



Prophecy in Perspective

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An email newsletter

Countdown To The Great Tribulation

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.
(Revelation 6:1-2)

These are the opening words of the future time known as the Great Tribulation. This will be a period of seven years of trial and judgment upon the whole earth. The Great Tribulation will begin sometime, probably very soon, after the rapture of the church to heaven. The rapture is a distinct prophetic event predicted for the true church when the Lord Jesus Himself will descend from heaven to call all born-again Christians up to Himself to "*meet the Lord in the air.*" At that time, the "**dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds**" (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**). The Lord will not touch down upon the earth at the time of the rapture.

The rapture is the first of two phases of the Lord's return. First, the Lord must come for believers to close out the church age which began at Pentecost. Later, after the Great Tribulation, the Lord will return with His church to the earth to set up His kingdom rule from Jerusalem (Revelation 19:14; Zechariah 8:1-3). At the time of the rapture, Christians will be given glorified bodies as they are taken to heaven to be with the Lord (John 14:1-4). The church's evacuation from the earth also means the removal of the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit over the earth. The rapture will result in the release of all restraining power which now prevents the revealing and arising of the future evil world dictator known as the Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2:6-10). Keep in mind that the rapture of the church can happen at any moment! Therefore, we should continue to give the Lord's return for believers serious attention in these dark days of growing doctrinal confusion and dangerous unbelief. At this time, all the leading indicators show that the appearing of the world dictator, the Antichrist, cannot be far off. Therefore the rapture must be even closer!

Recognizing the characteristics of the coming world dictator, the Antichrist, is extremely helpful to Christians when trying to know who would be the best leader for the country. As the Bible predicts, people today are more willing than ever to elect a corrupt, godless deceiver as their leader (2 Timothy 4:3; Jude 1:18; Revelation 13:3-4). Daniel describes this coming satanic leader in these words: "**Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. He will show no**

regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all" (Daniel 11:36-37).

This future satanic world dictator will without doubt be applauded by the United Nations as a man of peace. He will be welcomed to the European Union as a man who will marshal the nations of the world into a single unified political and religious body. Having no regard for the "desire of women...nor for any other god," He will certainly be pro-abortion and pro-gay marriage. He will even bring peace to Israel. Initially and deceptively, he will appear to be Israel's friend (Daniel 9:27). To accomplish this fraud, he will instigate division on a massive scale and hunt down all who profess faith in the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. We see the Antichrist's methods being practiced today in the increasingly socialistic Democratic party whose leaders are implementing Marxist division-driven political manipulation to foment racial, economic, religious and gender conflict.

The Antichrist will especially hate the doctrines of the return of Jesus Christ to the earth. All tribulation saints will be characterized as disloyal to the leadership of the Antichrist. The Antichrist will mimic Christ by faking a resurrection (Revelation 13:3). He will make a point of denying the importance of the Bible, ignore the cross of Christ where sins were paid for, and emphasize the resurrection, that is, of himself. He will certainly forbid all preaching about Christ's return and demand worship only of himself. John said: "***The whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast" (Revelation 13:3).*** He will turn against Israel and will seat himself in their newly rebuilt temple and claim to be the true god. Paul wrote that the Antichrist will be the one: "***who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God" (2 Thessalonians 2:4).*** Note that Israel is already prepared to rebuild the temple!

Today, with hurricane Matthew bearing down upon much of the east coast of the United States, and perhaps even turning to do it again, and great potential of earthquakes threatening the west coast and the middle states of America, God is certainly speaking! Today, America is in trouble, and therefore, so is the world! We hear preachers in America blasphemously denying the Bible and the second coming of Christ! There is rampant growth in satanic wickedness and worship in the land with the advancement of occultic child sacrifice through abortion and vile promotion of gender and moral confusion. There is a spiritual and political war literally between light and darkness going on today, especially in view of the upcoming presidential election. We must study our Bibles and pray to be discerning about the direction of our churches and our nation!

Much of what happens in the world, regarding the survival of unborn and partial born children, the right to worship and preach the Bible and win the lost to Christ, the peace of Israel, the halting of the spread of Islamic and Communist tyranny, and the defense of biblical marriage, depends on the decision that Christians make in this upcoming presidential election! It is time for Christians to stand true today to biblical convictions through their praying, in their beliefs and in their VOTING! As a convicted Christian I will NOT vote for a pro-abortionist and supporter of Planned Parenthood, or a devotee of homosexual "marriage." I believe that all Christians need to make a decision to be consistent in their voting with what the Bible teaches. Is there any doubt as to why liberals hate the Bible, the Second Coming of Christ and Bible believing Christians who actually live out their faith? In view of the reality that the Lord's coming is real and imminent, and in view of the fact that America is in big trouble because of liberal preachers, inconsistent Christians and corrupt, pro-abortion politicians, we need to stand strong in our convictions to pray and even to vote accordingly!

In conclusion, "The Second Coming of Jesus is going to be the greatest event of all of the ages. It is one of the grand theological truths taught in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The return of the Lord Jesus Christ is mentioned in God's Word at least 380 times and one out of every 25 verses points with an eager finger to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ." (Adrian Rogers) So, in view of this biblical reality, you might ask yourself, why don't more of today's preachers and teachers spend additional time explaining this wonderful yet convicting truth to their congregations? Could the prophecy of 2 Timothy 3:1-5 answer this? ***"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these."*** Because this is true for these latter days, believers need to seek to sit under godly preaching FROM THE BIBLE, heed its warnings, and look for His soon appearing! Today, more than ever, you and I need to share these truths with those the Lord brings our way!



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