

“The Season of the Rapture”

Chapter 10

When it comes to the subject of the Rapture doctrine, the Pre-Tribulation Rapture view is attacked more than any other position. Entire websites have even been created and are devoted to attacking this particular Rapture view. Its origin; its advocates; and its substance; all are attacked like nothing I have ever seen in my lifetime. This issue has in my mind, been disingenuous, dishonest, deceptive, distracting, and detrimental. The intensity of the attack can only be explained by the fact that Lucifer does not like the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. Lucifer not only dislikes any discussion of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture, it is obvious that he hates it. After all, I have not seen websites created to attack the Post-Tribulation view, or the Mid-Tribulation view, and the more recent Pre-Wrath (3/4-position) Tribulation view that was introduced by Marvin Rosenthal, and Robert VanKampen. In 2013 a John Little began posting his “Omega” Letter, then in 2015, another anti-Pre-Tribulation clone of Rosenthal and VanKampen popped up with Michael Snyder’s book, *‘The Rapture Verdict’*. He has been an invited guest speaker at “Morningside”, the platform for Jim Bakker and his wife Laurie, hosts of the Jim Bakker Show. “Morningside” is the Bakker estate south of Branson, Missouri, near the Missouri/Arkansas state line, hosting an RV Park and Wilderness Campground. Neither of these two recent arrivals on the scene joining the anti-Pre-Tribulation Rapture choir know much about the Bible, and flies off the rails by ignoring the Biblical distinction between the nation of Israel and the Church.

For those of you not familiar with Jim Bakker, he was de-frocked and sentenced to 45 years in prison for defrauding people. The following 1999 *‘Washington Post’* editorial tells it all:

Televangelist Jim Bakker’s Road to Redemption

By Hanna Rosin
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, August 11, 1999; Page C1

“You can hardly spot them on the massive church stage in Upper Marlboro – he a subdued middle-aged man in a drab olive suit, she a pouf of blond hair balanced on spike heels. If they stand out at all, it is because they are the only white people on the program this night at Jericho City of Praise.

The church deacons make a few announcements, the choir sings, a gospel diva belts to perfection. Then the man in the olive suit waves, just waves his right hand to the crowd from his seat, and the rest is reduced to prologue.

Hardly does an announcer claim the "privilege to welcome Pastor Jim Bakker and his fine wife, a precious sister" before the crowd drowns him out with hoots and whistles and stomps, 1,000 screaming voices echoing off each other.

Within minutes, the people in the front rows – then middle – then back – spring to their feet. A tall, lanky woman keeps herself at the brink of fainting – jumping jerkily in the small space between seats, gripping her fists and rattling them around her head, then stopping every few seconds to lay a calming hand on her heart.

Another man bangs his briefcase against the seat and looks as if he might cry from excitement. A third lifts his frightened daughter in the air, over and over, till it looks as if she might cry, too.

There was a time when a scene like this would be common, when being in the presence of the Rev. Jim Bakker "was like being around a king," as his son recently put it. That was the glory time, before the five years in prison, before the sojourn in the desert.

Now here in Prince George's County, some semblance of that glory time has cycled back. Restored by those thousand amens, Bakker springs up and begins pacing the stage with the manic energy of the recently unshackled. His mere wordless, nervous presence so stirs the crowd that he skips the formalities, qualifiers, explanations and, as soon as they let him speak, jumps straight to the point.

"I feel like I've come home," he tells them. "For the first time in a decade, I feel like I've finally come home."

"Hallelujah," they say.

"O, Lord."

"We love you!"

"I've come back from the dead. They said you'd never hear from Jim Bakker again, that Jim Bakker was in the grave. That Jim Bakker was facing 45 years in prison. Well, tonight I'm back from prison, and I've got a message for this church burning in my heart."

And hundreds say "Amen!"

Jim Bakker, that televangelist fraud, is back? How can that be? Only five years out of prison and he's already peddling his apologies, dreaming of a return to fame and power, a sinner redeemed by the adoring crowd. Act 2, same as Act 1.

Yet that bit of easy punditry describes the end without the means. Most of America's famously disgraced, like Dick Morris or Marv Albert, have to self-start their own redemption, one small-

market TV studio at a time. But Bakker, 59, toppled by a sex-and-money scandal in the late '80s, is being shepherded back to respectable society with plenty of help and support.

In his heyday, Bakker's following was a multiracial sampling of America. By the millions, whites and blacks, mostly Southerners, tuned in to his television show or flocked to his theme park in North Carolina. But in his revival, Bakker is focusing almost exclusively on black America.

In his tour of African American houses of worship across the country, from inner-city storefronts to glorious suburban mega-churches like Jericho City of Praise, Bakker's redemption over the last year counts as a phenomenon as authentic as it is bewildering.

And yet familiar. Bill Clinton, even George Wallace late in his life, benefited from the African American religious community's willingness to forgive. It is a cultural phenomenon perfectly portrayed in the movie "The Apostle," in which a Pentecostal preacher, played by Robert Duvall, with "wandering eyes and wicked, wicked ways" finds redemption in the moist eyes of a churchgoing black woman. She intuits the sin without mentioning it, then whispers comfortingly, "That's all right."

And the details of Bakker's renewal could easily fit that script. The events uncovered on March 19, 1986, gave this preacher much to be sorry for. That day he resigned from PTL (Praise the Lord, or People That Love) after admitting a seedy motel tryst with church secretary Jessica Hahn.

Within a month, everything he built would slip from his control: the \$129 million nationwide TV ministry with tens of millions of viewers and Heritage USA in North Carolina, which was then the third most popular theme park in America.

Three years later Bakker landed in jail on 24 counts of fraud for bilking followers out of the \$158 million they spent on oversold time-share apartments at Heritage USA. As of yet, he hasn't paid any restitution.

From the first of his five years in prison, Bakker was indirectly involved in a kind of urgent, weepy fund-raising by mail, as his daughter sent letters updating supporters on Daddy's life in jail.

When he was released from a federal prison in Jesup, Ga., Bakker stayed at a rented farmhouse in Hendersonville, N.C., to write his autobiography. As soon as the book was finished and he was released from federal parole in October 1997, Bakker moved to the Los Angeles International Dream Center, a Christian home for addicts and gang members.

There he lived in a cramped and crumbling room with his son Jamie, 22, and received visiting reporters eager to chronicle his recovery. All the glowing articles about the new Jim Bakker mentioned his rough life in "the ghetto," including the cramped room.

That room served as a base for a national book tour, mostly in black churches. By last year, he had sold 100,000 copies of his autobiography. After a year and a half of Los Angeles penance, he returned this past June to North Carolina, the place where the empire started.

Now the story circles back on itself, as his new life takes on the trappings of his old one before the scandal. He has taken over New Covenant ministry from his daughter, using its letterhead to raise money, announce speaking engagements and publicize his second book and his work in prison ministry.

He's living a simple life in a "little log cabin," he announces coyly during the Jericho City sermon, by which he means a 17,000-square-foot home lent to him by a friend. He shares it with a new wife of less than a year who is the spitting image of his ex, Tammy Faye, except she is 17 years younger. ("I love you, honey," he coos from the stage.)

His future path, as he sees it, leads directly back to the glorious past. "I'll tell you a secret, but don't tell anybody," he says to the crowd. "My dear friend Reggie White" – a star defensive end for the Green Bay Packers and a Christian activist – "has offered to purchase Heritage USA and asked me to be a part of it."

The Mighty and the Fallen

And yet there is this other reality that blots out these cynical details. It is long after midnight, and the book-signing line snakes through the grand marble entryway of Jericho City. Still waiting are a group of older women, a Baltimore businessman, a defrocked preacher and about 30 others. Some remember "Reverend Jim" from his original TV show, while others know him from his recent preaching. All are African American.

One of them is his former cellmate at Jesup, Nathaniel Mathis, 32, now working at a telephone company, who showed up to wish his friend well. "I can relate so much to him – how he was stripped of everything," Mathis says. "Like Jim, I lost everything – 110 percent. But the Lord works in the lowest valleys."

Lawrence Drew and his friends are black men in their twenties, just out of prison on drug-related or similar charges. In four hours, they have to show up at a janitorial job for Manpower for Jesus, their halfway-house alternative. All are hopeful that their lives will soon change, and they look to Bakker for inspiration.

"Oh, sure. All of us can relate to him," says Drew, who has just paid \$25 for Bakker's book and is waiting patiently to have it signed. "He's the underdog, and that's what we are – underdogs. He's real. He's very real. And now" – by which he means after the prison term – "I think he can be more powerful than he ever was."

Driven From the Garde

Before Jessica Hahn, before the Heritage scandal, there was Jim and Tammy Faye – he of the hangdog cheeks and cheesy smile, she of the gloppy mascara – chirping to millions of loyal viewers on the "PTL Show": "You can make it!"

Now those same cheeks sag beneath newly wizened eyes on the cover of his book, titled, in big block letters, "I WAS WRONG." The book contains a few tabloid shockers – his horror when Tammy Faye asked for a divorce after 33 years of marriage to wed his best friend, his memory of childhood abuse by a family friend. But mostly he wants to convey a spiritual message.

Bakker learned "more in prison than in Bible college," he says. He learned above all that the meek shall inherit the Earth, that his 40-room mansion and air-conditioned doghouse and 12 cars were part of an ungodly "arrogant lifestyle" – a realization he came to a few months after he was initially denied parole.

"I believed, the Bible said, above all, God wants you to prosper. Well, when I went to prison, I began to study the Bible and realize Jesus Christ didn't have anything good to say about money," he says in his sermon. "He called money 'the deceitfulness of riches.' He said, 'Woe unto the rich.'"

Bakker studied John 3 and discovered that "prosper" is made up of two Greek words meaning "good" and "road." John simply wished you a good road in life, not riches. "You can't serve both God and money," Bakker concludes.

In his Jericho City sermon he describes the exact moment of his epiphany, a story he calls his day in the pit of Hell. Speaking as if in a fugue state, he recalls vague and spooky details: a door opened, a madman singing la la la la. At some point he looked down into possessed eyes and the door locked behind him. He was either in the insane asylum or in solitary confinement.

A man was dying in the next cell, a toilet was overflowing. "I had lost the will to live," he tells the crowd. "I had slipped into a corner of Hell. As I was going insane, a voice cried out at the split second I was leaving the world, it cried, 'Jim. I love you.'" At first he saw no one. Then a vision appeared at the door – a man with brown skin and brown eyes.

"I didn't know angels are black," he says. "I didn't know."

The Prodigal Husband

He had learned his lesson, he says, but after prison felt too timid and alone to spread it. Then at the Dream Center he met youth counselor Lori Beth Graham, a 41-year-old "angel" with a gift for ministry and a hard-times story of her own (abusive husband, five abortions). Together they began touring the country, spreading their soothing gospel: "God's love can heal hurting people." They were married last September.

A repentant sinner packaged for the confessional culture of the '90s, tan, fit and face-lifted, Bakker proudly waited his turn backstage on a recent "Geraldo" after a segment on the Tommy Lee-Pamela Anderson sex video and Patricia Masten ("Accuses Marv Albert of Biting Her").

Bakker hasn't quite mastered the '90s lingo, though. During his Jericho City sermon in April, he calls the founder of Microsoft "Jim Gates." When he remembers, he says "inner city." But most of the time he forgets and calls it "the ghetto," as in: "I found healing in the ghetto. Those people love me so much." Or as his wife puts it: "This is probably not PC. But out of all the races – white, Hispanic, Afro-American – the people of black race have been by far the kindest to Jim."

His words may seem dated, but Bakker has managed to make his journey thoroughly modern – the story of an American casualty, one man dragged through the system and beaten along the way.

In a self-help age, white churches have also perfected a sliding conception of sin. But in black churches that kind of forgiveness has developed an edge of defiance. The individual sin shrinks before the greater sin of a bloodthirsty world, and the community erects a wall of protection.

"When you see a person being done in by society, there is an unconscious tendency to say, 'Aha – society's done to him what they do to African Americans,'" says Larry Murphy, a professor of black religious history at Northwestern University in Illinois.

"You're making common cause against a common enemy, and in that sense there's a defiance. The thought is: 'They turned you out, but we're not going to turn you out.'"

This formulation works best when Bakker and his supporters ignore the fact that at the time of his crime, he was part of the system – a famous wealthy white man. Otherwise it requires some moral dexterity to explain why "society" turned on one of its own.

Many black churchgoers also support Bakker for nostalgic reasons. When African Americans migrated north, many left behind a favorite fire-and-brimstone Pentecostal minister. If their own minister didn't have the gift, they could hear it on TV and radio, from the mouths of people like Bakker. Many of the suburbanites who come to see him at places like Jericho City remember his voice from childhood.

David Cast, a Baltimore businessman, spent summers in North Carolina with his grandmother. She was a great fan of Bakker's because he reminded her of her old pastor. When Cast read in his church bulletin that Bakker was coming to town, he drove his wife, daughter and mother-in-law to Jericho City of Praise right after work for the experience. Cast lives a contented, comfortable life, yet Bakker's message still resonates.

"If a man is trying to drag himself out of the mud, no sense trying to push him back, is there?" he says.

Angels Dancing

That kind of endorsement confirms to Bakker that he is not guilty, at least not in the technical sense. When he says, "I was wrong," Bakker is confessing to those diffuse sins we are all guilty of – greed and gluttony, for instance – not the specific ones that landed him in prison.

"I take full responsibility for my moral failure and the fall of PTL, but I did not commit the crimes I have been accused of and am in prison for," he wrote while in jail to a high school friend who'd corresponded to say he had disappointed her. The letter "deeply hurt," Bakker writes in his book. "I had already apologized to the Christian community. . . . I honestly felt the only thing that would have satisfied some people that justice has been done would have been for me to die a horrible death or to commit suicide."

Now, Bakker mostly declines to defend himself in public, saying he promised God and his family he would never speak in his own defense.

If you press him, he gets cold and says he won't get into the facts. Or he might say that he admits he committed a sexual sin and the sin of "lifestyle," but "I never intended to defraud anyone in my life." Most likely he'll point to a book written by law professor James Albert called "Miscarriage of Justice" that claims Bakker was the victim of a biased judge and a jury of nonbelievers.

If the audience is really warm to him, he'll say, as he did at Jericho City: "I don't have to lift a finger."

Then, yelling:

"Vengeance is God's! Vengeance is God's! Vengeance is God's!"

The Trials of Jim

Physically, Bakker has returned to North Carolina. And now he is also going back spiritually and emotionally. He has surrounded himself with people who love him and believe passionately in his innocence. "Will you write this down?" pleads Lori Beth, waiting in the hallway of Jericho City for her husband to finish signing books.

"If there's one thing, and I mean this with all my heart: Jim Bakker is honest. He was never out to get any money. He was never out to make it big. He just wanted to build a place for people to fellowship.

"You know, you read things. You read, Jim Bakker the evangelist bilked people out of \$150 million. Well, I'm so sick of that. Isn't there anything we can do to get that out? First of all, it's a lie. Second, that's not who he is. Nobody can judge a person except God. And Jim was put here for a reason. He's busy building a dream."

Her view is supported by Reggie White. "I don't believe God is going to allow Heritage to sit there dormant," he told a North Carolina paper. "That place was used to humiliate the body of Christ, and I think God is going to raise it back up to glorify Himself."

Tentative plans so far include a roller coaster ride through Heaven and Hell, a train through the Red Sea. White is negotiating with the Malaysian conglomerate that owns the site, and when the deal comes through he wants help from Bakker, whom he calls the "most sincere man I ever met in my life."

In the meantime, Bakker is re-creating his old extended family by mail, through the New Covenant Fellowship. Every month he updates supporters on the details of life in recovery, from the first post-divorce Christmas to the first time the grandkids saw "PawPaw Jim" after he got out of jail.

"I have been doing radio shows about the book almost daily," he wrote in his June letter, then reported that God recently told him 31 things about to happen on Earth. A card at the end offered 8-by-10 color prints of "Dad's Feathered Friends" – his favorite Canada geese – as well as prints called "Feed My Sheep" and "Momma." You could get all the prints for a special gift of \$1,000.

Bakker's redemption narrative hangs on a striking analogy, perhaps two. When he is feeling modest, Bakker will compare his journey through the valley of Hell and back with that of one humble biblical character. He'll merely remind that crowd that his middle name is Orson. James Orson Bakker: JOB.

But if he's feeling bold, Bakker will summon the name of another man who was stripped of everything, held up to ridicule and ultimately redeemed.

"Christ had no reputation. He made Himself," Bakker says as he prepares, six hours after arriving, to close down the book signing at Jericho City. "I can go anywhere now. I'll leave it up to God to lead me."

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Robert VanKampen died in 1999, but not without sending multiple-thousands of free copies of his books to pastors; his heritage has grown as a result of VanKampen's writings. I wrote an unfavorable review of Michael Snyder's book, *The Rapture Verdict* on Amazon.com, May 15, 2016. My review was subtitled *The Rapture Verdict – Case Dismissed*. In order to

help boost falling sales of this anti-Semitic diatribe, Amazon.com recently buried my review from the number one position (after six months) in the unfavorable reviews to two pages deep in the negative reviews section. Its author has simply missing the point of God's Master Plan for Redemption, chiefly because he has failed to differentiate the Bible's basic distinctions between Israel and the Church. To miss this most important Biblical distinction between Israel and the Church is the greatest error made by those who attack the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

I have anticipated criticism for sharing this series, and I know there will be many who will see things differently. However, this series was named "The Season of the Rapture" in order to present an incredible message from the Creator Himself which is revealed as a "Three-Fold Witness". When I asked my Methodist District Superintendent about Bible prophecy way back in 1967, I was told I was wasting my time studying Bible prophecy. I shall never forget his words. I am so glad that I paid him no mind then as I have been witness to so many prophecies that have come to pass in the 20th Century and continue now into the 21st century. Think about it: in the 260 chapters of the New Testament, the return of Christ Jesus is mentioned no fewer than **318X** times.

I want readers to know I believe 100% that we will be out of here this fall. I have checked, and re-checked the data numerous times. Others have focused on the Revelation 12 prophecy and have made their case as well. Israeli excitement about the coming of their Messiah began about three years ago in Jerusalem and other parts of Israel. Christians in the United States were energized by what they were hearing and reading about in Israel, however, they were unable to put their finger on the "WHY?" of such excitement. Until this series, readers did not fully grasp or understand the reason for their excitement and anticipation of their Messiah. I have no reason to prepare this series except to warn those who are asleep and particularly those who are lost. It is known that others have gone on record and have predicted dates and were proven wrong. In addition to the "Three-Fold Witness" there are abundant reasons to believe the world is about to undergo God's judgment. Up until very recently, I regularly monitored between 1,000 and 1,500 news reports a day. Some days it was literally impossible to keep up with world events. In a January, 2017 appearance with Gary Stearman of Prophecy Watchers, Bill Salus pinpointed the global situation quite accurately when he stated that the operative word was "*convergence*"! He meant that all the signs are happening in such a way that gets one's attention!

In an earlier segment, I shared the experience of how I came to be interested in Bible Prophecy. My church recording-secretary knew more about the Bible than I did. Her excitement that morning on June 7th, 1967 became a pivotal point in my life. I have to admit that if it weren't for Bible prophecy, I might still be a computer programmer. During the early stages of putting the King James Bible onto computer tape, we performed hundreds of Beta-testing and trial runs. We began with basic word searches on individual words, paired-words, and phrases. Now, in looking back, it seems all so ancient compared to the Bible software we have available today. I remember borrowing a pew Bible from church to carry back and forth with me in my Samsonite brief case because I did not personally own a Bible and today I have enough Bibles to equip a good sized Bible study class. Presently, I have six different Bible

software packages on my computer, not to mention specialty Bibles that are not sold commercially in book stores. Anyone telling me today that Bible prophecy is not important would summarily be shown the door. Based on all of our understanding today, I would suggest to the reader that Jesus Christ would be a “Dispensationalist”. All you need to do to prove that would be to organize or categorize His Words in a “red-letter” edition of the KJV Bible. Jesus Christ’s recorded words are loaded with inferences, direct and indirect, confirming my conclusion that Jesus Christ would be a “Dispensationalist”.

The Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to “watch for him”. He wants us to be fully aware of the signs of the times in the last days, because that knowledge can be used to enhance the kingdom of God, and to prevent people from being deceived about things that are coming to pass in this world during the Last Days. Take a look around your world and see how things like businesses, groups, agencies and the like have tanked. We live in “Perilous Times”, and it is incumbent upon Christ’s followers to be informed about the climactic days in which we now live.

It is deeply troubling to see the state of the church today. I believe that the church ought to be fully aware of the signs pertaining to the Second Coming of Jesus, so that it would never be caught in the same position as national Israel. (It failed to recognize His first visitation) Christians will have no excuse if Jesus should return on His second visitation and find us, like Peter was found in the Garden of Gethsemane, fast asleep and therefore ignorant about the times they are living in! -(Luke 19:44; 1st Peter 2:12).

Israel reveled and prided them in the idea that they were the lawful children of Abraham, but unlike Abraham who yearned to see the coming of Jesus, the children of Israel became blinded to Abraham’s greatest joy. The Jews even took up stones to cast at Jesus for stating that he was before Abraham, and was actually greater than Abraham.

Clearly, history reveals that Israel missed the coming of the Lord the first time. How sad that fact is! It would be tragic too for His bride (the Church) to be found ignorant about his Second Advent when He has given us so much information concerning His arrival. Among Jesus’ last words to His disciples prior to His march to Calvary was an exhortation to “watch for His return”. **“And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”** -(Mark 13:37). Given the fact that Jesus Christ was so emphatic that His people watch, we have no need to fear what others say about Bible prophecy. There is no shame in being a Prophecy student, regardless of what others might have to say. When you consider that:

- **63X** times, the Lord is quoted in the Bible using the phrase, **“it shall come to pass.”**
- **116X** times, the Lord is quoted in the Bible using the phrase, **“in that day.”**
- **2,304X** times, the Lord begins an action phrase in the Bible with the words, **“I will”** and proceeds to announce something that he will either immediately or ultimately bring to pass.

It is immensely beneficial for all Christians to “rightly discern” the study of Bible Prophecy. Yet the study of Bible prophecy in today’s churches is the most maligned and

neglected area of Bible study. Most churches never teach or mention any prophecy-related subject material, and therefore most congregations are completely ignorant of its significance. It has been my opinion for more than thirty years that the absence of study or preaching on Bible prophecy is the reason for the empty pews and declining membership. Mainline Protestant churches have lost 40 to 60% of their membership since the late 1980's. Revelation 22:19 mandates that no one should ever dare **"take away"** from the prophetic word but it has not stopped most pastors. I cringe in horror at the consequences for our churches and pastors when they neglect to share God's prophetic word, but instead choose to leave it unmentioned, and hidden in their office closet! Lucifer, himself, couldn't have done a better job of taking the prophetic word away himself! Revelation 19:10 states that: ***"And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"***.

John, the Revelator conveyed that a promised gift from God was available for the avid, studious devourer of prophecy and those individuals would receive a special blessing from their faithful pursuit by studying the signs for the imminent return of Jesus Christ. ***"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand"***.

There are so many reasons for studying Bible prophecy. Over the years, I have measured my congregations' degree of involvement or faith-engagement by their level of interest in the subject. My experience has been that Methodists no longer have the interest while I found the opposite to be true in non-denominational Bible churches. As the nation has become more liberal and left-leaning and by observing and analyzing Church data compiled by the Barna Group and others over the past fifty years, it can be seen that there has been a correlation with this shift to the left in the Church as well. Some of the most important reasons for studying Bible prophecy include:

1. Prophecy Reveals the Absolute Sovereignty of God.

Lucifer has conspired to dethrone the God of the universe and seat himself above the stars of God -(Isaiah 14) and with his Antichrist -(2nd Thessalonians 2) on the throne in Jerusalem. But prophecy reveals that the great I AM, Jehovah God is still sovereign and still reigns, and will soon put Satan's cosmic rebellion of evil down. Satan would like to have the world believe that he is a victorious god, but in reality, he has already been defeated and is sentenced to destruction.

2. Prophecy Verifies the Bible is God's Absolute Word.

Prophecy is God's signature on world history, and on the future of the world. It should be no surprise that the Holy Bible is the only religious book in the whole world with even a word of prophecy. Prophetic content would tend to expose any impostor for no man or being outside of an all-knowing, omnipotent, and eternal God could foretell all of human history before it came to pass. Only an Alpha and Omega Creator could possibly possess the wherewithal to pre-record an outline of world history from beginning to end. Isaiah 42:9 states: ***"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you"***

of them.” If the Bible contained a single false prophecy about past history, the Bible and God could be counted as a forgery and counterfeit. Its content relative to future events would be meaningless. Jesus stated that: **“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last”**. –(Revelation 22:13).

3. Prophecy Brings Comfort and Consolation to the Christian.

In our modern geo-politically complex and heavily armed militaristic world, there is a growing international sense of turmoil and anxiety. It is only the Bible along with its prophetic assurances that conveys any hope for tomorrow. The Armageddon syndrome is a very worrisome scenario for today’s nations, their leaders and diplomats. So often we hear people make the following remarks; *“the world just can’t go on much longer the way that it is going,”* and *“whatever is this world coming to.”* Well my friends, Bible prophecy has the answers to each of these questions, and for the Christian, it is all good news! Possessing a prophetic knowledge and wisdom about the perilous times of the Last Days always brings additional comfort and blessing to every believer. In fact God has exhorted his followers to be **“comforted in their hearts”** and to encourage fellow believers as they observe the signs of the times revealing the closeness of the approaching Day of the Lord. –(Hebrews 10:25).

4. Prophecy Arms the Believer Against False Prophets.

The Bible unequivocally indicates that the last days would witness an exponential explosion of false teaching and false prophets in the world. God has forewarned us to be alert to this type of supernatural and religious deception. The prophetic word of God is designed to convey enough information about the last days so that the believer can with assistance by the Holy Spirit be enabled to “gain strength from its study” (the opposite of the **“chalepos”** snare of Satan) for enduring the onslaught of evil and perversion as the Church begins to fade in power during the latter days. On the other hand, Satan is continually increasing his strategy of religious deception by sending forth many false teachers and by castigating and polluting the prophetic message, by devaluing, and even obstructing the doctrinal study of Biblical prophecy. Sadly, too many churches and preachers are allowing him an easy victory in this demonic conspiracy.

5. Prophecy Purifies the Hope and Life of the Believer.

What could possibly excite the heart and soul of a believer more than the prospect of imminently meeting with Jesus face to face at any moment! The idea of meeting Jesus Christ via the Rapture at any moment should also cause every Christian to lead a sober and vigilant life as he sees the Day of the Lord nearing. Oh yes, this world can be a dark and lonely place many times for a Christian, and as we move further along into the perilous times of the Last Days, it may often seem to be a hopeless world. But for the ardent prophetically knowledgeable Christian, the ominous prevalence of the signs of the times only serves to further intensify the brightness of the Christian’s spiritual lamp.

6. Prophecy Promotes Evangelism.

I know of nothing that emphasizes and promotes the urgent need of spreading the good news of the Gospel more than possessing a keen knowledge of Bible prophecy. In our modern church world, we like to rely on special programs and worship techniques, or religious celebrities to

promote evangelism, but properly utilized nothing can spawn evangelism like spiritual adeptness in Bible prophecy. Prophecy allows the Christian to foreknow that the age of Grace will soon elapse, and that the allotted time for the Church to minister in this world is drawing to a close.

7. Prophecy Builds & Strengthens Faith.

The prophetic word enhances the scriptural foundations upon which our faith rests. It conveys assurances and emboldens the spirit of every believer. The prophetic word uniquely demonstrates that we do not look for Christ in vain, but that every word that pertains to his Second Coming and to the establishment of his kingdom are legitimate. Prophecy infuses deeper spiritual strength to the believer as he watches, and contemplates the multitude of the signs-of-the-times as they come into play in world events.

8. Prophecy Reveals God's Providential Plan.

The Lord created the world and set time and history in motion. Many people may think that he has left off attending to the happenings in the world, but in reality he is overseeing and working through all the affairs of mankind to perform his providential plan of the ages. The mystery of the Ages -(Romans 16:25-26, Colossians 1:17, 1st Corinthians 2:7, Ephesians 3) is being brought to pass in God's good time, and prophecy conveys the signs pertinent to all of the ages, and points to the close of this present age, (Age of Grace-Church) and to the beginning of the Millennial kingdom Age!

9. Prophecy Strengthens Our Patience.

Many people become under zealous in their attitudes about prophetic study and lose sight of its vitality because it entails so much of history, and thus they fail to comprehend the signs of the times pertaining to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ because they do not properly understand the providence of God. They become agnostics, or scoffers, and view Bible Prophecy as just an old worn out folktale or as stories of Church legend that have no immediate impact. Many Christians become irritated by the prophetic message because they lack the longsuffering of Christ, who is not willing that anybody perish. Many Christians become disillusioned and begin to question the value of prophecy, and finally to question the sure promises and absolute landmark signs of the Second Coming because in their minds it has taken too long. They easily succumb to a pessimistic spirit about prophecy, and also risk becoming open to demonic deception about the message of prophecy. -(2nd Peter 3:3-4 ***"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."***) Little do they realize, but they lend credence to the absolution or hiding of God's prophetic words!

10. Prophecy Alerts us to the "Signs of the Times".

Without the Lord's conveyance of Bible prophecy, we would have absolutely no idea how close we might be to the Day of the Lord. We really would have good reason to question the promise -(2nd Peter 3:4) of his coming. Bible prophecy is like a roadmap. It has historical features strewn all along its pathway to convey to the world traveler where he is along the highway of

world/human history. We can use 20/20 hindsight to observe the landmark events in history and then use the prophetic word of the Bible to find them in God's overall scheme of the Ages. We can also use the 20/20 prophetic vision of God to anticipate the coming events in our world, and also derive from our indwelling spiritual sensitivity (Holy Spirit) critical prophetic data pertaining to the Last Days. The Last Days are slated for only one generation in history (the time for Jesus 2nd coming/rapture) and only that particular generation can be acutely sensitized to its imminence with a sense of urgency. That generation is unquestionably alive today and together with the overall scheme of Bible prophecy has always been providentially connected with the re-budding of the nation of Israel. The "signs of the times" pertaining to the last days are presently, and for the first time in history, exponentially exploding right before our eyes! The ardent watching prophecy student, unlike the hypocrites should be able to discern the "signs of the times." Unfortunately, according to the recent (2003) Barna Research data conducted on adult Christian awareness of the "signs of the times," only 4% of preachers, and only 2% of church members considered Bible prophecy as being a significant area of spiritual engagement! Bible prophecy lagged way behind other areas such as teaching, leadership, shepherding, encouragement ministries, outreach, administration and maintenance, worship, service and finances, and public relations as being the most vital areas for Church related priorities. These statistics reflect why our generation is so ignorant about prophecy in relation to current events.

11. Prophecy Highlights His/Our Victory.

Prophecy highlights the fact that through Jesus Christ's victory over Satan, we shall also live and reign with him forever. Death and Hell hath no dominion over us! Jesus' return to this world will usher in the long awaited Kingdom of glory and righteousness. As Christians we are presently acting as God's holy ambassadors to this world. While the world may hate us because of that fact, the Lord will soon recall his ambassadors as he prepares to destroy his enemies, and make the world his footstool.

12. Prophecy Reveals Satan's Final Defeat.

The prophetic word of God deals not only with Satan's defeat at the cross, but goes further to reveal that Satan is destined to be bound in chains and cast into the bottomless pit for one thousand years. Satan is not going to run hap-hazard across the world landscape for much longer. His time is short! We need not fear the wiles of the Devil! He is doomed, and although he would like to keep that fact hushed and incite further rebellion, prophecy foretells of his ultimate fate. He is the biggest loser in all of history! Today as the nations of the world conspire together to encircle Jerusalem and Israel, prophecy conveys the message that Satan's evil scheme is only setting a trap for all the unrighteous! God will soon judge the nations for their complicit involvement with Satan and his Antichrist and rebuke them all.

13. Prophecy Exposes Satan's Plan.

Satan is conspiring together with the nations of this world firstly to deny Israel a place among the nations, and secondly to deceive Israel into a false covenant with him. Satan desires to be worshipped as God, and will utilize the Antichrist to effectuate that occasion. Satan's plan is to seat his Son of Perdition on a throne in the city of Jerusalem inside a rebuilt third Jewish

Temple. Prophecy exposes the entire historic and Last Days scheme of Satan to destroy the children of Israel and to supplant Jesus Christ on his rightful throne in the city of Jerusalem. Isaiah 14:12-14 ***“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High”***. –(Isaiah 14:12-14)

14. Prophecy Eliminates Fear & Ignorance.

Prophecy eliminates any real reason for fear and trepidation while we live in this evil world. It can bring consolation to the soul of every Christian even as we observe the fiery trials and evils that are coming upon the world. Prophecy gives a blessed assurance to the reader and hearer of the prophetic word. ***“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy”*** -(Revelation 1:3). Over and over again when teaching about the signs of the Last Days and the perilous times that will engulf our world as Satan makes his final onslaught against the Church and finally against Israel, God uses the phrase; ***“I would not have you to be ignorant concerning these things.”*** -(see Romans 11:25; 1st Thessalonians 4:13; 2nd Peter 2:5,8; 2nd Corinthians 2:11). Above all else that prophecy does for us as we watch and study the signs of the times, most of all it relieves us of fear, and replaces abject ignorance with confidence, hope and excitement!

‘Lighthouse Trails’ author Roger Oakland wrote a piece about Rick Warren, America’s pastor, CFR member, and Papacy shill, titled: *“Rick Warren Says Those Who Focus on Bible Prophecy “Not fit for the kingdom of God”*. Roger Oakland wrote this back in May of 2011. I suggest that Rick Warren has had it too-good for too-long and he has forgotten the fact that many people need a reason for “Hope”! When you are a pastor of a mega-church with 30,000 members Bible prophecy is the last item on your bucket list. The piece by Roger Oakland follows:

“Many who were once looking for the return of Jesus have fallen asleep. We now live in a period of time where numerous prominent Christian leaders are telling the Christian masses that paying attention to the signs of our times in light of the Bible is a waste of time. And many of them take it a step further and accuse those who believe what Bible prophecy says about the end of the age of being negative and self-centered.

In the ‘Purpose Driven Life’, Rick Warren was actually laying ground work for the emerging church’s new reformation, a reformation that rejects thinking about the return of Christ and works more at convincing the multitudes that Christ is already in them as a global christ-consciousness. As you will see in the following documentation, Warren has a low regard for Bible prophecy. Perhaps this helps explain why so many who once were anticipating the return of the Lord have become occupied with worldly ambitions. Warren writes:

When the disciples wanted to talk about prophecy, Jesus quickly switched the conversation to evangelism. He wanted them to concentrate on their mission in the world. He said in essence,

“The details of my return are none of your business. What is your business is the mission I have given you. Focus on that!” (‘Purpose Driven Life’, pg. 285).

I find it simply astounding that a statement of this sort would be in a ‘New York Times’ best-seller in the present-day Christian book market. Jesus was telling the disciples they could not know the day or the hour, but nowhere does Jesus ever indicate that “the details of my return are none of your business.” Rather than quickly changing the subject, we find in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 two of the longest passages in Scripture quoting Jesus’ own words, and what’s more, where He details the signs of His coming. In essence, Jesus was saying, because you cannot know the day and hour of my return, you need to educate yourself in Bible prophecy and take heed of my words about the end times. Later on, one of those disciples, John, was given an entire book to write on the details of Jesus’ coming. Jesus continually said to be alert and ready for when He returns. In both parables and straightforward talk, he spoke of this. In Luke 12:35-40, Jesus emphasized that it is essential to be prepared for His return:

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when his cometh shall find watching... And this know, that if the Goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

*And Jesus frequently referred to the Old Testament prophecies. Those prophecies became the evidence that Jesus Christ was indeed whom He said He was— **“Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”** -(Isaiah 9:6).*

But Rick Warren tells readers to think about something other than Bible prophecy: “If you want Jesus to come back sooner, focus on fulfilling your mission, not figuring out prophecy.”

Warren ends this section of his book by stating that Satan would have you “sidetracked from your mission” and by quoting Jesus out of context, saying, “Anyone who lets himself be distracted [by studying Bible prophecy] from the work I plan for him is not fit for the kingdom of God” (Living Bible). But Jesus was not referring to His return when He made that statement, which in the King James Version says: “No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). The Purpose Driven kingdom of God leaves no room for Bible prophecy, and in fact, condemns those who study it. The apostle Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, had a different view. He writes:

***“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts”.** -(II Peter 1:19).*

“Christians are called to witness and be watchmen. No Scripture exists that tells us to ignore the events that have been pointed out as signposts indicating the return of Jesus. If we do, we might be like the foolish virgins who fell asleep waiting for the bridegroom. -(Matthew 25:1-13).

“In light of Rick Warren’s end-time views [and his steady embracing of contemplative authors], what does he think of the emerging church? This statement he made in the foreword of Dan Kimball’s book, ‘The Emerging Church’, answers that question. Warren notes:

Today seekers are hungry for symbols and metaphors and experiences and stories that reveal the greatness of God. Because seekers are constantly changing, we must be sensitive to them like Jesus was; we must be willing to meet them on their own turf and speak to them in ways they understand. (p. 8)

Rick Warren is enthusiastic about the emerging church because he believes it is the church of the future. And ... the emerging church is equally fond of Warren’s view of Bible prophecy, or the omission thereof, and of his plan to usher in the kingdom of God. (From ‘Faith Undone’, Roger Oakland, pp. 154-157).

The following quotes are by those who promote contemplative and/or emerging spirituality and share similar views on the return of Christ:

If you want Jesus to come back sooner, focus on fulfilling your mission, not figuring out prophecy. (Rick Warren, PDL, pp. 285-286)

“Tony Campolo says that Christians who “make a big thing of their claim that we are now living in the final stage of church history prior to the second coming of Christ” have been the cause of “extremely detrimental” consequences. They “discount the Sermon on the Mount,” they don’t care about the needy, and they have had such a negative “impact on geopolitics,” which Campolo says “can lead only to war.” Basically, according to Campolo they are the reason the world is in such a mess, and they are holding back progress of a more emerging spirituality. (‘Faith Undone’, p. 160, quoting Campolo, Speaking My Mind)”

“It is time that the church woke up to its true mission, which is to materialize the kingdom of God on earth, today, here and now.... People are no longer interested in a possible heavenly state or a probable hell. They need to learn that the kingdom is here, and must express itself on earth ... The way into that kingdom is the way that Christ trod. It involves the sacrifice of the personal self for the good of the world, and the service of humanity” ...(Occultist, Alice Bailey)

“Robert Schuller’s advice to young church leaders would seem to apply to new apostolic Christians: “Don’t let eschatology stifle your long-term thinking.” (C. P. Wagner, quoted in False Christ Coming: Does Anybody Care?

"We are not eschatological Theonomists or Classic Dispensationalists (e.g. Scofield) and believe that divisive and dogmatic certainty surrounding particular details of Jesus Second Coming are unprofitable speculation, because the timing and exact details of His return are unclear to us." (Mark Driscoll, Acts 29 Network)

"Former New Age follower, Warren Smith explains what happened to him and how he came to understand the significance of Bible prophecy in light of Christ's return:

Coming out of New Age teachings, I had learned in a very personal way that the details of Jesus' return are definitely our business. Understanding the events surrounding His return was critical to understanding how badly I had been deceived by my New Age teachings. I had learned from reading the Bible that there is a false Christ on the horizon and that for a number of years I had unknowingly been one of his followers. Because the Bible's clear authoritative teachings about the real Jesus and His true return had been brought to my attention, I was able to see how deceived I was. By understanding that there is a false Christ trying to counterfeit the true Christ's return, I was able to renounce the false Christ I had been following and commit my life to the true Jesus Christ. (from 'Deceived on Purpose', p. 147)"

"In the Bible in the Book of Revelation, it says that Satan will deceive the whole world - (Revelation 12:9). The emerging church movement has three essential elements that are consistent throughout the movement that may help this great deception to occur:

1. The embracing of mysticism
2. The belief that the kingdom of God will be established on earth BEFORE Christ returns.
3. The rejection of eschatology (the study of the end-times and Bible prophecy relating to it).

The combination of these three things could help to bring about the great falling away of which the Bible speaks. We pray that every Bible-believing Christian will be able to comprehend these things and warn their families and loved ones.

"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." -(II Thessalonians 2:3).

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." (I Timothy 4:1)."

There are plenty of pundits that will tell you what they think about the Bible, and prophecy in general, and even will tell you that Jesus did not mean what He said about the times of the end just before His return. However, what really does matter to my way of thinking is what He really said and meant.

First and foremost, Christ Jesus said, ***"... I will come again ..."*** John 14:3. We live in a day of relativity. Nothing is absolute. When someone dogmatically declares something is

absolute, it is repulsive to our nature. To declare that Jesus Christ IS coming as a fact is true whether or not we want to accept it. What is important is the fact that all the things Jesus predicted are occurring in rapid-fire frequency and we see the theme of "Convergence" as a reality unlike anything in my lifetime. Prophecy writer Bill Salus highlighted that term in a recent interview with Gary Stearman of the website *'Prophecy Watchers.com'*. Jesus Christ not only said He was coming back, He identified nine specific issues that would be occurring all at the same time.

Matthew 24:3 is where we can turn and see how Jesus Christ answered the question, **"What shall be the sign of thy coming?"** He Indicated 9 Things to be watching for:

1. **Wars and Rumors of War** (verse 6)

Have you read a newspaper lately? That is if you can find one that does not contain fake news. Read anything about wars going on or the threat of war? Heard of any "peace talks" taking place? What about the potential of nuclear war? Star Wars? What comes to your mind when you hear these names: Lebanon, Syria, Nicaragua, South Africa, Central America, Israel?

We've been told for 25 years that Humanism, given enough time, would solve all of the world's problems. Its failure is evident, as the human race is nearing self-destruction faster than ever. Wars and/or rumors of wars tells us that Jesus Christ is coming soon.

2. **Natural Disasters** (verse 7) **" . . . and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in (many) places."**

"Killer bees in California? Already? I thought they weren't supposed to be there for 4 more years!" A lady made this statement recently.

The famine in Ethiopia is 20 years old now. Even the evil rock-n-roll music machine was used to generate funds for the famine stricken with their "live aid" concert recently. We should thank God every day for letting we live in America where we've been so blessed. However, drought, uncontrollable fires and lack of precipitation is taking its toll on millions of acres of American soil.

Looking up "earthquakes", I found that 50 of the largest 70 earthquakes in the past 1500 years have taken place in the past century. Less than a decade ago in Tongshan, China, 655,235 deaths occurred in a moment because of an earthquake. An increase in natural disasters tells us that Jesus Christ is coming soon. Earthquake activity, of 6.0 or higher was once a rare event. In the past sixty years, a quake of 6.0 averaged 1 every decade, but today, we are averaging a 6.0 quake almost weekly.

3. **Persecution of True Christians** (verse 9)

Real Bible-believing Christians are having a hard time today practicing their faith here in America. The IRS can now take away a church's tax exemption if their practice conflicts with "public policy" (Bob Jones University case). Much "public policy" is diametrically opposed to

Bible policy. Look at the Christian photographers, bakers, flower shops, which have been bankrupted because they refused to serve the homosexual community.

Christian parents are having children taken from them because they refuse to allow their children to attend the church of Humanism (usually called the public school). Christians can't feed on their menus of Evolution, Amorality, Values Clarification, Behavior Modification, Sex Indoctrination (disguised as "education") and Situation Ethics. It is distasteful to Christianity! Masses of Americans are turning to Christian schools but . . . Christian schools are under attack in many states because they won't take a license from the state. The states of Nebraska and Iowa in particular, have been pounded with pressure from the courts. One Pastor, Everett Sileven, was put in jail and his church padlocked because he wouldn't take a license. The power to license is the power to control. God allows the state to exist, but the state doesn't allow God to exist. Did you know it was the same issue that drove the Pilgrims out of England - RELIGIOUS FREEDOM?

4. Break Down Of The Family (verse 10, 37)

"And then many shall be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another" (verse 10). Verse 37 of Matthew 24, says that conditions would be the same as in Noah's day. What was that like? Luke 17:27 adds, **"They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage . . . and the flood came and destroyed them all."**

Nobody has to prove that we live in a day of divorce, separation, child beating, wife beating, incest and rebellion against parents. Life-styles of adultery and cheating in marriage are joked about and glorified on TV and movies. "Fools make a mock at sin." But Jesus is coming.

5. Apostasy of Religion (verses 5, 11, 24)

The word "deceive" is found in verses 5, 11 and 24, all in regards to the subject of Religion in the last days. I am appalled at the number of "churches" today that conduct their own beer blasts, gambling halls and charge people money to get their sins forgiven. The GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST and REPENTANCE are not preached. The Bible and its standards of holiness are watered down to a point where sin is fashionable. 2nd Thessalonians 2:3 says, **". . . for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away (apostasy) first . . ."** People go to church for one hour and act like angels and then live like the devil for the other 167 hours of the week. Then they talk about how GOOD Christians they are and how pleased God must be with them. Hypocrisy! The apostasy has come. The coming of the Lord draweth near!

6. Sexual Perversion

Now skipping our study from Matthew 24 to Luke 17:28, 30. It says, **"As it was in the days of Lot . . . thus shall it be in the day when the son of man is revealed."** What were the days like a Lot lived in Sodom? A study of Genesis 19 reveals that the men of that city were homosexuals. Romans 1:27 says, **"And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the women, burned in their lust one toward another, men with men working that which is unseemly and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was fitting".**

Pedophilia reveals just how far our world has degenerated. Jesus said it would be better for a man to have a millstone hung about his neck and he were drowned in the depths of the sea, than that he abuse a child! These perverts are found in every class of people and try to say this is natural. Judgement Day is coming! Beware, sexual perversion is a sure sign of the return of Christ. The recent 2016 presidential election has led to the exposure of "Pizzagate", a reference to pedophilia and child trafficking across the United States, and the world.

7. Perplexity of Nations and People. *"And there shall be . . . distress of nations, with perplexity . . . men's hearts failing them for fear . . ."* Luke 21:25 - 26

"It can't get any worse, can it; it's got to get better, doesn't it?" someone may ask. All my life I've seen life's situations and circumstances get worse, wondering when the turnaround was going to happen. There doesn't seem to be much indication of it being just around the corner either. As long as man continues to reject God, the Bible and the Savior, he can expect nothing but distress, perplexity and fear!

Nobody knows how to solve the world's problems. Yes, Christ is coming soon; all signs point to it!

8. Scoffers.

Some reading this might be laughing. Others believe that all of the Lord's predictions were coincidences or luck. People like that are also a sure sign of the Lord's return. 2nd Peter 3:3, 4, says, ***" . . . In the last days shall come scoffers walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming?"*** Scoffers increase my faith in the Lord's words when He said, ***"I will come again."***

9. Because He Said He Would.

This is all I need. God said it and that settles it! Everything He ever said came true! All of His predictions concerning His first coming came true, on time and precisely as it was foretold! Why shouldn't I believe in His second coming? Matthew 24:35: ***"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away . . ."***


Friend, are you ready to meet God, should Jesus come today? Concerning all these signs that we've studied, Jesus said this, ***"So likewise ye, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your LORD DOTH COME"*** -(Matthew 24:33; 34; 42)

When should I get ready to meet the Lord? 2nd Corinthians 6:2 says, ***"Now is the accepted time; behold NOW is the day of salvation."*** Concerning salvation God never says wait! Do it now! Be saved. How? ***"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*** -(Romans 10:13). Jesus Christ died for your sins, was buried, rose again and is alive forever more. He loves you and wants to be your personal Savior. Will you trust in Him alone to save you? Religion, morals, good works, or doing the best you can will leave you a dollar short and a day late of the righteousness that God demands of us if we hope to go to Heaven. Only

Christ's blood can satisfy God's wrath against your sin. Our only hope is to trust in what Christ has DONE, not in what we can do. Will you call on the Lord and call upon Him today?

In the name of our Savior, Christ Jesus, I hope this study will bless your life, your family, your friends, colleagues, and I encourage you to share it, get a copy to share. But whatever you do, do not take it for granted. The hourglass of time is now under 200 days.

Pastor Bob, EvanTeachr@AOL.com



*“Behold, a door
was opened in
heaven...
and immediately
I was in the spirit:
and,
behold a throne
was set in
heaven”
Rev4:1-2*

*“And the first
voice which I
heard was as it
were of a trumpet
talking with me;
which said
Come up hither!”
Rev.4:1*

**Rapture
of the
Church**