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## Course Overview I. What is the Rapture? II. When is the Rapture? III. Strengthening the Pre-Tribulational case IV. The opposing views

V. One second after the Rapture



The Rapture

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#### The Rapture Course Overview

- I. What is the Rapture?
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#### What is the Rapture?



- 1. An important doctrine
- 2. Distinct from the Second Advent
- 3. Catching away of all living believers (1 Thess 4:17)
- 4. Reunion (1 Thess 4:14-16)
- 5. Resurrection (1 Cor 15:50-54)
- 6. Exemption from death (1 Cor 15:51, 54-56)
- 7. Instantaneous (1 Cor 15:52)
- 8. Mystery (1 Cor 15:51)
- 9. Imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
- 10. Traditional doctrine now being recovered

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#### When is the Rapture?

7 Arguments Favoring the Pre-Tribulation View

- 1. Tribulation's purpose concerns Israel (Jer 30:7; Dan 9:24)
- 2. No biblical reference to the church on earth during the Tribulation period (Rev 4-22)
- 3. Church is promised an exemption from divine wrath (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; Rev 3:10; 6:17)
- 4. Rapture is imminent (1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:15)
- 5. Rapture is a comfort (1 Thess 4:18)
- 6. Antichrist cannot come to power until the restrainer is removed (2 Thess 2:6-7)
- 7. Symbolic parallels (2 Peter 2:5-9)

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#### Strengthening the Pre-Tribulation Case

- 1. John 14:1-4
- 2. Revelation 3:10
- 3. First Thessalonians 4–5
- 4. Second Thessalonians 2:3a
- 5. Matthew 24–25



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#### When Will the Rapture Take Place Relative to the Tribulation Period?

- Pre-tribulation rapture theory
- Mid-tribulation rapture theory
- Post-tribulation rapture theory
- Pre-wrath rapture theory
- Partial rapture theory



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#### **Problems with Partial Rapturism?**

- 1. Every divine blessing is given on the basis of His grace and not human effort (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 12:6)
- 2. Symbolic parallels mandate that carnal as well as sanctified Christians will be taken up in the rapture (Gen. 19:22)
- 3. The promise of the rapture is mentioned in Paul's letter to the carnal Corinthian church (1 Cor. 15:51)
- 4. A partial rapture would sever Christ's body (1 Cor 12:12-14)
- 5. The partial rapture view subjects believers to God's wrath (Thess 1:10)

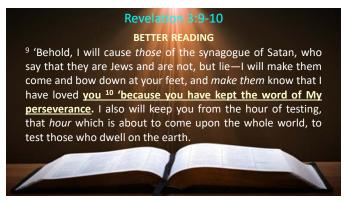
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#### **Problems with Partial Rapturism?**

- Partial rapturism makes the Bema Seat Judgment unnecessary (1 Cor. 3:10-15)
- 7. Partial rapturists never objectively quantify the exact degree of faithfulness or spiritual maturity that is necessary to participate in the rapture
- 8. Partial rapturists appear individually biased
- 9. Partial rapturists dispensationally misapply Bible passages (Matt. 25:1-13)
- 10.Partial rapturists misapply passages promising a reward to faithful believers (Rev. 3:11)

DESCR	DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES Revelation 2–3		
CHURCH	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION	
Ephesus	2:1-7	Loveless	
Smyrna	2:8-11	Persecuted	
Pergamum	2:12-17	Compromised	
Thyatira	2:18-29	Corrupt	
Sardis	3:1-6	Dead	
<u>Philadelphia</u>	<u>3:7-13</u>	Missionary	
Laodicea	3:14-22	Man-centered	





#### Problems with Beginning the Sentence in Rev. 3:10 with "Because"

- 1. Not part of the original manuscripts: chapter & verse divisions & punctuation marks (periods, commas, or exclamation points).
- 2. These things were all added by later copyists.
- 3. Most English translations separate the two verses with a period.
- 4. Thus, it becomes cause for participating in the Rapture and not a cause for their enemies to worship before their feet.
- 5. However, the period should be placed in the middle of verse 10.
- 6. Thus, it becomes not a cause for participating the Rapture and a cause for their enemies to worship before their feet.

John Niemela, The Interpretation of Revelation 3:10: You Have Kept My Word, CTS Journal; A

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#### Problems with Beginning the Sentence in Rev. 3:10 with "Because" (cont'd)

- 7. Rev. 3:10b becomes an additional unconditional promise of Rapture participation beyond the promises of Rev. 2:9b.
- 8. It is rare to begin a sentence with "because" (hoti) in a causative sense.
- Instead, hoti ("because"), when casual in function, usually follows a statement or promise in providing a reason for what preceded it in the sentence.
- 10.Thus, Greek sentences rarely begin a sentence with the phrase "Because you have" when explaining the cause or reason for something, as Greek and English texts of Revelation 3:10 unfortunately do today. Instead, the "because" phraseology consistently follows later in the sentence.

John Niemela, The Interpretation of Revelation 3:10: You Have Kept My Word, CTS Journal; A summarized by Dennis Rokser, A Golden Number in Revelation 3:10. Grace for the Race, no. 2

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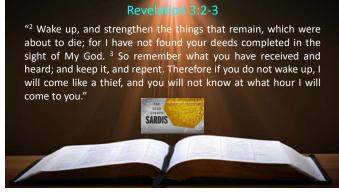




Great Tribulation?		
Scripture	Rev 2:22	Rev 7:13-14
Circumstance	Letter to the Church	Tribulation Period
Situation	Max. Divine Discipline	Divine Wrath
Opening Scroll	Before	After
Daniel's 70 <sup>th</sup> Week	Before	After
Audience	Church-Age Saint	Tribulation Saint
Church Presence?	Yes	No
Hebrew Context?	No	Yes

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Revelation 3:2-3

"2 Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. 3 So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a <a href="thickness">thief (kleptēs)</a>, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you."

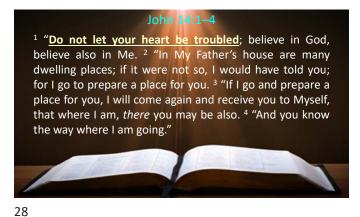
SARDIS

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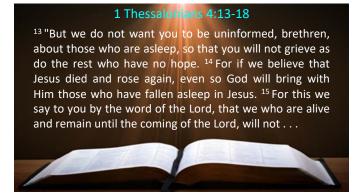
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## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ...precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words."







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#### One Second After the Rapture Sugar Land Bible Church 2021



Dr. Andy Woods Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church President – Chafer Theological Seminary

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#### One Second After the Rapture

- 1. For the believer
- 2. For the unbeliever
- 3. So what?



#### One Second After the Rapture

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#### 1. For the Believer

- a. Reunion (1 Thess. 4:13-18)
- b. Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51, 53-55)
- c. Reward (2 Cor. 5:10)





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## <sup>13</sup> "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not . . .

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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#### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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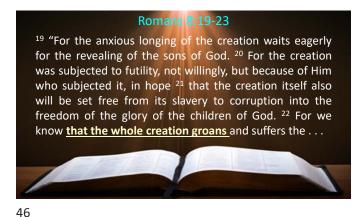
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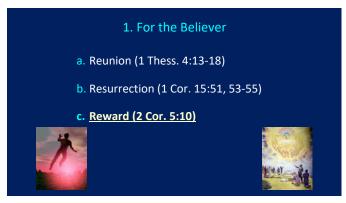
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Romans 8:19-23
... pains of childbirth together until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."

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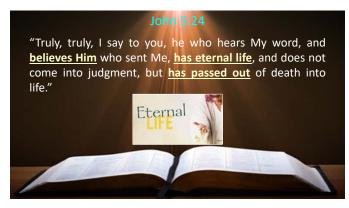


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## Why? Not to judge sin (John 19:30) Not to determine salvation (John 5:24) But rather to give or not give rewards



Scripture's Five Crowns (Rev 4:10: 3:11; 2 John 8)		
SCRIPTURE	CROWN	PURPOSE
1 Cor. 9:24-27	Incorruptible	Gaining mastery over the flesh
1 Thess. 2:19-20	Rejoicing	Soul winning
Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10	Life	Enduring trials
1 Pet. 5:2-4	Glory	Shepherding God's people
2 Tim. 4:8	Righteousness	Longing for His appearing



#### One Second After the Rapture

- 1. For the believer
- 2. For the unbeliever
- 3. So what?



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#### 2. For the Unbeliever

- a. A perverted explanation to be offered
- b. Change in God's program
- c. Identification of the Antichrist
- d. Global governance
- e. One-world religion
- f. Signs & wonders movement
- g. The demise of America
- h. God's wrath

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#### Explanation of the missing

"Your unfinished species is ready to evolve. The time has come on Earth for this quantum change to occur in many of you." Her "Christ" further informed her "I cannot 'return' until enough of you are attracted and linked." Hubbard's "Christ" explained, "I did not intend for you to deify me, but to deify yourselves as being at the same stage of evolution as I am." "Suffice it to say, that if you do not choose to evolve into a wholesome, cocreative human, then you shall not." "...the fundamental regression is self-centeredness, or the illusion that you are separate from God. I 'make war' on self-centeredness."...

Barbara Marx Hubbard, The Revelation: A Message of Hope for the New Millennium, 2nd ed. (Novato, CA: Nataraj, 1995), 65, 66, 195, 233, 240, 25

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#### Explanation of the missing (cont'd)

...Furthermore, "At the co-creative stage of evolution, <u>one self-centered soul is like a lethal cancer cell in a body; deadly to itself and to the whole." Thus, "The surgeon dare leave no cancer in the body when he closes up the wound after a <u>delicate operation</u>. We dare leave no self-centered person on Earth after the selection process."</u>

Barbara Marx Hubbard, The Revelotion: A Message of Hope for the New Millennium, 2nd ed. (Novato, CA: Natara), 1995), 65, 66, 195, 233, 240, 255

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#### The Coming Synthesis

"The coming of the Aquarian age also stimulates in man a spirit of universality and a tendency towards fusion. This can be seen working out in the present trend towards synthesis in business, in religion and in politics. It produces an urge towards union, and among other unions, towards religious understanding and tolerance...False and true standards will emerge in man's consciousness, and those choices will be made which will lay the foundation of the new order, which will inaugurate the new race, with its new laws and novel will inaugurate the new race, with its new laws and novel approaches, and so usher in the new religion of love and brotherhood, and that period wherein the group and the group-good will be the dominant note. Then separateness and hatreds will fade out and men will be merged in a true unity."

Alice A. Bailley and Dijwhal Khul, The Seventh Ray: Revealer of the New Age (NY: Lucius Press, 1995), 198-5

#### Explanation of the missing

New Age writer Randolph Price says that his spirit guide, an "awakened one" called "Asher," has informed him that "Nature will soon enter her cleansing cycle" during which those of "lower vibratory rates" will purified off the planet. Perhaps one of the factors which will bring the antichrist to power will be his ability to restore order from chaos by offering an acceptable explanation for all of the missing Christians.

Randall Baer, Inside the New Age Nightmare (Lafavette, LA: Huntington House, 1989), 169

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#### Explanation of the missing

"The people who leave the planet during the time of Earth changes do not fit in here any longer, and they are stopping the harmony of Earth. When the time comes that perhaps 20 million people leave the planet at one time there will be a tremendous shift in consciousness for those who are remaining."

Barbara Marciniak, Bringers of the Dawn: Teachings from the Pleiadians (Rochester, VT: Bear and Co., 1992), cited in "Rapture: The New Age Version," <a href="www.redmoonrising.com/newage.htm">www.redmoonrising.com/newage.htm</a>, 29 January, 2010. See Gary Bates, Alien Intrusion: UfOs and the Evolution Connection (Powder Springs, GA: Creation Book Publishers, 2004), 367-68.

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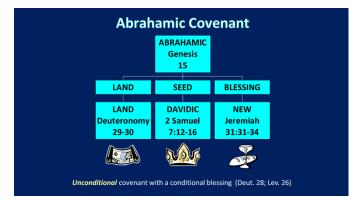
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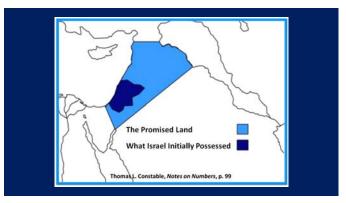


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Distinctions Betwee	n 144,000 & Multitude
144,000	MULTITUDE
Revelation 7:1-8	Revelation 7:9-17
Numbered	Innumerable
Jews	All nations
Sealed	Slain
Sealed <u>before</u> the Tribulation	Converted out of the Tribulation
Hitchcock and Ice, The	Truth Behind Left Behind, 77

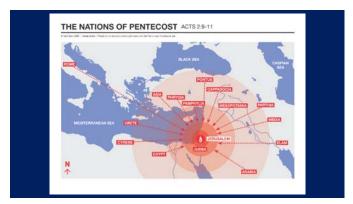
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## God's Work Through Israel Rev 7-144,000 Jews Rev 11-Two Jewish witnesses Rev 12-Israel flees

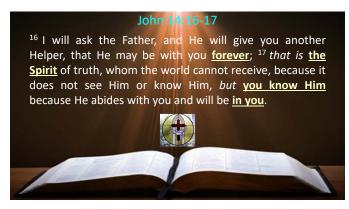
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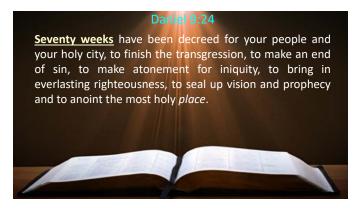




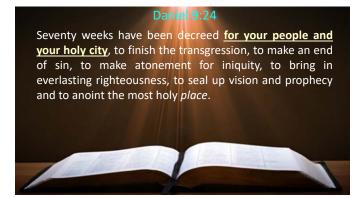


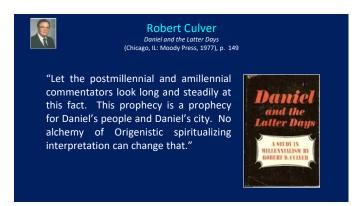


WORK OF THE SPIRIT IN THE OT		
	OT/GOSPELS	TODAY
External vs. Internal	Upon (1 Sam. 16:13)	Within (John 14:17)
Reception of all of the Spirit at the moment of salvation?	Subsequent to salvation (Exod 31:3)	At moment of salvation (Rom 8:9)
How long is the indwelling?	Temporary indwelling (1 Sam 16:14; Ps 51:11)	Permanent indwelling (John 14:16)
Who is indwelt?	Selective indwelling (Joel 2:28)	Universal indwelling (1 Cor 12:13)









#### GAP BETWEEN 483<sup>rd</sup> AND 484<sup>th</sup> YEAR A. Prophecy runs successively for 483 years

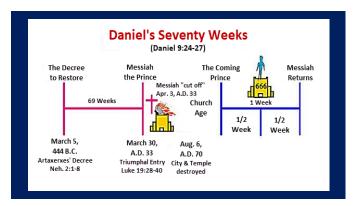
B. Gap between 483rd and 484th year

69 weeks 483 years

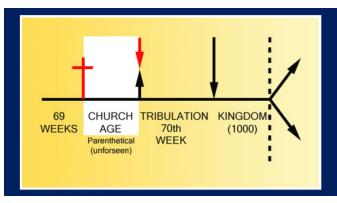
(GAP)

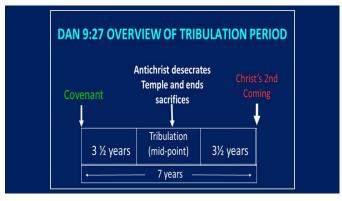
70<sup>th</sup> week 7 years

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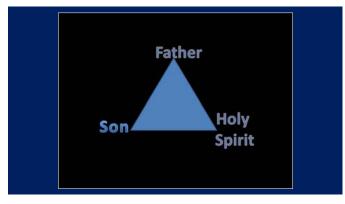


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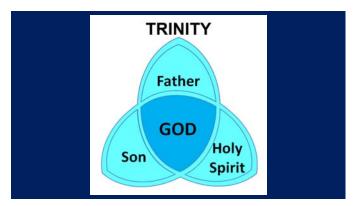
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## 3 Reasons Why the Restrainer is the Holy Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7) 1. The Holy Spirit is omnipotent 2. The Holy Spirit view handles well the switch in gender from the neuter (vs. 6) to the masculine (vs. 7) 3. The Holy Spirit is active in the world (Gen. 6:3; John 16:7-11)

#### Who is the Antichrist?

"We will not, however, incur the risk of pronouncing positively as to the name of <u>Antichrist</u>; but if it had been necessary to announce his name plainly at the present time, it would have been spoken by him who saw the apocalypse. For it was not seen long ago, but almost in our own time, at the end of the reign of Domitian."

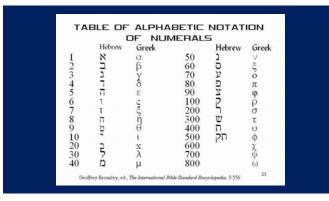
Irenaeus Against Heresies 5.30.3

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## Ezekiel 28:13, 15 13 "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared... 15 "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you.

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## Revelation 13:16-18 16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, 17 and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.



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#### Zechariah 5:5-11

- Woman (wickedness)
- Ephah (commerce)
- House (Temple-2 Sam 7; religion)
- Shinar (Gen 10:10; 11:2; Dan 1:2)



Zechariah 5:5-11	Revelation 17–18
Woman sitting in a basket	Woman sitting on beast, seven mountains, many waters (17: 3, 9, 15)
Emphasis on commerce (a basket for measuring grain)	Emphasis on commerce (merchant of grain, 18:13)
Woman's name is wickedness	Woman's name is Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth
Focus on False worship (a temple is built for the woman)	Focus on False worship (17:5)
Woman is taken to Babylon	Woman is called Babylon
Hitchcock, The Second	Coming of Babylon, 109.





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Antichrist's Satanic Miracles (2 Thessalonians 2:9)		
MIRACLE	GREEK	CHRIST'S MINISTRY
Powers	Dynamis	Matt. 11:20
Signs	Semēion	John 20:30
Wonders	Teras	Acts 2:22

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## Satanic/Demonic Miracles 1. Exod. 7–8 2. Deut. 13:1-3 3. Job 1:12-19; 2:7-8 4. 1 Sam. 28? 5. Matt. 7:21-23; 24:24 6. Acts 8:9; 16:16 7. Gal. 1:6-9 8. 2 Thess. 2:9 9. Rev. 13:3, 13, 15; 16:13-14

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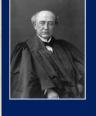


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#### America is a "Christian Nation"

"This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation... These are not the sayings, declarations of private persons: they are organic utterances; they speak the voice of the entire people...These and many other matters which might be noticed, add a volume of unofficial declarations to the mass of organic utterances that this is a Christian nation."

Church of the Holy Trinlity v. U.S., 143 U.S. 457, 465, 470-71 (1892)



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#### 2. For the Unbeliever

- a. A perverted explanation to be offered
- b. Change in God's program
- c. Identification of the Antichrist
- d. Global governance
- e. One-world religion
- f. Signs & wonders movement
- g. The demise of America
- h. God's wrath



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#### Pretribulationism is not Escapism

- Trials (John 16:33)
- Man's wrath (2 Tim 3:12)
- Satan's wrath (Eph 6:11-12)
- World's wrath (John 15:18-19)

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#### **Promised Exemption from Divine Wrath**

- The promise (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)
- Tribulation = divine wrath (Rev 6:16-17; 11:18; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19)



#### God's Role in Redemption (Rev 5)

- Seven sealed scroll (5:1)
- John weeps (5:2-4)



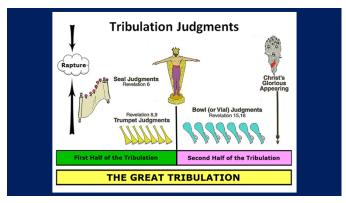


Christ praised by various entities (5:8-14)

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## Telescoping 7th judgment releases 1st in next series Seals: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Trumpets: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Bowls: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

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## 1st Six Seals (Rev 6) 6:1-2 – Advent of antichrist 6:3-4 – War 6:5-6 – Famine 6:7-8 – Death 6:9-11 – Martyrdoms 6:12-17 – Cosmic disturbances

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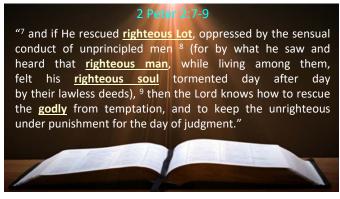
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#### Robert L. Thomas Rev. 6:16-17

"The verb *elethen* ("has come") is aorist indicative, referring to a previous arrival of wrath, not something that is about to take place. Men see the arrival of this day at least as early as the cosmic upheavals that characterize the sixth seal (6:12-14), but upon reflection they probably recognize that it was already in effect with the death of one-fourth of the population (6:7-8), the worldwide famine (6:5-6), and the global warfare (6:3-4). The rapid sequence of all of these events could not escape notice, but the light of their true explanation does not dawn upon human consciousness until the severe phenomena of the sixth seal arrive."

Robert L. Thomas, Revelation 1–7: An Exegetical Commentary, ed. Kenneth Barker (Chicago: Moody, 1992), 457-5



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## 2. For the Unbeliever a. A perverted explanation to be offered b. Change in God's program c. Identification of the Antichrist d. Global governance e. One-world religion f. Signs & wonders movement g. The demise of America h. God's wrath

#### One Second After the Rapture

- 1. For the believer
- 2. For the unbeliever
- **3.** So what?



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#### 3. So What?

- a. Uniformitarianism?
- b. Live for Christ
- c. Reach the lost

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d. Believe the Gospel

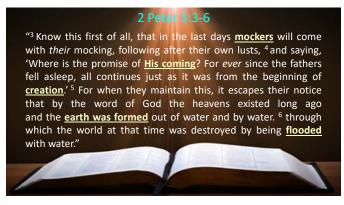


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#### 3. So What?

- a. Uniformitarianism?
- b. Live for Christ
- c. Reach the lost
- d. Believe the Gospel



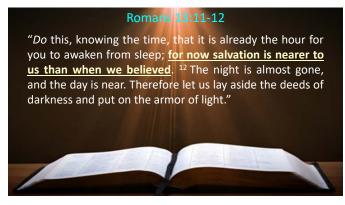


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# 3. So What? a. Uniformitarianism? b. Live for Christ c. Reach the lost d. Believe the Gospel

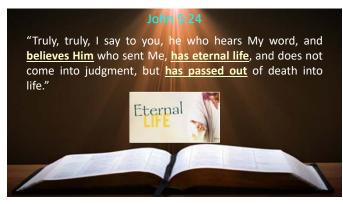


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# 3. So What? a. Uniformitarianism? b. Live for Christ c. Reach the lost d. Believe the Gospel



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## Review: One Second After the Rapture 1. For the believer 2. For the unbeliever 3. So what?

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## CONCLUSION