

RAPTURE NOW?

DOV Ministries

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to our Lord and Savior YAHSHUA Messiah for His infallible holy Word, and to all students of Bible prophecy (past and present), who have labored diligently to learn when the Post Seventieth Week Pre-Tribulation Rapture will take place.

INVITATION

Please study this book carefully with your Bible in hand to see if the Rapture can take place at any moment or if specific *warning signs* must precede it.

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FOREWORD

The concept that the Rapture can take place at any moment cannot be found in the Scriptures. Those who hold to that idea do so based on a misunderstanding of a few verses. You will see in Chapter Two what those verses actually say and you will also see that there are numerous other passages that teach emphatically that the Rapture cannot take place at any moment.

Read this book with your Bible in hand and carefully examine the passages that are expounded. Study them until you fully understand them. Meditate on those passages.

YAHSHUA Messiah commands all believers in Him to correctly understand Scripture by studying It daily (Acts 17.11):

Be diligent to present yourself approved to YAHWEH; a workman not ashamed straightly cutting the Word of Truth. (2 Timothy 2.15)

A key to understanding the truth that the Rapture cannot take place at any moment is learn that specific prophecies must be fulfilled before the Rapture can take place. This book gives you the major Bible prophecies that will be fulfilled before the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week and then the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. Study Chapter Five thoroughly to see what those prophecies are and then watch as they are fulfilled.

Chapters Three and Four give added proof that the Rapture cannot take place at any moment. Since the Rapture takes place after the start of the Seventieth Week there can be no gap between the Rapture and then the 70th Week. Those chapters prove to the Pre-Seventieth Week Rapture teachers that there cannot be a gap between their mistaken Pre-Seventieth Week Rapture and the start of the Seventieth Week.

Do not trust what any "prophecy expert" says. Trust the Word of YAHWEH and study It as often as possible. Let the HOLY SPIRIT teach you (1 John 2.27).

INTRODUCTION

The idea that the Rapture could take place at *any moment* since the birth of the Church on the day of Pentecost is a twentieth century concept. It was unknown in the first century A.D. and throughout the last 1,800 years since the close of the Apostolic Age (circa 100 A.D.).

You will see in Chapter One that there are some well-known prophecy teachers who do not believe the Rapture has always been imminent since Pentecost. Most of them believed it became imminent after the re-establishment of the nation of Israel in 1948.

In Chapter Two we show that the Bible does not teach the doctrine of imminence contrary to what the proponents of that doctrine claim. Instead the Bible clearly teaches that specific prophecies (warning signs) must be fulfilled before the Rapture can take place. Those prophecies are detailed in Chapter Five.

The Scriptures also teach that there is no gap between the Rapture and the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week because the Rapture takes place after it starts.

Take a close look at Chapter Four "Seven Church Periods." If you believe the seven churches are symbolic of seven periods of Church history it means the Rapture could not be an imminent event until the start of the Age of Philadelphia.

The key to understanding Bible prophecy is not to trust one or more prophecy teachers that you like or you think know what they are talking about. The key is to study the Bible for yourself to see if certain concepts such as imminence are biblical. This book is designed to help you study eschatology so you can decide for yourself whether or not the Rapture is an imminent event or if specific prophecies (warning signs) must be fulfilled beforehand.

In Chapter Five the 16 major prophecies (warning signs) are listed that have yet to be fulfilled. Study these *warning signs* and then watch as they are fulfilled. Also share them with family, friends and strangers

so other believers and your unsaved friends can know how close we are getting to the start of the Seventieth Week of Daniel.

As these *warning signs* are fulfilled it will give you a perfect opening to share the Gospel with those you love and care about as well as with strangers. Learn how to share the Gospel and then give those in your sphere of influence the Good News.

The men who teach that there are no *warning signs* of the Rapture have forgotten what YAHSHUA said to the Pharisees:

A wicked and adulterous generation seeks a sign; and a sign shall not be given to it, except the sign of Jonah the prophet. And leaving them He went away. (Matthew 16.4)

Unbelievers were given just one sign by YAHSHUA – His resurrection. Yet when His disciples asked Him for a sign He gave them a long dissertation which we call the Olivet Discourse. He prophesied that the Temple would be destroyed. His disciples asked Him when that would take place and they also asked Him “*when shall those things be, and what is the sign of your coming, and of the completion of the age?*” (Matthew 24.3).

We see that the unbelieving are given one sign, but the believing are given many signs. If you believe YAHSHUA is the Messiah He has given you many signs of His return. Study this book and the Bible to see what those *warning signs* are.

Be careful not to become consumed with Bible prophecy to the point where that is all you talk about and the only parts of the Bible that you study. All believers are commanded to study the entire Bible from Genesis 1.1 to Revelation 22.21 (2 Timothy 2.15). Set up a daily Bible reading program, a Bible study program along with a Bible memorization and meditation program. Then read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture as often as possible. Do not forget to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5.17). See Appendix D to set up your spiritual fitness program.

ONE

THE DOCTRINE OF IMMINENCE

Ever since the disciples asked YAHSHUA that all-important question, “*When will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the world?*” (Matthew 24.3), Bible students have tried to determine when YAHSHUA will return. Some have predicted His return would take place on specific dates while others have taught He can return at *any moment*. The Bible exhorts all Christians to “*look*,” “*watch*” and “*wait*” for His return.

Definition of Imminence

Thomas Ice gives a definition of this doctrine on his website:

What is the biblical definition of imminency? Four important elements contribute to a pretribulational understanding of imminency. First, imminency means that the **rapture** could take place at **any moment**. While other events may take place before the rapture, no event must precede it. If prior events are required before the rapture, then the rapture could not be described as imminent. Thus, **if any event were required to occur before the rapture, then the concept of imminency would be destroyed.**

Second, since the rapture is imminent and could happen at any moment, then it follows that one must be prepared for it to occur at any time, without sign or warning.

Third, imminency eliminates any attempt at date setting. Date setting is impossible since the rapture is signless (i.e., providing no basis for date setting) and if imminency is really true, the moment a date was fixed then Christ could not come at any moment, destroying imminency.

Fourth, Renold Showers says, “A person cannot legitimately say that an imminent event will happen soon. The term ‘soon’ implies that an event must take place ‘within a short time (after a particular point of time specified or implied).’ By contrast, an imminent event may take place within a short time, but it does not have to do so in order to be imminent. As I hope you can see by now, ‘imminent’ is not equal to ‘soon.’” A. T. Pierson has noted that, “Imminence is the combination of two conditions, viz.,: certainty and uncertainty. By an imminent event we mean one which is certain to occur at some time, uncertain at what time.” (“Imminency And The Any-Moment Rapture”)¹

The statement by Ice that teacher’s of *imminence* cannot say that YAHSHUA is coming “soon” or “very soon” is correct. Unfortunately, some men who teach the doctrine of *imminence* frequently say the Rapture will take place “soon.”

Imminence is not stated in the Bible

John Walvoord, who was an ardent Pre-Daniel’s Seventieth Weeker, admitted that *imminence* is a doctrine that is not stated in the Bible:

Pretribulationism is **an induction** rather than an explicit statement of the Bible. (*The Rapture Question*: Revised, 11th printing, 1973, p. 181, emphasis mine)

While pretribulationists have strained to find some specific reference in support of their views **most adherents concede** that there is no explicit reference... (Ibid, p. 182, emphasis mine)

The early church believed in the imminency of the Lord's return, which is an essential doctrine of pretribulationism. (Ibid. p. 192)

If the doctrine of the Pre- Daniel's Seventieth Week.Rapture "is an induction rather than an explicit statement of the Bible," then the doctrine of *imminence* is also "an induction rather than an explicit statement." We disagree with Walvoord that *imminence* "is an essential doctrine of pretribulationism."

Arguments against Imminence

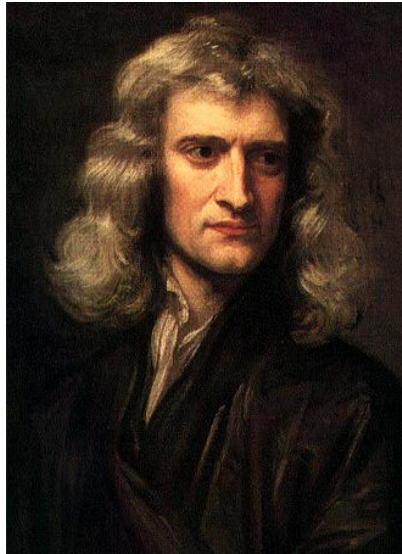


Increase Mather (1639-1723)

Increase Mather, a Puritan minister, was involved with the government of the colony, the administration of Harvard College, and the Salem witch trials. His father, Richard Mather, and his son, Cotton Mather, were both influential Puritan ministers. He believed in a Post-Tribulation Rapture which means he understood there would be plenty of signs and that it could not take place at any moment:

I will add this more, namely, what may be conceived to be the cause of this Rapture of the Saints on high to meet the Lord in the Clouds, rather than to wait his coming to the Earth. What if it be, that they may be preserved during the Conflagration of the earth and the works thereof, 2 Pet. 3.10. that as Noah and his family were preserved from the Deluge by being lifted up above the waters in the Ark; so should the Saints as the Conflagration be lift up in the Clouds unto their Ark, Christ, to be preserved there from the deluge of fire, wherein the wicked shall be consumed?

He thought believers would be gathered up as YAHSHUA returned and remain in the clouds until YAHSHUA finished destroying the wicked in a great conflagration as described in 2 Peter 3.10.



Sir Isaac Newton
(1642-1727)

Sir Isaac Newton was an English physicist, mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, alchemist and theologian. He was one of the most influential men in history, and is considered by some to have been the greatest scientist ever. His position on the timing of the Rapture is unknown, but he believed the Jewish people must return to their ancient homeland before the Rapture. More than 300

years before the nation of Israel was re-established he made this insightful statement:

Since the commandment to return precedes the Messiah... it may perhaps come forth not from the Jews themselves, but from some other kingdom friendly to them, and precede their return from captivity and give occasion to it; and, lastly, that the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the waste places is predicted in Micah. vii. 11, Amos ix. 11, 14, Ezek. xxxvi. 33, 35, 36, 38, Isa. liv. 3, 11, 12, lv. 12, lxi. 4, lxv. 18, 21.22...and thus the return from captivity and coming of the Messiah and his kingdom are described in Daniel vii, Rev. xix., Acts i., Mal. iv., Joel iii., Ezek. xxxvi., xxxvii., Isa. lx., lxii., lxiii., lxv., and lxvi., and many other places of Scripture. (Moore, Philip N., *The End of History Messiah Conspiracy*, p. 493; citing Franz Kobler, *Newton on the Restoration of the Jews*, 1943, pp. 22-23, citing *Yahudah Manuscript 9.2*)

Newton did not believe the Rapture was imminent as all believers before him and after him understood until John Nelson Darby developed the concept of imminency.



John Gill
(1697-1771)

John Gill, an English Baptist pastor, biblical scholar, and theologian, knew Greek by age eleven. He continued self-study in

everything from logic to Hebrew. He believed the righteous would be raptured at the Second Advent of YAHSHUA:

Not one wicked man will escape the conflagration, all will be burnt in it, yet the wicked only; for the righteous dead, will be caught up together into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and will be carried up far enough to be out of the reach of the devouring flames; and these are they who are meant by such as fear the Lord, to whom the sun or righteousness shall arise. (Gill, John, *A Complete Body of Doctrinal and Practical Divinity: or A System of Evangelical Truths, Deduced from the Sacred Scriptures*, 2 vols. (London: Thomas Tegg, 1839), II, p. 252.

The place whither he shall come, is the earth: for, as Job says, he shall stand on the earth in the latter day; though he shall not descend upon it at once; when he appears from the third Heaven, he shall descend into the air, and there stay some time, until the dead saints are raised, and the living ones changed; and both are brought unto him there; and till the new earth is made and prepared for him and them; when he and they will come down from heaven to earth, and they shall reign with him on it a thousand years; and he shall reign before his ancients gloriously. (Ibid., p. 237)

The living saints then on earth, who will be changed, shall be caught up, together into the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and shall be carried up high enough, and be with him out of reach of this fire; so that it may be said of them, as of Daniel's three companions in the furnace, that not a hair of their heads shall be singed, nor the smell of fire pass upon their garments. (Ibid., p. 255)

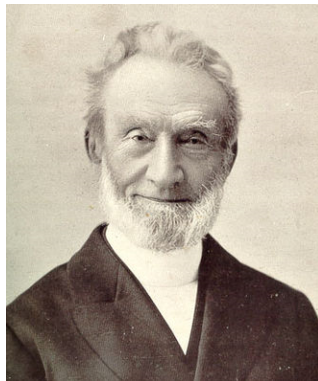
Gill also believed like Mather that the righteous would be caught up at the Second Advent of YAHSHUA to be preserved from the destruction of the wicked and the Earth. No one before John Nelson Darby believed in a Pre-Seventieth Week Rapture. As we will see not even Morgan Edwards believed in it. He was a Mid-Tribulationist as some of the early Church fathers were, although the majority were Post-Tribulationists..

Morgan Edwards (1722-1795)

Morgan Edwards was the first Protestant preacher of the Modern Era to teach the Rapture would take place before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. He wrote only one essay concerning it, but it is clear from that writing that he believed there would be at least one *sign* before the return of Christ:

Another event previous to the millennium will be the appearing of the son of man in the clouds, coming to raise the dead saints and change the living, and to catch them up to himself, and then withdrawing with them, as observed before. This event will come to pass **when the antichrist be arrived at Jerusalem in his conquest of the world; and about three years and a half before his killing the witnesses**, and assumption of godhead. (*Two Academical Exercises on Subjects Bearing the Following Titles: Millennium, and Last-Novelties*, p. 21, emphasis added)

Edwards believed the Rapture would take place before the Tribulation starts. Yet because he thought the Tribulation would last only 42 months he is considered to be a Mid-Tribulationist.



George Muller (1805-1898)

George Muller was an evangelist and coordinator of orphanages in Bristol, England. He educated the children caring for more than 10,000 orphans in his lifetime. He was criticized for raising the poor

above their natural station in life. Though not known for his teaching on eschatology, he nevertheless made a powerful statement concerning it shortly before he went home to be with the Lord:

I know that on this subject there is great diversity of judgment, and I do not wish to force on other persons the light that I have myself. The subject, however, is not new to me; for having been a careful diligent student of the Bible for nearly fifty years, my mind has long been settled on this point and I have not the shadow of a doubt about it. The Scripture declares plainly that **the Lord Jesus will not come until the Apostasy shall have taken place, the Man of Sin, the son of perdition shall have been revealed as seen in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5.** Many other portions also of the Word of God distinctly teach that **certain events are to be fulfilled before the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.** It does not, however, alter the fact that the coming of Christ, and not death, is the great hope of the Church and, if in a right state of heart, we (as the Thessalonian believers did) shall ‘serve the living and true God, and wait for his Son from heaven’. (Jones, Martyn-Lloyd, *Great Doctrines of the Bible*, Vol. 3, p. 140, emphasis added)

Muller believed 2 Thessalonians 2.1-5 teaches “the Apostasy” must take place prior to the Rapture. He also believed, as some early Church fathers did, that the Antichrist would rise to power before the Rapture



John Walvoord
(1910-2002)

John Walvoord, second president of Dallas Theological Seminary (1952-1986) and noted eschatologist, did not believe in the doctrine

of imminence until Israel became a nation in 1948. In his book, *The Church in Prophecy*, he recognized there is a problem with the doctrine of *imminence*. He said the most important *sign* of the 20th century – the establishment of the nation of Israel – had to be fulfilled because “Israel had to be in their ancient land and had to be organized into a political unit” to be able to make the covenant with the Antichrist (Daniel 9.27). He said this fulfillment of prophecy is “striking evidence that the rapture itself may be very near” (pp.173-174).

It is obvious that Israel had to be in existence before the Antichrist could make a covenant with her. This is the *super-sign* that all Pre-Daniel’s Seventieth Weekers have talked and written about since May 14, 1948.

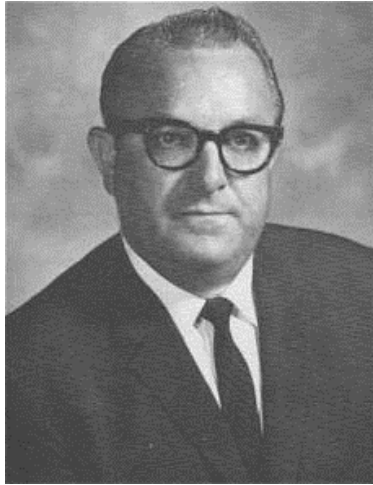
Harold Lindsell (1913-1998)

Harold Lindsell rejected the doctrine of *imminence*. In his book, *The Gathering Storm*, he explains why *warning signs* of the Tribulation are also *warning signs* of the Rapture, and why this fact destroys *imminence*:

Every premillennial scholar agrees that specific signs, giving detailed information about events which will transpire during the tribulation period, are found in Scripture. The overwhelming verdict of those who hold to a pretribulation rapture is that this so-called *signless event* is followed immediately by the seven-year tribulation period. Thus, immediately following the rapture of the Church, Israel and the Antichrist will enter into a covenant. *Three-and-a-half years before the second coming of Christ*, says Walvoord, *the dictator in the Mediterranean will desecrate a future Jewish temple and stop sacrificial worship of God being carried on in this temple* (Armageddon, p. 95). The obvious is all too apparent. There could be no rapture until the Jews come back to Palestine and Jerusalem is in their hands so they can rebuild the temple. This rebuilding of the temple could not take place unless Israel was in the land and in control of old Jerusalem unless the rapture occurs at an indefinite period of time before the Day of the Lord commences. The Jews must be

in the land before the tribulation begins. The Jews are in the land, although the rapture has not yet taken place. Thus, it becomes plain that the signs having to do with the tribulation are pertinent to the rapture and that these signs make an any-moment rapture from the days of the apostles an invalid thesis. (p. 137)

Lindsell totally refuted the doctrine of imminence in this short statement. If you are not convinced continue reading.



Oliver Greene
(1915-1976)

Oliver Greene did not fully believe in *imminence*. He said before the Rapture takes place the divinity of YAHSHUA Messiah will be stripped away, and the people of the world would be conditioned to worship an image:

All of this will lead to mass idolatry; and **when the world is educated** to the point where the masses will fall down and worship an image, the **Rapture will occur** and the Church will be caught up. Immediately after the Rapture the Antichrist will make his appearance and offer peace and prosperity to the world – the Utopia the Post-Millennialists have talked about but have never brought about. (*The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians*, p. 251, emphasis added)

We know, as Greene noted, the unsaved must be conditioned to worship an image. We have seen maniacal dictators seek worship in the recent past such as Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, Mao and Obama. When the Antichrist rises to power the lost will be fully conditioned to worship a man and his image.



Dave Hunt (1926-2013)

Dave Hunt was a leading Pre-Daniel's Seventieth Weeker and an ardent defender of the doctrine of *imminence*. Yet he believed there will be a definite *sign* just prior to the Rapture. In Chapter 19 of his book, *How Close Are We?*, he had this to say about the timing of the Rapture:

The **Rapture comes in the midst of peace** (I Thessalonians 5:3); the Second Coming in the midst of war (Revelation 19:11-21). (p. 204, emphasis added)

Hunt clearly understood that the Rapture will take place during a time of universal peace, just as Paul said:

When they are saying, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall in no wise escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. (1 Thessalonians 5.3-4)

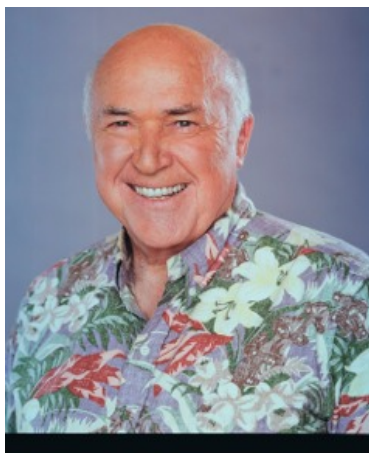
Paul said believers of the Church Age will see this period of false “*peace and safety*,” and they should not be caught by surprise when it is broken by “*sudden destruction*” the breaking of the Second Seal.

Hunt and others say the doctrine of *imminence* keeps believers from backsliding:

And what an encouragement to carnality and worldly living it would have been to know that the Lord couldn’t come at any moment and catch one by surprise doing, perhaps, those things that no Christian should. Much would have been lost by giving the date of the Rapture – and nothing would have been gained. (*How Close Are We?*, p. 316)

Only if His imminent return is our constant hope will we live as true followers of Christ... (Ibid., p. 320)

Millions of true believers have lived holy lives without believing in *imminence*. Belief in that doctrine does not motivate one to live a holy life.



Chuck Smith
(1927-2013)

Chuck Smith does not believe the full doctrine of *imminence*. He says YAHSHUA can return only during the “age when the church was to be taken out”:

As we approach the day in which the Lord takes His church out of this world, it would only be fitting that He make us more aware of the promise to the church of being caught up before the great tribulation. Why would the Lord reveal it to Martin Luther, John Calvin, or any Reformation church leaders? **They weren't living in the age when the church was to be taken out.** (*The Final Act*, p. 192, emphasis added)

Smith is right there was no need for the Reformers to be given insight into eschatology. They were not living in the time of His return. He is not certain which event is *imminent* – the Rapture or the Russian invasion of Israel:

As I understand Bible prophecy, one of the next major events to take place in the Biblical order of events will be either Russia's attacking Israel or the Rapture of the Church. **Which is going to come first we don't know.** (*The Soon to be Revealed Antichrist*, p. 4, emphasis added)

In the very next paragraph he said:

In reality, the rapture of the Church can take place at any time. (Ibid.)

Smith is not certain which event is *imminent*, yet he contends that the Rapture is *imminent*. If the Russian invasion of Israel takes place first, then the Rapture is not an *imminent* event.

In an answer to a question on Pastor's Perspective radio program, Smith said that certain things had to take place prior to the Rapture such as Israel being back in the land, and weapons of mass destruction being developed.³

He defends *imminence* by arguing Christians must believe it to serve YAHWEH. In a response to the doctrine of Preterism he said:

I think that when you deny and take away the expectancy of the imminent return of Jesus Christ that you are opening the door to a lot of, you might say, slothful Christian living. It's no longer an urgency in our getting the gospel out to the world. It's no longer something that, you know, we need to do. We see things in a totally different light, and so I think **it has brought spiritual death wherever the doctrine has gone.** ("Pastor's Perspective," 1.09.2006, emphasis added)

Belief in the doctrine of *imminence* is not necessary to keep Christians from “slothful living.” It is also not needed to make Christians understand the urgency of sharing the gospel with the lost, and it also does not bring “spiritual death.” None of the reformers believed in the 20th century doctrine of *imminence*. Some thought the Rapture would take place in their lifetime because they thought all of the *signs* of YAHSHUA’S return had been fulfilled. They turned the world upside down just as the apostles did (Acts 17.6).

Christians who are not motivated to live a holy life with a zeal to share the gospel with the lost because of the incredible gift of eternal life, and the indwelling of the HOLY SPIRIT will not be motivated by believing in *imminence*. Pastors who beat believers over the head with the doctrine of *imminence* to get them to live for the Lord have failed in their duties. They need to step down from the pulpit.



Timothy LaHaye

Timothy LaHaye does not fully believe in the doctrine of *imminence* either. The following is a most insightful statement though:

I personally believe Christ's return will occur after Russia is destroyed, as I explain more fully in the next chapter. I am convinced that the destruction of Russia will appear as a supernatural event that will cause all the world to know that God has acted. During the aftermath of this catastrophe, millions of people will seek the Lord. In fact, the greatest soul harvest in the history of mankind may result from that moment of divine retribution. If so, there will be a need for harvesters; since this event takes place before Israel's conversion and the sealing of the 144,000 during the first half of the Tribulation, who will be better equipped to do the harvesting than the church of Jesus Christ and her worldwide host of missionaries?

I risk the criticism of colleagues when I suggest that Christ may rapture His church *after* the destruction of Russia – particularly (sic) because there is no conclusive biblical teaching for this view. I may be influenced by my yearning to see the mighty soul harvest, as related in the next chapter. But I caution the reader not to be dogmatic. We know Russia will be destroyed, but we cannot determine exactly when in the scenario it will happen. (*The Coming Peace in the Middle East*, p. 150, emphasis added, T.L. and mine bold)

LaHaye added to the above statement by saying:

Yes, **I am inclined to believe** that as members of the body of Jesus Christ **we will see the destruction of Russia** and have an opportunity to share in an unprecedented soul harvest. This is one reason why I challenge Christians everywhere to develop the practice of sharing their faith effectively and to appropriate the maximum means of communication in this day. (Ibid., p. 152, emphasis added)

And what about the Rapture? **I think it will occur after the destruction of Russia**, so Christians will be on the scene to be the soul-winning harvesters when as much as 20-25 percent of the world's population receives Christ. He *could* come to take away His church *before* the invasion. The Rapture could take place at anytime. Even today. (Ibid., p. 188, emphasis T.L. and mine)

The statement by LaHaye that the Rapture will take place after Russia is defeated is significant. Yet even though he personally

believes the Gog/Magog War will take place before the Rapture he still teaches that the Rapture can take place at any moment. He appears to be “*a doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways*” (James 1.8). This war is an extremely important *warning sign* that we should look for to know the Rapture is near.



Jack Van Impe

Jack Van Impe teaches the doctrine of *imminence*. He believes it is not a new doctrine claiming that the early Church fathers “believed it” as well as some of the reformers. Yet he understands some prophecies could not be fulfilled until the 20th century. This is what he wrote in 1983 about Russia invading Israel, as Ezekiel prophesied in chapters 38 and 39:

Let me repeat that Russia could not march until Israel became a nation, and there was no Israel until 1948. Thus, this event could not have taken place in past history. Because Israel now exists as a nation, and because Russia moves against Israel when she is a nation, I want you to follow a thrilling outline with me. (*11:59 and Counting*, p. 100)

Van Impe showed the Rapture was not *imminent* until at least 1948. Since he believes there is no *gap* between the Rapture and the Daniel’s Seventieth Week as noted in Chapter 13 of this book, it means he cannot reasonably believe the doctrine of *imminence*. There

are 16 more prophecies that must be fulfilled before the Tribulation (Sixth Seal) starts (Appendix A). It is impossible for them to be fulfilled on the day Daniel's Seventieth Week starts. Eleven must be fulfilled before that day and five more from the start of the Seventieth Week until the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

In his video entitled, "AD 2000, the End?" he said he believes in the 6 day 6,000 year hypothesis. Any prophecy teacher who believes that hypothesis cannot reasonably believe in the doctrine of imminence until the 6,000 years are up. Van Impe believed it would be up in the year 2000 AD. Since that year has come and gone he can now say he believes the Rapture is an *imminent* event.



Joel Rosenberg

Joel Rosenberg, a New York Times best-selling author and founder of the Joshua Fund, is a strong Pre-Seventieth Weeker who believes in *imminence*, but thinks it is possible the Russian invasion of Israel could take place before the Rapture. He answered the question, "Will the War of Gog and Magog happen before or after the Rapture?" by saying:

The truth is we simply **do not know the answer for certain**, because Ezekiel does not say. Many of the theologians I have cited in this book believe the war will occur after the Rapture.

In the novel *Left Behind*, Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins describe the War of Gog and Magog as having already happened before the Rapture takes place. In *The Ezekiel Option*, I also chose to portray the war occurring before the Rapture. (Emphasis added)

He went on to argue:

It would certainly be consistent with God's heart for humanity that he would cause this cataclysmic moment to occur before the Rapture in order to shake people out of their spiritual apathy and/or rebellion and give them at least one more chance to receive Christ as their Savior before the terrible events of the Tribulation occur.

But let me be clear: I believe that the Rapture could occur at any moment, and I would certainly not be surprised in any way if it occurred before the events of Ezekiel 38 and 39 come to pass.

Christian theologians speak of the "doctrine of imminence." This means that according to the Bible there is no prophetic event that has to happen before Jesus snatches his church from the earth. That is, the Bible teaches us that we should be ready for Jesus to come for us at any moment. I fully believe that. But it should be noted with regard to this doctrine that while no major prophetic event has to happen before the Rapture, that doesn't mean no such event will happen first. Perhaps the clearest evidence of this truth is the rebirth of Israel. This major prophetic event was foretold in Ezekiel 36–37, yet **its fulfillment happened before the Rapture**. Thus, it is **certainly possible that other events—such as the events of Ezekiel 38–39—could happen before the Rapture as well.**⁴ (Emphasis added)

Arguments for Imminence

Virtually every Pre-Daniel's Seventieth Week pastor and prophecy teacher in America believes the Rapture can take place at any moment and vehemently teaches this non-biblical doctrine of imminence. We offer a few of their arguments from some of those who men.

Herbert Lockyer (1886-1985)

Herbert Lockyer was a prominent pastor in England and Scotland, who spent 20 years of ministry in America (1935-1955). He taught the doctrine of *imminence* and firmly believed that YAHSHUA could return at *any moment*. When he returned to England he devoted himself to writing books on the Bible. This is what he wrote in a booklet that was published in 1979:

In all our study of Prophecy we must not forget that YAHSHUA may be here at any moment. It is within the range of possibility that the saints may be called away before another sunrise. The troubled condition of the world indicates that the Lord is at hand. We are living in the closing period of the wonderful Church Age and signs abound that her translation is near. While no man has any knowledge of the exact day of Messiah's return, all the saints believing such an evident New Testament truth, realize that the blissful event cannot be far away. (*Rapture of the Saints*, p. 62)

Lockyer believed that Jesus could return at *any moment* yet he looked for *signs* of the Rapture. Either the Rapture is *imminent* or there are specific prophecies (*signs*) that must be fulfilled first. Lockyer firmly believed he was living in the "end times" and that Jesus would return in his lifetime. Some of the early Church fathers (Chapter 6) and Reformers (Chapter 7) believed the same thing. They saw general *signs* that made them think the end was near. They should have been looking for 28 specific *warning signs* that must be fulfilled before the Rapture. See which of these 28 *signs* have been fulfilled, which ones are being fulfilled and the 17 *signs* that have yet to be fulfilled.

E. Schuyler English (1899-1981)

E. Schuyler English, Editor of the *New Scofield Reference Bible*, argued that the Rapture must take place before the Tribulation. He based this idea on his unusual interpretation of a passage in Second Thessalonians:

Now we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto him; to the end that you be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by epistle as from us, as that the day of the Lord is just at hand; let no man beguile you in any wise: for it will not be, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. (2 Thessalonians 2.1-3)

English explained in his book, *Re-thinking the Rapture*, that the phrase “day of the Christ” in the King James version (2 Thessalonians 2.2) should be translated “day of the Lord.” He is convinced that they refer to different events. The “*day of Christ*” is the Rapture and the “*day of the Lord*” is the Second Coming. In verse three the two things mentioned (the “falling away” and the “revealing of the man of lawlessness”) occur before the Second Coming rather than before the Rapture.

He then proceeded to explain what the “*falling away*” really is:

The Greek words, translated “a falling away,” are *hee apostasia*. It is directly from the noun that we obtain our English word “*apostasy*.” *Apostasia* generally carries the meaning of *defection, revolt, or rebellion against God*. These are the primary meanings of the word, as found in most lexicons. There is a secondary connotation in *Liddell & Scott’s Greek-English Lexicon*, namely: *disappearance, or departure*. (Ibid., pp. 67-68)

Notice that the primary meaning is “rebellion against God.” English used a secondary meaning to support his hypothesis that the “apostasy” is the Rapture. He went on to argue why the root verb of *apostasia*, which is *aphisteemi*, means to depart (p. 69). He believed that the apostasy was not a falling away from the faith but a departure from the planet (the Rapture).

English and others claim that the phrase “our gathering together to Him” is the “day of Christ” (the Rapture) and “the day of the Lord” is the Second Coming. Let’s see how the passage would read if we substitute Rapture and Second Coming as English believed we should:

*Now we beseech you, brethren, concerning the **Rapture**; to the end that you be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by epistle as from us, as that the **Second Coming** is just at hand; let no man beguile you in any wise: for the **Second Coming** will not be, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.*

According to English, Paul was assuring his disciples that they had not missed the Rapture because the Second Coming was not “*at hand*.” The two *signs* that the Second Coming was not “*at hand*” are the Rapture and the revealing of the man of sin.

It doesn’t make sense for Paul to tell his readers that the way to know they had not missed the Rapture is that the Rapture has to take place first and to give them a *sign* that takes place after the Rapture – the revealing of the man of sin. It makes more sense to give them *signs* that take place before the Rapture – the falling away from the faith and the revealing of the Antichrist. If those *signs* had not come to pass they would know they had not missed the Rapture. They could think they had missed the Rapture if the *signs* came after the Rapture yet before the Second Coming. They would not know whether or not they had missed the Rapture until those post-Rapture *signs* had taken place. Then they would know they missed it.

This passage had great importance for them and it has great importance for believers throughout the Church Age. Christians have known since this letter was written that the Rapture cannot be “*at hand*” until after the “*falling away*” comes to full completion and the “*man of sin*” has been revealed. These two *super signs* are what believers have looked for throughout the Church Age. This is what the early Church fathers looked for. That is why they wrote that the Rapture would not take place until the apostasy had taken place and the Antichrist had risen to power.

The structure of the passage also supports the understanding that Paul was speaking solely of the Rapture and not the Rapture and the Second Coming. The Rapture is the subject of the passage. Paul opened the passage by focusing on the Rapture (*concerning our gathering together to Him*). The subject is the Rapture and Paul explained to his readers they should not be upset that they had missed the Rapture. He then explained why. Two things have to take place prior to the Rapture – the “*falling away*” (apostasy) and the revealing of the “*man of sin*.” It would make no sense for Paul to open by

talking about the Rapture and then switch the subject to the Second Coming as English claims. That claim by English and others is made to defend the doctrine of *imminence*.

It is clear the “*coming of our Lord YAHSHUA Messiah and our gathering together unto him*” is the same as the “*day of YAHWEH*.”

Since the Rapture takes place after the start of Daniel’s Seventieth Week there can be no *gap* between the Rapture and that week. Since there is no *gap* it means the argument that the “*day of Messiah*” is different than the “*day of YAHWEH*” is a mute point. They are different names for the same day.

You can see this more clearly by substituting the word Rapture into the passage:

*Now we beseech you, brethren, concerning the **Rapture**; to the end that you be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by epistle as from us, as that the **Rapture** is just at hand; let no man beguile you in any wise: for the **Rapture** will not be, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.*

It is obvious that the apostasy will take place before the Rapture. It is also clear that the Antichrist (*man of sin*) will be revealed before the Rapture. The two *super-signs* that believers must “watch” for to know when the Rapture is near are the “*falling away*” of the Church from the faith and the revealing of the “*man of sin*” (Antichrist). Once we see both *super-signs* then we will know that the Rapture is very near.

John F. Walvoord (1910-2002)

Even though John Walvoord admitted that there is no passage in the Bible that explicitly says the Rapture is an *imminent* event, he used the promise that YAHSHUA gave to His disciples at the Last Supper as a proof of that doctrine:

The hope of the return of Christ to take the saints to heaven is presented in John 14 as an imminent hope. There is no teaching of any intervening event. The prospect of being taken to heaven at the coming of Christ is not qualified by description of any signs or prerequisite events. Here, as in other passages dealing

with the coming of Christ for the church, the hope is presented as an imminent event. On this basis, the disciples are exhorted not to be troubled. (*The Rapture Question*, pp. 78-79)

The promise of the return of YAHSHUA could not have been stated as an *imminent* event. We know this because He made the predictions that the Temple would be destroyed (Matthew 24.2), that Peter would be martyred in his old age (John 21.18) along with other disciples (John 16.2), that He would build His Church (Matthew. 16.18), and that He would be gone a long time (Matthew 25.14-29; Luke 19.12-27). He also told the disciples straight out that they would not see Him return (Luke 17.22). He did not have to include these things in His promise to return for His disciples (John 14.1-3). He made that clear a bit later in the same sermon (John 16.2). He also made it clear before that on the Mount of Olives (Matthew 24.2) and then after His resurrection (John 21.18).

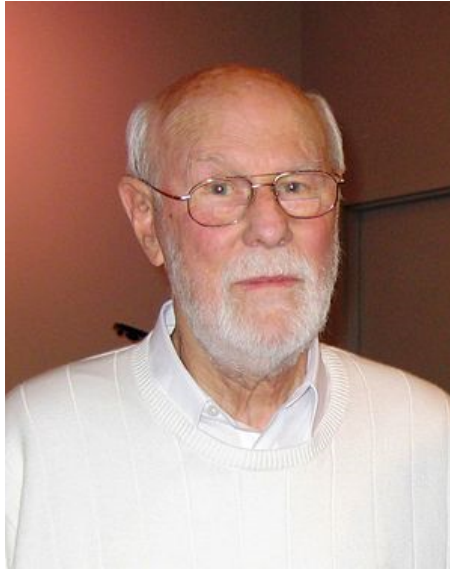
All major doctrines have at least two or more passages that give the details of that doctrine. No one can claim that because certain things concerning a doctrine are given elsewhere in the Bible that those things should not be used to determine a specific doctrine.

In another book, *Church in Prophecy*, John Walvoord recognized that there was a problem with the doctrine of *imminence*. He had this to say about the most important *sign* of the Twentieth Century – the re-gathering of Israel to their ancient homeland:

According to the interpretation followed by many premillennarians, Israel's consummation will involve a covenant for seven years with a Gentile ruler in the Mediterranean area. This covenant anticipated in Daniel 9:26-27, is between *the prince that shall come* and the *many*, referring to the people of Israel. It is transparent that in order for such a covenant to be fulfilled, the **children of Israel had to be in their ancient land and had to be organized into a political unit suitable for such a covenant relationship**. Prior to the twentieth century, such a situation did not exist and tended to support unbelief on the part of some that Israel would never go back to their ancient land and could never have such a covenant. The fact of Israel's return and establishment as a nation has given a sound basis for believing that this covenant will be literally fulfilled as anticipated in Daniel 9:27. If the rapture occurs before the signing of this covenant, as many premillennial scholars

believe, it follows that the establishment of Israel in the land as a preparation for this covenant is a striking evidence that the rapture itself may be very near. Of the **many signs** indicating the end of the age, few are more dramatic and have a larger Scriptural foundation than the revival of Israel as a token of the end of the age. (pp. 173-174)

It is obvious that there had to be a nation of Israel in existence before the Antichrist could make a covenant with them. This is the *super-sign* that all Pre-Daniel's Seventieth Weekers have talked and written about since May 14, 1948.



Dave Hunt (1926-2013)

Dave Hunt, as we saw previously did not believe in the doctrine of imminence, yet we see now that he did. Here is his argument for imminence:

Would it have been possible for a previous generation to go from knights in armor, for example, to nuclear arms in such a short period of time? That particular leap in technology may not have been necessary. There may be other weapons more ingenious and far more horrible which **could have** been

developed and used more simply and quickly. No one can dogmatically rule out such a possibility. Human genius is unpredictable. (Ibid., pp. 260, emphasis added)

Once again, while admitting that such a feat would not seem likely under ordinary circumstances, one cannot say it would have been impossible. There may well have been some other more ingenious method of accomplishing more simply the same end which **could have** been developed quickly had the Rapture occurred at any previous time in history.

It is certainly possible that some former generation, with incredible genius, **could have** developed within seven years or less the weapons and technologies necessary to fulfill all prophecies concerning Daniel's seventieth week. That simple possibility preserves imminency. The Rapture **could have** come at any time and these developments followed immediately and swiftly, perhaps with techniques even more ingenious than our generation has used. (Ibid., p. 261, emphasis added)

A major factor, of course, is the necessity for Israel to be back in her land, where last days prophecies place her, immediately after the Rapture. This is required by the fact that Antichrist makes a covenant involving Israel at the very beginning of Daniel's seventieth week. Would that not mean, then, that the Rapture could not occur until Israel had once again become a nation? If so, we have lost imminency. (Ibid., p. 263)

Hunt's unlikely hypothesis that past generations could have developed weapons of mass destruction and technology to create and run a world economic system is mute. It could not have been accomplished by "human genius" – only by divine intervention. Since it did not happen, it means it could not have happened. Why does anyone argue about what could have happened?

J. Dwight Pentecost

Dwight Pentecost, who turns 99 in April of this year (2014), is one of the leading dispensational Pre-Millennial Pre-Daniel's Seventieth Weekers of the 20th Century. He made his argument for the doctrine

of *imminence* in his most popular book, *Things to Come*. Here is his argument:

The doctrine of imminence. Many signs were given to the nation Israel, which would precede the second advent, so that the nation might be living in expectancy when the time of His coming should draw nigh. Although Israel could not know the day nor the hour when the Lord will come, yet they can know that their redemption draweth nigh through the fulfillment of these signs. To the church no such signs were ever given. The church was told to live in the light of the imminent coming of the Lord to translate them in His presence (John 14:2-3; Acts 1:11; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 1:10; 1 Tim. 6:14; Jas. 5:8; 1 Pet. 3:3-4). Such passages as 1 Thessalonians 5:6; Titus 2:13; Revelation 3:3 all warn the believer to be watching for the Lord Himself, not for signs that would precede His coming. It is true that the events of the seventieth week will cast an adumbration before the rapture, but the object of the believer's attention is always directed to Christ, never to these portents. (p. 203)

YAHSHUA told the Apostles to “*watch*” for *signs* (Matthew 24.3-8; Luke 17.26-37) and Paul also told the church in Thessalonica to “*watch*” for *signs* (1 Thessalonians 5.1-8). The only way to “*watch*” for the return of YAHSHUA is to look for the *signs* that precede His return.

None of the passages that Pentecost listed, as proving that the return of YAHSHUA was *imminent*, actually say that. There is nothing in any of them about *imminence* or timing of any kind. Philippians 3.20 and 1 Thessalonians 1.10 exhort believers to “*wait*” for the Lord's return. Waiting does not imply the thing one “*waits*” for is *imminent*. The believers knew full-well that the Lord would return after a “*long time*” (Matthew 25.19) because He said that in two parables (Matthew 25.14-30; Luke 19.12-27). He also prophesied that the Temple would be destroyed (Matthew 24.2) and that Peter would be martyred in his old age (John 21.18). He quoted Isaiah 61 at the beginning of His ministry. The length of the Christian dispensation (*year of YAHWEH'S favor*) to the Tribulation (*day of vengeance*) is like a year to a day. It means the Church Age will be approximately 2,000 years long.



J. Dwight Pentecost

Pentecost also threw in 1 Thessalonians 5.6; Titus 2.13; and Revelation 3.3. The first says we are to be “*alert*,” the second to “*look*” and the last to “*wake up*” spiritually. These passages argue against the doctrine of *imminence*. If one is “*alert*” he will “*look*” for the *signs* to know the approximate time of the return of YAHSHUA. And if one is “*awake*” he will be “*watching*” for the Rapture and he will not be caught by surprise. The only way any of these statements make sense is if there are specific *signs* that we are to “*watch*” for to know the “*times and the seasons*” (1 Thessalonians 5.1) of the Rapture. Two of those *warning signs* are the “*apostasy*” and the revealing of the “*man of sin*” (2 Thessalonians 2.1-3).

YAHSHUA did not exhort us to “*watch*” for Him and not the signs that would precede His coming. It is impossible for any believer to “*watch*” for the return of the Lord if there are no *signs* to “*look*” for that precede His return! Just how do we “*watch*” if there is nothing to “*watch*” for? We should all live as though we may go to meet Him at *any moment* because any one of us could die at *any moment*. But YAHSHUA can only return after specific *warning signs* have been fulfilled.

The passage that Pentecost cited from Peter’s letter (1 Peter 3.3-4) was the wrong passage. He meant 2 Peter 3.3-4. We deal with that passage and with all of the passages that Pentecost listed in Chapter Thirteen.

Pentecost went on to argue that Darby did not start the doctrine of *imminence* but was the one who popularized it:

This doctrine of imminence, or “at any moment coming,” is not a new doctrine with Darby, as is sometimes charged, although he did clarify, systemize, and popularize it. Such a belief in imminency marked the premillennialism of the early church fathers as well as the writers of the New Testament. (*Things to Come*, p. 203)

Pentecost is wrong about who started the doctrine of *imminence*. None of the New Testament writers taught it and none of the early Church fathers taught it. They all taught that there are *signs* to “*watch*” for with the most notable being the appearance of the Antichrist.



Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum is the founder and director of Ariel Ministries, an organization which prioritizes evangelization of Jews in the effort to bring them to the view that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. He made it clear in his book, *The Footsteps of the Messiah* (1993), that he is certain the Rapture can take place at any moment:

The Scriptures teach that the coming of Christ for the believer is imminent, that is, He can come at any time or moment. (p. 105)

He cited a few passages to support his belief in imminence, but none of them teach that doctrine. We deal with the primary passages that the teachers of imminence cite in the next chapter.

Another argument he makes is the command by YAHSHUA to “look up” when the things spoken of in the Olivet Discourse begin to come to pass (Luke 21.28), referred to the destruction of the Temple (Luke 21.21-24). When the Temple was destroyed “that fulfilled every and any prophecy that had to be fulfilled before the Rapture.” That event “rendered the Rapture of the Church imminent.” (Fruchtenbaum, Arnold, *The Footsteps of the Messiah*, 2003, pp. 636-637).

This quasi-Preterist thinking ignores some very important facts. According to this hypothesis the Rapture could have taken place before the book of Revelation was written about 25 years after the destruction of the Temple. It also rejects the fact that Israel had to return to Palestine and become a functioning nation so it could fulfill the prophecy that says she will make a covenant with the Antichrist (Isaiah 28.15-18; Daniel 9.27). The only way to get around this prophecy that had to be fulfilled as we saw in 1948 is to argue there could be a *gap* between the Rapture and the start of Daniel’s Seventieth Week. That *gap* could have been over 1,900 years according to this hypothesis! We know this hypothesis is not valid because we are still here, the book of Revelation was written, and many other prophecies have been fulfilled (Appendix A). We also know it is not biblical because the Bible teaches there is no *gap* between the Rapture and the Tribulation which begins with the breaking of the Sixth Seal.

Fruchtenbaum also believes the 7 churches in the book of Revelation (Chapters 2-3), are symbolic of 7 periods in the Church Age. The promise of being kept from the “*hour of trial*,” which he interprets as a promise of the Pre-Daniel’s Seventieth Week Rapture, was made to the church of Philadelphia (Revelation 3.10). He believes the period of the Philadelphia church ran from 1648-1900 (Ibid., pp. 48-50).

His beliefs that the Rapture became an *imminent* event that can take place at *any moment*, and the Philadelphia church was promised to escape the “hour of trial” (Tribulation) are contradictory. If the

Rapture has been *imminent* since 70 AD the Philadelphia church could not be symbolic of the Church from 1648-1900. If the Philadelphia church is symbolic of the Church from 1648-1900 the Rapture could not have been *imminent* since 70 AD as he says. Therefore the Rapture could not have become *imminent* until after 1648.

Another mistake that Fruchtenbaum and others make who believe the seven churches are symbolic of seven periods of Church history is that the Philadelphia church period is over, and the Rapture has not taken place. Since, according to Fruchtenbaum, the Philadelphia church period ended around 1900 the promise of being raptured could not have been to that church. Instead the apostate Laodecian church will be spared the “*hour of trial*” (Tribulation) because it began in 1900.



Jack Van Impe

Jack Van Impe is confused as most prophecy teachers are in thinking the Rapture can happen at any moment, but also saying specific prophecies must be fulfilled first.

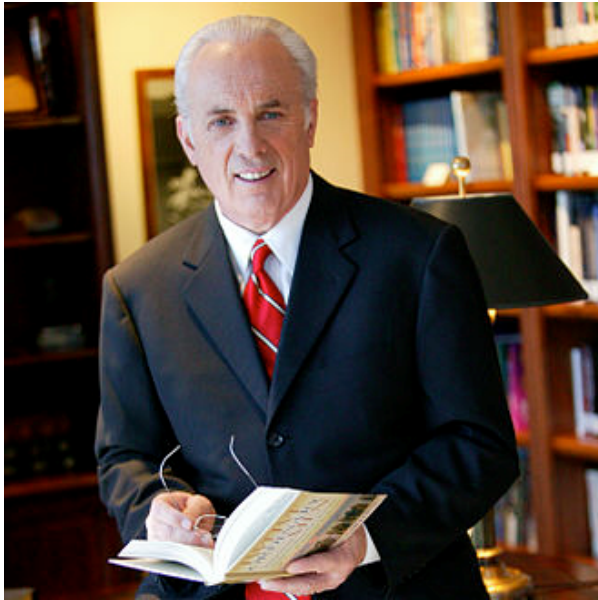
“The Church was told to live in the light of the imminent coming of the Lord to translate them into His presence... The return of Christ for His Church is a signless and always imminent event” (*Jack Van Impe Study Bible*, pp. 45, 81). He also said the Lord can return at “any moment during a 2010 TBN program hosted by Paul Crouch and Paul Crouch, Jr.



Ed Hindson

Edward “Ed” Hindson, an evangelist, professor, author and host of *The King Is Coming* television show, has written numerous books about Bible prophecy who believes in the imminent return of YAHSHUA. He has taught Old Testament studies and Eschatology at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia from 1974 to 1986 and from 2000 on. He holds six earned degrees in religious studies, including three doctorates.

On “The King Is Coming” show entitled “The Rise of Antichrist” which aired on March 17, 2013, he stated clearly that he is “not looking for the Antichrist,” but instead he “is looking for Jesus Christ.” He jokingly said he is not looking for the “undertaker” (Antichrist) but he is looking for the “uptaker” (YAHSHUA Messiah). He teaches the Rapture can take place at “any moment.”



John MacArthur, Jr.

John MacArthur, Jr. has served as pastor of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California since February 9, 1969 and also serves as the president of The Master's College in Newhall, California and The Master's Seminary in Sun Valley, California. He has authored numerous books and has been heard on the radio since 1977.

He is certain that “nothing in the New Testament ever suggests we should defer our expectation of Christ’s appearing until other preliminary events occur” (*The Second Coming*, p. 54). Yet he notes that there is an exception:

The one **apparent exception** is 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, which says, “that Day [the Day of the Lord] will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed.” (Ibid., emphasis added)

MacArthur realizes the passage teaches that prior to the Rapture two *signs* will be fulfilled – the “*falling away*” of the Church from the faith, and the revealing of the “*man of sin*.” He says that the day Paul was speaking of is the “Day of the Lord and its apocalyptic judgment, not the Rapture” (Ibid., p. 56). He concluded his argument on this point saying:

So the consistent teaching of the New Testament is that Christians should be looking for the **imminent coming** of Christ for His church, and 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 is no exception. (Ibid., emphasis added)

Even though MacArthur admits the Rapture cannot take place until the “*falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed*” he holds to the doctrine of imminence. Why does he reject the clear teaching of Scripture? We do not know.

World government

Scripture is clear that a world government will be formed prior to the start of Daniel’s Seventieth Week (Daniel 7.23). Once this government is in place it will be dissolved when the rulers of ten of the most powerful nations on Earth decide to rule the world directly without the burden of a world government body. After that an eleventh world ruler will rise up to share in rulership of the world with the first ten (Daniel 7.24). This man is the little horn – the Antichrist.

Since believers of the Church Age enter Daniel’s Seventieth Week and there is NO gap between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation (breaking of the Sixth Seal) it means we will see the formation of this world government. We will also see it break into ten parts and see the eleventh ruler rise to power. This means the doctrine of *imminence* is NOT biblical.

This means Christians should be diligently watching for specific Bible prophecies to be fulfilled including creation of a world government and the rise of the Antichrist. A list of the major prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled can be found in Appendix B.

Conclusion

The arguments for *imminence* are not based on Scripture. Most who teach it say there are *signs* of the approaching Seventieth Week of Daniel and the Glorious Appearing of YAHSHUA Messiah. Those *signs* are also *signs* of the Rapture. The Rapture is either an *imminent*

event with no *warning signs*, or it is not *imminent* and *warning signs* precede it.

Other eschatologists believe *imminence* is necessary to motivate believers to serve YAHSHUA. “I believe if you remove the imminent return of Jesus Christ you remove, perhaps, the greatest motivation for service to Christ that a believer has” (MacArthur, John Jr., *The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ*, p. 57)

The doctrine of *imminence* is not necessary to motivate true believers to live holy lives. They should because of their love for their Savior and the sacrifice He made for us on the cross. They should also do so because they are commanded to (Leviticus 11.44; 19.2; 20.7; Matthew 5.48; 1 Peter 1.14-16). Another reason for holiness is the sobering fact that one may die at *any moment*. No one has a guarantee they will live another day. Therefore believers should live holy lives each and every day. The knowledge that today may be one’s last day should be a greater incentive to live a holy life than the thought that YAHSHUA may return at *any moment*.

Some eschatologists also argue that the doctrine is extremely important to keep believers on their spiritual toes. Hunt and others say *imminence* keeps believers from backsliding and without it it could cause YAHWEH to question our motives:

If we knew the exact time in advance, it would **call our motivation into question and ruin an opportunity to prove that our devotion to Him is pure.** (MacArthur, John Jr., *The Second Coming*, p. 139, emphasis added)

And what an encouragement to carnality and worldly living it would have been to know that the Lord couldn’t come at any moment and **catch one by surprise doing, perhaps, those things that no Christian should.** Much would have been lost by giving the date of the Rapture – and nothing would have been gained. (Hunt, Dave, *How Close Are We?*, p. 316, emphasis, added)

Only if His imminent return is our constant hope will we live as **true followers of Christ...** (Ibid., p. 320, emphasis added)

Millions of believers have lived holy lives without believing in *imminence*. Belief in that doctrine does not edify one to live a holy

life. YAHSHUA does not have to return at *any moment* to “catch one by surprise doing those things that no Christian should” do. He knew everything everyone would do before He created the Cosmos.

Some pastors believe the HOLY SPIRIT deliberately wanted believers throughout the Church Age to think YAHSHUA could return at *any moment*. We must always keep in mind that the HOLY SPIRIT is omniscient, and He knew that YAHSHUA was not scheduled to return for over 1,900 years when He inspired Paul, James, Peter and John to write their letters. The Holy Spirit did not deceive the disciples into thinking YAHSHUA could return in their lifetime, and in no way did He seek to have millions of believers misled into believing YAHSHUA could return at *any moment* with no *warning signs* preceding His return!

To say the HOLY SPIRIT deliberately deceived the apostles, and that He has deceived believers for the last 1,900 years into believing YAHSHUA could return at *any moment* would be accusing Him of Jesuit casuistry (the end justifies the means).



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It is an excellent book to give to fellow believers in YAHSHUA Messiah to wake them out of the dreaded “Imminent Return of Jesus Syndrome” which has infected the Christian world. The antidote to that disease is the Bible. Once a believer studies the Bible he will clearly see that specific prophecies must take place before the Rapture.

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TWO

IS THE RAPTURE IMMINENT?

The doctrine of *imminence* is based on a few passages which do not teach it directly while there are some passages that teach the opposite.

Passages that seem to allude to Imminence

The defenders of the doctrine of *imminence* argue that key phrases prove the Rapture has been an *imminent* event since Pentecost. The phrase “at hand” (Romans 13.12; Philippians 4.5; James 5.8; 1 Peter 4.7; Revelation 1.3) is the phrase they rely upon.

The Greek adverb *eggus*, that is found in the above verses means “to bring near, to draw nigh, be at hand” (*Liddell & Scott, Greek Lexicon*, p. 189). Greek language expert Dr. Joseph Thayer says that when it is used in reference to time it is “concerning things imminent and soon to come to pass” (*Greek-English Lexicon*, p. 164).

The passages noted above do not concern “time” and they do not teach that the return of YAHSHUA was “*at hand*” in the first century. Instead, they say that the return of YAHSHUA is certain. The HOLY SPIRIT knew that YAHSHUA was not scheduled to return for over 1,900 years when He inspired Paul, James, Peter and John to write their letters. He did not deceive the disciples into thinking their Savior could return in their lifetime, and in no way did He seek to have millions of believers misled into believing YAHSHUA could return at *any moment* with no *warning signs* preceding His return!

Evidence that this is correct is the fact that YAHSHUA told His disciples directly that He would not return while they were alive:

And He said to the disciples, “[The] days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and [you] will not see it.” (Luke 17.22)

This statement is clear that the disciples would not be alive when YAHSHUA returns. They understood this. That is why none of them taught that He could return at *any moment* and it proves that the above passages have nothing to do with the timing of the Rapture.

Passages that do not teach Imminence

There is no passage that teaches the doctrine of *imminence*, and there are several passages that teach just the opposite. These passages are: Isaiah 13.6, 17.1; 19.1; Ezekiel 30.3; Joel 1.15; 2.1; Obadiah 15 and Haggai 2.6.

Isaiah wrote around 700 BC that the “the *day of YAHWEH is at hand*” (13.6). It does not seem correct that 2700 years is “*near*” or “*at hand*.” The only meaning that makes sense is that it is certain it will come to pass. It does not mean that 2,700 years is “*near*” to YAHWEH. Every event is “*near*” to Him because He lives outside of time. The Bible was written by YAHWEH to mankind.

Isaiah also wrote that Damascus is “about” to be destroyed, yet it has been more than 2,700 years, and it is still a thriving city. It is obvious that the word “about” has nothing to do with time. It has to do with certainty. We can be confident that the city of Damascus will be destroyed in the future. The King James translators rendered this verse more accurately:

The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is turned away from [being] a city, and it will be a ruinous heap. (Isaiah 17.1)

Isaiah prophesied that YAHWEH “*is about to come out from His place to visit the iniquity of those who live on the Earth...*” (26.21). It should be translated “*For behold, YAHWEH will certainly come out from His place...*”

The King James translators rendered it:

For, behold, YAHWEH comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the Earth for their iniquity: the Earth also shall

disclose her blood and shall no more cover her slain. (Isaiah 26.21)

Ezekiel also wrote that the “*Day of YAHWEH*” is “near”:

For the day is near, even the day of YAHWEH is near; it shall be a day of clouds, it will be a time of the nations. (Ezekiel 30.3)

This is a prophecy of the Tribulation, not of local judgment, because it is a time of doom for the nations. The nations to be judged are listed – Egypt, Ethiopia, Put, Lud, Arabia and Libya. These are the nations that team up with Gog and Magog for the attack on Israel in the last days (Ezekiel 38.5). Only Ethiopia and Put are mentioned in Chapter 38 of Ezekiel, but it is understood that these other nations will be in league with Gog and Magog. Many times there is more than one passage describing a single event. All of the passages must be pieced together as a jigsaw puzzle to see the entire picture.

The Tribulation was in no way “*near*” when Ezekiel wrote this prophecy. Near has nothing to do with time. It has to do with certainty. We can be certain that YAHSHUA will return and judge the nations.

Joel prophesied that “*the day of YAHWEH is at hand*” (1.15), and he also wrote that “*the day of YAHWEH comes, for it is near at hand*” (2.1). If he meant the Tribulation was near (time-wise), he was mistaken. Yet, if he meant that it was “certain” that Messiah would come to judge the world, he was correct.

Obadiah also prophesied of the Second Coming of YAHSHUA:

For the day of YAHWEH is near upon all the nations. (v. 15a)

Obadiah was saying what Joel said – the judgment of YAHWEH is certain and no one can escape it. He did not mean it was “near” time-wise.

Haggai used the phrase “*a little while*” (2.6) concerning the Second Coming of the Messiah. It is hard to believe that 2500 years is “*a little while*.” This phrase was used to remind people that there would be a day of judgment. The context is vengeance. YAHWEH is reminding Israel that no matter how bad things may be they should not lose hope, but trust in Him. He will judge the wicked and reward the faithful.

These passages could not be saying the Messiah would return to judge the world in a short period of time. How could He come to judge the world before He came to die for the world? No one today would dare to say the Second Coming of YAHSHUA was *imminent* during the Old Testament dispensation based on phrases that seem to say that, because He had yet to come the first time to die for mankind.

We also know Messiah could not have returned to judge the world until the fourth kingdom of Daniel's prophecy (Rome) was established (Daniel 2.31-45; 7.2-28). When these prophets wrote, the third kingdom (Greece) had not yet risen.

If the words in the Old Testament, "*near*" and "*about*" and "*a little while*," have nothing to do with the timing of the Rapture and the Second Coming, neither do similar words that are used in the New Testament. We know this because it has been over 1,900 years since the New Testament was written and Messiah has not returned. As noted before, they have to do with the "certainty," not the "nearness" of those events.

YAHSHUA did not teach the doctrine of Imminence

YAHSHUA Messiah did not teach that He could return at *any moment* after Pentecost. He made it clear to His disciples that they would not see His return; that Peter would die first; that the gospel would be preached to all the world; that He would build His Church; that the disciples would be persecuted and martyred; that Paul would go to Rome; that John would prophesy again after writing the book of Revelation; and that the city of Jerusalem would be trodden down until the times of the Gentiles was fulfilled.

YAHSHUA told His disciples they would not see Him return (Luke 17.22; Acts 1.7-8)

YAHSHUA plainly told His disciples that they would not see His return:

And he said to the disciples, “[The] days will come, when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.” (Luke 17.22)

YAHSHUA made it clear by that statement that none of His disciples would be alive when He returns. He also told His disciples that they should not concern themselves with the timing of the establishment of the Kingdom. Just prior to His ascension, the 11 disciples asked Him if He would establish the Kingdom. He responded by saying:

He said to them, “It is not yours to know times or seasons, which the Father placed in His own authority. But you will receive power when the HOLY SPIRIT is come upon you. And you will be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judaea and Samaria and to the uttermost part of the Earth.” (Acts 1.7-8)

Peter would be martyred (John 21.18-19)

YAHSHUA said that Peter would grow old and die a martyr’s death:

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and walked wherever you desired, but when you will be **old**, you will stretch forth your hands and another shall dress you and bring [you] where you do not want to go.” But this he said, signifying by what **death** he should glorify YAHWEH. And having this He said to him, “Follow me.”*

John said it signified “by what manner of **death** he should glorify YAHWEH” (John 21.19). The Rapture could not take place until after Peter had grown old and died, otherwise YAHSHUA would have made a false prophesy. Since all of the New Testament books were written prior to the death of Peter (except the book of Revelation), it is clear that the doctrine of *imminence* is not taught in the New Testament. Later we will show it is not taught in the book of Revelation.

Other disciples would be martyred (John 16.2)

YAHSHUA also prophesied that other disciples and believers would be persecuted and killed:

They will put you out of the synagogues. But an hour is coming, that everyone who kills you will think [that he] is rendering service to YAHWEH.

We know that all of the apostles, except Paul and John, were martyred for their faith. The last to be martyred was Peter by Jews in Babylon around 67 AD. YAHSHUA could not have returned until His disciples, except Paul and John, had been martyred.

Apostles would make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28.19-20)

The Lord could not have returned at *any moment* after His ascension, because He commanded the apostles to make disciples of all nations:

“Going therefore, disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you and lo, I am with you all the days until the completion of the age.”

It took the eleven disciples, Paul, Barnabas, Timothy, other evangelists and thousands of believers a few decades to just preach the gospel to the entire known (Roman) world. Paul said in his letter to the Colossians that the gospel had been “*proclaimed in all creation under heaven*” (1.23). That letter was written around 60 AD. If we use that date as the fulfillment of taking the gospel to the entire world, YAHSHUA could not have returned prior to 60 AD.

YAHSHUA would build His Church (Matthew 16.18)

YAHSHUA told His disciples that He would build His Church through them:

“And I also say to you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.”

History tells us it took several decades to build the Church. John most likely did not write his gospel, his three letters and the book of Revelation until the time of Domitian, who reigned from 81-96 AD. Those books were written for the Church. Christ obviously could not have returned until all the books of the Bible had been written.

Paul would testify in Rome (Acts 23.11)

YAHSHUA visited Paul in Jerusalem after he appeared before the Sanhedrin and told him that he would preach the gospel in Rome:

But the following night following the Lord stood by him and said, “Be of good courage: as you fully testified the things concerning me at Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.”

Paul recounted this incident when the ship he was sailing to Italy on sank (Acts 27.24). It is evident that the Rapture could not possibly take place before Paul went to Rome.

Jerusalem would be captured (Luke 21.20-24)

YAHSHUA also prophesied in the Olivet Discourse that the city of Jerusalem would be captured by the Gentiles:

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded with armies, then know that her desolation has drawn near. Then let those in Judaea flee to the mountains and let those in her midst depart, and those in the countries let them not enter into her. For these are days of vengeance, that all things which have been written may be accomplished. But woe to those with child and to those giving suck in those days! For there will be great distress upon the land and wrath among this people. And they will fall by [the] edge of [the] sword and will be led captive into all the nations. And Jerusalem will be trodden down by [the] nations until [the] times of [the] nations be fulfilled.”

It is obvious that YAHSHUA could not rapture the Church until after Jerusalem was captured by the Gentiles. That means the Rapture was not *imminent* until at least 70 AD.

YAHSHUA said John would prophesy (Revelation 10.11)

John was given the revelation of YAHSHUA Messiah on the island of Patmos:

And He said to me, “You must prophesy again to many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.”

We know that YAHSHUA could not have raptured the Church until John completed the book of Revelation around 95 A.D. He could not return until at least the start of the 2nd century.

It is therefore hard to imagine why eschatologists today teach that He could have returned at *any moment* since Pentecost. History shows that it is not possible. Harold Lindsell explained why no one today should believe in the doctrine of *imminence*:

We can understand and excuse earlier earnest students of the Word who were wrong about this matter. But we have further light and can see now that those who held to an **any-moment rapture** were **incorrect** in their interpretation of Scripture. (*The Gathering Storm*, p. 121, emphasis added)

The parables of the talents (Matthew 25.14-30; Luke 19.12-27)

YAHSHUA Messiah also taught against His soon return through the parables of the talents. The parable about a nobleman, who went to a distant country to receive a kingdom and then returned (Luke 19.12-27), and the Olivet Discourse parable about a man who went on a journey (Matthew 25.14-30), refute the doctrine of *imminence*. These two parables were given at different times, but they speak of the same subject. He said, “*A certain nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then returned*” (Luke 19.12), and “*And after a long time the master of those bondmen came and settled accounts with them*” (Matthew 25.19). The phrases, “*went to a distant country*” and “*after a long time,*” are the key.

All dispensational theologians agree that the parables concern the Church. We understand the phrases “*went to a distant country*” and “*after a long time*” mean more than 1,900 years. Did the early Church understand this? They did not know it would be 1,900 years before YAHSHUA would return, but they knew it would be a “*long time.*” They heard Him read Isaiah 61, which said that there would be a long period of time between the First and Second Comings of Messiah.

More parables of YAHSHUA (Matthew 13.3-8; 24-30; 31-33; 44-46; 47-50)

Four of the seven parables of Matthew Chapter 13 prove the Rapture was not an *imminent* event. In the first four parables, YAHSHUA explained that a long period of time would elapse between His resurrection and His return.

The first parable is about YAHSHUA and the apostles sowing the gospel (v. 3-8). The second parable (v. 24-30) concerns the fact that tares (the unsaved) would grow up alongside the wheat (saved). The wheat and the tares are allowed to mature until the harvest (Second Coming). The third parable is of the mustard seed (v. 31-33). It was the smallest seed in the Middle East, yet it grew into a large tree. The tree is symbolic of Christendom, yet birds nested in it. Birds are always symbolic of the lost. This third parable teaches us there would

be a period of time for the Church to grow to maturity. Once it was fully grown the unsaved would become part of it. The fourth parable is about the apostasy (leaven) in the Church (v. 33). Leaven always represents false teaching (Matthew 16.6). The parable describes false teaching that leavens the whole lump (the Church) after it is mature, just as in the parable of the mustard seed. It has been over 1,900 years and the Church is still growing in its apostasy. The first four parables show that there would be a considerable amount of time between the founding of the Church (day of Pentecost) and the Second Coming of Messiah.

YAHSHUA commanded us to be “*alert*” and to “*watch*” for His return (Matthew 24.33, 42; Mark 13.37; Luke 21.34, 36). The only way we can look for His return is to “*watch*” for prophecies to be fulfilled that will take place before the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation.

Paul did not teach Imminence

Acts 20.28-30

Paul knew YAHSHUA could not return at *any moment* during his final visit to the church of Ephesus around 60 AD. He warned the elders:

Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock, wherein the Holy Spirit gave you overseers, to shepherd the church of YAHWEH which He purchased with his own blood. For I know this that after my departure grievous wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will rise up, speaking perverted things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

One might argue that this could take only a few years, but we know that it usually takes many years for false teachers to work their way into an established church and lead it astray. One thing is certain – Paul knew YAHSHUA could not return at *any moment* when he made that prophecy.

Romans 13.11-12

Paul did not teach in his letter to the Romans, that YAHSHUA could return at *any moment*:

And this, knowing the time, that already it is time for us to awake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer to us than when we believed. The night is advanced, and the day has drawn near. We should cast off therefore the works of darkness and should put on the armor of light.

The word “*nearer*” simply means that the return of Messiah is nearer than it has been. This is a commonsense statement. It is not a doctrinal statement that the Rapture has been *imminent* since Pentecost. All Paul was saying is that the “*night*” (time of doing evil) is almost over and the “*day*” (time of doing good) “*has drawn near*,” so we should live holy lives. This passage is an admonishment to live a holy life; it is not a doctrinal statement.

The literal meaning of the Greek adverb *engus* is “bring near, to draw nigh, be at hand” (*Liddell & Scott, Greek-English Lexicon*, p. 189), as noted previously. If the correct understanding is that the Second Coming was being brought “*near*” or “*at hand*,” and that it was *imminent* in the time that Paul wrote his letter to the Romans (57 AD), there is a problem.

It has been over 1,900 years since the letter was written, and the Rapture has not taken place. No one can believe that 1,900 years is “*near*” or “*at hand*.” It may be to YAHWEH, but not to us. The Bible was written for us, not for YAHWEH. All time references must be accepted as being from our perspective.

1 Corinthians 15.51-52

Some believe that a passage in Paul’s first letter to the church in Corinth teaches *imminence*:

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in [the] twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for a trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

This passage does not teach *imminence*. The transforming of mortal bodies to immortal ones takes place in the “*twinkling of an eye*.” That happens after all the *warning signs* of the Rapture have been fulfilled. It is also important to notice the order of events. The last trumpet sounds first, the dead are raised incorruptible and then believers who are alive and remain will be changed. It is the changing of our mortal bodies to immortal ones that takes place in the “*twinkling of an eye*,” not the entire Rapture event as explained in Chapter Two.

Philippians 3.20

Paul said believers should wait for the return of YAHSHUA, but he did not imply His return was an *imminent* event:

For our commonwealth exists in space; from which we are awaiting [as] Savior, [the] Lord YAHSHUA Messiah.

This passage has nothing to do with *imminence*. It tells us to “*wait*” for the Lord’s return. YAHSHUA said He would go “*to a distant country to receive a kingdom*” (Luke 19.12), and be gone a “*long time*” (Matthew 25.19). Believers are to patiently “*wait*” for the return of YAHSHUA just as James said (5.7-8). As noted several times before, believers do that by watching for the *warning signs* of His return to be fulfilled.

Philippians 4.5

Paul told the believers at Philippi that the Lord was “*near*”:

Let your gentleness be known unto all men. The Lord is near.

If he meant the return of Messiah was “*at hand*” when he wrote the letter (62 AD), he was wrong. As noted several times before, 1,900 years is not “*near*” or “*at hand*.” The proper understanding is that the return of YAHSHUA is “*certain*.” It is also possible that the word “*near*” meant that He is omnipresent.

Colossians 3.4

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul said YAHSHUA would return; he did not say His return was *imminent*:

When Messiah, our life, will be manifested, then will you also with Him be manifested in glory.

This passage does not support the doctrine of *imminence* either. It simply says Messiah will return.

1 Thessalonians 1.10

This is another passage that commands us to “*wait*” for the return of YAHSHUA, but it does not support *imminence*:

*For [they] themselves report concerning us what manner of entering in we had unto you; and how you turned to YAHWEH from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to **wait for his Son from Heaven**, whom He raised from among the dead, YAHSHUA, who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

This is one of many passages that command believers to “*wait*.” Waiting for the return of YAHSHUA does not mean He can return at *any moment*. Believers are also told many times to be “*awaiting*” and to “*watch*” for His return. The way one “*waits*” is to “*watch*” for the *warning signs* of His return.

1 Thessalonians 5.1-4

Paul warned the Thessalonians in his first letter to be spiritually awake at all times so the “*Day of the Lord*” (Daniel’s Seventieth Week) would not overtake them like a thief. He said they did not need anything to be written to them about the “*times and seasons*,” because he had already taught it to them:

But concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to be written to for you yourselves know accurately that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in [the] night. When they say,

“Peace and safety,” then sudden destruction comes on them as the birth pangs to a pregnant woman, and by no means will they escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness in order that the day should overtake you like a thief.

We know from this passage that YAHSHUA will not return to rapture believers until after there is a false peace. According to the book of Revelation, the Antichrist comes to power through peace (6.1-2), and then war breaks out (6.3-4). The Antichrist will bring about a short period of “*peace and safety*,” and then make the “*covenant of death*” with Israel (Isaiah 28.15). Daniel’s Seventieth Week will start on the day that this covenant of death is made.

This passage clearly teaches that all believers should be spiritually awake and “*watch*” for the return of YAHSHUA. They do this by watching for the *warning signs* of the Rapture. As the *signs* are fulfilled one will know how close the Rapture is. Once all of the *warning signs* have been fulfilled with the last one being the false peace, then one will know the Rapture is at hand, and that it finally is an *imminent* event. This passage clearly shows the Antichrist will be operating in the open before the Rapture. We watch for the return of YAHSHUA by watching for the rise of the Antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2.1-3

In his second letter to the church at Thessalonica, Paul explained what must take place prior to the start of the “*Day of YAHWEH*”:

Now we request you, brothers, concerning the appearance of our Lord YAHSHUA Messiah and of our gathering together to Him that you not be quickly shaken from your mind nor be disturbed, neither through a spirit nor through speech nor through an epistle as if by us, that the day of the Lord has come. Do not let anyone deceive you in no way, because [it will not be] unless the apostasy comes first and the man of sin shall have been revealed.

Someone had forged a letter claiming that the “*Day of YAHWEH*,” which is the start of Daniel’s Seventieth Week, was “*just at hand*.” Paul cleared up the confusion by explaining that two things had to

take place before it could start – the “*apostasy*” and the revealing of the “*man of sin*.”

The “*it*” here is the start of the Seventieth Tribulation. It cannot take place until the “*apostasy*” of the Church from the faith, and the “*man of sin*” is revealed. Many eschatologists believe that we are in this time of the “*apostasy*,” but the Antichrist has yet to be revealed. Until he is revealed, the Seventieth Week cannot start and the Rapture cannot take place. Once again Paul taught the believers in Thessalonica that the way they are to look for the return of YAHSHUA is to look for the Antichrist. The Scriptures are emphatic that YAHSHUA cannot return to rapture His Bride until the Antichrist is revealed!

1 Timothy 6.14

Paul told Timothy to live a holy life until the return of YAHSHUA, but that does not mean that he was saying YAHSHUA could return at *any moment*:

That you keep the commandment spotjess, without reproach, until the appearing of our Lord YAHSHUA Messiah:

Paul simply told Timothy and all believers throughout the Church Age to live holy lives. Even if this passage were taken by itself, it does not support the doctrine of *imminence*. Nothing is said about when YAHSHUA will return. It does not say He will return at *any moment*. It merely says that He will return. We know from numerous passages throughout the Bible that specific *warning signs* must take place before the Tribulation starts.

2 Timothy 4.3-4

Paul warned Timothy about a time of apostasy in the future:

For there will come a time when they will not bear the sound teaching; but according to their own desires they will heap up teachers to themselves; having an itching ear and they will turn away from the truth, and will be turned aside to fables.

That letter was written around 65 AD. Paul knew that YAHSHUA could not return at *any moment* when he wrote it. He knew it would be many years before YAHSHUA could return.

2 Timothy 4.6-7

Paul did not look for the *imminent* return of YAHSHUA, instead he awaited his death:

For I am already being poured out, and the time of my release is come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith...

Titus 2.11-13

A statement by Paul to Titus is also misunderstood by some eschatologists:

For the grace of YAHWEH which brings salvation for all men has appeared, instructing us that having denied ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live discreetly and righteously and piously in the present age; awaiting the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior YAHSHUA Messiah.

This passage clearly refutes the doctrine of *imminence*. Instead of it saying YAHSHUA can return at *any moment*, believers are commanded to be “looking” for His return. The only way to be “looking” for His return is to “watch” for specific *warning signs* that will be fulfilled prior to His return as Scripture says. Then, as they are fulfilled one will know the Rapture is that much closer. All of the passages that command us to be “looking” for and to “watch” for the return of YAHSHUA refute the doctrine of *imminence*.

Hebrews 10.25, 37

The following verses in Hebrews do not support the doctrine of *imminence*:

*Not forsaking the assembling ourselves together, as the custom is with some, but encouraging [one another] and by so much the more, as you see **the day drawing near**. (v. 25)*

*For yet a very little while, He who comes will come, and **will not delay** (v. 37).*

The phrase “as you see the day drawing near” (Hebrews 10.25) implies there is something for us to “watch.” The only things believers can possibly “watch,” to know how near the Rapture is, are *warning signs*. Without *warning signs* to look for, one cannot possibly know if the Rapture is near.

The phrases, “in a very little while,” and “will not delay” (Hebrews 10.37), are quoted from Habakkuk 2.3:

*For the vision is yet for the appointed time, but it pants to the end, and does not lie: **though it delays**, wait for it; for surely it will come, it will not tarry.*

The passage in Habakkuk does not say Messiah can return at *any moment*. It says that He will not return soon, but will tarry. Yet, even though the Bible teaches there would be a long span between the First and Second Comings of YAHSHUA, believers are commanded to eagerly “wait” for His return.

Why are we commanded to eagerly “wait” for the return of YAHSHUA? No believer in the Church Age can know the exact day of His return years in advance (Matthew 24.36), but they can know the approximate time by waiting and watching. The way we eagerly “wait” and “watch” for His return is by “looking” for the *warning signs*.

Similar phrases, such as “near” and “at hand,” were used by the Old Testament prophets concerning the Second Coming, as we noted earlier – (Isaiah 13.6; 26.21; 29.17; Ezekiel 30.3; Joel 1.15; 2.1; Obadiah 15; Haggai 2.6; Zechariah 8.1-8). It is obvious that the Second Coming of Messiah was not a “near” event that was “at hand” in the Old Testament dispensation because His First Coming was more than 500 years away. The context of these passages is not about the timing of the Second Coming – that it was “near” or “at hand” in that time. The context is about the certainty of that event, as noted previously.

If you replace the words “*near*” or “*at hand*” with the words “*a certainty*” the statements make sense. Here is an example using Isaiah 13.6:

Wail, for the day of YAHWEH is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come.

*Wail, for the day of YAHWEH is **a certainty**; as destruction from the Almighty it will come.*

The prophet was not saying that the “*day of YAHWEH*” (Daniel’s Seventieth Week) was “*near*” in his day. Instead, he was saying the “*day of the YAHWEH*” would certainly take place.

James did not teach Imminence

James did not teach the doctrine of *imminence*. Instead, he exhorted his readers to not give up, “*due to the persecution they suffered*” and to patiently “*wait*” for the return of Messiah.

James 5.7-8

James used the analogy of a farmer to explain that it would be some time before YAHSHUA would return. He emphasized the need to be “*patient*” (thrice) and to “*wait*” for His return:

*Be **patient** therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman **awaits** for the precious fruit of the earth, being **patient** for it, until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be **patient**, establish your hearts because the coming of the Lord is certain.*

Most teachers of *imminence* miss the object of the passage – “*patience*.” James is admonishing believers three times to be “*patient*.” Why? Because the Rapture was a long way off. Most Bibles translate the phrase “*the coming of the Lord is certain*” as “*the coming of the Lord has drawn near*” or is “*at hand*.” This phrase does not mean YAHSHUA could return at *any time*; it means His return is certain. YAHSHUA could not return around the time James wrote this letter (45 AD) because the temple had not been destroyed. Remember,

YAHSHUA prophesied the temple would be destroyed (Matthew 24.2).

James did not teach the doctrine of *imminence*. He taught that it was an event that “certainly” would take place, but he knew it would take place a long time in the future. That is why he told his readers to be “*patient*.” He knew, as did the believers of the first century, that specific prophecies had to be fulfilled before YAHSHUA could return. He knew Peter had to die a martyr’s death (John 21.18-19) and that the Temple would be destroyed (Matthew 24.1-2).

Noted collector of ancient Greek manuscripts Dr. Craig Lampe stated that the Greek word *eggus* which is translated “*near*” or “*at hand*” in James 5.8 means “certainty of the event without relationship to time.”

Peter did not teach Imminence

Peter also did not teach the doctrine of *imminence*, even though some argue that he did.

1 Peter 4.7-8

The passage below appears to support the doctrine of *imminence*, but a closer look reveals that it does not:

But the end of all things approaches. Be sober minded therefore, and be watchful unto prayers: but before all things have a fervent love for each other; because love will cover a multitude of sins.

Peter simply said the “*end of all things*” was “*approaching*” in 64 AD when he wrote his first letter. It is still “*approaching*” and will always be “*approaching*” until it arrives. No one can believe that more than 1,949 years plus is “*near*” or “*at hand*” as most Bibles translate this passage. It may be for YAHWEH, since 1000 years is as one day (2 Peter 3.8), but it is not for us. The only way this passage and other passages that use similar phrases make sense is if these are not time references, but statements that the Second Advent of the Messiah has not been called off. YAHSHUA will return some day you can be certain of that.

Instead of being statements of time, they are statements of certainty. If we substitute “certain” for “near” the passage becomes crystal clear – “*But the end of all things is certain.*” The only ones who believe the phrases “at hand” and “near” are time references are the Preterists who actually think YAHSHUA returned in 70 AD and will never again return to Earth.

2 Peter 2.1-3

Peter prophesied around 64-68 AD that false teachers would sneak into the Church and introduce destructive heresies, denying YAHSHUA is Lord:

But there also were false prophets among the people, as also will be among you false teachers who will stealthily bring in destructive heresies, denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their uctive ways; through whom the way of the truth will be spoken evil of. And through covetousness with well-turned words they will make gain of you: for whom judgment of old is not idle, and their destruction slumbers not.

Peter knew it would take some time for this prophecy to be fulfilled and that it would happen after he died. Remember, he wrote this letter a couple of years before he was martyred. A few decades later when John wrote the book of Revelation it was confirmed they had sneaked in (Revelation 2.14-15, 20).

2 Peter 3.1-5

Peter prophesied that in the “*last days*” men would ridicule the promise of the return of Messiah:

This is now, beloved, a second epistle I write to you; in which I stir up your pure mind by causing you to remember to be mindful of the words spoken before by the holy prophets, and the commandment of our Lord and Saviour by us the apostles: knowing this first, that at the close of the days mockers will come walking according to their own lusts saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all

things thus continue from [the] beginning of creation. For this is hidden from them, they willing [it], that the heavens were of old, and that an earth out of water and in water, subsiting by the word of YAHWEH.

Peter knew he would grow old and die before YAHSHUA would return. He also knew, when he wrote his second letter, that there would be an indeterminate time before his prophecy about the mockers and false teachers would be fulfilled. That period of time would have to be several decades at least, because the mockers will say that “*since the fathers fell asleep*” everything has remained the same. If the “*fathers*” is a reference to the apostles, there would have to be a lengthy delay between their deaths and the time of the mockers.

Peter may have known that the delay would be decades or hundreds of years long. The use of the statement, “*that one day with [the] Lord [is] as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day*” (2 Peter 3.8), could mean that he understood Jesus would not return for a very long time. We can be confident that the above statement was a reference to the delay of the return of Messiah as being an extremely long period of time.

The statement about the mockers is a prophecy that some would ridicule the teaching of the return of YAHSHUA Messiah, because He has not returned. They are ignorant of the two parables of YAHSHUA in which He said that He would be gone a “*long time*” (Matthew 25.19), because he was going to a “*distant country*” (Luke 19.12). He made it clear that He would be gone for a very long time.

Peter knew he would be martyred (2 Peter 1.13-14)

Peter knew that he must die before the Lord could return, because YAHSHUA prophesied he would die (John 21.18-19). He looked forward to that day:

But I esteem it right, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; knowing that the putting off of my tabernacle is [to be] speedily, as also our Lord YAHSHUA Messiah signified to me.

Peter awaited martyrdom not the Rapture. He knew that he had to die before the Rapture could take place.

John did not teach Imminence

Some eschatologists are certain that John taught the doctrine of *imminence* in his first letter, and also in the book of Revelation, but he did not.

1 John 3.2-3

Beloved, now are we children of YAHWEH, and it is not manifested what we will be. We know that if He be manifested, we will be like Him; for we will see Him even as He is. And every one who has this hope in Him purifies himself even as He is pure.

The *imminent* return of YAHSHUA is not stated here. The purifying effect of His return is not our belief that He can return at *any moment*, it is our assurance that when He returns we will be with Him and be like Him.

Revelation 1.1

This verse is a favorite among Preterists. They claim that it proves YAHSHUA returned in 70 AD:

Revelation of YAHSHUA Messiah, which YAHWEH gave to Him to show to His bondmen, what things must take place speedily: and He signified it having sent [it] by His angel unto His bondman, John.

The phrase the “*things must take place speedily*” means the events in it will play out in a fast manner rather than drag on for decades or centuries. The Greek words, *en tachei* can mean “with all speed” (Liddell & Scott, *Greek-English Lexicon*, p. 693), but in Romans 16.20 it deals with the certainty of the event:

*But the God of peace will bruise Satan under your feet speedily.
The grace of our Lord YAHSHUA Messiah [be] with you.*

Most Bibles translate the Greek words (*en tachei*) as “shortly.” Satan was not bruised “shortly” or in a brief space of time after the letter was written. Instead the Greek word *en tachei* should be translated “speedily” showing that when Satan is judged it will be in a speedy manner. We know this is true because an angel binds him and then casts him into the abyss at the Second Advent of YAHSHUA Messiah (Revelation 20.1-2).

The meaning of a word depends on the context. The context of Revelation 1.1 means YAHSHUA will return in A speedy manner just as He said He would, like a thief in the night (Luke 12.39). We can know the approximate time of His return by watching the *warning signs* so we will not be caught by surprise, as the unsaved will be (1 Thessalonians 5.3-4).

Revelation 1.3

This is another favorite verse of the Preterists, but as you can see it does not support their doctrine that YAHSHUA had to return soon after the book of Revelation was written, as they claim around 68 AD:

Blessed is [he] that reads, and they that hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things written it for it is an opportune time.

The Greek word for “time” is not “*chronos*” (the time of day) but “*kairos*” (opportune time). “*Chronos* marks quantity, *kairos*, quality” (*Vine’s Expository Dictionary*, p. 333).

YAHSHUA is telling us that it is always an “opportune time” to study the book of Revelation. By careful study of prophecy we can see the *warning signs* as they are fulfilled, and we can determine how close we are to the Rapture. He is telling believers to look for the *warning signs* so they can know the time of His return.

The Greek word “*kairos*” is derived from *Caerus*, the Greek god of opportunity, luck and favorable moments. The youngest child of Zeus had one lock of hair. When he ran by, a person had to grab his lock of hair to get good luck. The use of the word *kairos* in this verse means

the time of opportunity to understand what is written is now. As noted in the passage of James 5.8, the Greek word *eggus* means the event is “certain.”

Conclusion

The doctrine of *imminence* is not taught in the Bible. Instead, there are several passages that say just the opposite (Isaiah 13.6, 17.1; 19.1; Ezekiel 30.3; Joel 1.15; 2.1; Obadiah 15; Haggai 2.6). YAHSHUA did NOT teach it and neither did Paul, James, Peter or John.

The Bible says eight specific prophecies (*warning signs*) must be fulfilled before the start of Daniel’s Seventieth Week and then eight more before the Pre-Tribulation Rapture. Five “End Times” prophecies are being fulfilled currently.

It may be some time before all of these prophecies are fulfilled. A world government, economy and church will not spring up overnight. It most likely will take a couple decades to establish a “New World Order.” Believers should keep a close eye on the news, and “*watch*” for the creation of this new world order. We must also be prepared for the increased spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6.10-18) that we will fight as the Seventieth Week and the Tribulation draw closer.

THREE

THE GAP

Most Pre-Daniel's Seventieth Week eschatologists do not teach that there is a *gap* between the Pre-Daniel's Seventieth Week Rapture and the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week, yet some argue that there is a *gap* of a few days, weeks or months. Some even argue that there could be years or decades between these two events. A few prophecy teachers who have held to this hypothesis are – Clarence Larkin, Timothy LaHaye, Hal Lindsey, Chuck Smith, Chuck Missler, Jimmy Swaggart and Earl Radmacher.

Arguments against a Gap

Morgan Edwards
(1722-1795)

Morgan Edwards, a Welsh historian of religion and Baptist preacher, pastored several churches in England, Ireland and America. He was the second person in the Modern Era to publish a writing concerning the timing of the Rapture. During his studies at Bristol Baptist Seminary in England (1742-44), he wrote a 56 page essay for eschatology class that was later published in Philadelphia in 1788 under the title: *Two Academical Exercises on Subjects Bearing the following Titles; Millennium, Last-Novelties*. He said the Rapture would take place 3½ years before the Second Advent of YAHSHUA Messiah:

I say, *somewhat more --*; because the dead saints will be raised, and the living changed at Christ's "appearing in the air" (I Thes. iv. 17); and **this will be about three years and a half before the millennium**, as we shall see hereafter: but will he and they abide in the air all that time? No: they will ascend to paradise,

or to some one of those many “mansions in the father’s house” (John xiv. 2), and so disappear during the foresaid period of time. The design of this retreat and disappearing will be to judge the risen and changed saints; for “now the time is come that judgment must begin,” and that will be “at the house of God” (I Pet. iv. 17) (Ibid., p. 7, emphasis added)

Edwards believed the Rapture would take place 3½ years before the Second Coming. That makes him a Mid-Tribulationist. He obviously did not believe in a alleged *gap*.

Edwards wrote of a Rapture almost 90 years before John Darby made public his belief in a Pre-tribulation Rapture. He also pre-dated the work of the Jesuit priest Manuel de Lacunza (1731-1801), *The Coming of the Messiah in Glory and Majesty*, published in 1812, by 70 years. It was later published in English in 1827. It is possible that Edwards was influenced by the commentary that Jesuit priest Francisco Ribera (1537-1591) wrote on the book of Revelation, published in 1590. He said the Tribulation would last 3½ years.



John Nelson Darby
(1800-1882)

John Darby was an Anglo-Irish evangelist, and a co-founder of the Plymouth Brethren. He is considered to be the father of modern Dispensationalism and the Pre-Daniel’s Seventieth Week Rapture

doctrine. He did not believe in a *gap* between the Rapture and the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week:

In 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-4, after speaking of the day of the Lord coming on the world as a thief in the night, the apostle adds, "*But ye, brethren, are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief.*" The natural inference being, that the day of the Lord will come **simultaneously** upon the world and the church; only it will find the latter prepared for it, while it will be destruction to the former.¹ (The Coming of the Lord and the Translation of the Church, emphasis added)

He said the "day of the Lord" (Daniel's Seventieth Week) will come upon the righteous and the unsaved "simultaneously." He does not leave room for a *gap* just as the Bible does not. That passage is anathema to all prophecy teachers who propagate the doctrine of imminence. They also run from 2 Thessalonians 2.3 which says there will be a period of spiritual apostasy and the Antichrist will be recognized before the Rapture. Those two passages totally demolish that heretical doctrine.



J. Vernon McGee
(1904-1988)

J. Vernon McGee, an ordained Presbyterian minister who later pastored the interdenominational Open Door Church in Los Angeles, was a well-loved Bible teacher (Bible Institute of Los Angeles), noted

graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, theologian and radio preacher (Thru the Bible Radio program). He emphatically taught that there is no *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel's Seventieth Week. He said the rapture of the church actually does two things:

“It ends this day of grace” and “it begins the day of the Lord. The great tribulation will get under way when the church leaves the earth. The **one event** of the **rapture** will **end the day of grace and begin the day of the Lord.** It **closes one day and opens another.”** (*I and II Thessalonians*, p. 86, emphasis added)

John Walvoord (1910-2002)

John Walvoord, who succeeded Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer as president of Dallas Seminary in 1952, was the author of over 30 books. His expertise was prophecy, and he did not teach a *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel's Seventieth Week:

The **first thing** that's going to happen **after the Rapture** is that we're entering a new period called the “Day of the Lord”... This is a day of grace, God's withholding judgment. **Once the Rapture occurs it changes immediately.** It's the “Day of the Lord”... Now the **“Day of the Lord” is going to begin at the time of the Rapture** according to 1 Thessalonians 5,... **So that's going to be the beginning.** (“The Second Coming” audio tape, date unknown, recording available, emphasis mine)

There seems some evidence that the Day of the Lord begins **at once** at the time of the translation of the church (cf. 1 Thess. 5.1-9). The **same event** which translates the church begins the Day of the Lord. The events of the Day of the Lord begin thereafter to unfold: first the preparatory period, the first half of Daniel's last seven years of Israel's program preceding the second advent. (*The Rapture Question*, p. 163, emphasis added)

In a word, the Day of the Lord begins *before* the great tribulation. When the day of grace ends with the translation of

the church, the Day of the Lord begins **at once**. (Ibid., emphasis added)

Walvoord clearly taught there will be no *gap* between the Rapture and the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week as the overwhelming majority of the leading prophecy teachers do.

Harold Lindsell (1913-1998)

Harold Lindsell, former associate editor of *Christianity Today* magazine, and co-founder of Fuller Seminary, believed there is no *gap* between Rapture and Daniel's Seventieth Week. We quote him again because of his clear statement concerning the *gap* theory:

The overwhelming verdict of those who hold to a pretribulation rapture is that this so-called *signless event* is **followed immediately by the seven-year tribulation period**. Thus, immediately following the rapture of the Church, Israel and the Antichrist will enter into a covenant. (*The Gathering Storm*, p. 137, emphasis added)

Oliver Greene (1915-1976)

Oliver Greene, independent Baptist evangelist, author of over 100 books and booklets and founder of the Gospel Hour radio ministry, left no room for a *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel's Seventieth Week in his theology:

Immediately after the Rapture, the false Messiah will make his appearance. He will be riding upon a white horse (a symbol of peace) with a bow – but no arrow – in his hand (another symbol of peace). (*The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians*, p. 157, emphasis added)



Dave Breese (1926-2002)

Dave Breese, a notable televangelist and pastor, founded Christian Destiny Ministry. He also helped form the AWANA Youth Association and served with Youth for Christ for thirteen years. He taught the Pre-Daniel's Seventieth Week Rapture doctrine during his distinguished ministry, yet he did not believe there would be a *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel's Seventieth Week. He mistakenly thought the Tribulation starts with the breaking of the First Seal (Revelation 6.1-2) and not the Sixth Seal (Revelation 6.12-17). In his essay, "The Rapture," he explains:

The Tribulation is the beginning of "the day of the Lord." As we have seen, the Christians were conscious – because they read about it in the Old Testament – that there was a time of fearful judgment coming upon the world called the day of the Lord. The churches, however, needed instruction as to how to discern the presence of the day of the Lord and the way to know that the day of grace was finished. Concerning this, the apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, saying, *"Now we beseech you brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of the Christ is at hand"* (2 Thessalonians 2:1-2).

The apostle Paul is, therefore, saying that the **rapture** of the Church, concerning which he had carefully instructed the Thessalonians, was the **watershed point ending the day of grace and beginning the day of the Lord**. In that the Rapture had not taken place, the day of the Lord was not yet present.

Here, the apostle Paul gives us a **clear line of demarcation** between the Church Age, the day of grace, and the day of the Lord, which is the day of divine judgment. That **line of demarcation is the rapture of the Church**. (James, William T., *Storming Toward Armageddon*, pp. 298-299, emphasis added)

For most Rapture is the event that separates the “Day of Grace” (Church Age) from the “Day of the Lord” (Tribulation). Some Pre-Daniel’s Seventieth Week understand this, and do not allow for a *gap* between those events.



**Salem Kirban
(1925-2011)**

Salem Kirban has been writing prophecy books for over 40 years, and firmly believing in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture and in *imminence*, yet he does not see a *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel’s Seventieth Week. Concerning the concept that human history will last 7000 years, he wrote in 1978:

The 6th day then, according to this suggestion would end at about the year 1996. The Millennium would then be ushered in and the thousand year reign of the saints with Christ would begin. If this assumption was correct, then the **Rapture** would take place at **seven years before the Millennium**. (*Guide to Survival*, pp. 136-137, emphasis added)



Hilton Sutton (1925-2012)

Hilton Sutton, founder of Hilton Sutton World Ministries, and author of numerous books about the Bible, has been teaching Bible prophecy for over 50 years. He does not believe in a *gap*:

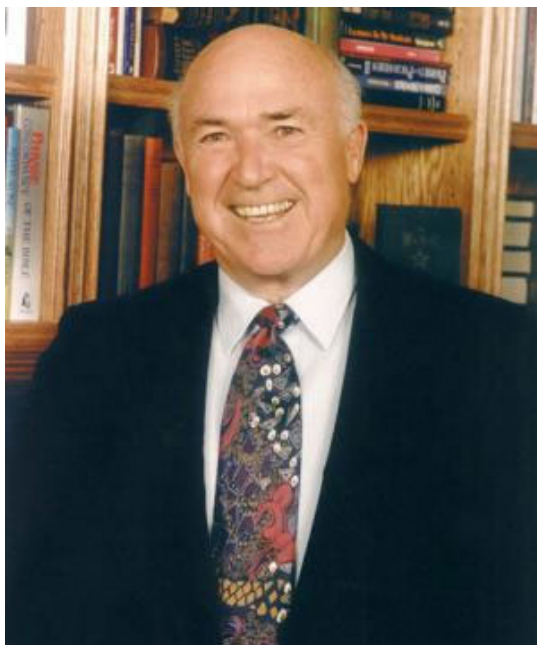
The return of Jesus is in two stages **separated by seven years**: Rapture before the Tribulation and return at the end of the Tribulation.⁴ (Emphasis added)

Dave Hunt (1926-2013)

Dave Hunt, was a Christian apologist, speaker, radio commentator and author, who began full-time ministry in 1973, and founded the Berean Call in 1990. He wrote several books on theology, prophecy and the cults. He stated that the Rapture takes place 7 years before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ:

One cannot escape the fact that Christ and His apostles gave definite signs to watch for that would herald the nearness of His return. Why give these signs if some generation at some time in the future was not expected to recognize them and know that His Second Coming was, as He Himself said, “near, even at the doors”?

Yes, but if the **Rapture occurs seven years prior to the Second Coming**, then those signs are not for us. (*How Close Are We?*, p. 115, emphasis added)



Chuck Smith (1927-2013)

Chuck Smith has stated a few times that he does not believe there is a *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel’s Seventieth Week. In his 1976 book, *Snatched Away*, he did not leave room for a *gap*:

We’ll be with the Lord in heaven for a **7-year period** during which time the earth will experience what’s known as the Great Tribulation, when the judgment of God is being poured out upon the earth. (pp. 7-8, emphasis added)

In his 1977 book, *What the World is Coming to*, he said:

The Church will be transported into heaven for a **seven-year period** during which time there will be a Great Tribulation upon the earth. (pp. 39-40, emphasis added)

When he was asked if he believes Daniel's 70th week begins immediately after the Rapture he said, "Yes, yes, we believe that. We definitely believe that." He also made the following comments during the same radio broadcast concerning the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation:

Well, I believe that the **7-year period** will probably, pretty much take place **as soon as the Church is out**. As I see the events in the Bible, when Israel is invaded by this army, great army of combined Muslim nations in Ezekiel 38, and God then rises to their defense supernaturally, and destroys this army that is coming against Jerusalem, that in chapter 39 of Ezekiel in that day He is going to pour His Spirit again upon the nation of Israel. He'll no longer hide Himself from them, and that, I believe, will **correspond with the Lord taking His Church out of the Earth**. ("To Every Man an Answer" radio program, 4.01.2002, emphasis added)

And I believe that the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within the Church today is the only thing that is keeping the Antichrist from taking over the world at this very moment. And I do believe that **the moment the Church is taken out that the Antichrist will be revealed along with the False Prophet**. ("To Every Man an Answer" radio program, 5.15.2003, emphasis added)

Smith reinforced his belief that there is no *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel's Seventieth Week on the "Pastor's Perspective" radio program in 2010. A caller said he heard Timothy LaHaye say there was a *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel's Seventieth Week and asked Smith what his position was. He responded by saying:

I really **don't know** where Tim LaHaye would get the idea that there was a gap between the rapture of the Church and the Tribulation... **I don't see that there's necessarily a time gap there**. I would think that as soon as God destroys this invading

army it would appear that the Church will already be gone or raptured. (“Pastor’s Perspective” radio program, 1.19.2010, emphasis added)

Although Smith has said a few times that he believes there is no *gap* he has stated a couple times that there is a *gap*. A caller asked him if he believed the Rapture and Daniel’s Seventieth Week would take place on the same day based on Luke 17.27, 29. He replied:

Well, well I still believe the judgment of God in the great Tribulation probably **won’t be the moment the Church is taken** out because of the fact the Church, it seems that the Church would be taken out, I believe, at that time the Antichrist would be revealed. (KWVE, 107.9 FM, 12.10.2007, emphasis added)

He made a confession concerning the example of judgment falling on Sodom the same day Lot departed the city:

And so **it would appear** that with, with Lot you know, that in **the day** that he went out that the **judgment came**. (Ibid., emphasis added)

In conclusion he answered by saying it is “plausible” for the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation to take place on the same day:

So, I... I don’t... you know, **it’s a plausible thing**, but I don’t quite see it that way myself. (Ibid., emphasis added)

J. Dwight Pentecost

J. Dwight Pentecost, a theologian best known for his book *Things to Come*, is the Distinguished Professor of Bible Exposition, Emeritus, at Dallas Theological Seminary, one of only two so honored. During his academic career he has taught biblical subjects for 6 decades (Philadelphia College of Bible, 1948-55; Dallas Theological Seminary, 1955-present). He is a leading Pre-Daniel’s Seventieth Weeker who does not allow room for a *gap*. His book, *Things to Come*, states that Daniel’s Seventieth Week begins immediately after the Rapture:

The only way this day could break unexpectedly upon the world is to have it begin **immediately after the rapture of the church**. It is thus concluded that the Day of the Lord is that extended period of time beginning with God's dealing with Israel after the **rapture at the beginning of the tribulation period** and extending through the second advent and the millennial age unto the creation of the new heavens and new earth after the millennium. (*Things to Come*, pp. 230-231, emphasis added)

Jack Van Impe

Jack Van Impe, a noted televangelist, host of the "Jack Van Impe Presents" television show and an avid teacher of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture for over 50 years, teaches the doctrine of *imminence*, yet he makes no allowance for a *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel's Seventieth Week:

Multitudes today are unaware of the fact that there are two stages or phases within the process of the second coming – the Rapture and the Revelation – and that these events are **separated by a seven-year** period of time. (*11:59 and Counting*, p. 8, emphasis added)

The Rapture is not Christ's appearance upon earth, but a meeting in the heavenlies – an intermediary evacuation of believers from earth before the storm. **Seven years later**, Christ does come to earth, touching down on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4). (*Ibid.*, pp. 16-17, emphasis added)

The Day of the Lord begins as the Tribulation period commences. It continues through the 1,000-year reign of Christ because the destruction of the world by fire afterward is still called the Day of the Lord (2 Peter 3:10). Some try to make this the Rapture, causing confusion. It begins immediately *after* the Rapture. This is the reason that the Day of the Lord comes *as a thief in the night* (1 Thessalonians 5:2). (*Jack Van Impe Study Bible*, pp. 28-29, emphasis added, JVI)

There are two stages or phases within the process of the Second Coming – the Rapture and the Revelation – and these are

separated by a seven-year period of time... This event ends the Church Age and ushers in the Tribulation period. (Ibid., p. 81, emphasis added)

Van Impe says there is a time of just 7 years between the Rapture and the Second Coming. Therefore, there could not be a *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel's Seventieth Week. In his television show that aired on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (April 20, 2009), clarified his position:

The **first night** of the **New World Order** is when a leader goes to Israel and makes peace between the Arabs and the Jews; **that is the night we're gone**. Then that government **lasts for 7 years**, then Christ comes back to stop the New World Order, and set up His kingdom here. That's how near it is.

Remember, we'll not know who he (**Antichrist**) is because the **Rapture takes place the night before this one comes to power**. That's how near it is. (Emphasis added)



Timothy LaHaye

Timothy LaHaye teaches that there may be a *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel's Seventieth Week, but in a chart in his prophecy Bible he does not show there is a *gap*.²



Thomas Ice

Thomas Ice, Executive Director of the Pre-Trib Research Center that was founded by Timothy LaHaye in 1994, Associate Professor of Religion at Liberty University and author of several books on Bible prophecy, does not believe there is a *gap*. From his website, in an essay concerning the *signs* of the times, he tells us:

The present church age is not a time in which Bible prophecy is being fulfilled. Bible prophecy relates to a time after the rapture (the seven-year tribulation period). However, this does not mean that God is not preparing the world for that future time during the present church age – in fact, He is. But this is not “fulfillment” of Bible prophecy. So while prophecy is not being fulfilled in our day, it does not follow that we cannot track “general trends” in current preparation for the coming tribulation, **especially since it immediately follows the rapture.**³ (“Signs of the times and Prophetic Fulfillment,” emphasis added)



Perry Stone

Perry Stone, televangelist host of the “Manna-Fest” television program, said there is no *gap* between the Rapture and Daniel’s Seventieth Week:

Everything changes in **one day**. In **one day’s time** the **Rapture happens**. In that **same time** when the Rapture happens, in that **same hour**, it **introduces the day of the Lord**, the day of God’s judgment, the day of God’s wrath.

We have the Rapture which is the day of Christ. It’s the gathering together unto the Lord the Bible talks about. But that **Rapture**, day of Christ, **introduces the beginning of the day of the Lord**. The day of the Lord then goes for **7 years**, the great **Tribulation period**. The first part is the wrath of the Lamb, the second half, the second 42 months, is the wrath of God poured out on the Earth. (“Manna-Fest” TV program, 3.09.2009, emphasis added)



David Hocking

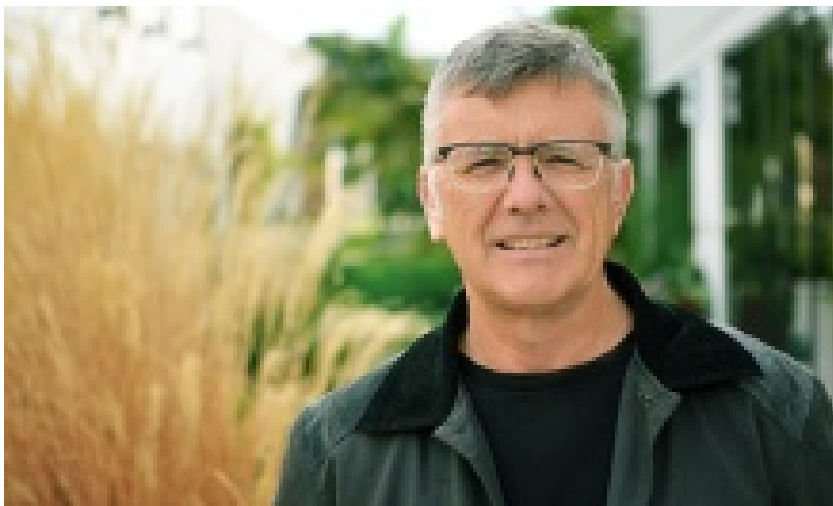
David Hocking, graduate of Bob Jones University and Grace Theological Seminary, was the Senior Pastor of the Grace Brethren Church in the 1970s and Calvary Church of Santa Ana from 1982 to 1992. He started his radio ministry on the BIOLA Hour and then Solid Rock Radio. Currently he is preaching on the radio with the Hope for Today broadcast which he started in 1995. He believes there is a gap between the Rapture and the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week:

When the Rapture occurs we don't really know that immediately the day of the Lord, the Tribulation will begin. We don't know that. There could be a **gap** of time. (Pastor's Perspective, 8.05.2013)

Brian Brodersen

Brian Brodersen, associate pastor of Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa, California, and son-in-law of Chuck Smith, said Daniel's Seventieth Week will start when the Rapture takes place. He first said the Day of the Lord begins with the Rapture, and the Rapture occurs simultaneously with Daniel's Seventieth Week. His last statement is that the Day of the Lord probably begins with the Rapture:

I think it **begins with the Rapture...** We believe that the **Rapture will occur and then the Antichrist will come to power...** ("To Everyman an Answer," radio program, 2002, emphasis added)



The things that are building up to the Rapture or that Tribulation period of time, and we see the **Rapture as being simultaneous with the Tribulation beginning**. There is some guess work involved and sometimes we're close and sometimes we're not so close. ("To Everyman an Answer," radio program, 5.07.2002, emphasis added)

The idea of the **Day of the Lord** is not restricted to one 24-hour day. It is a period of time, which probably, you know, it's a bit speculative, but it probably **begins with the Rapture**, because of course, Jesus speaks about His coming as a thief in the night, and He seems to indicate that that is going to be the time that what we call the **Tribulation** or the judgment **begins** to be poured out on the Earth. ("Pastor's Perspective," radio program, 10.02.2008, emphasis added)

So of course the church being removed from the world is the Rapture, and **that would bring about the final seven-year period**. So we tend to see it more **simultaneously** that it would **happen concurrently**. ("Pastor's Perspective" radio program, 1.19.2010, emphasis added)

Brodersen clearly does not believe there is a gap between the Rapture and the start of the Seventieth Week of Daniel. He clearly said the Rapture takes place on the day the 70th Week starts, "So we tend to see it more **simultaneously** that it would **happen concurrently**."



Don Stewart

Don Stewart, associate pastor of Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California, and co-host with Chuck Smith of “Pastor’s Perspective” radio show does not believe there is a *gap*:

His coming is what we call His revelation; that’s at His Second Coming, and that is what is in view here. The Rapture is an event that precedes it. Now the question, of course, is how long does it precede the revelation of Christ? Is it instantaneous or almost the same? Or is it like we believe here, we believe the Bible teaches, **7 years before**? (“To Every Man an Answer,” 3.27.1998, emphasis added)

The Second Coming is in two stages, first the Rapture of the Church and then **7 years later** the revelation of Christ. So Christ comes first for the Church, takes the Church back to Heaven, the Rapture, then the revelation comes **7 years later**. (“Pastor’s Perspective,” 5.12.2009, emphasis added)

And the **day of the Lord** which is God’s judgment on the Earth **begins** on the Earth **when the Rapture of the Church takes place**. We sort of set the stage, don’t we Chuck? **Once we’re out of here that’s when the clock starts ticking again**. (“Pastor’s Perspective,” 8.27.2009, emphasis added)

Smith answered Stewart's question by saying, "Yes, it opens the door." Stewart confirmed his belief that there is no gap in a radio call-in program that Chuck Smith and Brian Brodersen were part of:

Yeah, if there was a gap of time between the taking out of the Church, the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel you wonder who is God working with what people on the Earth because it's the Jews He is going to work with the last seven-year period, and if the Church isn't here He doesn't seem like He has anybody. So it seems almost it has to **happen simultaneously** there, Mel, and you know this is the Church Age, and when the **Church Age ends at the Rapture, at the same time that agreement will be confirmed or signed and that will begin the last seven-year period** culminating in the Second Coming of Christ. So again **we don't see a necessity of a gap** particularly with seven-year idea with the burning of the weapons and so it seems **one's going to follow directly after the other.** ("Pastor's Perspective" radio program, 1.19.2010)

Conclusion

The Rapture cannot take place until sixteen more prophecies are fulfilled as explained in Chapter Five. You will see that there cannot be a gap between the Rapture and the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week because the Rapture takes place after that last seven-year period starts.

The Gap Hypothesis was created by clever deceivers to keep the Pre-Daniel's Seventieth Week Rapture doctrine alive. The Rapture will take place on the day that the wrath of the Lamb is poured out on the wicked (Revelation 6.16). Believers will be raptured out at sunset and then immediately after we are caught up with YAHSHUA in the clouds (1 Thessalonians 4.16) He will pour His wrath out on the wicked. The Rapture will take place approximately 18 months into Daniel's Seventieth Week.

We have listed on the following page seven infamous prophecy teachers who have taught or teach there is a Gap. Who do you think is right? Those who believe in **a gap**, or those who believe there is **no gap**:

No gap

Morgan Edwards
John Nelson Darby
J. Vernon McGee
John Walvoord
Harold Lindsell
Oliver Greene
Dave Breese
Salem Kirban
Hilton Sutton
Chuck Smith (formerly believed in a gap)
Dave Hunt
J. Dwight Pentecost
Jack Van Impe
Timothy LaHaye
Thomas Ice
Perry Stone
David Hocking
Brian Brodersen
Don Stewart

Gap

Clarence Larkin
Timothy LaHaye
Hal Lindsey
Chuck Smith
Chuck Missler
Jimmy Swaggart
Earl Radmacher

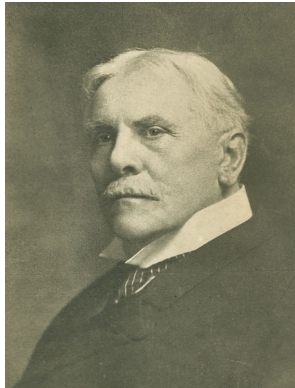
FOUR

SEVEN CHURCH PERIODS

Many Pre-Seventieth Weekers believe that the seven churches mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3, are symbolic of seven periods in the Church Age. The promise of being kept from the “*hour of trial*,” which they interpret as a promise of the Pre-Daniel’s Seventieth Week Rapture, was made to the church of Philadelphia:

Because thou didst keep the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of trial, that hour which is to come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.
(Revelation 3.10)

They argue that we are living in the period of the last true church. Therefore, Christians will be raptured prior to the start of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.



Cyrus Scofield
(1843-1921)

Cyrus Scofield came under the influence of James H. Brookes, pastor of Walnut Street Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Missouri,

who was a prominent dispensational premillennialist. In 1883, Scofield was ordained as a Congregationalist minister. He became the pastor of a small mission church, the First Congregational Church in Dallas, Texas (now the Scofield Memorial Church). The church grew from 14 to over 500 members before he resigned in 1895 after being called to pastor Dwight L. Moody's church, the Trinitarian Congregational Church of East Northfield, Massachusetts, and head of Moody's Northfield Bible Training School. In 1903 he returned to his church in Dallas and worked on his Scofield Reference Bible which was published in 1909.

He believed the letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation were symbolic of seven periods of the Church Age. He said the messages to the churches had a fourfold purpose. The fourth purpose is "prophetic, as disclosing seven phases of the spiritual history of the church from, say, A.D. 96 to the end" (*The First Scofield Study Bible*, p. 1331). He then explained what each church represented:

Again, these messages by their very terms go beyond the local assemblies mentioned. Most conclusively of all, these messages do present an exact foreview of the spiritual history of the church, and in this precise order. Ephesus gives the general state at the date of the writing; Smyrna, the period of the great persecutions; Pergamos, the church settled down in the world, "where Satan's throne is," after the conversion of Constantine, say, A.D. 316. Thyatira is the Papacy, developed out of the Pergamos state: Balaalism (worldliness) and Nicolaitanism (priestly assumption) having conquered. As Jezebel brought idolatry into Israel, so Romanism weds Christian doctrine to pagan ceremonies. Sardis is the Protestant Reformation, whose works were not "fulfilled." Philadelphia is whatever bears clear testimony to the Word and the Name in the time of self-satisfied profession represented by Laodicea. (Ibid., pp. 1331-1332)

Scofield did not believe in the doctrine of *imminence*. He believed that YAHSHUA could not return until the Philadelphia period of the Church Age started. He also believed that four *warning signs* would take place before the Rapture: the appearing of Elijah, cosmical disturbances, the insensibility of the professing church, and the apostasy of the professing church (Ibid., p. 1349).

Arnold Fruchtenbaum

Arnold Fruchtenbaum, founder and director of Ariel Ministries, an organization which specializes in the evangelization of Jews, gives 1648 as the date of the start of the sixth church period (*The Footsteps of the Messiah*, 1993, p. 48). If the “*hour of trial*” is the Tribulation, then the Lord could not have returned to rapture them (keep them from the hour of trial) until the Philadelphia church period started in 1649. (I believe the Philadelphia period began with the open door of missions, when William Cary sailed for India in 1792, F.K.B.)



Timothy LaHaye

Timothy LaHaye believes the seven churches of Revelation are symbolic of seven periods of the Church Age:

In my commentary on the Book of Revelation, I pointed out that the seven churches of Asia were selected out of the hundreds of young churches at that time because they were types of the seven church ages that would exist from the first century to the present. (*No Fear of the Storm*, p. 41)

LaHaye believes that the Philadelphia period of the Church Age began in 1750 and will continue until the Rapture. He takes the promise to the Philadelphia church that they would be kept from the “*hour of trial*” (Revelation 3.10) as meaning that the Church in the last days would be kept from going through the Tribulation:

This text represents Christ's message to one of His seven churches, the church of Philadelphia. It must transcend the one little church of Asia to which he wrote, for the church of Philadelphia is extinct and the hour "which shall come upon the whole world" has not yet come. (Ibid., p. 41)

According to LaHaye's own belief, the Rapture was not an *imminent* event until the Philadelphia period began in 1750.

Conclusion

The men who teach the doctrine of *imminence* should avoid writing and talking about the seven eras of the Church Age. Teachers of *imminence* who claim that the seven churches in Revelation symbolize seven eras of Church history destroy their argument for *imminence*. If the promise to keep the church of Philadelphia from the "*hour of trial*" (Tribulation) is a promise for us today, then the Rapture could not have taken place until at least the beginning of that era, around 1792. It is self-defeating for the teachers of the doctrine of *imminence* to teach this theory.

FIVE

WARNING SIGNS THAT WILL BE FULFILLED BEFORE THE RAPTURE

Believers should “watch” for the **warning signs** of the Rapture to be fulfilled. They may not necessarily be fulfilled in the order given, but they must all be fulfilled before the Rapture:

1. Gog/Magog and allies destroyed (Ezekiel 38.1-9; 39.6-8; 30.1-5)
2. Rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon (Zechariah 5.5-11)
3. Moving the Holy See from Rome to Babylon (Zechariah 5.1-5)
4. World church and the False Prophet (Rev. 17.1-5, 18; 13.11-17)
5. World economy (Revelation 13.15-17)
6. World government (Daniel 7.23)
7. World government breaks into 10 divisions (Daniel 7.24)
8. Rebuilding the Temple (Revelation 11.1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2.4).
9. A time of “*peace and safety*” (1 Thessalonians 5.3; Rev. 6.1-2)
10. Rise of Antichrist (Daniel 7.8, 20, 24; Revelation 6.1-2; 13.1-2)
11. The “*overflowing scourge*” (Joel 2.1-11)
12. Antichrist’s covenant with Israel (Is. 28.15, 18-19; Dan. 9.27)
13. World War (Daniel 7.8, 20, 24; Revelation 6.3-4)
14. Worldwide depression and famine (Revelation 6.5-6)
15. Worldwide pestilence and wild animals (Revelation 6.7-8)
16. Martyrdom of Church Age believers (Daniel 7.21, 25; Mark 13.12-13; Revelation 6.9-10; 7.9-17)

Destruction of Gog/Magog and Allies (Ezekiel 38.1-9, 21-23; 39.6-8; 30.1-5)

Gog/Magog and its allies will be destroyed when it attacks Israel. The destruction of this coalition will be the catalyst used to establish a

world church, world economic system and a world government. The foundation of these three world pillars of tyranny has already been laid. If these institutions of the “New World Order” are not established before this war they will be immediately after it. The “New World Order,” which has been built brick-by-brick for thousands of years and recently since 1776 with the formation of the Illuminati, will be openly established with little resistance after this great battle:

And the word of YAHWEH came to me saying, “Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, 'Thus says the Lord YAHWEH, “Behold, I [am] against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal. And I will turn you back and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clother most perfectly, a great assembly with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords; Persia, Ethiopia and Libya with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer and all her bands; Beth-Togarmah from the recesses of the north and all his bands, many peoples with you. Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your assembly that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them. After many days you will be visited; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, gathered out of many peoples on the mountains of Israel which have been a continual waste; but he has been brought out of the peoples, and they live securely, all of them. And you will go up, like a storm you will come; you will be like a cloud to cover the land, you and all your bands, and many peoples with you.”’ (Ezekiel 38.1-9)

*“I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains,” declares the Lord YAHWEH. “Every man’s sword will be against his brother. **With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone.** I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am YAHWEH.” (Ezekiel 38.21-23)*

“And I will send fire upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety; and they will know that I am YAHWEH. And I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel; and I will not let My holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations will know that I am YAHWEH, the Holy One in Israel. Behold, it has coming and it is done,” declares the Lord YAHWEH. (Ezekiel 39.6-8)

The Muslims who survive will know YAHWEH is God and they will submit to a world government. Egypt will fight against Israel and be judged by YAHWEH:

The word of YAHWEH came again to me saying, “Son of man, prophesy and say, ‘Thus says the Lord YAHWEH, “Wail, Alas for the day! For the day [is] near, Even the day of YAHWEH is near; a day of clouds, it will be a time of the nations. And the sword will come upon Egypt, and anguish will be in Ethiopia; when the slain will fall in Egypt, they take her host and her foundations will be razed. Ethiopia and Lydia and Lud, and all the mixed people, Chub and the sons of the land of the covenant with them will fall by the sword.”’” (Ezekiel 30.1-5)

The Gog/Magog invasion of Israel will take place before Daniel’s Seventieth Week begins. This war must be fought to bring about the firm establishment of the New World Order. Muslims will not submit to a New World Order and a World Church until Allah is defeated in the Battle of Gog/Magog.

Rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon (Zechariah 5.9-11)

The ancient city of Babylon will be rebuilt before the start of Daniel’s Seventieth Week. The first world religion was created in Babylon by Nimrod and his wife Semiramis. The final world religion (church) will be headquartered there. Saddam Hussein began to rebuild Babylon, but his efforts were cut short. A future ruler of Iraq will resume the project, and it will be nearly completed prior to the Seventieth Week:

*Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, and two women came out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heavens. Then I said to the angel who was speaking with me, “Where are they going the ephah?” Then he said to me, “To build a house for it in the **land of Shinar**; and it will be fixed and set on its own placel.”*



U.S. soldiers in front of the rebuilt ruins of Babylon (2003)

The destruction of the Muslim and Arab nations in the Middle East will open the door for the Western nations to rebuild the ancient city of Babylon. The Bible says this city will be rebuilt and become the center of the world economy. The rebuilding project will begin before the Seventieth Week because it is virtually impossible to build a thriving city that is the economic capital of the world (Revelation 18.9-19) in just 3½ years. Babylon becomes the economic capital of the world at the mid-point of Daniel’s Seventieth Week. If the rebuilding starts after the beginning of the Seventieth Week it must be completed in 36 months. That is impossible. Therefore the rebuilding will start before Daniel’s Seventieth Week. We should “watch” for this *warning sign* to be fulfilled.

The call to rebuild the ancient city of Babylon has already begun:

Iraq's Ancient Babylon to Be Restored
February 12, 2009

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi government will invite UNESCO to visit ancient Babylon this month to evaluate damage at the site, parliamentarian Mufid al-Jazaeri told RFE/RL's Radio Free Iraq.

Al-Jazaeri, former Iraqi culture minister and chairman of parliament's committee on culture and antiquities, said that repairs and reconstruction at the ruins will begin once a report on the extent of the damage is complete.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, which is about 100 kilometers south of Baghdad, were built in 600 B.C. and were considered one of the seven wonders of the world.

Al-Jazaeri told RFI that Babylon's ruins sustained heavy damage under Saddam Hussein's regime and during the U.S.-led invasion in 2003 when a portion of the site was used as a military base by coalition forces.

Al-Jazaeri urged that Babylon remain closed to the public until restoration is complete. (Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty, 2.12.2009)¹

Moving the Holy See of the Roman Catholic Church to Babylon (Zechariah 5.5-11)

*Then the angel who was speaking with me went out and said to me, "Lift up now your eyes and see what this [is] that goes forth." And I said, "What [is] it?" And he said, "This [is] the ephah that goes out." And he said, "This is their appearance in all the Earth – and behold, a lead cover was lifted up – and this is a woman sitting inside the ephah." And he said, "This [is] **Wickedness!**" And he **cast her** into the middle of the ephah and cast the lead stone on its opening. Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, and two women came out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heavens.*

*Then I said to the angel who was speaking with me, “Where are they going the ephah?” Then he said to me, “To **build a house** for it in the **land of Shinar**; and it will be fixed and set on its own **placel**.”*

While Babylon is being rebuilt the archeological find of the last two millennia will be made. Excavators will find the alleged “bones” of Peter. This sensational discovery will compel the Roman Catholic Church to move its headquarters to that city as described in Zechariah 5.5-11.



St. Peter's Square with Egyptian obelisk and idols

The land of Shinar is where the ancient city of Babylon was located. The woman is the World Church, which will be headed by the Roman Catholic Corporation and Orthodox Judaism. After the alleged “bones” of Peter are “found” in Babylon the World Church will move its headquarters from Rome to Babylon. The Roman Catholic Corporation reveres its “alleged” first Pope (Peter) so much that when his alleged “bones” are “found” it will be obligated to move its headquarters.

Peter died a martyr in Babylon at the hands of Jews who stoned him to death. He was not crucified upside down by Roman soldiers in Roma as the Roman Catholic Corporation alleges. That is an absurd LIE. No one should trust any of the historical traditions of the Roman Catholic Corporation which is the most evil corporation on Earth. It

has started dozens of wars and revolutions, slaughtered millions of people, robbed the poor of the world, raped countless millions of children and destroyed the lives of millions of families. Trusting the Roman Catholic Corporation is the same as trusting Satan. It is total insanity.



Most Holy Lateran Church, of all the churches in the city and the world, the mother and head.

World church and rise of the False Prophet (Revelation 17.1-5, 18; 13.11-17)

A world church must be in place before the Tribulation as John prophesied:

*And one of the seven angels having the seven bowls came and spoke with me saying: "Come I will show you the judgment of the **great prostitute** who sits on many waters with whom the rulers of the Earth have practised fornication with, and the people dwelling on the Earth became drunk from the wine of her fornication." And he carried me away in the spirit into the desert. And I saw a **woman sitting on a scarlet beast**, filled with names of blasphemy, which had seven heads and ten horns. And the **woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls. In her hand was a golden cup filled with abominations and the unclean works of her fornication. And on her forehead was written a mystery: BABYLON THE GREAT***

THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman was drunk from the blood of the saints and from the blood of the witnesses of YAHSHUA. (Revelation 17.1-5)

“And the woman you saw is the great city who rules over the kings of the Earth.” (Revelation 17.18)

This false church has been around for over 4,000 years. It was created by Nimrod and Semiramis and it has controlled virtually every religion on Earth. The only Faith it has not controlled is Messianic Faith. Yet, due to the apostasy of these Last Days, it has exerted extreme influence on it. This ancient world religion that has masqueraded as myriad separate religions will unite all of its manifestations back into a monolithic world religion before the start of the Tribulation. We have seen efforts to unite all of the daughter religions of the world. This effort will intensify and eventually be obvious to everyone. Even though a world religion may be a good idea to the natural man, it will be used by the Antichrist to deceive mankind into worshipping him instead of YAHWEH.

This coming world church will have a leader – the False Prophet:

And I saw another beast coming up out of the Earth, and it had two horns like a lamb, and it spoke as a dragon. And it exercises all the authority of the first beast before it. And it makes the Earth and those dwelling in it worship the first beast who had the stroke of death healed. And it performs great signs even making fire come down out of heaven onto the Earth before men. And it deceives those dwelling on the Earth because of the signs which it was given to it to perform before the beast. It told those dwelling on the Earth to make an image of the beast who had the stroke of the sword and lived. And it was given to it to give spirit to the image of the beast in order that the image of the beast might even speak and it caused all who do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. And it makes all men, the small and the great, both the rich and the poor, both the free men and the slaves, to take a mark on their right hand or on their forehead. In order for anyone to buy or sell they had to have the mark, the name of the beast or the number of its name. (Revelation 13.11-17)

The False Prophet will be the head of this world church. When the ancient religion of Nimrod goes public the False Prophet will head it. He will be the figurehead of the Roman Catholic Corporation which will be the driving force behind it along with Babylonian Talmudic Judaism. He will also be the top henchman of the Antichrist enforcing his dictates, especially the one requiring everyone on Earth to worship the Antichrist and his image and to take his “mark” to be able to buy or sell. Those who refuse the “mark” will be beheaded. Since 1996 there has been a provision for execution by guillotine in America.²

A world church must be established prior to the Seventieth Week. It is unthinkable that the False Prophet could unite all of the religions of the world in 3½ years. There have been great efforts to do this for the last 100 years without success. [See Chapter 21 of *Rapture Decoded*.]



World economy (Revelation 13.15-18)

There must also be a world economic system in place before the start of the Tribulation because midway through Daniel’s Seventieth Week the Antichrist and the False Prophet will take total control of a world economic system. As noted previously, at that point, the False Prophet will force everyone on Earth to worship the Antichrist and take his “mark” to be able to buy and sell. Everyone will be forced to worship the Antichrist and his image to get the “mark of the Beast”:

And it was given to it to give spirit to the image of the beast in order that the image of the beast might even speak and it caused all who do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. And it makes all men, the small and the great, both the rich and the poor, both the free men and the slaves, to take a mark on their

right hand or on their forehead. In order for anyone to buy or sell they had to have the mark, the name of the beast or the number of its name. Here is wisdom. He who has insight let him count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man. And the number of it is 666. (Revelation 13.15-18)

Before the Seventieth Week starts there will be technology of some kind that will allow a world dictator to control what everyone on Earth buys and sells. It is virtually impossible to develop and implement that technology in 3½ years if it is not in place before the Seventieth Week. If that technology is not in use prior to the Seventieth Week the Antichrist will have just 3½ years to develop and implement it. That is impossible! Satan and the Antichrist are not divine beings who can perform miracles. They both use technology to get things done.

People will not be able to receive government benefits, be able to work or hire employees, drive a vehicle, get any kind of license, receive government benefits or do just about anything without the “mark of the Beast.” The Antichrist will require everyone on Earth to take his mark at the mid-point of the Seventieth Week.

World government (Daniel 7.23)

Once Gog/Magog and its allies are destroyed (Ezekiel 38.1-39.16), the nations of the world will establish a world government:

“So he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the Earth, which will be different from all the kingdoms and will devour all the earth and trample it and crush it.’” (Daniel 7.23)

Daniel prophesied there would be a “world government” in the “end times.” Note the phrase, “*the whole earth.*” This final kingdom will be like the first world kingdom under Nebuchadnezzar. YAHWEH gave him rule over the entire world (Daniel 2.36-38). Though he did not rule over everyone on Earth, he was given it to rule over. The final world government will not only be given power over all the nations, it will rule over them.

The world government must be established before the Seventieth Week because it will break into 10 divisions (Daniel 7.24) before it starts. It is after it breaks into 10 divisions that the Antichrist rises to power (Daniel 7.24). If the Antichrist comes to power before the Seventieth Week, as Paul explained (2 Thessalonians 2.3), then the world government must also be established before then. The Antichrist rises to power “*after*” the world government is established and then it breaks into 10 divisions.

This is an important *warning sign* that believers should look for. A world government cannot be formed overnight. It takes many years and it will be something that everyone will see coming years in advance. This is another proof that the doctrine of imminence is not biblical.

COUNCIL *on*
FOREIGN
RELATIONS



CHATHAM HOUSE



Trilateral Commission



Bilderbergers

World government breaks into 10 divisions (Daniel 7.24)

The world government will break into 10 divisions:

And for the ten horns out of this kingdom [are] ten kings. They will rise [up]; and another will rise [up] after them. And he will be different from the previous ones and he will humble three kings.

No one knows how long it will be before the “world government” breaks into 10 divisions. It will be divided before the start of the Seventieth Week because the Antichrist rises to power after the break up of the world government into 10 divisions. Notice that the Antichrist “*shall arise after them*” (after the 10 kings rise to power out of the world government). Since the Antichrist rises to power before the Seventieth Week, the world government will be formed and break into 10 divisions before then. This means the Rapture cannot take place until after a world government is created.

Antichrist will seek to be a member of the group of rulers that governs the world. This is why it is unwise to try to identify the Antichrist before a world government is created. Once he joins the group of 10 it will be obvious to every student of Bible prophecy who the Antichrist is.



We are not told which nations will make up the ten-nation coalition, but as of now the best guess is:

Nation	Economic rank+GNP	Military rank/nukes
1. Russia	9 – 1.8	2 – 8500
2. Red China	2 – 7.2	3 – 240
3. India	10 – 1.8	4 – 100
4. France	5 – 2.7	6 – 300
5. Germany	4 – 3.6	7 – None
6. Pakistan	46 – .209	12 – 100
7. Japan	3 – 5.8	8 – None
8. Italia	8 – 2.2	9 – None
9. Spain	12 – 1.5	10 – None
10. Greece	34 – .299	49 – None

Two nations which are not included in this list are:

United States of America	1 – 16	1 – 7700
United Kingdom	7 – 2.4	5 – 225 ³

They are not included because they will not be members of this ten-nation ruling coalition. The reasons why will be explained in another book.

The military ranking is based on a nation's nuclear stockpile along with its air, naval and ground power. The overall ranking is a combination of a nation's economic and military power. The GNP is in trillions of Federal Reserve Notes.



Model of Herod's Temple at the Israel Museum

Rebuilding of the Temple (Revelation 11.1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2.4)

We know the Temple will be rebuilt and used to offer sacrifices by the mid-point of the Tribulation:

*And I was given a reed like a staff and was told, “Rise and measure the **shrine of YAHWEH** and the altar and those worshipping in it. And the outside court of the shrine cast outside*

and do not measure it because it was given to the nations and they will trample the holy city forty-two months.” (Revelation 11.1-2)

At the mid-point, the Antichrist will enter the Temple and declare himself to be YAHWEH:

Who sets himself against and exalts himself over everything called God or object of worship so as to sit in the shrine of YAHWEH showing himself to be YAHWEH. (2 Thessalonians 2.4)

The Temple must be rebuilt and in use before the Antichrist can enter it, claiming to be YAHWEH. Once Russia and its Muslim/Arab allies are destroyed, Israel will begin to rebuild her Temple. That project will be completed before the Tribulation begins. If Israel waits until start of the Seventieth Week to begin the rebuilding project, it is unlikely that it could be completed in just 3½ years. It must be completed by that time because it is at the mid-point of the Seventieth Week that the Antichrist enters it and claims to be YAHWEH.

Time of “*peace and safety*” (1 Thessalonians 5.1-6)

Paul clearly taught the church in Thessalonica that before the Seventieth Week starts there will be a time of “*peace and safety*”:

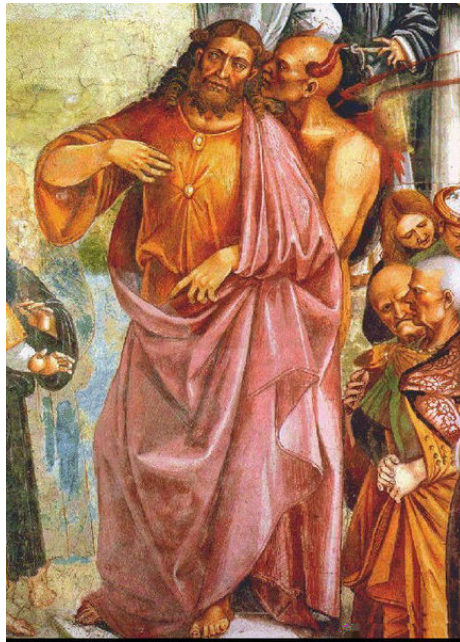
“But concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to be written to for you yourselves know accurately that the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night. When they say, ‘Peace and safety,’ then sudden destruction comes on them as the birth pangs to a pregnant woman, and by no means will they escape. (1 Thessalonians 5.1-3)

The “*day of the Lord*” is the Seventieth Week. Right before the start of the “*day of the Lord*,” the unsaved believe they have achieved worldwide peace. At that time, they say that they have entered a period of “*peace and safety*.” (We know it is a period of false “*peace and safety*.”)

Paul goes on to say that believers should not be caught by surprise when the period of false peace ends:

*But you, brothers, are not in darkness in order that the day should overtake you like a thief. For you are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness; therefore let us not sleep as the rest, but **let us watch** and be sober. (1 Thessalonians 5.4-6)*

They will know that shortly after the false peace has been achieved that it will be broken by war (Revelation 6.4). This means that believers of the Church Age will go into the Seventieth Week of Daniel, but not the Tribulation which starts about 18 months later.



Antichrist and the devil

Rise of Antichrist (Revelation 6.1-2; 13.1-2)

Once the world government breaks into 10 divisions, the Antichrist will rise to power. After the world government breaks up ten rulers will take control of it and form a ruling coalition. These ten rulers will put together a world peace treaty to replace the old one which failed. This new peace treaty, which will be made before the start of the Seventieth Week, will send the peoples of the world into estatic

euphoria thinking that at last true peace has come (1 Thessalonians 5.3).

When the Antichrist becomes the ruler of Iraq he will quickly become a prominent international figure. He will demand to re-sign the world peace treaty for his country. He rises to power in the midst of a time of world peace. This is why he is depicted as the rider on the white horse:

*And I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with the sound of thunder: "Come." And I saw, and behold, there was a **white horse** and the one sitting on it had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he went forth overcoming in order that he might overcome.* (Revelation 6.1-2)

The Antichrist is given his power, throne and authority directly by Satan:

*And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea having ten horns and seven heads, and it had ten diadems on its horns and on its heads are seven names of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and its feet were like that of a bear, and its mouth was like the mouth of a lion. And the **dragon gave to it power and its throne and great authority.*** (Revelation 13.1-2)

The Antichrist will be the biological son of Satan and a daughter of Eve. Satan will engage in carnal knowledge with a woman who will bear an angelman just as the women in the Antideluvian Age did when numerous fallen angels mated with them. Those women gave birth to offspring who became known as the "*men of renown*" (Genesis 6.4). The Antichrist will also be a man of renown due to his superior intellect and abilities. He will be the most charismatic, intelligent and devious angelman to ever live, far superior to mere men and superior to the angelmen of the ancient world.

The dragon is Satan (Revelation 12.9) who is the god of this world (John 12.31; 14.30; 16.11; 2 Corinthians 4.4; Ephesians 2.2; 6.12; 1 John 4.4; 5.19). The Antichrist comes out of the sea which is symbolic of mankind. The ten horns represent the ten kings of the ruling coalition that he will rule over (Revelation 17.12-13). The seven heads are symbolic of the seven kingdoms of the world – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, revived Roman Empire (Revelation 17.10). The Antichrist is the eighth and

final world Empire (Revelation 17.11). He also was of one of the previous empires. The fallen angel that ruled over one of the previous empires will possess the Antichrist. That fallen angel most likely was the one who possessed Alexander of Macedon for the Antichrist is the ruler of a country (Iraq) in the territory of the ancient Greek Empire (Daniel 8.8-9). That little horn is not Antiochus Ephiphanes, but is the Antichrist because he will cause some of the “*host of Heaven*” (angels) to fall to Earth and he will trample them (Daniel 8.10). No mere man can do that – only the Antichrist with help from Satan.

The military of the Antichrist will be extremely mobile and swift just as Alexander’s army was (leopard). It will also be very powerful (bear) and he will be very boastful (lion). For more about the exploits and nature of the Antichrist read *Daniel Decoded* and *Antichrist: Deceiver of the World*.

The “*overflowing scourge*” (Joel 2.1-11)

Prior to the start of the Tribulation, an army of demonic creatures is set loose by YAHWEH to terrorize the Middle East, including Israel. Joel sees the following events take place before the Tribulation starts. Notice that he says the “*day of YAHWEH is near at hand.*” That is it has not yet come – thus he sees the event before the Seventieth Week.

*Blow a ram’s horn in Tsion, and shout an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the land’s inhabitants tremble, for the **day of YAHWEH** comes, for [it is] near; a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and gloom. As the dawn [is] spread on the mountains, a great and strong people; there has never been anything like it, nor after and not be again to many generations. Fire devours before it and a flame burns behind it. The land is like the garden of Eden before it and a desolate wilderness behind it, and nothing escapes them. **Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; and like war horses, so they run.** As the noise of chariots they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of the flame of fire that devours the chaff, as a strong people arranged for battle. Before them the people are in anguish; all [their] faces turn red. As a mighty one they will run, as men of battle they go up the*

*wall; and they each march in line, and they do not change their paths. And each does not press his brother, [each] man goes in his path; and when they fall behind the weapon they are not cut off. They rush on the city, they run on the wall; they go up into the houses by the windows [and] they enter like a thief. Before them the earth quakes, the heavens shake, the sun and the moon grow dark and the stars gather in their light. YAHWEH utters His voice before His army; for His camp is very great, for he [is] strong who does His word. The **day of YAHWEH** is very great and fearful, and who can endure it? (Joel 2.1-11)*

The army of demonic creatures described in Joel continues into the Seventieth Week for an undisclosed period of time. (This demonic army is different from the two separate demonic armies described in Revelation Chapter 9. The 200 million demon army is not an army of Asian nations as many Bible prophecy teachers claim.)

When the Antichrist rises to power he exerts control over the “*overflowing scourge*.” He promises mankind to stop the demonic army. The Antichrist will keep the “*overflowing scourge*” idle for a brief period.

Antichrist makes a covenant with Israel (Isaiah 28.15, 18-19; Daniel 9.27)

The Antichrist will make a covenant with the nation of Israel (Daniel 9.27) and believers of the Church Age will see it. When we see the “*overflowing scourge*” terrorizing mankind we will know the signing of the covenant with Israel is imminent:

*Because you have said, “We have **cut a covenant with death**, and have made a vision with Sheol when the overwhelming scourge passes through it will not come to us, for we have made the lie our refuge and falsehood we have hidden.” (Isaiah 28.15)*

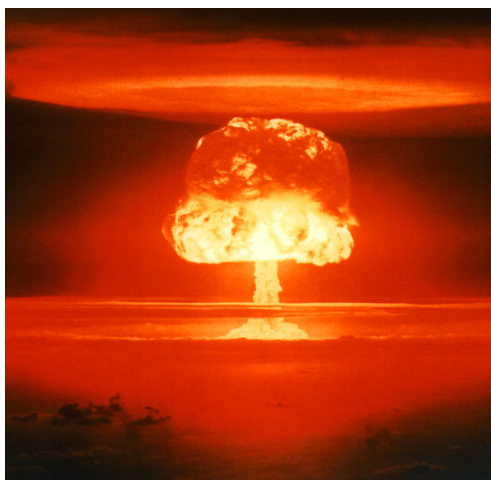
*And he will **confirm a covenant with the many** for one week, and in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and offering; and upon a wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until [the] end. And that which was decreed will be poured out on the one who makes desolate. (Daniel 9.27)*

Israel reluctantly signs a covenant, trusting the Antichrist to control the demonic army. Included in this covenant is a provision that allows the nation of Israel to resume her daily sacrifices. It is the signing of this covenant that begins the Seventieth Week of Daniel.

The covenant is kept by the Antichrist for a time, but the demonic army then resumes its campaign of terrorizing Israel and other nations:

*“Your **covenant with death** will be covered, and your vision with Sheol will not rise up. When the overwhelming scourge passes through, then you become its trampling place. As often as it passes it will seize you; for morning after morning it will pass [through], and in the day and in the night, and it will be sheer terror to understand what it means.” (Isaiah 28.18-19)*

We are not told how long this demonic army terrorizes Earth, but it most likely is just a few months. YAHWEH will stop the army of genetically engineered demonic creatures and send them back to the abyss. They will be released a second time in the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week (Revelation 9.1-11).



World War

(Daniel 7.8, 20, 24; Revelation 6.3-4)

Once the Antichrist confirms the world peace treaty and signs a covenant with Israel he will encounter a few problems. We do not

know how long there will be a false peace, but it will be broken by war. He will seek admission to the ten-nation coalition that rules the world and three of those nations will go to war with him. He will defeat them, but the war will be disastrous for the entire Middle East:

*“While I was contemplating the horns, behold, another horn, a little one, came up among them, and **three of the first horns were uprooted** before [it]; and behold, eyes like the eyes of a man [were] on this horn, and a mouth speaking great things.”* (Daniel 7.8)

*And concerning the ten horns that were on its head and the other which came up, and **before him three of them fell**, even that horn which [had] eyes and a mouth speaking great things and its appearance [was] greater than its associates.* (Daniel 7.20)

*“And the ten horns out of this kingdom [are] ten kings. They will rise up and another will rise up after them; and he will be different from the previous ones and **will humble three kings**.”* (Daniel 7.24)

*And when He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say: “Come.” **And another red horse went forth and to the one sitting on it was given power to take peace from the Earth in order that they kill one another. And a great sword was given to him.*** (Revelation 6.3-4)

We are not told which nations attack the Antichrist nor are we told which nations make up the coalition that rules the world. Our best guess as to what nations will go to war against the Antichrist (Iraq) at this time is Greece, Turkey and Italia.

Worldwide depression and famine (Revelation 6.5-6)

After the world war devastates most of the Middle East the ruling coalition and the New World Order gangsters will punish the world with a worldwide economic depression:

*And when he opened the third seal I heard the third living creature say: “Come.” And I saw, and behold, a **black horse** and the one sitting on it had a balance in his hand. And I heard what sounded like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures say: “A measure of wheat for a denarius, and three measures of barely for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.”*

The Greatest Depression will be far worse than the depressions of the 1930s and 2008-2016. People in every nation will suffer severely. There will be riots in almost every nation, including America. Millions of people will starve to death and millions more will die in the riots that will plague every nation on Earth.



Dance of Death

Worldwide pestilence and wild animals (Revelation 6.7-8)

Whenever a war is fought, no matter how long it lasts, pestilence is the natural successor:

*And when He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say: “Come.” And I saw, and behold, a pale green horse, and the one sitting on it and his name is **Death** and*

*hell followed him. And it was given to them authority over the fourth of the Earth, to kill with the sword and with famine and with death and by the **wild beasts** of the Earth.*

The greatest pestilence in the history of the world followed immediately after World War I. The Spanish Flu pandemic began in January of 1918 during the last year of World War I and ending in December of 1920. It ravished the world for three full years infecting 500 million people and killing 50 to 100 million men, women and children. That death toll was from one to three percent of the world's population. The pandemic that ravages the world during the Seventieth Week will be far greater. It could kill several hundred million.

There will be so many corpses all over the world that the living will not be able to bury them in mass graves quickly enough. Wild beasts will take advantage of the carnage and gorge themselves. They will carry the various diseases that befall man spreading them to even more people.

We are not told how many people will die from the pestilence and wild animals, but the death toll from the world war, depression, population. More than two billion people will die from those plagues with a few hundred million dying from the pestilence alone.

Martyrdom of Church Age believers (Daniel 7.21, 25; Mark 13.12-13; Revelation 6.9-10; 7.9-17; 13.7)

Just as Nero blamed the burning of Roma on the Christians, the Antichrist will blame the death of more than two billion people on Christians. He will unleash his fury on true believers blaming them for all the troubles of the world and hunt them down:

*“I kept looking and that **horn was waging war with [the] holy ones and prevailed over them.**” (Daniel 7.21)*

*“He will speak words against the Most High and **will wear out the holy ones of the Most High**, and he will intend to change times and law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.” (Daniel 7.25)*

*And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who were killed on account of the Word of YAHWEH and on account of the witness which they had. And they cried with a loud voice saying: "Until when, Master, holy and true, will you not judge and **avenge our blood** of those living on Earth?" And a white robe was given to each one of them and they were told to rest a little time until it should be fulfilled that their fellow slaves and **their brothers are also killed as they were.*** (Revelation 6.9-11)

YAHSHUA warned believers of this in the Olivet Discourse:

*"And a **brother will deliver a brother to death, and a father a child; and children will rise up against parents and will have them put to death. And you will be hated by all on account of My name, but the one who endures to the end will be saved.**"* (Mark 13.12-13)

True believers will be turned in by family members, friends, fellow employees, strangers and members of their church. We do not know how many believers of the Church Age will be martyred, but it will be in the hundreds of millions. The slaughter will be so horrific that only several thousand believers will survive the massacre to be caught up alive in the Rapture. Unfortunately, the Rapture takes place at the end of the Fifth Seal and just before the Sixth Seal is opened. Those who are saved after the Rapture will also be hunted down and executed in the millions with only thousands surviving to the Second Advent.

This group of martyrs is also mentioned after the commissioning of the 144,000 is described:

*After these things I looked, and behold, a **great crowd which no one was able to number out of every nation and tribe and people and language standing before the throne and before the Lamb.** They were clothed with white robes and held palms in their hands. They cried with a great voice saying, "Salvation to our Mighty One sitting on the throne and to the Lamb." All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped YAHWEH saying, "Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength to our Mighty One unto the ages of the ages. Amen!"*

One of the elders asked me,""Who are the ones clothed with the white robes and where did they come from?"
I said to him, "My lord, you know."

*He said to me, "These are **the ones who come out of great tribulation** and have washed their robes, and whitened them in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of YAHWEH, and serve Him day and night in His temple. The one sitting on the throne will spread His tent over them. They will not hunger nor will they thirst any longer; neither will the heat of the sun fall on them nor any heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them upon the fountains of the water of life, and YAHWEH will wipe away every tear out of their eyes."* (Revelation 7.9-17)

This passage describes the martyrs in more detail from Chapter Six. The creation of Adam and Eve is told briefly in Chapter One of Genesis and then expanded in Chapter Two. The same is done here.

The angel tells John this group came out of "*great tribulation*" (v. 14). Hal Lindsey and others claim the first half of the Seventieth Week is described in Revelation 6.1-2, and the last half from 6.3 to 18.24. That is absurd to say the least. It is impossible to cram the next six seals, the seven trumpets and the seven vials into 42 months. The book of Revelation is written in chronological order. The events of Chapter Seven follow those of Chapter Six and so on. There is only one parenthetical passage inserted into the chronology (Revelation 12.1-5). We know the mid-point of the Seventieth Week starts with Chapter Eleven because verse two says there will be 42 more months. Therefore, ALL of the events from Chapter Six through Chapter Ten take place during the first 42 months of the Seventieth Week. It is at that point that the two witnesses are commissioned (11.3-12).

Not everyone who calls themselves Christians will be executed by the storm-troopers of the Antichrist. Roman Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and the members of all of the cults will be safe because the Antichrist knows those people are his. Members of the Protestant churches which have joined the world church will also be safe from persecution. The Antichrist will only go after true believers who are members of churches that did not join the world church and those who are members of home churches. The few members of the apostate churches that are saved may be executed if they voice their opinions about the Antichrist. [For more details concerning the timing of the Rapture read Chapter 18 of *Rapture Decoded*.]

Conclusion

There are numerous **warning signs** of the approaching Seventieth Week of Daniel and later the Rapture for which all disciples of YAHSHUA Messiah should be diligently “watching” as YAHSHUA commanded us (Matthew 24.42, 44).

Five major **warning signs** prophecies are currently being fulfilled:

1. Breakdown of morality and society (2 Timothy 3.1-5)
2. The “*apostasy*” (2 Thessalonians 2.3; 2 Timothy 2.1-5; 4.3-4)
3. Conflict between the corporations and workers (James 5.4-6).
4. Ressurgence of the homosexual movement (Luke 17.28-29)
5. Mark of the Beast technology (Revelation 13.15-18).

The 8 **warning signs** that take place, from a few years to several months, before the start of the Seventieth Week are:

1. Gog/Magog and allies destroyed (Ezekiel 38.1-9; 39.6-8; 30.1-5)
2. Rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon (Zechariah 5.5-11)
3. Moving the Holy See from Rome to Babylon (Zechariah 5.1-5)
4. World church and the False Prophet (Rev. 17.1-5, 18; 13.11-17)
5. World economy (Revelation 13.15-17)
6. World government (Daniel 7.23)
7. World government breaks into 10 divisions (Daniel 7.24)
8. Rebuilding the Temple (Revelation 11.1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2.4).

The 8 **warning signs** that occur shortly before the Rapture are:

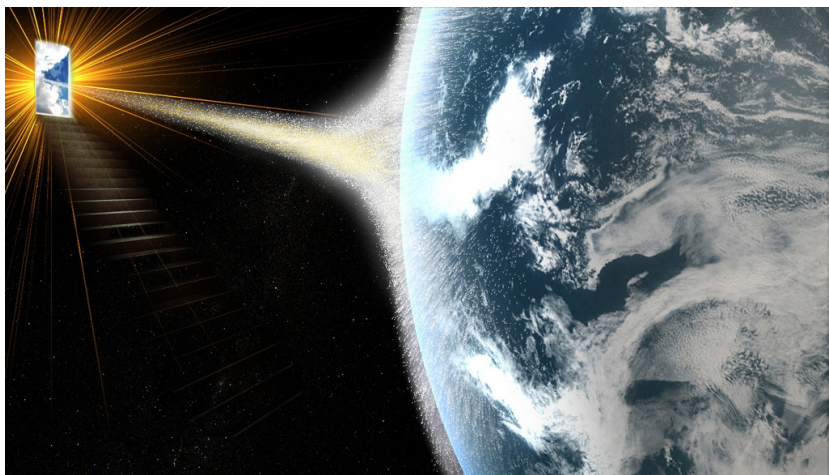
9. Rise of Antichrist (Daniel 7.20, 24; Revelation 6.1-2; 13.1-10)
10. The “*overflowing scourge*” (Joel 2.1-11)
11. A time of “*peace and safety*” (1 Thessalonians 5.3; Rev. 6.1-2)
12. Antichrist’s covenant with Israel (Is. 28.15, 18-19; Daniel 9.27)
13. World War (Daniel 7.8, 20, 24; Revelation 6.3-4)
14. Worldwide depression and famine (Revelation 6.5-6)
15. Worldwide pestilence and wild animals (Revelation 6.7-8)
16. Martyrdom of Church Age believers (Daniel 7.21, 25; Mark 13.12-13; Revelation 6.9-10; 7.9-17)

We must remember YAHSHUA rebuked the religious leaders of His time for not knowing the time they were living in:

“Hypocrites! You know how to discern the appearance of the earth and the sky, but this time how do you not discern?” (Luke 12.56)

YAHSHUA rebuked the Pharisees for not knowing the time of His First Coming. They failed to discern the time they were living in. They missed the **signs** of the First Coming of the Messiah. If we do not “watch” for the **warning signs** of the Rapture we will also not be ready when YAHSHUA returns.

All of these **warning signs** must be fulfilled before the Rapture. Christians should keep close “watch” of their fulfillment. As they are fulfilled we will understand that the Rapture is that much closer.



Are you Rapture ready?

RAPTURE READY

This book explains exactly how every believer in YAHSHUA Messiah can be ready for the Rapture. There are specific things you can do every day, every week and on a regular basis to be fully ready for the Rapture.

No book has ever been written explaining this and it is time that everyone on Earth who proclaims faith in YAHSHUA of Nazareth knows how to be Rapture Ready.

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AFTERWORD

YAHSHUA Messiah commanded all believers to watch for the **warning signs** of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture:

*“Therefore **be alert**, for you do not know in what hour your Lord comes.”* (Matthew 24.42)

*“**Be alert** for you do not know the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man comes.”* (Matthew 25.13)

The Holy Spirit also commanded all believers to watch for the **warning signs** of the Rapture through the writing of Paul:

***Awaiting the blessed hope** and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Messiah YAHSHUA.* (Titus 2.13)

Those who are “watching” for specific **warning signs** to take place before the Rapture are obedient servants.

Since there is no gap between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation then more than a dozen major prophecies must be fulfilled before the Rapture. All students of Bible prophecy should learn what those prophecies (**warning signs**) are, and then carefully “watch” for them to be fulfilled.

As we “watch” the fulfillment of the prophecies that must be fulfilled before the Rapture we will be able to determine how close we are to that “*blessed hope*” (Titus 2.13).

It is important to know what the major Bible prophecies are that must be fulfilled prior to the Rapture. By knowing what those prophecies are we will be able to explain to the lost that the Bible is the Word of YAHWEH, and that the prophecies concerning the “*last days*” are being fulfilled. Fulfillment of Bible prophecy is one of the most powerful proofs that the Bible is the Word of YAHWEH.

Knowing Bible prophecy is also important to edify, encourage and stimulate fellow Christians “*unto love and good works*” (Hebrews 10.24). We should do this all the more as “*we see the day drawing near*” (Hebrews 10.25). The “*day*” that is “*drawing near*” is the day of the Rapture.

Study Appendix B carefully, and then “*watch*” for the fulfillment of those **warning signs**. As you see them be fulfilled share the importance of those prophecies with fellow believers. Also share them with those who are not saved, and pray that they will come to a saving knowledge of YAHSHUA Messiah.

All Christians are ambassadors of YAHSHUA Messiah:

*Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Messiah, as it were YAHWEH exhorting by us; we beseech you for Messiah, be reconciled to YAHWEH.* (2 Corinthians 5.20)

And we are commanded to know how to share the gospel:

*And having **shod your feet with [the] preparation of the gospel of peace.*** (Ephesians 6.15)

*But sanctify the Lord YAHWEH in your hearts, **and be ready always for a defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account concerning the hope in you with gentleness and respect.* (1 Peter 3.15)

A good way to learn how to share the gospel is to memorize the basic salvation verses given in Appendix A. Then find a brother at the church you attend who knows how to share the gospel, and go out with him to share it. Some churches have classes to teach members how to share the gospel and some have evangelistic programs. Every Christian should take advantage of those classes and programs.

As noted in the Preface, all Christians are commanded to resist evil and expose the evil deeds of the wicked, including the coming New World Order:

*Be of sober, **be alert.** Because your adversary, the devil, goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist [him], firm in [your] faith, knowing the same sufferings are being experienced by your brethren who are in the world.* (1 Peter 5.8-9)

*And do not have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even **reprove them**. It is shameful to even speak of the hidden things being done by them; but all things which are **reproved by the light** are revealed for everything that is revealed is light. (Ephesians 5.11-13)*

*Put on the panoply [full armor] of YAHWEH that you will be able to **stand against the schemes of the devil** (Ephesians 6.11)*

*The people will curse him who says to the wicked, “You are righteous,” and the nations will abhor him. But **to those who rebuke the wicked will be delight, and a good blessing will be upon them**. (Proverbs 24.24-25)*

*Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who **keep the law strive with them**. (Proverbs 28.4)*

*For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. You have **not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood** in your striving against sin. (Hebrews 12.3-4)*

*Like a fouled spring and a broken fountain are the righteous **who give way before the wicked**. (Proverbs 25.26)*

All Christians are commanded to **withstand steadfast against** (resist) **the devil, reprove the wicked and their evil deeds, stand against the wiles** (schemes) **of the devil, keep the Law** (of God) **to contend with them, strive against sin and not give way before the wicked**. If you are not actively doing these things on a continual basis you are not fully serving the Lord.

Now that you know what you should do, do it and tell others. Share this book and the information in it with as many people as you can. Buy extra copies, and give them to those you love.



TREASURE HUNT

Everyone dreams of finding hidden treasure and millions have search for it throughout the last 6,000 years with thousands finding it. Yet every true believer in YAHSHUA Messiah has the incredible privilege of spending their entire life searching for hidden treasure that is much more valuable than all the hidden treasure on the Earth! In fact the unimaginable hidden treasure that we are commanded to search for is far more valuable than all the minerals, oil, gas, water, gold, silver, precious gems, art, stocks, bonds, corporations, buildings and land on Earth! It is more valuable than the entire planet and even the entire universe!

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GLOSSARY

Angels – Created beings who serve YAHWEH and believers (Hebrews 1.14). One-third of them joined Satan in his rebellion (Revelation 12.4). They are called “fallen angels.”

Antichrist – He will rise to power prior to the start of Daniel’s Seventieth Week (Daniel 9.24-27) and be identified as the Antichrist by true believers (2 Thessalonians 2.1-3). The lost will think he is a great religious leader. He will confirm a worldwide peace treaty (Daniel 9.27) that had been made months or years earlier. Once he confirms this treaty Daniel’s Seventieth week will begin. He will rule alongside ten other world rulers (Daniel 7.24) and soon after the Seventieth Week begins a war will break out between him and three of the world rulers. He will defeat them and take his place as the chief of the world rulers (Daniel 7. 20, 24). When he assumes control of the world he will still be under the control of the World Church (Revelation 17.3).

At the mid-point of Daniel’s Seventieth Week he will take total control of Earth by the power of Satan (Revelation 13.4) and rule with absolute authority for 42 months (Revelation 13.5). He will blaspheme YAHWEH (Daniel 7.25; Revelation 13.5-6) and persecute and kill those who are saved after the Pre-Tribulation Rapture that takes place at the end of the Fifth Seal (Daniel 7.21, 25; Revelation 13.7). He will be killed by YAHSHUA when He returns at His Second Advent (Daniel 7.11), be resurrected by Him and finally he will be cast into the Lake of Fire along with the False Prophet (Revelation 19.20). He will burn in the Lake of Fire for ALL eternity alongside Satan, the False Prophet, the fallen angels, demonic creatures (Revelation 9.3, 16-17) and everyone who dies in their sins. They will have NO hope of escape, parole or pardon.

Apostasy – The turning away by the Church from the faith and biblical doctrines to a false faith and false doctrines (2 Thessalonians 2.3; 2 Timothy 4.3-4). It started in the first half of the 19th Century with the rise of the American cults – Seventh-Day Adventism, Mormon Corporation, Watch Tower Society, and it will continue until the Rapture.

Any Moment – A term that means YAHSHUA Messiah can return to Rapture the Church at any time. This unbiblical concept promotes the idea that there are no warning signs or events that must take place before the Rapture.

Apostles – The eleven Disciples (Judas Iscariot not included) plus Paul, who YAHSHUA chose to preach the Gospel (Matthew 28.19-20; Acts 1.8) to the world and to build His Church (Ephesians 4.11-13). There are no apostles today.

Beast – See **Antichrist**. This future world ruler is also called the man of sin and the son of destruction among other names (2 Thessalonians 2.3)

Bible – The infallible, holy word of YAHWEH. It contains all the information that every believer needs to live his life for the Lord YAHSHUA Messiah (2 Timothy 3.16). It contains hundreds of prophecies that have been fulfilled in a literal manner. It also contains more prophecies which will be fulfilled prior to the Rapture. Those prophecies are the warning signs that we must all look for.

Christians – True believers in YAHSHUA Messiah. Not everyone who calls himself a Christian is truly born again. YAHSHUA said that come judgment day some people who thought they were saved and serving Him will be turned away into Hell (Matthew 7.21-23).

Church – The body of YAHSHUA Messiah which consists of all true believers in YAHSHUA (1 Corinthians 12.27; Ephesians 4.12).

Daniel's Seventieth Week – A seven year period of time that begins with the rise of the Antichrist and ends with the Second Advent of YAHSHUA (9.24-27). It is often confused with the Tribulation which begins about 1.5 years after the Seventieth Week starts.

Demons – They are the spirits of the angelmen who died in the universal flood of Noah’s day. Several hundred years before the universal flood that destroyed all air breathing life on Earth, a select group of fallen angels mated with women who gave birth to angelmen. They were far superior to man and dominated them leading them into every evil imaginable. YAHWEH created the universal flood to specifically destroy them. Once they were killed in the flood their spirits were permitted to roam the planet and take possession of people who were not chosen to be saved. They can also possess animals (Matthew 8.28-32).

Devil – See **Satan**.

Disciples – The 12 men that YAHSHUA chose (Luke 6.14-16) to train so they could build His Church after His ascension. They became the Apostles except for Judas Iscariot, who betrayed YAHSHUA and committed suicide. Paul was chosen by YAHSHUA (Acts 9.1-16) to replace him as the twelfth Apostle.

End Times – An indeterminate period of time that began with the apostasy of the Church and will end with the Second Coming of YAHSHUA Messiah. We are living in the End Times.

Eschatologist – A person who studies eschatology and writes books or essays on it.

Eschatology – The study of the “last things” in the Bible. The “last things” are also known as the End Times and the Last Days.

False Prophet – The religious leader who heads up the World Church. He is a partner of the Antichrist who enforces his dictates (Revelation 13.11-18).

Gap – A period of indeterminate time between the Rapture and the start of Daniel’s Seventieth Week. The alleged gap is not biblical because the Rapture takes place after the Seventieth Week starts.

Gospel – The “good news” that YAHSHUA Messiah, the Son of YAHWEH, died to save mankind.

Great Red Dragon – He is Satan, the once highest-ranking angel who led a rebellion among the angels of Heaven taking one-third of them with him (Revelation 12.4). He is the ruler (John 12.31) and the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4.4). He is also the leader of all the forces of darkness (Ephesians 6.12). He has been and will be defeated by YAHSHUA Messiah and cast into the Lake of Fire where he will be tortured through ALL eternity along with the angels he led astray, the demons (Genesis 6.4), his genetically engineered demonic creatures (Revelation 9.3, 17), and the billions of people he led astray.

Great White Throne Judgment – It is a final judgment in which those who are waiting in Hell to be judged are brought before YAHWEH and YAHSHUA. They are judged for every sin they committed in their life from birth until death. They are forced to give an account of every sin they committed by thought (Romans 2.16), word (Matthew 12.36), deed (Proverbs 24.12; Romans 2.6; Revelation 20.12) and motive (Proverbs 24.12; Romans 2.16). They will be found guilty of every sin they committed and a level of pain will be assigned to them. The pain receptors of their immortal body will be set at a specific level. They will endure that level of pain for ALL ETERNITY!

Hell – The place, in the heart of the Earth (Matthew 12.40), where people who die in their sins go (Luke 19.16-31), to await judgment at the White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20.13-14).

HOLY SPIRIT – He is the Third Person of the Trinity who is fully God by Himself. He is equal to the Father and the Son in all ways.

Imminence – A false doctrine that teaches YAHSHUA could have returned to rapture the Church at any moment since Pentecost. Therefore, there are no *warning signs* or events that must take place before the Rapture.

Jesus Christ – See **YAHSHUA Messiah**.

Lamb of YAHWEH – The Lamb of YAHWEH and the Lamb are names and descriptions of YAHSHUA Messiah. Yochanan the Baptizer called YAHSHUA the Lamb of YAHWEH (John 1.29, 36). The Apostle of John also called YAHSHUA the Lamb (Revelation

6.16). YAHSHUA died for the sins of the elect. He is the Passover Lamb who died for the elect, cleansing them of their sins by His blood (Romans 3.25; 1 Corinthians 6.20; Ephesians 1.7; Colossians 1.20; Hebrews 9.12, 14; 10.19, 29; 13.20; 1 John 1.7; Revelation 1.5; 5.9).

Lake of Fire – The final abode of Satan and the fallen angels (Matthew 25.41; Revelation 20.10). The demons (Genesis 6.4) and genetically engineered demonic creatures (Revelation 9.3, 17) will also be punished there through all eternity. It is also the final abode of everyone who dies in their sins without trusting YAHSHUA Messiah to save them (Revelation 20.11-15). Everyone who is cast into that place of punishment (Proverbs 10.16; Matthew 25.46) has NO hope of parole, pardon or escape for ALL ETERNITY! They will be punished with fire (Psalm 11.6; 140.10; Revelation 14.10), burning sulfur (brimstone) (Psalm 11.6; Revelation 14.10), burning coals (Psalm 11.6; 140.10; Proverbs 25.22; Romans 12.20), burning wind (Psalm 11.6), smoke (Revelation 14.11), extreme heat (Luke 16.24), unquenchable thirst (Luke 16.24), immortal maggots (Mark 9.44, 46, 48), deafening screams of billions of other damned people, and eternally fighting with each other, the demons, the genetically engineered demonic creatures, the fallen angels and Satan.

Last Days – See End Times.

Mark of the Beast – A mark of some kind (most likely a computer chip implanted under the skin) that the Antichrist will force everyone on Earth to take to be able to buy or sell or receive any kind of government benefits. Those who refuse to worship Antichrist and take his mark will be executed (Revelation 13.15-17).

Millennial Kingdom – The period of time that begins with the Second Coming of YAHSHUA Messiah and ends after 1,000 years (Revelation 20.1-10). It is also called the Millennium. The major passages describing that age are – Isaiah 4.1-6; 11.6-10; 25.6-7; 60.1-9; 61.3-11; 62.1-9; 65.17-25; 66.22-24; Jeremiah 23.3-8; 30.18-22; 33.6-18; Ezekiel 40-48; Joel 3, 18-21; Micah 4.1-8; Zephaniah 3.9-13; Zechariah 14.9-11, 16-21.

Pentecost – The official day that the Church began (Acts 2.1). On that day 120 believers in YAHSHUA Messiah gathered to pray (Acts

1.12-15). The HOLY SPIRIT came and took up residence inside of them (Acts 2.1-4). The Disciples then went out and preached the Gospel (Acts 2.5-13). Peter gave the concluding sermon (Acts 2.14-40) and about three thousand people were saved on that glorious day (Acts 2.41).

Rapture – The taking away of all believers in YAHSHUA Messiah (1 Thessalonians 4.16-17).

Pre-Seventieth Week Rapture teaches YAHSHUA Messiah will rapture the Church before the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week.

Early Seventieth Week Pre-Tribulation Rapture teaches YAHSHUA Messiah will rapture the Church after the breaking of the Fifth Seal and just before the breaking of the Sixth Seal. It is the correct position on the timing of the Rapture which contains no contradictions within it. The other four major positions have serious contradictions within them.

Mid-Tribulation Rapture teaches YAHSHUA Messiah will rapture the Church at the mid-point of the Tribulation.

Post-Tribulation Rapture teaches YAHSHUA Messiah will rapture the Church at the end of the Tribulation.

Pre-Wrath Rapture teaches YAHSHUA Messiah will rapture the Church near the end of the Tribulation just before the pouring out of the wrath of YAHWEH through the seven bowl plagues (Revelation 16.1)

Satan – See **Great Red Dragon**.

Second Advent – The physical return of YAHSHUA Messiah to judge the wicked and reward the righteous (Revelation 19.11-21). After He judges the wicked and rewards the righteous (Matthew 25.31-46) He will establish the Millennial Kingdom. It is also referred to as the Second Coming and the Glorious Appearing.

Seven Seals – The Seven Seals start with Daniel's Seventieth Week. After the Seventh Seal is broken the blowing of the Seven Trumpets begins and after they finish then the Seven Bowls are poured out with the final wrath of YAHWEH and the Lamb.

Sin – It is any thought, word, deed or motive that violates a command of YAHWEH. Very young children commit sins on a daily basis even though they do not know what sin is. When a child reaches the age of understanding what sin is they continue to commit sins because they have a sin nature. ALL babies are conceived in sin and born in sin (Psalm 51.5) and they ALL go astray from birth (Psalm 58.3). Everyone sins on a daily basis until death (1 John 1.8-10). EVERYONE who dies in their sins goes to Hell and at the end of the Millennial Kingdom they are judge at the Great White Throne Judgment, they are found guilty and they are cast into the Lake of Fire where they are punished for ALL ETERNITY for their sins!

Signs – See **Warning Signs**.

Tribulation – It is a period of time during which YAHWEH Elohim judges the unsaved by pouring out Their wrath upon them. Chapters 6.12 through 19.21 of Revelation describe this period among other passages in the Bible. The Tribulation starts with the breaking of the Sixth Seal (Revelation 6.12) and ends with the Second Advent of YAHSHUA.

Trinity – It consists of God the Father, God the Son and God the HOLY SPIRIT. Each God is fully God and equal to each other in all ways. Each is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all-knowing) and omnipresent (present everywhere). Together They created and rule the Cosmos. They are ALWAYS in full agreement with each other in ALL things – in thought, word, deed and motive. They are THREE Gods who think, speak and act as if They are ONE God. The claim that there is “One God revealed in three Persons” is not biblical. It strips the Father, Son and HOLY SPIRIT of Their godhood. According to some each member of the Trinity is only God along with each other. In other words it takes all three of Them to make up the “one” God.

The truth that each member of the Trinity is fully God apart from each other is proven by Deuteronomy 6.4 which says, “*Hear, O Yisrael, YAHWEH our Elohim. YAHWEH united.*” Elohim is the plural form of God (3 or more) and is translated Gods. The Scriptures say, “*Hear, O Yisrael, YAHWEH [are] our Gods. YAHWEH [is] united.*” The Hebrew word *echad* means unity or united. One God or one person cannot be united! Only two or more can be united as YAHSHUA said about a man and a woman (Genesis 2.24; Ephesians

5.31). The truth of the Trinity is: Three Gods who are equal in all ways with each other and always united in thought, word, deed and motive!

Warning Signs – The past and future events that have and will fulfill Bible prophesy that alert us to the nearness of the Rapture.

World Church – Prior to the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week a world religion will be established. All of the religions of the world will be part of it. When the Seventieth Week starts it will have total control over all the churches on Earth. It will also control the Antichrist for the first 42 months of the Seventieth Week (Revelation 17.1-7). The churches that refuse to be part of it will be shut down and their members will be forced to fellowship in secret. Most true believers will be executed during the Fifth Seal.

World Economy – Prior to the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week a world economic system will be founded. Every nation will be part of it. During the Seventieth Week the Antichrist will use this economic system to force everyone on Earth to worship him and take his mark.

World Government – Prior to the start of Daniel's Seventieth Week a super-government will be established that will have control over all the governments of the world (Daniel 7.23). Then this government will split into a coalition of ten nations which will rule all the nations of the world (Daniel 7.23; Revelation 17.12).

YAHSHUA Messiah – The Son of YAHWEH and the Messiah who died for the sins of the elect. He will return to Earth sometime in the 21st Century to slay the wicked, reward the righteous and establish His Millennial Kingdom.

YAHWEH – God the Father who created the Cosmos along with YAHSHUA Messiah (God the Son) and God the HOLY SPIRIT. He is equal in ALL aspects with God the Son and God the HOLY SPIRIT.

YAHWEH Elohim – God the Father, God the Son and God the HOLY SPIRIT are YAHWEH Elohim. These three separate Gods are equal in ALL aspects with each other. They are THREE Gods who think, speak and act as if They are ONE God.



MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS

This book is designed to assist believer's grow in grace from a newborn baby in the Lord to a pastor. Not every believer will need to be discipled to be a pastor, but that training is available in this book. It is not a study book designed to indoctrinate the reader into the dogmas of a specific denomination or church. It only helps the reader study the Bible inside and out and to burn the Scriptures into his soul. This workbook can be used by any and all denominations and churches.

To order your copy of *Make Disciples of all the Nations* email – dovbooks@yahoo.com

APPENDIX A

WHAT YOU MUST DO TO BE SAVED

For those who want to spend eternity with YAHSHUA Messiah (Jesus Christ) rather than in the Lake of Fire there is Hope!

Everyone is a sinner in need of salvation:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of YAHWEH;
(Romans 3.23)

Those who die in their sins will be judged:

And for as much as it is apportioned to men once to die and after this judgment. (Hebrews 9.27)

He that believes on the Son has eternal life, and he that is not subject to the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of YAHWEH abides on him. (John 3.36)

And if anyone was not found written in the Book of Life, he was cast into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20.15)

Yet even though all have sinned, one can escape eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire, and have eternal life:

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of grace from **YAHWEH** is eternal life in Messiah **YAHSHUA** our Lord.*
(Romans 6.23)

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into life eternal. (Matthew 25.46)

“For what shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”
(Mark 8.36-37)

Salvation is available to all because:

YAHWEH commends His own love to us that while we were still sinners, Messiah died for us. (Romans 5.8)

For YAHWEH so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Belief in YAHSHUA the Messiah is the only way to be saved:

YAHSHUA said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14.6)

And there is salvation in no one else, for neither is there another name under Heaven which has been given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4.12)

Salvation is by grace through faith in YAHSHUA alone:

For by grace you are saved through faith; and this not of yourselves, it is YAHWEH'S gift; not of works, that no one might boast. (Ephesians 2.8-9)

What must one do to be saved?

That if you confess with your mouth the Lord YAHSHUA, and believe in your heart that YAHWEH raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart is belief to righteousness, and with the mouth is confession to salvation. (Rom 10:9-10)

If you believe that God the Father raised YAHSHUA from the dead, call upon YAHSHUA to save you right now:

For everyone, whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10.13)

Today is your day of salvation:

Behold now is the day of salvation! (2 Corinthians 6.2b)

Receive YAHSHUA today, you know not what tomorrow brings:

But as many as received Him, He gave to them authority to become children of YAHWEH, to those believing in His name. (John 1.12)

APPENDIX B

RAPTURE WARNING SIGNS

The Scriptures clearly teach us that numerous **warning signs** will be fulfilled before the Rapture/Tribulation starts. Several **warning signs** have already been fulfilled, and others are being fulfilled at this time. Below are the past, present and future **warning signs** of the Rapture/Tribulation:

Warning signs that are being fulfilled

1. Breakdown of morality and society (2 Timothy 3.1-5)
2. The “*falling away*” (2 Thess. 2.3; 2 Timothy 2.1-5; 4.3-4)
3. Conflict between the corporations and workers (James 5.4-6).
4. Ressurgence of the homosexual movement (Luke 17.28-29)
5. Mark of the Beast technology (Revelation 13.15-18).

Warning signs yet to be fulfilled

The 8 **warning signs** that take place, from a few years to several months, before the start of Daniel’s Seventieth Week are:

1. Destruction of Gog/Magog and allies (Ezek. 38.1-39.16; 30.1-5)
2. Rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon (Zechariah 5.5-11)
3. Moving the Holy See from Rome to Babylon (Zechariah 5.1-5)
4. World church and the False Prophet (Rev. 17.1-5, 18; 13.11-17)
5. World economy (Revelation 13.15-17)
6. World government (Daniel 7.23)
7. World government breaks into 10 divisions (Daniel 7.24)
8. Rebuilding the Temple (Revelation 11.1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2.4).

The 8 **warning signs** that take place after the start of the Seventieth Week and before the Pre-Tribulation Rapture are:

9. A time of “*peace and safety*” (1 Thessalonians 5.3; Rev. 6.1-2)
10. Rise of Antichrist (Daniel 7.8, 20, 24; Revelation 6.1-2; 13.1-2)
11. The “*overflowing scourge*” (Joel 2.1-11)
12. Antichrist’s covenant with Israel (Is. 28.15, 18-19; Dan. 9.27)
13. World War (Daniel 7.8, 20, 24; Revelation 6.3-4)
14. Worldwide economic depression (Revelation 6.5-6)
15. Worldwide famine, pestilence, wild animals (Revelation 6.7)
16. Martyrdom of Church Age believers (Daniel 7.21, 25; Mark 13.12-13; Revelation 6.9-10)

Watch for the **warning signs** that have yet to be fulfilled. As you see them fulfilled, you will be able to determine how much closer we are to the start of the Seventieth Week and later the Rapture.

To study the 16 Rapture Warnings that we will see prior to the Rapture order your copy of ***Rapture Warnings*** email – dovbooks@yahoo.com.



RAPTURE WARNINGS

This book gives you a list of the prophecies that are being and will be fulfilled before the Rapture. We must be spiritually awake, as YAHSHUA Messiah commanded (Matthew 24.42, 45) us to be, and watch for the fulfillment of these prophecies.

It is an excellent book to give to fellow believers in YAHSHUA to wake them out of the dreaded “Imminent Return of Jesus Syndrome” which has infected the Christian world. The antidote to that disease is the Bible. Once a believer studies the Bible he will clearly see that specific prophecies must take place before the Rapture.

It is also an excellent book to give to non-Christians to show them that prophecies made over 1,900 years ago are being fulfilled today and many more will soon be fulfilled.

To order your copy of *Rapture Warnings* email the DOV Book Shoppe – dovbooks@yahoo.com

APPENDIX C

FAITH CHECK

Are you being conformed to the image of YAHSHUA Messiah?

Because whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

Are you being conformed to the image of YAHSHUA Messiah? Has there been a noticeable change in your likes and dislikes since you trusted Jesus to save you?

I exhort you therefore, brethren, by the compassions of YAHWEH to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, well-pleasing to YAHWEH, your intelligent service, and do not fashion yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and well-pleasing and perfect will of YAHWEH. (Romans 12:1-2)

Everyone who is truly born from above will change. You will stop doing certain things and start doing things you did not do previously. Your thought life will also change.

To determine whether something is good (honoring to YAHWEH) pray, read the Bible and ask yourself if YAHSHUA would join you.

There are a few things we know are not of YAHWEH, and must be avoided at all costs – illegal drugs and getting drunk.

And be not drunk with wine in which is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18)

The next time you listen to secular music, watch television and movies ask yourself if you think YAHSHUA would enjoy spending the day listening to that music and watching those shows and movies. Not all movies and television shows are bad. Exercise great discernment in watching them. Stick to news and documentaries. The next time you watch a Hollywood production imagine YAHSHUA is sitting next to you. Do you think He would sit through a Hollywood trash movie or television show? By the way, YAHSHUA is with you at all times.

Sleeping, eating, moderate exercise and working are not on this list because they are pursuits of the flesh that are necessary for survival. It is your free time that you are to examine. All believers should spend more of their free time each day feeding their soul than feeding their flesh. Sadly, few do that. Worse yet, few believers spend more time feeding their souls than they do eating.

If you are not spending more time in spiritual activities (feeding your soul) than you do in eating (feeding your flesh) you are backslidden. Since most people take time to feed their flesh should you take an equal amount of time in feeding your soul?

If you spend more time each day exercising the flesh than you do exercising your soul which is more important to you – your sinful body or your eternal soul?

Take this faith check once a month for the first year and then take it every few months or so. This will help you see your progress of maturing in the Lord.

Make several copies for your use and for others. You can go to www.gracemercyministry.com and print out the “Faith Check.”

If you spend more time in worldly activities than you do in spiritual ones you have a problem. You need to reset your priorities. Set aside a specific amount of time each day to pray, read the Bible, study the Bible, and memorize and meditate on Scripture.

Fellowship with the brethren is also important. Attending church services on Sunday and Wednesday is not enough fellowship to keep a believer spiritually healthy. Everyone needs fellowship more frequently. Seek out a home Bible study or start one yourself. The first believers of the Church Age fellowshiped every day:

And every day they steadfastly continued with one accord in the temple, breaking bread in their houses they partook of food with gladness and simplicity praising YAHWEH. (Acts 2.46)

The Spiritual Man versus the Natural Man

Take a few minutes out of your busy schedule and examine your daily walk with YAHSHUA.

Spiritual activities	Average time spent weekly
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Prayer	_____
Reading and studying the Bible	_____
Memorization & Meditation	_____
Devotions and worship with family	_____
Fellowship with believers	_____
Sharing the Gospel	_____
Helping others	_____
Total time serving YAHSHUA	_____

Worldly activities	Average time spent weekly
---------------------------	----------------------------------

Watching TV & movies	_____
Internet	_____
Reading (secular books/magazines)	_____
Hobbies	_____
Recreation	_____
Attending sporting events	_____
Socializing (in person or by phone)	_____
Shopping	_____
Other non-spiritual activities	_____
Total time serving yourself	_____



FAITH TEST

Faith Test is a book that every believer needs to read. Paul exhorted the believers in Corinth to examine themselves to see if they were in the faith:

Try yourselves if you are in the faith; prove yourselves! Or do you not recognize yourselves that YAHSHUA Messiah is in you, unless you are rejected. (2 Corinthians 13.5)

To order your copy of ***Faith Test*** email – dovbooks@yahoo.com

APPENDIX D

SPIRITUAL FITNESS PROGRAM

YAHWEH commands every child of His to be spiritually fit. This includes denying oneself of the pleasures of the world, living a holy and disciplined life, daily study of Scripture, living by every Word that proceeds from His mouth and then teaching others:

Messiah having then suffered for us in the flesh, you also arm yourselves with the same mind, for he [who has] suffered in the flesh has done [away] with sin, [that he should] no longer live the remaining time in [the] flesh for the lusts of men, but to the will of YAHWEH. (1 Peter 4.1-2)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to YAHWEH a workman not ashamed, straightly cutting the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2.15)

And these were more noble than those in Thessalonika who received the word with all readiness, daily examining the Scriptures if these things were so. (Acts 17.11)

But answering [He] said, “It has been written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD GOING OUT THROUGH THE MOUTH OF YAHWEH.’” (Matt. 4.4)

“These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.” (Deuteronomy 6.6-7)

There are a few basic things that a believer in YAHSHUA Messiah must do to become a faithful *disciple*:

1. **Pray** (Matthew 7.7-11; Luke 18.1-8; John 14.13-14; 16.24; Ephesians 6.18; James 1.5; 1 Thessalonians 5.17).
2. **Listen** to Scripture (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; Proverbs 8.34; 23.12; Luke 8.15, 21; 11.28; James 1.22; Rev. 1.3).
3. **Read** Scripture (Deuteronomy 17.19; Psalm 42.1-2; 63.1; 143.6; Revelation 1.3).
4. **Study** Scripture (Deuteronomy 8.3; Matthew 4.4; Proverbs 2.1-5; 8.34; 22.17; John 5.39; Acts 17.11; Romans 15.4; 2 Timothy 2.15; 3.15).
5. **Memorize** Scripture (Deuteronomy 6.6; 11.18; 30.14; Psalm 37.31; 40.8; 119.11; Proverbs 2.1; 3.1, 3; 4.1, 21; 6.21; 22.18; Isaiah 51.7; Ezekiel 3.10; Romans 10.8; Colossians 3.16).
6. **Meditate** on Scripture (Joshua 1.8; Job 22.22; 23.12; Psalm 1.2; 4.4; 19.14; 63.6; 77.12; 104.34; 119.15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148; 143.5; Colossians 3.16; 1 Timothy 4.15)
7. **Fellowship** with the brethren (Psalm 22.22; 119.63; Proverbs 13.20; Acts 2.42, 46-47; 5.42; Heb. 3.13; 10.24-25; 1 John 1.7)
8. **Share the Gospel** (Psalm 9.1; 26.7; 35.28; 96.2; Proverbs 11.30; Mark 16.15; Acts 2.47; 1 Peter 3.15).
9. **Be disciplined** (Proverbs 1.8; 4.1; 6.20; Eph. 4.11-13)
10. **Make disciples** (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; 6.5-7; 11.18-19; 32.46; Psalm 78.3-7; Proverbs 1.8; 4.1; 6.20; Joel 1.3; Matthew 28.19-20; Ephesians 4.11-13; 2 Timothy 2.2).

1. **PRAY:** Pray often for your family, friends, fellow employees, employer, church members, pastors, and city, state and federal politicians. Pray with your family daily and with church members on a regular basis. Begin and end each day in prayer, and pray

throughout the day. Pray that YAHWEH teach you each day as you study His word.

2. **LISTEN TO SCRIPTURE:** Play recordings of the Bible and listen to sermons and Bible studies.

3. **READ SCRIPTURE:** Make a reading program and stay with it. If you read three chapters a day in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament you will read the Bible through in one year. It is also important to read one chapter of Proverbs each day. It does not take more than a half-hour a day to read five chapters. If you watch TV have your Bible handy and read a chapter during commercial breaks. Anyone could read ten chapters a day by just taking a Bible break during commercials.

4. **STUDY SCRIPTURE:** Choose a book of the Bible or a topic to study, and stay with it until you finish it.

5. **MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE:** Memorize key verses from both the Old and New Testaments.

6. **MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE:** Once you have a few verses memorized you can meditate on them any time of the day, and wherever you are. Until then keep a pocket Bible or pocket New Testament handy. Keep a Bible and a few New Testaments in your car at all times for yourself and others. Get into the habit of giving out Bibles and pocket New Testaments.

7. **FELLOWSHIP WITH THE BRETHREN:** Become an active member of a church. Support the church with your time, talents, treasure and spiritual gifts. If you cannot find a real church meet with believers in a home.

8. **SHARE THE GOSPEL:** Once you learn how to share the Gospel be ready to do so 24/7. Be sensitive to the leading of the HOLY SPIRIT to share the Gospel. Carry tracts with you and hand them out as you are prompted by the HOLY SPIRIT. If the person(s) wants to talk – speak with them, but if they do not want to talk ask them to read the tract, and pray as you walk away. Keep a diary of your witnessing. When you lead someone to the Lord invite them to church and make sure they become an active member. If you are not mature

enough to disciple them ask your pastor(s) to find someone to disciple them.

9. **BE DISCIPLED:** Find someone to disciple you or find a good book on discipleship such as *Make Disciples of all the Nations*.

10. **MAKE DISCIPLES:** Once you have been disciplined, start to disciple others. If you are a husband disciple your wife. If you are a father disciple your children. If you are a mother disciple your children with your husband. If you are single lead a person to the Lord and disciple him/her. Never disciple a person of the opposite sex unless you are engaged.

If one develops a discipline in these basics of holy living he will become a *disciple* of YAHSHUA. It does not happen overnight. It takes many years to become a mature *disciple*, but it starts with the daily discipline of being in prayer, in the Word and in regular fellowship with other believers.

Pray in the morning, throughout the day and before you go to sleep. Set up a daily Bible reading program. If you read 4 chapters a day you will read through the Bible in a year. Read 3 chapters in the Old Testament each day and 1 chapter in the New Testament. Buy an audio copy of the Bible, and listen to it at home and in the car. Buy DVDs of movies about the Bible and watch them often (*The Gospel of John, Peter and Paul, The Greatest Story Ever Told, King of Kings*, etc.). Memorize Scripture. If you memorize one verse a week you will have 52 verses memorized in one year. Meditate on Scripture and let the HOLY SPIRIT teach you. Learn how to share the gospel. Ask your pastor to train you, and then share your personal testimony and the gospel as the Lord leads.

Verses that every believer should have memorized are those dealing with the Gospel and evangelism:

All have sinned – Romans 3.23

The wages of sin is death – Romans 6.23

Judgment – Mark 8.36-37; Hebrews 9.27

Jesus is the only way – John 14.6; Acts 4.12; Romans 5.12

The gift of eternal life – John 1.12; John 3.16; Rom. 6.23

Faith in Jesus – Romans 10.9-10, 13; Ephesians 2.8-9

Evangelism - Matthew 28.19-20; Acts 1.8

Choose verses on specific topics that help you in your daily walk. Here are some examples:

Eternal security – John 5.24; 6.37; 10.27-29; 20.31; 1 John 5.10-13.

Holiness/Sanctification – Psalm 119.11; Proverbs 8.13; Romans 12.1-2; 1 Cor. 10.31; 2 Corinthians 5.17; 6.14-18; Galatians 5.13-26; Colossians 3.16; James 4.1-10; 1 Peter 1.15-17; 1 John 2.15-17.

Love – Matthew 5.43-48; 1 Corinthians 13.1-13.

Blessed hope – 1 Thess. 4.16-18; Titus 2.13; 1 John 3.2-3.

Brotherly love – John 13.34-35; 1 John 3.16-18

Peace – Philippians 4.7.

Prayer – Matthew 7.7; John 14.13-14; 1 John 3.22; 5.14.

Prosperity – Psalm 1.

Protection – Psalm 23.

Spiritual warfare – Ephesians 6.10-18.

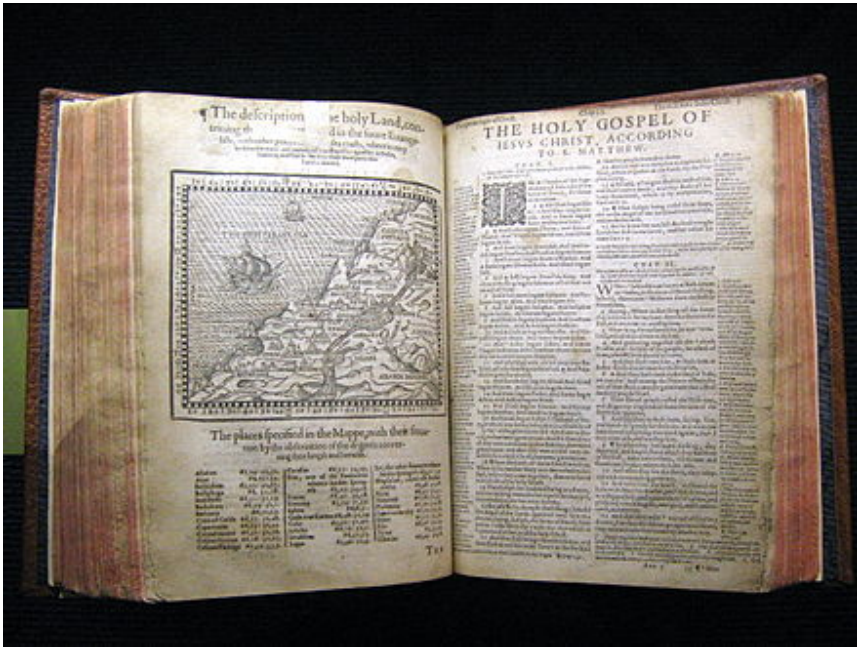
Strength – Isaiah 40.29-31; Ephesians 3.16; Phil. 4.13.

Sufficiency – Philippians 4.19.

Temptation – 1 Corinthians 10.13.

Tongue – James 3.1-18.

As you grow in the Lord you will pray more, and listen to, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture more and more. You will share your gospel more often, and spend more time in fellowship with other believers.



SPIRITUAL FITNESS PROGRAM

YAHWEH commands all of His children to be spiritually fit (Ephesians 4.11-15) and He expects all of them to become teachers (Deuteronomy 6.6-7; Proverbs 6.20; Hebrews 5.12). The only way to get spiritually fit and eventually become a teacher of the Bible is to set up a Spiritual Fitness Program.

All combat soldiers go through basic training which includes a physical fitness program. Without it they could never hope to fight and win. The same is true for believers of YAHSHUA. We are all soldiers in the Army of Messiah and we need to be trained how to fight the spiritual war we are in which includes a Spiritual Fitness Program.

To order your copy of *Spiritual Fitness Program* email – [dovbooks @yahoo.com](mailto:dovbooks@yahoo.com)

APPENDIX D

BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

And be not drunk with wine in which is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5.18)

Believers in YAHSHUA Messiah are not to be intoxicated (drunk) with wine and in like manner to not get “high” with drugs (legal or illegal). Instead we are to “*be filled with the SPIRIT.*” What does it mean to “*be filled with the SPIRIT*”? Does it mean we must have a “second blessing” in which the HOLY SPIRIT empowers us to do the work of the Lord?

Scripture does not say that before we can be “*filled*” or empowered with and by the HOLY SPIRIT we must have a special “second blessing.” Instead it is a daily activity. It is something we must do when we first awake and then throughout the day.

The first thing we should do when we wake up is ask the HOLY SPIRIT to fill us and lead us that day. Prayer at the beginning of a day makes it go by much more smoothly. Prayer gets us in the proper attitude so we can let our light shine throughout the entire day. The second thing one should consider is spending time in the Word. A quiet time in the Word when one first gets up fills us with the Word. Being filled with the Word and the HOLY SPIRIT is the same thing because the words that YAHSHUA spoke are “*spirit*” and “*life*” (John 6.63). Not only are the words that He spoke “*spirit*” and “*life*” but all Scripture is:

Every Scripture is inspired by YAHWEH, and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction and for discipline in righteousness that the man of YAHWEH may be complete, fully fitted for every good work. (2 Timothy 3.16)

Prayer throughout the day (1 Thessalonians 5.17) is a spiritual habit that keeps our mind set on the things above and not the things of this sin-filled world (Colossians 3.2). Being filled with the Word several times throughout the day is another habit that will conform us to the image of YAHSHUA (Romans 8.29). Taking Bible breaks is vital to be continually *"filled"* with the HOLY SPIRIT. If you can take a Bible or New Testament with you when you leave home try reading a few chapters during the day. If you cannot take a Bible with you to work or when you are out you can meditate on Scripture that you have memorized. When you hide the Word in your heart you always have it with you to meditate on.

By praying several times throughout the day and taking Bible breaks one can continually be *"filled"* with the HOLY SPIRIT. The more often one feeds on Scripture and prays the more he will grow. Babies would die within a few days if they were not given food. The same is true of newborn believers. If they are not given spiritual food they quickly die spiritually. The more spiritual food they receive the faster and stronger they grow. One or two twenty minute sermons each week may keep a believer alive spiritually, but that is life-support nourishment. To grow into a strong, mature and vital disciple one must feed on Scripture several times each day. All believers need to listen to, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture daily and wash the Word down with prayer. If you do that faithfully every day YAHWEH will bless you with myriad spiritual blessings, not physical blessings.

If you want to be a disciplined and dedicated disciple of YAHSHUA you must be a spiritual glutton, feeding on the holy Word of YAHWEH throughout each day and praying always. Instead of being a glutton of physical food and pleasures of the world be a glutton of spiritual food.

APPENDIX E

HUMILITY

Humility is a spiritual trait that few believers in YAHSHUA Messiah have because it is impossible to obtain it through the flesh. Humility only comes when a believer surrenders his life to the Lord every day. Surrender is daily obedience to YAHWEH and dying to oneself, the flesh and the world.

One obeys YAHWEH by praying throughout the day from morning to night (1 Thessalonians 5.17); by daily reading, studying, memorizing and meditating on Scripture; by regular fellowship with the brethren (Acts 2.42, 46-47; Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25); by continual sharing of the Gospel (Psalm 96.2; Acts 2.47; 1 Peter 3.15) and by making disciples (Matthew 28.19-20; 1 Timothy 2.15).

One dies daily to self by not doing things that feed the ego. Instead of spending time seeking to have your ego built up by the approval, attention, love, respect and honor from others, and seeking fame, glory and riches we need to seek how we can build others up by giving approval to their good deeds, and by giving them attention, love, respect and honor (Philippians 2.1-9). The road to humility is travelled by building others up in the faith, not demanding others build us up in the faith or build up our egos.

A believer also dies to the flesh daily by not engaging in things that the sinful flesh desires and which are sins. Two of the most prevalent sins of the flesh are gluttony and intoxication (by alcohol or drugs). Excessive indulgence in some other activities of the flesh that most believers should consider reducing, are: sex (with spouse), partying, sports, hobbies, vacationing and chit-chatting.

The way to die to yourself is to spend more time in spiritual activities than of the flesh which are not necessary for survival. Everyone must eat to live, but gluttony is a sin. Everyone needs bodily exercise, but excessive exercise is a misuse of the Lord's time.

The same is true of partying, sports, hobbies, vacationing and chit-chatting. These things are not sins, but excessive indulgence in them is.

A believer dies to the world by reducing his involvement in worldly activities or by cutting them out altogether. Some other worldly activities that most believers spend far too much time in are: television, movies, music, Internet, politics, non-spiritual books and magazines, and seeking after wealth and possessions. Every believer who desires to die to himself and live a holy life for the glory of YAHWEH will spend more time each day in prayer, Scripture, fellowship and soul-winning than in activities of the world.

We know we are growing in the Lord and dying to ourselves, the flesh and the world when our self love, our love of the flesh and our love of the world diminishes as it should:

Love not the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone should love the world, the love of the Father is not in him; because all that is in the world – the desire of the flesh, and the desire of the eyes and boastful pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away and the desires of it, but he that does the will of YAHWEH abides forever. (1 John 2.15-17)

The more these sinful desires diminish the more humble one will be. Pride is the opposite of humility. Pride is the root of every sin. There is no sin a person can commit that does not spring from pride. That is why the key to holy living is humility which replaces pride, and when pride is vanquished so is sin. No one can ever eliminate all traces of pride and sin, but it should be the goal of every true believer.

Humility is a spiritual trait that every believer should not only desire, but actively seek after. YAHWEH does not use His children to bring Him glory until they are humble. A believer who humbles himself before YAHWEH will be looked upon by YAHWEH with grace (Isaiah 66.2; Proverbs 3.34; James 4.6) and He will have regard for him (Psalm 138.6). When we humble ourselves before YAHWEH and those around us He will exalt us (James 4.10). We must never forget that all believers are commanded to “*humble*” themselves before YAHWEH (1 Peter 5.6), “*walk humbly with*” YAHWEH (Micah 6.8), be “*humble in spirit*” (1 Peter 3.8), clothe themselves “*with humility*” (1 Peter 5.5) and to not be proud (Romans 12.16).

Humility is always better than pride (Proverbs 16.19) and it is the only way to obtain true riches, honor and life (Proverbs 22.4). Pride will bring a person down while humility will bring him honor (Proverbs 11.2; 16.18; 29.23). We must also remember that there are numerous warnings against pride (Psalm 10.2; 40.4; 73.6; 119.78; Proverbs 3.7; 26.12; 28.25; Isaiah 5.21; 13.11; John 9.41; Revelation 3.17). Pride is a sin (Proverbs 21.4), one of the seven things that YAHWEH hates and that is an abomination to Him (Proverbs 6.17; 8.13).

Humility is one of the most difficult traits for anyone to obtain. No one can be humble in his own power. We must rely on the power of the HOLY SPIRIT to impart humility to us. Yet there are specific things we must do on a daily and regular basis before He will give us humility. The daily things we should do as noted previously are pray, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture. The things one should do on a regular basis are fellowship with the brethren and share the Gospel with the lost as the HOLY SPIRIT leads. These are the basics, but there are many other things a dedicated believer should do on a daily basis:

Seek first the kingdom of YAHWEH (Matthew 6.33)

Put on the armor of YAHWEH (Ephesians 6.10-18)

Fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6.12)

Transform your mind (Romans 12.2)

Take up your cross (Matthew 10.38-39; 16.24-26)

Deny yourself (Romans 12.1)

Be content in your circumstances (Phil. 4.3; 1 Tim. 6.6-8; Hebrews 13.5)

Give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5.18)

Continually offer praise to YAHWEH (Hebrews 13.15)

Forsake the world and all that is in it (Romans 12.2;

Galatians 6.14; 1 Peter 1.14; 1 John 2.15-17)

Flee from seeking after riches (1 Timothy 6.9-11)

Submit to others (Ephesians 5.21)

Obey your spiritual leaders (Hebrews 13.17)

Love the brethren (John 13.34-35; James 2.15-16; 1 John 3.16-18)

Love the lost and your enemies (Prov. 25.21; Matthew 5.43-48)

Be rich in good works (1 Timothy 6.18; Galatians 6.10;

Ephesians 2.10; 2 Timothy 3.17; Hebrews 13.16)

Do not grow weary in doing good works (2 Thess. 3.13)

Give to those in need (Leviticus 25.35; Deuteronomy 15.7; Proverbs 11.24-25; 19.17; 21.13; 22.9; 28.27; Ecclesiastes 11.1; Isaiah 58.7; Matthew 5.42; Luke 6.38; 12.33; Acts 11.29; Romans 12.13; Hebrews 13.1-2; James 1.27; 1 Peter 4.9)

Lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity (1 Timothy 2.1).

As we do these things day-by-day we will grow more humble and be used by YAHWEH for His glory (1 Corinthians 10.31) more each day. Others will see the Lord working through us and may be encouraged to follow our example. Pastors must set an example for the flock (1 Peter 5.3) by engaging in the spiritual activities above and they should also encourage others to do the same. They and all believers should be the servant of all (Matthew 20.26-27; Mark 9.35; Luke 22.26).

Negativity Factor

Very few believers understand the Negativity Factor. Understanding of this is the key to gaining humility and ridding oneself of pride.

Everyone is conceived and born in sin and goes astray from birth (Psalm 51.5; 58.3). We struggle with sin our entire lives even after we are born from above (Galatians 5.17). It is our sin nature and our submission to it that hinders the work that God seeks to do through us. This is the Negativity Factor. We do not add to the work of God in any way, we only hinder it. God performs great works through us in spite of us. We hinder His work we do not help it. The only thing we can do is lessen our Negativity Factor by obeying God every second of every day of our lives.

Christians who think they help God perform good deeds or great works are delusional. We can never help God. All we can do is empty ourselves of all of our desires and make ourselves available to Him every day. We must daily do what John the Baptist said about Jesus the Messiah, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3.30). The more we rid ourselves of us the more God can work through us for His glory.

The way to diminish ourselves is to spend every spare moment we have in prayer, worshipping God, Bible reading, study, memorization and meditation, fellowship with the brethren, sharing the Gospel and making disciples. Every minute we spend enjoying the pleasures of the world – watching TV, movies and sports, shopping, partying, reading meaningless fiction books, eating pleasure foods, hobbies, worrying over investments – is a minute wasted forever. Everyone needs down time, recreation and relaxation, but there are good ways of getting R&R and bad ways. Make sure your methods of R&R are honoring to the Lord and do not over do it. Three of the best forms of relaxation are praying, reading the Bible and listening to hymns. When you need to chill out pray, read the Bible and or listen to hymns. If these activities do not relax and energize you something is wrong.



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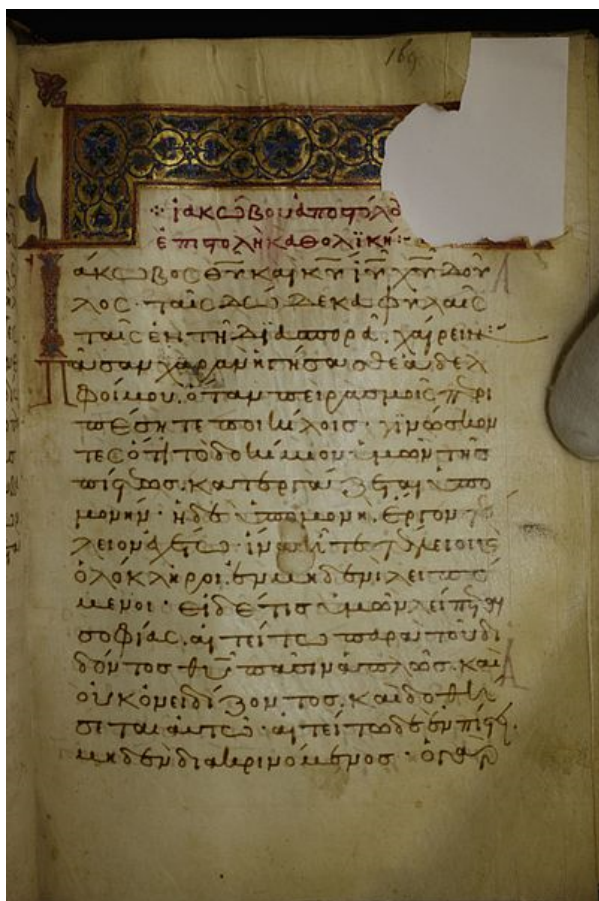
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