



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 34 YEARS"



THE CORNERSTONE

March 2016

When your heart is filled with faith,
 there is no room left for fear.

Daily Walk 2/23/16

CHURCH-WIDE FELLOWSHIP

CHILI

COOK-OFF

&



CAKEWALK

Saturday, March 5, 2016

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

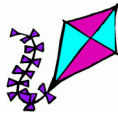
(Judging at 3:20pm)

CHILI PROVIDED BY THE COMPETITORS!
CAKES & DESSERTS PROVIDED BY PARTICIPANTS!

*The church will provide drinks, salad, chips, cheese/or
 cheeses, and other food items that go with chili.*

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS, RELATIVES, NEIGHBORS, ETC.

**SIGN UP SHEETS ARE LOCATED IN THE FOYER! FOR
 MORE INFORMATION: SEE MARCIE DUNIGAN**



Missionaries of the Month

Mike Rueck Bible Translator

Thank you so much for your prayers on my behalf as I joined the Koro Ashe Bible Translation Project as a linguist last year. God graciously and generously answered your prayers abundantly! I can't imagine getting off to a better start with the Ashe people. Apparently, I am the first white person to come and live in Kukui vil-



lage since sometime after 1950 when the colonial patrol officers built a house and planted some mango trees at what is now the southern end of the village. The village hadn't even moved down from the hills immediately to the southeast then. By now, those mangoes have become a grove of huge old trees, there's no trace of the house, and nobody alive actually remembers it being there. It seems that the people feel loved simply because I've come to live with them.

The third day after my arrival, a Sunday, there was a large meeting of all three churches in the afternoon, conducted entirely in Ishe, the Ashe language. The Catholic Church, which is the largest, was packed with small children filling the floor between the pews and the pulpit. Some people even came from neighboring villages. I had learned the basics of how to introduce myself in the language by then (Greetings! My name is... I'm from...), so I used that to the great delight of all; then I went on to explain in English that my job was to help them develop an alphabet that makes their language easy to read and write. Gideon and Arams, the two Ashe Bible translators, were there, too, and they translated my English and then read a passage from the Gospel of Luke and let people know how the project was going. At least two choirs (the women's fellowship and perhaps the youth or the men's fellowship) from each of the three churches sang songs in Ishe, accompanied by lively drumming and dancing. Many throughout the congregation couldn't help but join in with the singing and dancing from wherever they were. One of the church secretaries also preached a message in Ishe on the topic of love. It was a thrilling afternoon, greatly enjoyed by one and all. I think the service lasted nearly three hours, but nobody got sleepy or bored.

Although people seem to generally appreciate my simply being here, I want to make some progress on analyzing the Ishe phonology or sound system. Which sounds do the Ashe hear as distinct? Which sounds do they make no distinction between? How do sounds change when they're

pronounced next to other sounds (for example, in prefixes and suffixes or when one word follows another)? This is fundamental to developing an alphabetic writing system.



Andy Woods—Pastor

The Rapture (Part 36)

My previous articles commenced a series on the rapture of the church. We began with the question, "What is the Rapture?" This question can best be answered by noting ten truths about the rapture from [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#) and [1 Corinthians 15:50-58](#). We then moved to a second main question, namely, when will the rapture take place relative to the coming seven-year Tribulation period? We offered the contention that believers can develop certainty that they will be raptured before the Tribulation period occurs for at least seven reasons. After dealing with these two questions, we began to explore some of the weaknesses associated with the other competing views that seek to answer the question, "When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Coming Tribulation Period?" At least five differing perspectives exist. We noted at the onset that it is important to understand that all of the non-pretribulation positions have a difficult time handling the seven arguments favoring **pre-tribulationism** previously discussed in this series. Beyond this, we have already noted the problems associated with **mid-tribulationism** and **post-tribulationism**, and **partial rapturism**. In this article, we will briefly explain and analyze **pre-wrath rapturism**.

PRE-WRATH RAPTURISM

Pre-wrath rapturists maintain that the rapture will occur roughly twenty-one months into the second half of the Tribulation period. The present brief critique will focus on only *seven* general problems with the pre-wrath rapture view. In the prior installments we noted five problems with the Pre-wrath rapture view. 1. The pre-wrath rapture view places the church, a distinct spiritual organism, into Daniel's Seventieth Week, which is a time period when God will be exclusively dealing with national Israel (Dan. 9:24). 2. The pre-wrath rapture of the church denies the imminent return of Christ. 3. Pre-wrath rapturism denies the comfort that the rapture is designed to bring to the believer. 4. Pre-wrath rapturism imposes an artificial and unnatural construct upon Daniel's Seventieth Week (Dan. 9:27). 5. Pre-wrath rapturism is problematic in that it confines the wrath of God to the final quarter of the Tribulation period and fails to recognize that the entire Seventieth Week of Daniel actually represents God's wrath. Let us now explore *two* more problems with the Pre-wrath rapture position.

Sixth, while the pre-wrath rapture views labels the first half of the second half of the Tribulation period (from the forty-second to the sixty-third month) as "the Great Tribulation," Christ's prophecy concerning the Great Tribulation would necessitate it being even greater than the Day of the Lord or the final quarter of Daniel's Seventieth Week. Regarding the Great Tribulation, Jesus predicted, "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will" (Matthew 24:21). Jesus clearly indicates here that the Great Tribulation will be characterized by an unprecedented and an unequalled time of distress. Yet, how can this statement fit the pre-wrath rapture scenario of events, which outlines a time period following the Great Tribulation known as the Day of the Lord when God's very wrath will be poured out? In other words, how can the Great Tribulation period, a time without God's wrath, be even greater than the subsequent Day of the Lord, when the very wrath of God will be manifested? Zeller explains:

The PRE-WRATH view teaches that the Day of the Lord begins after the Great Tribulation and that the Day of the Lord is the time of God's wrath. Matthew 24:21, Daniel 12:1 and Jeremiah 30:7 all teach that the Great Tribulation is the greatest time of trouble that the world has ever known. Therefore, if the Day of the Lord is distinct from the Great Tribulation, then the Day of the Lord must be LESS SEVERE than the Great Tribulation. But how can the great day of God's wrath be less severe and less troublesome than the Great Tribulation? How can God's wrath be less severe than man's wrath? How can the trumpets and bowls be less severe than the fifth seal? How can God's wrath be



less severe than Satan's wrath? How can unregenerate men and Satan cause more trouble for this world than the wrathful JUDGE Himself? The PRE-WRATH view, when compared with Matthew 24:21 and these other verses, makes the Day of the Lord an ANTICLIMAX!

Seventh, the pre-wrath interpretation that the restrainer (2 Thess. 2:6-7) represents Michael the Archangel is problematic. As noted earlier, pre-wrath rapture advocates contend that Michael will step aside from his function of restraining the Antichrist during the Great Tribulation. However, as noted earlier in this series, the problem with identifying Michael as the restrainer is that [Jude 9](#) tells us that Michael is reluctant to contest Satan, when it says, "But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'" Therefore, consistency seems to dictate that Michael would also be unwilling to actively contribute to the present restraining of the satanically controlled Antichrist.

In addition, it is unlikely that Michael is the restrainer since the restrainer holds back the Antichrist from making his global debut (2 Thess. 2:6-7) while Michael is more focused on protecting national Israel (Dan. 12:1). Furthermore, how could the restrainer, who at some point stops restraining (2 Thess. 2:6-7), be Michael since Michael never stops protecting Israel? Thus, Kessinger concludes, "The pre-wrath view holds to the rather inventive idea that Michael the archangel is the restrainer. This concept fails to take into consideration Michael's special protective ministry toward Israel."

Moreover, as noted earlier in this series, the best interpretive option is that the restrainer mentioned in [2 Thessalonians 2:6-7](#) is the [Holy Spirit](#) rather than Michael the Archangel. There are two primary reasons for reaching this conclusion. First, the force restraining the Antichrist must be more powerful than Satan. According to [2 Thessalonians 2:9](#), the Antichrist will be Satan's masterpiece who will be directly controlled and empowered by Satan himself. Thus, the restrainer must be powerful enough to prevent Satan from unleashing the Antichrist onto the world scene until the proper time. Only deity possessing the attribute of omnipotence ("all power") has unlimited power. Certainly the Holy Spirit meets this criterion since He is full deity ([Acts 5:3-4](#)).

Second, the Greek participle "restrainer" is neuter in [2 Thessalonians 2:6](#) and masculine in verse 7. Identifying the restrainer as the Holy Spirit handles well this abrupt transition from the neuter to the masculine gender. The Greek word for Spirit is *pneuma*, which is a neuter noun. Moreover, in the [Upper Room Discourse](#), Jesus identified the Holy Spirit with the masculine personal pronoun "him" or "he." For example, in [John 14:17](#), Christ said, "that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you." The Holy Spirit is designated by the personal pronoun "he" in other sections of the same discourse ([John 15:26](#); [16:13-14](#)). Thus, in contradistinction to pre-wrath rapture theology, while identification of the restrainer as Michael is problematic, identifying the restrainer as the Holy Spirit represents the best interpretive option.

In conclusion, the following *seven* reasons cumulatively make the novel and recent pre-wrath rapture interpretation suspect. **1.** It inserts the church into Israel's Seventieth Week of Daniel (Dan. 9:24, 27). **2.** It denies imminence of the rapture. **3.** It fails to harmonize with the biblical teaching that the rapture is a comfort (John 14:1). **4.** It imposes an artificial three-part structure onto Daniel's two-part Seventieth Week. **5.** It fails to comprehend that the whole Seventieth Week (Dan. 9:27) is a time of divine wrath. **6.** It fails to harmonize with Christ's prediction (Matt. 24:21) that the Great Tribulation is even greater than the subsequent Day of the Lord in the pre-wrath rapture order of events. **7.** Finally, the view awkwardly identifies the restrainer (2 Thess. 2:6-7) as Michael the Archangel.

In sum, in this series, having previously answered the question, "What is the Rapture?" we noted at least *seven* reasons that affirm the pre-tribulation rapture view. We then began interacting with the other positions on the timing of the rapture. In prior articles, we have answered **mid-tribulationism, post-tribulationism, and partial rapturism**. In this article we have explained the **pre-wrath rapture** theory as well as the various reasons as to why it is deficient and therefore should be



Ladies Friendship Luncheon
Saturday, April 30, 2016
11:00 AM to 1:30 PM



Speaker will be Rachel Norris– Potter

Ladies Mark your calendars now, you don't want to miss this.
Rachel will be demonstrating her talent as she speaks.

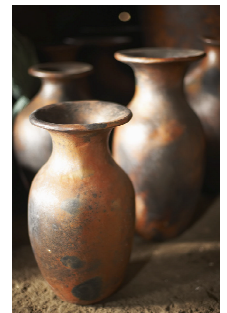
Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words.

Jeremiah 18:2

Rachel will have her spinning wheel with a lump of clay, and she will explain how the Potter wedges the clay, puts it on the wheel, carefully guides it and shapes it, and makes it into a raw, beautiful, but unfinished piece. But like a potter with wet clay, God can mold us into something and then decide to smash us down, recycle us, and start anew with a completely different, beautiful plan for us. So, He starts the process over molding us.

Then, the Potter will let the piece sit, until it's completely dry, and ready to put into the fire. She explained that, just like us, if a Potter puts a piece into the kiln (fire) before it's completely dry (or ready), once it hits the fire, it will explode into a million pieces. Just like us, God knows His perfect timing to throw us into the thick of things. He never promised that our life would be easy or that it would come without complication, but he does have a plan for us, and if we'll let him, we'll be molded into a beautiful work of art, ready to trust and serve Him.

Rachel explains all her work very well, because not only does she sit there, making her artwork look effortless, she shares how pottery applies to our lives, AND sharing her personal testimony of trials and redemption through Jesus Christ.



Scripture for the Month: Psalm 40:6-8

Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book *it is* written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law *is* within my heart."





rejected.

What will occur in the twinkling of an eye—a mere nanosecond—actually requires careful study in order to properly understand the rapture in its dispensationally correct place in God's future program. In depth study is also needed to correctly apply this doctrine. Such was the purpose of this extended series.

(End of Series...)

Zeller, "Pre-Wrath Confusion," 7-8.

See part 17 of this series.

Kessinger, 294.

Ibid.

Friday, April 15, 2016

6:30 to 9:30 PM

Safari Texas Ranch, 11627 Fm 1464

Richmond, Texas

There will be live entertainment, a silent and live auction, Hand-painted bowls for purchase.

Tickets are on sale now. Price of tickets \$40.00

For Tickets: See Your Board Representative,

Pat Chandler—95% of proceeds goes to Ministry to help our Fort Bend County neighbors who are struggling to provide basic necessities for their families. Guest will be served a simple meal of soup and bread provided by several area restaurants in recognition and support of those who don't have enough food to eat. For more information contact Pat Chandler or call East Fort Human Needs at 281-261-1006 or go on line at www.HumanNeeds.org



**benefiting East Fort Bend
Human Needs Ministry**

The Cornerstone Newsletter deadline for News articles is the 19th of each month. You can e-mail Patricia Chandler at:

earlbudc@att.net or send information to Carol Henry at Carol@SLBC.org



Permission to photocopy this resource from Group's Cave Quest VBS granted for local church use. Copyright ©

The Brightest Week of the Summer!

Monday June 6, 2016 - Friday June 10, 2016

9:00 am-12:30 pm

Sugar Land Bible Church

401 Matlage Way

Sugar Land, Tx

- ┆ New friends ┆ Amazing experiments
- ┆ Spelunker Sports ┆ Lip-smacking snacks
- ┆ Surprising adventures ┆ Incredible music

Men's Annual Expedition

April 22-24

To be held at Frontier Camp in
Grapeland, Tx.

Mark your Calendar!

