING FULFILLED

“Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.” –(1st Timothy 4:1-3)



Stay tuned for additional information about Prince Charles and his COP28 “Satanic” agenda to replace the God of the Bible in the New World Order and its cashless society, Mark of the Beast Technology, and a package of promised goodies. I am looking for him to offer “eternal” life as the icing on the cake as this grand design is unpacked to seduce the world. Huge news is unfolding daily!!!!

Days to September 19th as of 8/23/23 – 27 Days

Praise God!



**ADMIT THAT YOU
ARE A SINNER.**

**BELIEVE THAT JESUS
PAID FOR YOUR SIN
ON THE CROSS. †**

**CONFESS THAT JESUS
IS LORD AND CALL UPON
HIM FOR SALVATION.**

Blessings in the Precious Name of Jesus Christ,

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