

*Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19*

SEP/OCT 2025

# LAMPLIGHTER

A LAMB & LION PUBLICATION

## IT'S ALL IN HIS HANDS

THE ETERNAL THREAD OF BIBLE PROPHECY





## LAMB & LION MINISTRIES

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

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# OBSERVATIONS FROM THE EDITOR

Lest you suppose I always think in terms of old song lyrics, I can tell you that I most often think and speak in Scripture. But sometimes a secular lyric captures a sentiment that the world seems to know just outside its own consciousness. Like an itch that you just can't scratch, it lies just below the surface of full awareness. But, like a word that is on the tip of your tongue, that semi-awareness points to a spiritual reality far more important than this mere physical world we inhabit.

In 1965, The Animals recorded a song whose lyrics were even more prescient than they realized:

*We gotta get out of this place,*

*If it's the last thing we ever do;*

*We gotta get out of this place,*

*'Cause girl, there's a better life  
for me and you.*

Watching chaos in the Middle East rise to a fever pitch once again these past several weeks, I was reminded that I cannot wait to get out of this place. It will be the last thing followers of Jesus Christ will ever do in this mortal life, and He indeed has a better life waiting for those who have trusted in Him.

But while we tarry here, He also has work for us to do on His behalf.

We sometimes wonder what it would have been like to live through the persecution of the Early Church or witness the Reformation, as the Gospel was reasserted in a series of "solos." What would we have done had we been alive to oppose the Holocaust—in Nazi-oc-

cupied territory or far removed in the New World? With the blessing of hindsight, we like to believe that we would have rejoiced at the prophetic significance of 1948 and 1967 as Israel was brought back to life and the Jews reclaimed the city of Jerusalem.

Standing in the stream of history, it is hard to get perspective on the events swirling around us and sweeping past us day by day. That is why it is valuable to step back and consider the historical trends that have led to where we are today. It is said that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it. For followers of Jesus Christ, the blessing of hindsight offers us understanding our forebears could only dream of.

With that in mind, let's consider the unbroken chain of faith that has been passed down to us today—blessed assurance that Jesus' promise to prepare a place for us and to return to gather us to Himself—anchors us to God's prophetic Word. And that Word remains faithful and true.



*Tim Moore*

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The *Lamplighter* will utilize the NASB or LSB translations interchangeably, and note when other translations are referenced.



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# HOW DID WE GET HERE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Tim Moore

I often think about the people who lived in ages past and wonder what they understood about their place in the flow of His story.

For those who lived between the Testaments, it meant experiencing a famine of the Word. And yet, there were individuals who remained confident that God would remember His ancient promises and fulfill them in His good time.

Similarly, following the fervor of the Apostles and the evangelistic urgency of the Church Fathers, the Church has waited almost 2,000 years for the promise of the Rapture and Jesus' subsequent return. As the years turned into decades and then centuries, some Christians began to wonder (and wander). Instead of asking, "How long, O Lord?" they began to doubt, either actively or passively, the promise of His coming—just as Peter warned would happen (2 Peter 3:3-4).

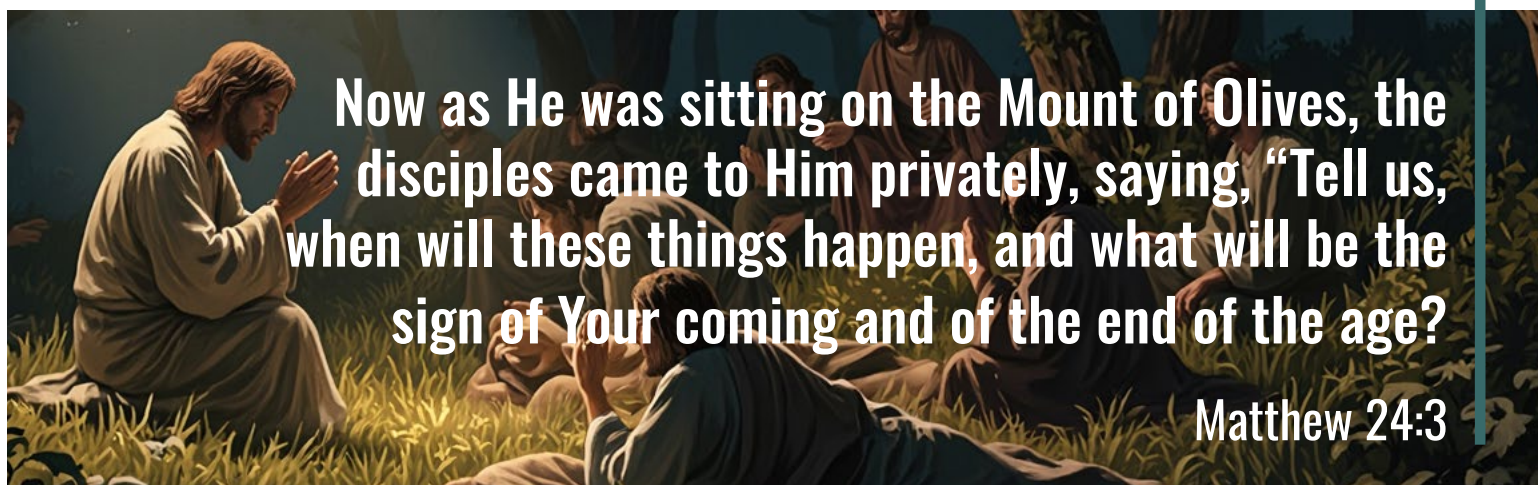
But there has always been a faithful remnant who remained excited about Jesus' promise and loved His appearing. Like Paul, they were confident that a crown of righteousness was laid up for them (2 Timothy 4:8).

## Faith of the Fathers

There can be no doubt that the Apostles expected Jesus to come again. Prior even to His crucifixion, death, and resurrection, they were asking, "What will be the sign of Your coming?" (Matthew 24:3). They didn't even understand the nature of His "going," but they knew already that He would be coming again.

The Early Church Fathers shared that anticipation. The earliest of them were disciples of the original Apostles. For example, Polycarp and Ignatius followed after John, and Irenaeus was taught by Polycarp. There were not many degrees of separation between many





**Now as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?”**

**Matthew 24:3**

Early Church leaders and the original Apostles. And, while they had to fight against threats of heresy in the Church, they also shared an expectation that Jesus would come again—imminently and suddenly.

Down through what we refer to as the Dark Ages, unwavering faith was handed down from one generation to another, kept alive by the breath of the Holy Spirit. As a glowing ember holds heat, that core faith was ready to burst into flame—and did so with the advent of the Reformation.

Although Protestants during the Reformation era were denounced as heretics for daring to read the Bible for themselves (and even, shockingly, to translate it into different languages so that common people could access God’s Word), the plain reading of what God had chosen to reveal stoked the understanding that human history would culminate in the return of Jesus—first for His Church and then in glory to reign on the earth for 1,000 years.

The Catholic Church had long since ascribed to a symbolic, Amillennial interpretation. But at the turn of the 17th Century, a Jesuit by the name of Luis de Alcázar offered an alternate viewpoint now called

Preterism. According to de Alcázar and vocal proponents of Preterism still today, every prophecy regarding the return of Christ was fulfilled in AD 70 when Jerusalem was sacked by the Romans. Makes you wonder what we’re still doing here today and why wickedness continues to multiply on the Earth.

## Freedom in Christ

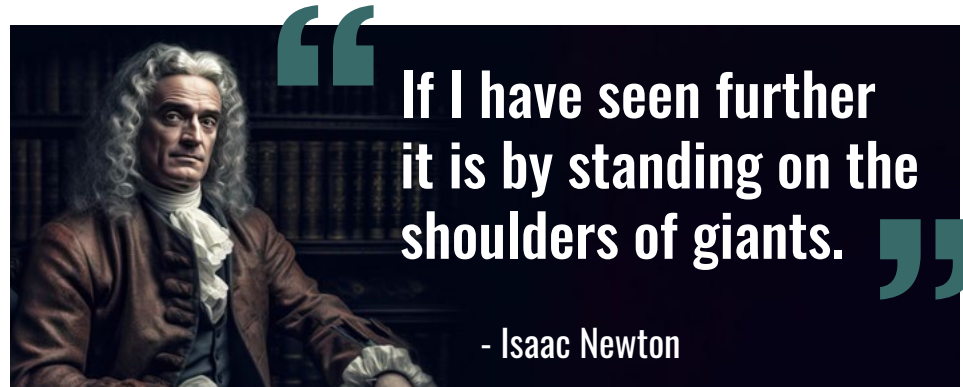
Coming as a direct repudiation of Catholic resistance to widespread Bible reading and comprehension, a new wave of understanding was unleashed when people began to read God’s Word for themselves—and accept a plain-sense understanding of what He revealed through prophecy.

The leading men of the Enlightenment almost universally credited their blossoming knowledge to God’s Word and their belief that He revealed Himself and certain

mysteries *in order that they might be understood.*

Throughout the Middle Ages, leading scholars and what are now categorized as scientists found both inspiration and understanding in the Word of God. And many of them lived expectantly, looking for Jesus to return. For example, Isaac Newton is revered as a great mathematician, physicist, and scholar, but he was wholly committed to the study of Christian theology—including the timing of Christ’s First and Second Advents.

He wisely recognized that God gave us Bible prophecy “not to gratify men’s curiosities by enabling them to foreknow [dates and times], but that after they were fulfilled they might be interpreted by the event, and His own Providence... be then manifested thereby to the world. Newton’s humility as a scientist is evident in a statement that



**“If I have seen further  
it is by standing on the  
shoulders of giants.”**

**- Isaac Newton**

**The secret things belong to Yahweh our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may do all the words of this law.**

**Deuteronomy 29:29**

is just as applicable to students of Bible prophecy. Paraphrasing Contemporary poet George Herbert, he wrote to a colleague, “If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

We too have an advantage over those who have come before us—hindsight and freedom. As faithful Christians sought to study God’s Word and worship Him in spirit and truth, many were drawn to the New World, where they could be free from Catholic oppression and state church bureaucracy. There is a reason why the first Amendment to the US Constitution addresses religious liberty. Having seen the potential for serving God and man when given freedom in Christ, America’s founders were not about to return to bondage and darkness.

## **Burgeoning Prophetic Expectation**

By the 1800s, followers of Christ on both sides of the Atlantic had redeveloped a biblical system of eschatology. I say “redeveloped” because the Early Church’s anticipation of Jesus’ promised bodily return had been largely set aside by the official Church. But the Lord raised up

men like John Nelson Darby and William Blackstone.

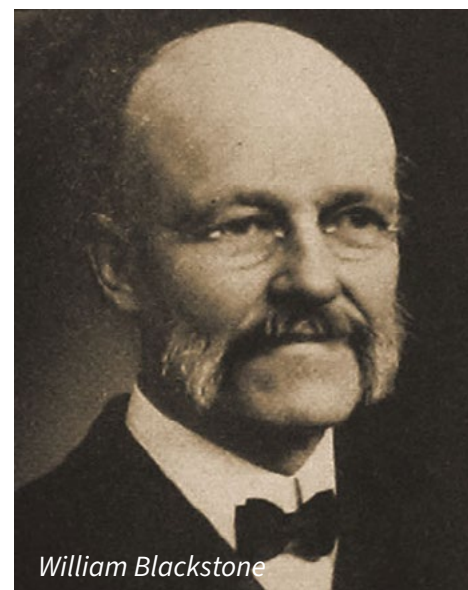
Darby is considered the modern father of “dispensationalism”—the belief that God has interacted with mankind differently in different periods (or dispensations) of human history. His systematic and literal interpretation of Bible prophecy also led him to strongly advocate for a Pretribulation Rapture, that will eventually be followed by Jesus’ glorious Second Coming and Millennial reign.



*John Nelson Darby*

Other men built on that plain-sense reading of God’s Word to recognize that God’s promises to hereditary Israel are still “Yes, and Amen”—as opposed to Catholic

teaching that the Jews have been set aside. William Blackstone, who once served with the Red Cross at Ulysses S. Grant’s army headquarters, became a leading Christian Zionist. His insistent support for the reestablishment of a Jewish nation in Palestine (as the Land of Israel was called in the late 1800s) was exceeded only by his consistent preaching that Jesus would rapture the Church before returning to reign for 1,000 years.



*William Blackstone*

Blackstone was so persuasive that he convinced John D. Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan, senators, congressmen, newspaper editors, and even the Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court to sign his petition advocating for the ancient land of Israel to be given back to the Jewish people. His fervor eventually sparked a passion in Theodor Herzl, who is recognized as the Jewish founder of Zionism.

Blackstone’s fervor was also passed along to C.I. Scofield, a theologian, pastor, and writer who had once served with the Confederate Army before he crossed Civil War battle lines in Kentucky to take the Union allegiance oath. Serving alongside Dwight L. Moody,



who himself had been encouraged by Charles Spurgeon, C.I. Scofield systemized a version of dispensationalism that featured an anticipation of a Pretribulational Rapture and literal millennial reign of Jesus Christ. That view gained widespread appreciation through his annotated study Bible.

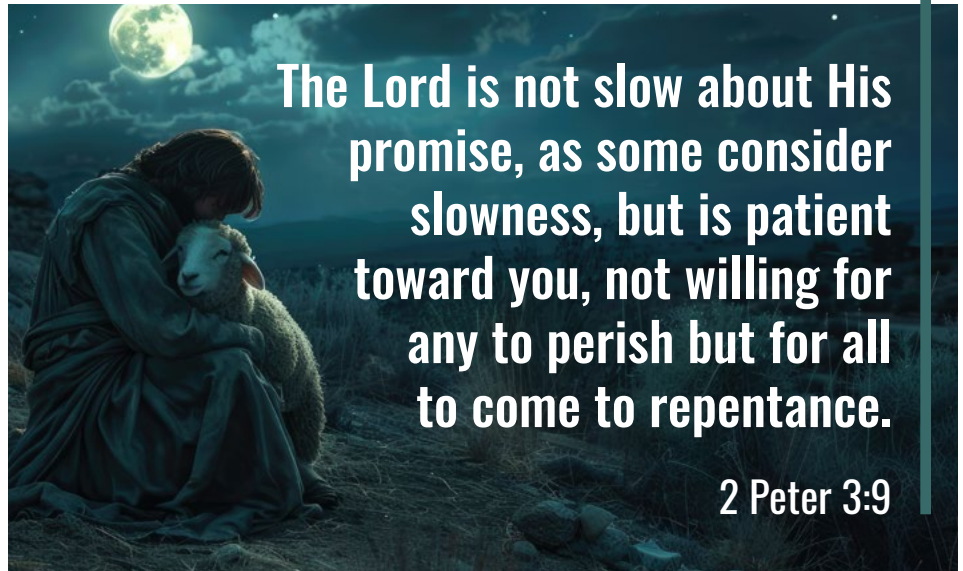
Like the disciples who followed after the first Apostles, these men and countless others who are known only to God, passed along a clear and Christ-honoring understanding of His Word regarding Jesus' promise to return. None of them, being mere men—were infallible in all their understanding. But they were faithful to take God at His Word, believing that both “the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints” (Jude 1:3) and “the things revealed to us” (Deuteronomy 29:29) not only belong to us forever, they should be believed, cherished, and shared.

## Where Are We in God's Prophetic Timeline?

I've offered a very broad overview of some of the individuals who have looked forward to Jesus' return throughout the Church Age.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares Yahweh. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what pleases Me, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:8-11



**The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some consider slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

**2 Peter 3:9**

For almost 20 centuries, the Holy Spirit has ensured that God's powerful and effective Word—including His prophetic Word—will not return void (Isaiah 55:8-11).

Obviously, every jot and tittle of Scripture will be completely and manifestly fulfilled, because it is God's will. But God's will will come to pass, whether He reveals it to us in advance or not. So there must be a reason God has chosen to reveal His Will and His designs for the future to us.

As we sit astride 2025, watching the Signs of the Times converge all around us and prophetic happenings accelerate day by day, we should thank God that we have the

privilege to live in such a time as this. Prophets of old and faithful Christians throughout the Church Age longed to witness what is transpiring before our eyes. Yet, instead of yearning, many professing followers of Christ are yawning. Lulled to sleep by the misconception that “all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation,” (2 Peter 3:4), they become the very mockers Peter warned would arise in the Last Days.

Whether you or I realize it or not, time is speeding toward the terminus God has ordained. All the signs indicate that could be very soon. If He tarries, it is only because He doesn't wish that any would perish, but would come to repentance and salvation in Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:9).

Either way, our mission is clear and urgent: warn every person we can to flee from the wrath to come and into the loving arms of our Savior. We can encourage one another, and all the more as we see the day drawing near, confident that He who called us—and revealed His prophetic Word to us—is faithful. And He is coming soon. ☪

# DEFENDING PROPHECY IN AN AGE OF DOUBT: “WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING?”

## Part 2

Dr. Ron Rhodes

**T**he Apostle Peter, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, prophesied that “scoffers will come in the Last Days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, “Where is the promise of His coming? Ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they have from the beginning of creation” (2 Peter 3:3-4).

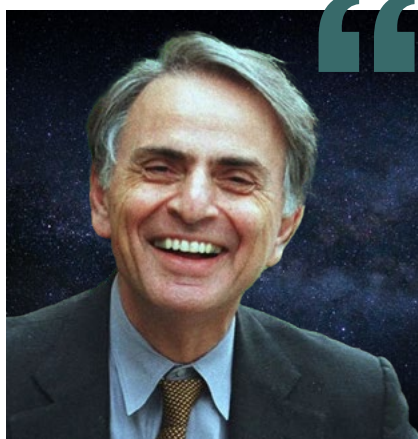
This prophecy finds a chilling fulfillment today, as voices from across the intellectual and religious spectrum dismiss the return of Christ with cynicism and contempt. Whether it comes from the so-called “new atheists,” progressive theologians, liberal Christians, or even complacent churchgoers, the essential question remains: “Where is He?” The question is asked in countless classrooms, podcasts, radio shows, TV shows, and more—often with sarcasm.

### No God, No Peace

Carl Sagan famously stated that “the cosmos is all that is or was or ever will be,” echoing the idea that “all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” More than one scholar has noted that Sagan’s comment seems to be a purposeful substitution for the *Gloria Patri*: “Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is

now, and ever shall be, world without end.” If that is indeed the case, it is understandable why some interpret Sagan’s words as containing an undertone of mockery.

The late atheist Christopher Hitchens, never one to shy away from confrontation, openly scoffed at the idea of Christ’s imminent return. He often cited the Second Coming to illustrate what he saw as the irrationality, and even dangers, of religious faith.

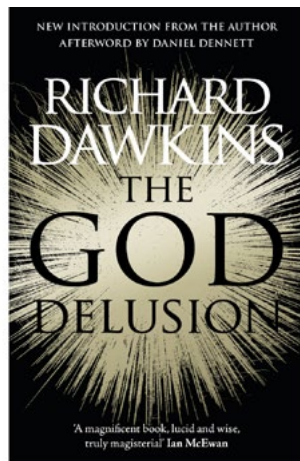


“  
The cosmos is  
all that is or was  
or ever will be.  
”

- Carl Sagan

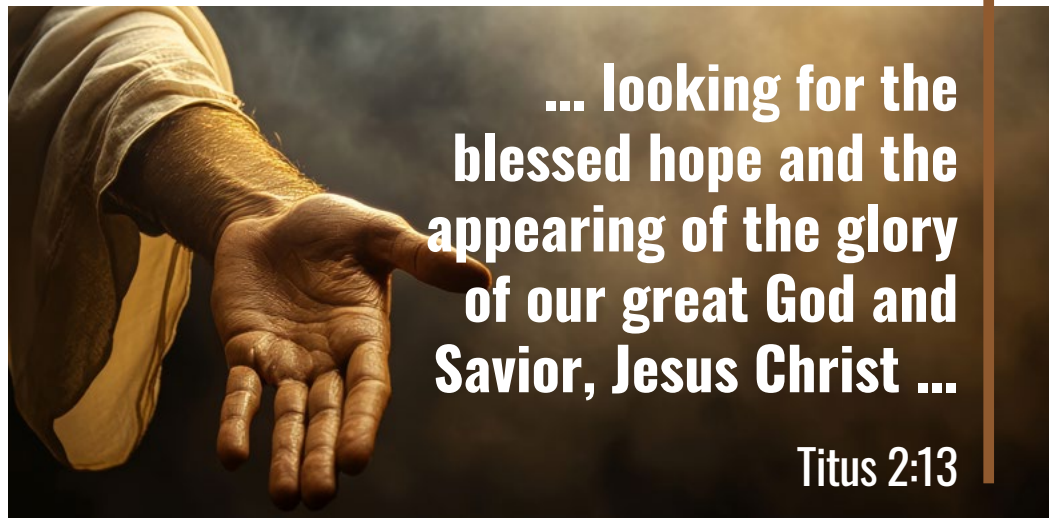


Richard Dawkins, in his book *The God Delusion*, argues that all religion is delusional and considers biblical prophecies remnants of ancient mythology. His worldview presup-



poses the uninterrupted continuity of natural laws and precludes the possibility of divine intervention—such as the Second Coming. This is known as “uniformitarianism”—the view that the natural order is unbroken and self-sustaining, and therefore divine intervention, such as the Second Coming, is implausible. To put it in the language of 2 Peter 3:4, if there has been no divine interruption since the patriarchs “fell asleep,” then there is no reason to expect one now. In a particularly theatrical jab, Dawkins declared that “even if there were this booming voice or the Second Coming in clouds of glory, the more probable explanation is hallucination or a conjuring trick by David Copperfield.” Dripping with disbelief and sarcasm, Dawkins then mocked, “Didn’t Jesus Himself say He would come again soon? Well, two thousand years later, He still hasn’t.”

Liberal Christian leaders have long dismissed the Second Coming of Jesus at mythology. This includes liberal Christian theologian

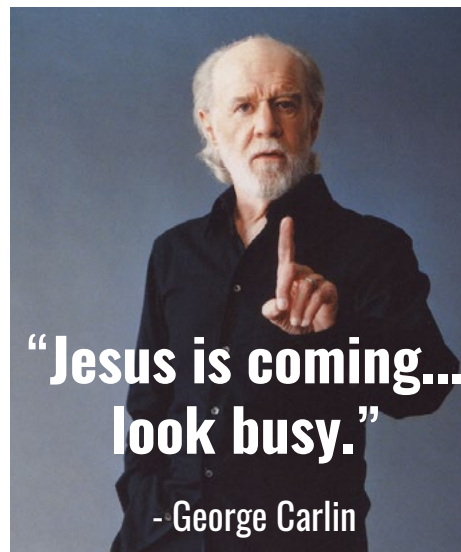


... looking for the  
blessed hope and the  
appearing of the glory  
of our great God and  
Savior, Jesus Christ ...

Titus 2:13

John Shelby Spong and like-minded Jesus Seminar members, John Dominic Crossan and Marcus J. Borg. I spoke with one liberal Christian minister at a large liberal church whose demeanor exuded a smug certainty—more condescension than conviction. With a dismissive roll of the eyes, he brushed aside several millennia of eschatological hope and declared, “The Second Coming? Why, that’s just when someone rediscovers God in their heart. Nothing more. Nothing more!”

Even cultural humor has joined the chorus. Comedian George Carlin reduced the majestic hope of Christ’s glorious return to a cynical punchline: “Jesus is coming... look busy.”

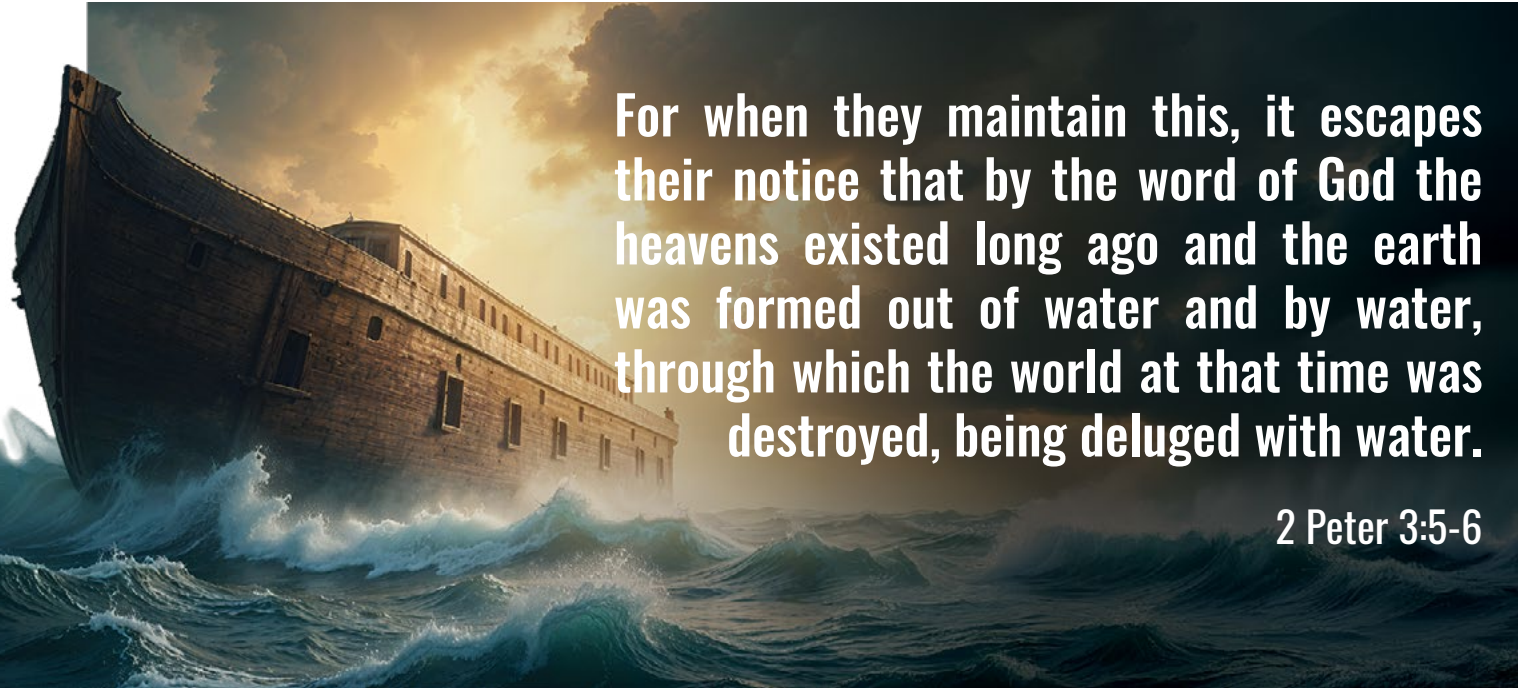


## Prophecy Fulfilled Before our Eyes

What Peter foresaw is no longer theoretical—it’s unfolding before our very eyes, in sync with so many other prophecies that are converging in our day. The mockery is real, and so is the spiritual erosion it signals. Yet, amid this chorus of disbelief, the Word of God stands unshaken. His promise remains, undiminished by scoffing and untouched by sarcasm.

Faithful followers of Christ who read the Bible for themselves have always lived “waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13)—the Rapture and the subsequent Second Coming.

I would like to make several observations regarding Peter’s prophecy about scoffers. Right at the outset, I want to draw your attention to the prophetic nature of Peter’s words. The rise of scoffers was not a surprise—it *was foretold*. Their mocking is not a sign that prophecy has failed; it is *proof* that prophecy is being fulfilled. In a striking twist of irony, the very ones who seek to discredit biblical prophecy end up validating it. Their scoffing be-



**For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being deluged with water.**

**2 Peter 3:5-6**

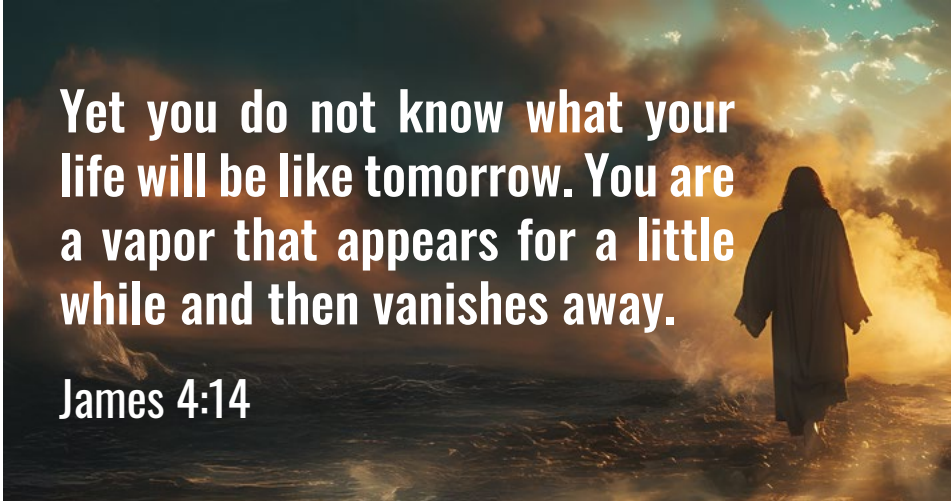
comes unintentional evidence that God's prophetic Word is true. Such scoffers may pride themselves on their clever arguments, unaware that on the grand chessboard of truth, God is always ten moves ahead. While they believe they're dismantling faith with logic, they are, in reality, playing right into the Hands of divine wisdom.

Notice also that Peter says, "scoffers will come in the Last Days with scoffing, *following their own sinful desires*" (2 Peter 3:3). A denial of Christ's Second Coming serves as a pretext for moral license. If there is no Second Coming, then there will be no judgment that follows it. And if there is no judgment, then we are free to live as we want, pursuing our selfish desires without fear of accountability. This means that scoffers have a strong motivation to deny the Second Coming and subsequent judgment; it makes them feel more comfortable in their immoral lifestyle. They seek to silence the voice of conscience. By rejecting divine intervention in the future, they attempt to erase divine authority in the present.

Peter then refutes the scoffers by pointing to the historical reality of Noah's flood—a clear example of divine upheaval that was sudden and unexpected (2 Peter 3:5-6). People of that time may have reasoned, "God has not judged us yet for our immoral behavior, so He won't in the future either. Let's keep living it up." But then judgment suddenly fell, and it was inescapable. The parallel Peter draws is powerful. Just as there was a divine upheaval associated with the Flood, so human history will experience another divine upheaval at the Second Coming of Christ. Those who scoff at the Second Coming might "keep living it up,"

but they're living on borrowed time, and their day of judgment is coming (Revelation 20:11-15).

Peter then pursues another line of argument to answer the scoffers: "Do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8). In other words, God is not confined by time—He is timeless. Unlike us, whose brief lives are like "a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes" (James 4:14), God is eternal. From the limited viewpoint of human beings, Christ's coming has seemed long delayed.



**Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.**

**James 4:14**



But from God's vantage point, it won't be long. It's coming. God "is not slow to fulfill his promise" (2 Peter 3:9).

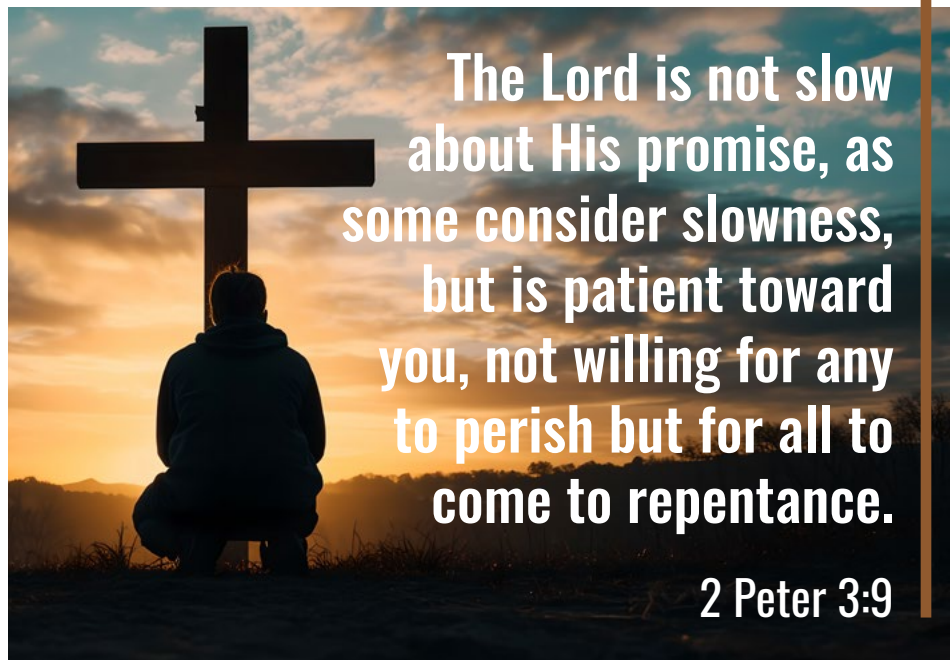
Peter now turns to what may be his most compelling argument against the scoffers: What is perceived by humans as a divine delay of the Lord's coming is, in fact, a deliberate act of mercy on God's part: "The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). This perceived postponement is not neglect—it is compassion. It reflects the heart of a Savior who longs for more souls to receive eternal life.

Yet such patience is not a justification for complacency about the Second Coming. The Lord warned that "the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him". (Matthew 24:44) And again, with piercing clarity, "Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake" (Revelation 16:15).

## God's Perfect Timing OR Waiting For God's Timing

As I reflect on the human tendency to perceive a "delay" in the Second Coming, I'm struck by how often we, as finite humans, misread divine timing. What feels to us like a pause or postponement is, in truth, the unfolding of God's sovereign plan—precise, intentional, and never late. We see stillness; He sees strategy. We feel waiting; He is working.

Consider the anguished cry of martyred believers in Revelation,



pleading for immediate justice: "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, *how long before You will judge and avenge our blood?*" (Revelation 6:10, emphasis added). They were impatient for God to act. God reveals there is a sovereign purpose for waiting: they are instructed to "*rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been*" (verse 11). *Then and only then* would judgment fall. Judgment was most certainly coming, but only when the time was right in the unfolding of God's sovereign purposes.

The same sovereign patience appears in Jesus' response to Lazarus' illness. "When He heard that Lazarus was ill, *He stayed two days longer* in the place where He was" (John 11:6). His choice to do this was not neglect—it was preparation for a *message* and a *miracle*. The message was this: "I am the resurrection and the life" (verse 25). The miracle then followed: He resurrected Lazarus from the dead (verse 43). Sovereign timing became a powerful testimony.

Abraham and Sarah waited *decades* for a son. In the end, Isaac's birth, well beyond nature's bounds with Abraham and Sarah, magnified the faithfulness and power of God (Genesis 17:15-19; 21:1-2). God had a sovereign purpose for what was perceived as a delay in the birth of the promised child.



Joseph's long season of betrayal, slavery, and confinement could have been perceived as a divine delay of God's intervention. However, that long season served as a furnace from which God forged a deliverer who would later declare, "What you meant for evil, God meant for good" (Genesis 50:20). Again, God had a purpose for the long years Joseph spent waiting.



Moses waited forty years in obscurity, during which he was transformed from a prince into a shepherd. Only then did God commission him to confront Pharaoh and lead a nation (Exodus 2:15; 3:1). God had a sovereign purpose for the forty-year wait.

Israel itself wandered forty years through the wilderness—a delay that became a crucible, refining a people for covenant faithfulness (Numbers 14:34; Deuteronomy 8:2).

And in the grand sweep of redemptive history, Paul reminds us that even Israel's temporary hardening serves a sovereign end: "A partial hardening has come upon Israel *until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in*" (Romans 11:25). What may be perceived as a delay in God removing this "hardening" from Israel is actually God's window of time for many Gentiles to be saved.

My point in all of this is that God's perceived delays are never wasted moments. They are sacred interludes, filled with purpose, precision, and promise. The same is true regarding the precise timing of the Rapture and the Second Coming. These events will occur in God's perfect and sovereign timing.

## I Can't Wait to Have Patience OR Waiting Patiently But Eagerly

Now, I grant you that even believers find it challenging to wait for the Lord's coming. Though we possess the firstfruits of the Spirit—a divine pledge of what is to come—we still find ourselves groaning inwardly, yearning for the full redemption that Scripture promises. As Paul put it, "We ourselves... groan inwardly *as we wait eagerly* for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies" (Romans 8:23). This longing points to that glorious moment when, at the Rapture of the Church, we will be clothed with incorruptible bodies, forever free from sin, sorrow, and decay (1 Corinthians 15:50-54).

Until then, we are urged not merely to wait, but to *wait well*: "Be patient, therefore, brothers, *until* the coming of the Lord" (James 5:7). This is no passive

**Therefore be patient, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the soil, being patient about it, until it receives the early and late rains.**

**James 5:7**





patience—it is a hopeful endurance, rooted in the certainty of His promise and sustained by the Spirit who dwells within.

I close with a reminder that in the end, those who scoff about the Second Coming unwittingly become signposts pointing to the very truth they deny. Their ridicule, far from undermining prophecy, serves as confirmation that we are indeed living in the days Peter foresaw. They mock because they do not understand the mercy behind the so-called delay, nor do they grasp the majesty of a God who is never

late, but always right on time. For the faithful, their mockery only strengthens our resolve. We will not be swayed by the noise of unbelief. Instead, with eyes fixed on the skies and hearts anchored in the promises of Scripture, we wait—not with doubt, but with confident expectation—for the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ☩

*\* This article uses the ESV translation.*

*\*\* Part 1 of this 2-part series can be found in the Jul-Aug Lamplighter at [ChristInProphecy.org](http://ChristInProphecy.org).*



Dr. Ron Rhodes is a long-time friend of Lamb & Lion Ministries. He has appeared many times as a beloved guest on *Christ in Prophecy*. We hope to feature a discussion of his newest book, *God's Prophetic Blueprint in Daniel and Revelation* on an upcoming episode.

*Gary Varvel*





# THE BLESSED HOPE IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Lee W. Brainard

## Soundbite Theology

The Pretribulation Rapture is regularly attacked in our day. Men rail against it in books and magazine articles, on social media, in radio programs and podcasts, in YouTube videos and TV shows. We hear the same accusations over and over again. “No one taught a Pre-Trib Rapture prior to J.N. Darby.” “No early church father taught a Pre-Trib Rapture.” “Nobody learns the Pre-Trib Rapture from the Bible alone.” “The only reason men believe in the Pre-Trib Rapture is because somebody taught it to them.” These accusations all boil down to the same charge—the Pre-Trib Rapture is a recent innovation that can’t be found in the Bible.

But nobody should be intimidated by these attacks. They are not based on an honest and thorough investigation of the Bible and history. They are based on racy, anti-Pre-Trib narratives which require men to ignore most of the evidence and encourage them to fight with soundbites rather than real arguments from the Bible and history.

## Robust Investigation

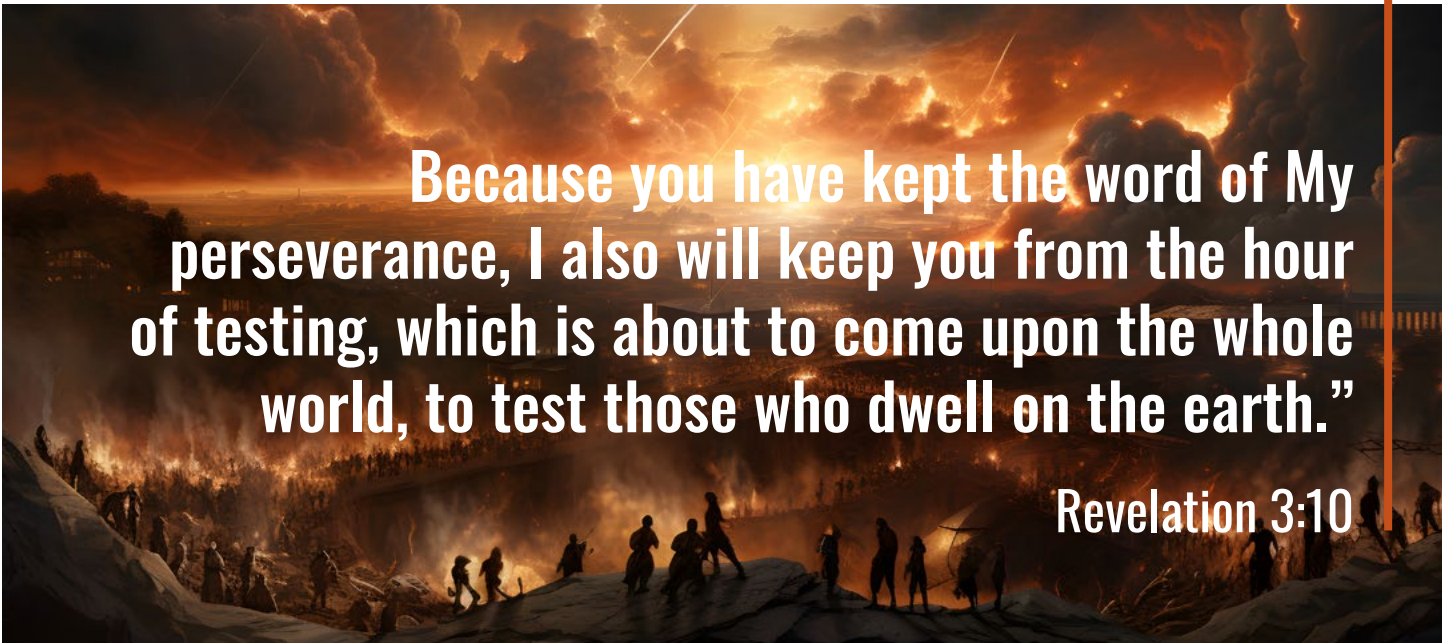
The truth is, when men engage in robust investigation of the Bible and Early Church History, they discover that the anti-Pre-Trib soundbite theology is wrong. It doesn’t have a leg to stand on.

When we make a robust examination of the Bible’s teaching on the Last Days—honestly and carefully weighing all the evidence—we discover two related points.

*One*, the Tribulation is the final seven years of the seventy weeks of years (the 490 years) that the Lord has determined upon Israel to fix her unbelief and reconcile her to himself (Daniel. 9:24-27). This time is also called the seventieth week and the time of Jacob’s Trouble (Jeremiah. 30:7). God’s purpose in the seven years of Tribulation is to give Israel a second chance to receive the Messiah that she rejected.

*Two*, the Church will be removed from this planet before the Tribulation begins (Rev. 3:10, Rev. 4-5,





**Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”**

**Revelation 3:10**

2 Thess. 2:1-3, 1 Thess. 4-5). Her removal is not because she can't see tribulation. It is because the Last Days Tribulation transcends normal tribulation. It is judgment upon the world in general and Israel in particular. God is determined to break the spell of Israel's unbelief.

When we make a robust examination of the prophetic views of the Early Church Fathers—studying their works carefully and thoroughly—we discover that many of them taught a Rapture before the Tribulation. The earliest fathers that addressed prophecy at any length were Pre-Trib, and the Pre-Trib testimony survived long after the rise of replacement theology.

The Blessed Hope in the early Church is the focus of this article. In the next couple pages, I will present information from several Early Fathers who clearly believed in a Pre-Trib Rapture.

## **Irenaeus**

Irenaeus lived and wrote in the second century. The work he is best known for is his *Against Heresies*,

which addresses many of the errors of his day. This work contains many observations which reveal his prophetic views, especially in book 5. His testimony is especially significant because he claimed that he received his prophetic instruction from aged men who had sat at the feet of the Apostles. He knew men who knew the Apostles.

Now anti-Pretribbers love to quote *Against Heresies* 5.26.1,

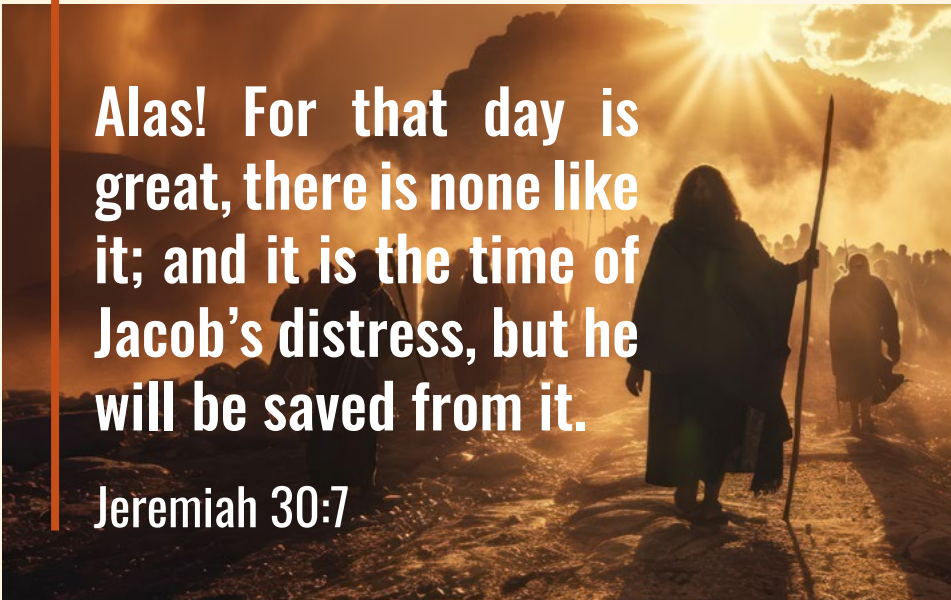
**“The ten horns ... are ten kings, who ... shall receive power as if kings one hour with the beast ... and they shall lay Babylon waste, and burn her with fire, and shall give their kingdom to the beast, and put the Church to flight.”**

They triumphantly gloat that this is proof that Irenaeus believed that the Church would go through the Tribulation.

The problem is, this is a wrong conclusion based on superficial research. Irenaeus is a classic example that men need to carefully and fully study a subject before they frame and articulate a position. If men study what Irenaeus taught on

Israel and the Church, they will discover that he believed there were two churches (two synagogues): the elder and the younger (*Against Heresies* 4:31.1-2). The elder refers to Israel and the younger refers to the Church. They will also discover that he distinguished between God's current program with the New Testament seed of Abraham and God's future program with the Old Testament seed of Abraham, defending this future return to Israel by citing the promise in Jeremiah that God would gather Israel from all the nations where they had been scattered (*Against Heresies* 5.34.1).

Once you understand Irenaeus' distinction between the Old Testament congregation of God's people (Israel) and the New Testament Church, then you realize that his passage regarding the Church in the Tribulation does not prove that he believed that the New Testament Church would go through the Tribulation. When you take all of his testimony into consideration, you realize that he was talking about the Old Testament “Church” (Israel) being in the Tribulation.



**Alas! For that day is great, there is none like it; and it is the time of Jacob's distress, but he will be saved from it.**

**Jeremiah 30:7**

Further, Irenaeus taught a Pretribulation Rapture. In *Against Heresies* 5.29.1 we read,

**“And therefore in the end when the Church is suddenly caught up from this, it is said, ‘There shall be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning, neither shall be.’ For this is the last contest of the righteous, in which, when they overcome, they are crowned with incorruption.”**

Notice that the circumstantial clause “when the Church is suddenly caught up” is followed by the main verb clause “there shall be tribulation.” The future tense here implies that the New Testament Church will be removed prior to the start of the Tribulation. The Old Testament saints will enter the Tribulation and will endure the last contest of the righteous.

Another Pre-Trib Rapture testimony is found in *Against Heresies* 5.5.1.

**“For Enoch, when he pleased God, was translated in the same body in which he did please Him, thus pointing out by anticipation the translation of the just. ... Where-**

**fore also the elders who were disciples of the apostles tell us that those who are translated are translated to ... paradise ... in which place also Paul the apostle, when he was caught up, heard unspeakable words ... and that those who have been translated shall remain there until the consummation [the end], as a prelude to incorruptibility.”**

Notice that the Church will be translated to the Third Heaven prior to the fall of judgment even as Enoch was translated prior to the fall of judgment, and they will stay there until the end, that is, until the day the Lord descends from Heaven in judgment.

These two passages make it clear that Irenaeus taught a Pre-Trib Rapture. His testimony is especially significant because, as noted earlier, he claimed that he got his teaching on prophecy from the aged men who sat at the feet of the Apostles themselves. He is, in essence, claiming that the Apostles taught a Pre-Trib Rapture to men like Polycarp, and men like Polycarp taught Irenaeus.

## Eusebius

Eusebius was born around AD 260, rose to prominence in the early 300s, and became bishop of Caesarea Maritima around AD 314. He is best known for his *Ecclesiastical History*, but he penned many other works, some extant, some lost. Despite the fact that he was amillennial and spiritualized many of the prophecies in the Old Testament, yet he still held a Pre-Trib Rapture based on the teaching of the New Testament. Following are two examples:

- “Fragments in Luke, on Luke 17:26,”

**“the cataclysm of the destruction of the ungodly shall not happen before those men who are found of God at that time are gathered into the ark and saved according to the pattern of Noah ... all the righteous and godly are to be separated from the ungodly and gathered into the heavenly ark of God.”**

Notice that in his estimation, the judgment upon the world at the end of the age does not fall until after the Church saints are in the heavenly ark. This is clearly a Pre-Trib Rapture.

- “Fragments in Daniel,”  
“fragment Ε”,

**“The apostle Paul was moved to write in this manner on the Second Coming of Christ, ‘For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a command, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God,’ and so forth. But the same apostle also connects with this prophecy, in order, the end-times coming and depravity of the Antichrist and after this the glorious appearing of our Saviour.”**



Notice the order of events that he sets forth here: the Rapture, the coming of the Antichrist, the glorious appearing of the Lord. Like many Pre-Tribulationists today, he regarded the Rapture as an aspect of the Second Coming.

These two passages should make it abundantly clear to any unbiased reader that Eusebius believed in and taught a Pretribulation Rapture.

## Ephraim the Syrian

Ephraim lived and wrote in the fourth century. He was the most significant father among the Syriac-speaking branch of the Eastern church. His writings were very popular, and many of them were translated into Greek. Despite the fact that he was amillennial, he still held to the Pre-Trib Rapture. The following passages are among the clearest statements of the Pre-Trib Rapture in the Early Church Fathers.

In “Sermon on Repentance, Judgment, and Separation of the Soul”(239), he wrote, “For the elect shall be gathered PRIOR TO the Tribulation, so they shall not see the confusion and the Great Trib-

ulation coming upon the unrighteous world.” It would be hard to state a Pretribulation Rapture more clearly than “prior to the Tribulation.”

“On the Fathers who Have Completed Their Course” (15),

**“When we see the saints in glory flying off in light in the clouds of the air to meet Christ, the King of Glory, but see ourselves in the Great Tribulation, who shall be able to bear that shame and reproach?”**

Ephraim here, with a display of ascetic humility, contrasts himself with the truly godly who will go up in the Rapture. But his false humility doesn’t void his testimony for a Pre-Trib Rapture. Moreover, this passage demonstrates his belief that some professing Christians will miss the Rapture.

“Sermon on the Advent, the End, and the Antichrist” (116),

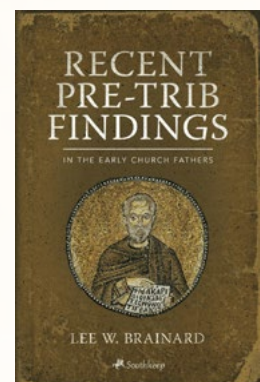
**“For if anyone has tears and compunction, let him pray the Lord that we might be delivered from the Tribulation which is about to come upon the Earth, that he might not see it at all, nor the beast himself, nor even hear of its terrors.”**

Here Ephraim presents a deliverance from the Tribulation that puts the saints at such a distance from it that they won’t see it or the Antichrist, in fact, they won’t even hear about it. We know from the Bible that the hour of trial is going to engulf the entire planet. Therefore, the only way to obtain this kind of deliverance, not seeing or hearing the Tribulation at all, is to be physically removed from the planet.

## Conclusion

The examples presented here should convince any unprejudiced man that there were men in the Early Church who held and taught the Pre-Trib Rapture. The Blessed Hope was alive and well in the Early Church. So there is no need to fret over soundbites like “no Early Father taught a Pre-Trib Rapture” and “the Pre-Trib Rapture teaching started with Darby.” Both of these claims are demolished by the testimonies given above. ☪

Lee Brainard is a recognized expert in Greek, Aramaic, and Hebrew. His latest book, *Recent Pretrib Findings in the Early Church Fathers*, details their expectation of the Pre-Tribulational Rapture and can be found at [Soothkeep.info](http://Soothkeep.info).





Tim Moore

# CROWNS OF RICHES

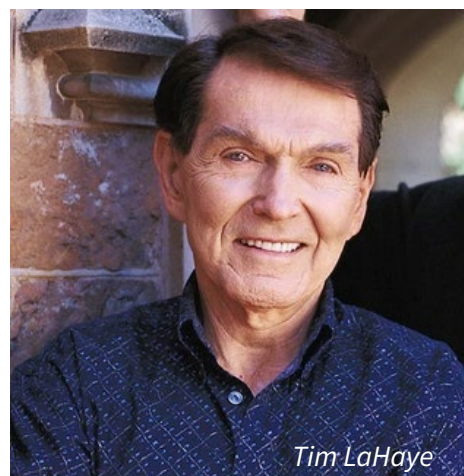
**W**hen it comes to Bible prophecy, one of the dismissive criticisms of scoffers is that generations of Christians have come and gone without the promise of Jesus' coming being fulfilled. Skeptical of the "practical" value of anticipating Jesus' soon return, they will ask, "What's the point?"

Were they able to testify to us still, I have every confidence that those who have gone to be with the Lord after longing for the Rapture in this life would strongly encourage us to share the anticipation they exemplified. That would include Tim LaHaye and Hal Lindsay, two faithful witnesses who emphasized the literal interpretation of

God's Word. They rose to prominence the last half of the 20th century, alerting the sleeping Church to the signs of the times. Both men became best-selling authors and respected Bible teachers because they took God at His Word.

## Tim LaHaye

Tim LaHaye was born in 1926 in Detroit, Michigan. When he was ten years old, his father died of a heart attack. Tim was devastated until the funeral preacher declared, "This is not the end of Frank LaHaye; because he accepted Jesus Christ, the day will come when the Lord will shout from Heaven and descend, and the dead in Christ will rise first and then we'll be caught up together to meet Him in the



Tim LaHaye

air." Those encouraging words of comfort and anticipation became a motivating vision that propelled Tim LaHaye throughout his life.

Following service during WWII as a machine gunner on a US bomber over Europe, Tim graduated from Bob Jones University and then





# GHTEOUSNESS

Western Seminary. His theological interests were wide-ranging—and impactful. While still serving as a pastor in San Diego, he founded a Christian college, helped launch the Institute for Creation research with Henry Morris, the Moral Majority with Jerry Falwell, and the Pre-Trib Study Group with Tommy Ice. Clearly engaged in spreading salt and light in contemporary society, Tim LaHaye never stopped looking forward to the Rapture.

In 1995, LaHaye joined with Jerry Jenkins to launch *Left Behind*, a series of books providing a fictional narrative to convey his expectation of End Times events. Several books in the 16-part series became bestsellers and spawned five feature-length films. Long before his

death in 2016, Tim LaHaye was recognized as “one of the 25 most influential evangelicals in America” (*Time Magazine*), if not the “most influential Christian leader of the preceding quarter century” (*the Evangelical Studies Bulletin*).

## Hal Lindsey

Hal Lindsey’s life closely mirrored that of Tim LaHaye. Born in Houston in 1929, Lindsey served in the US Coast Guard during the Korean War. He graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary while it was a hotbed of dispensationalism.

He wrote *The Late Great Planet Earth* to present a broad overview of eschatology from a pre-Tribulation, pre-Millennial Rapture perspective. Released in 1970, Lindsey’s book

touched a nerve in America. The New York Times referred to it as “the number 1 non-fiction bestseller of the decade.” Orson Welles narrated the movie version of the book released in 1978.



Lindsey was able to explain Bible prophecy in a way that connected with people concerned that the world was spiraling out of control. Although the timing of events he suggested has proven to be inaccurate, Lindsey himself was unequivocal about the main point of his book and his teaching. In an interview with *People* magazine, he stressed, “The only thing you need to understand is that God offers you in Jesus Christ a full pardon.”

Hal Lindsey wrote other books that exploded on the literary scene at just the right time, like *Satan is Alive and Well on Planet Earth* (1972). He also continued to emphasize a literal interpretation of Bible prophecy through his weekly news commentary, “The Hal Lindsey Report,” until his death in November, 2024.

## What’s the point?

Like many others who longed to see the Rapture in their mortal bodies, Tim LaHaye and Hal Lindsey have gone on to be with the Lord. But their passionate advocacy for the relevance and urgency of God’s prophetic Word has lasting value.

Not only did they awaken millions to the Signs of the Times multiplying all around us, but they also provided a clarion call to interpret Bible prophecy literally. For many in the Church who had never been exposed to what God has clearly revealed regarding the End Times, their ability to communicate on a popular level was eye-opening.

Scores of Christians now thrill over the blessed assurance that Jesus is coming again. We owe a debt of gratitude to the work of the Holy Spirit through men like Tim LaHaye and Hal Lindsey. Yet an even



greater blessing awaits those of us who are “looking for the Blessed Hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus” (Titus 2:13).

Paul told his protégé Timothy,

**“In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”**  
(2 Timothy 4:8)

The Rapture carries a Christ-exalting, Gospel-rooted promise—the forward-looking message of hope for those who faithfully follow Jesus, our Blessed Hope. Soon, He will pierce the darkness of this world to gather us to Himself. The fact that He still tarries does not take away from the promise that those who long for His appearing, like Paul, will receive a crown of righteousness—not based on their own merit, but credited to them from Jesus’ infinite abundance of righteousness due to their anticipation of His coming again.

That same message carries a solemn warning for those still under God’s wrath. Yet no matter your past or who you are, you can come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord, yearn to dwell with Him forever in the place prepared for those who trust Him, and eagerly await His promised return.

Do not wait. Confess your need for a Savior today and call on Jesus to save you. Then join me in loving Him and longing for Him to appear in the sky for His Church. If you do, you too can look forward to receiving a crown of righteousness.

Revelation 4:9-11 describes the scene in heaven when the 24 elders cast their crowns before the throne and worship the LORD God. I believe there will be a time when all who have been saved by the blood of the Lamb will be able to cast our crowns at His feet.

When the cry rings out, “Get ready to cast your crowns before the Lamb!”, I don’t want to be empty-headed. Do you? ☺





# PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE, AND ALL THE IN-BETWEEN

Terry Cooper, June 2025

**A**ll of humanity, all of creation is heading toward a single event, the return of Jesus. This amazing and convicting truth cannot be ignored or minimized. This truth is not only true today. This truth has been true for some 2,000 years, ever since the first appearing of Jesus. The Bible declares this truth to all who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

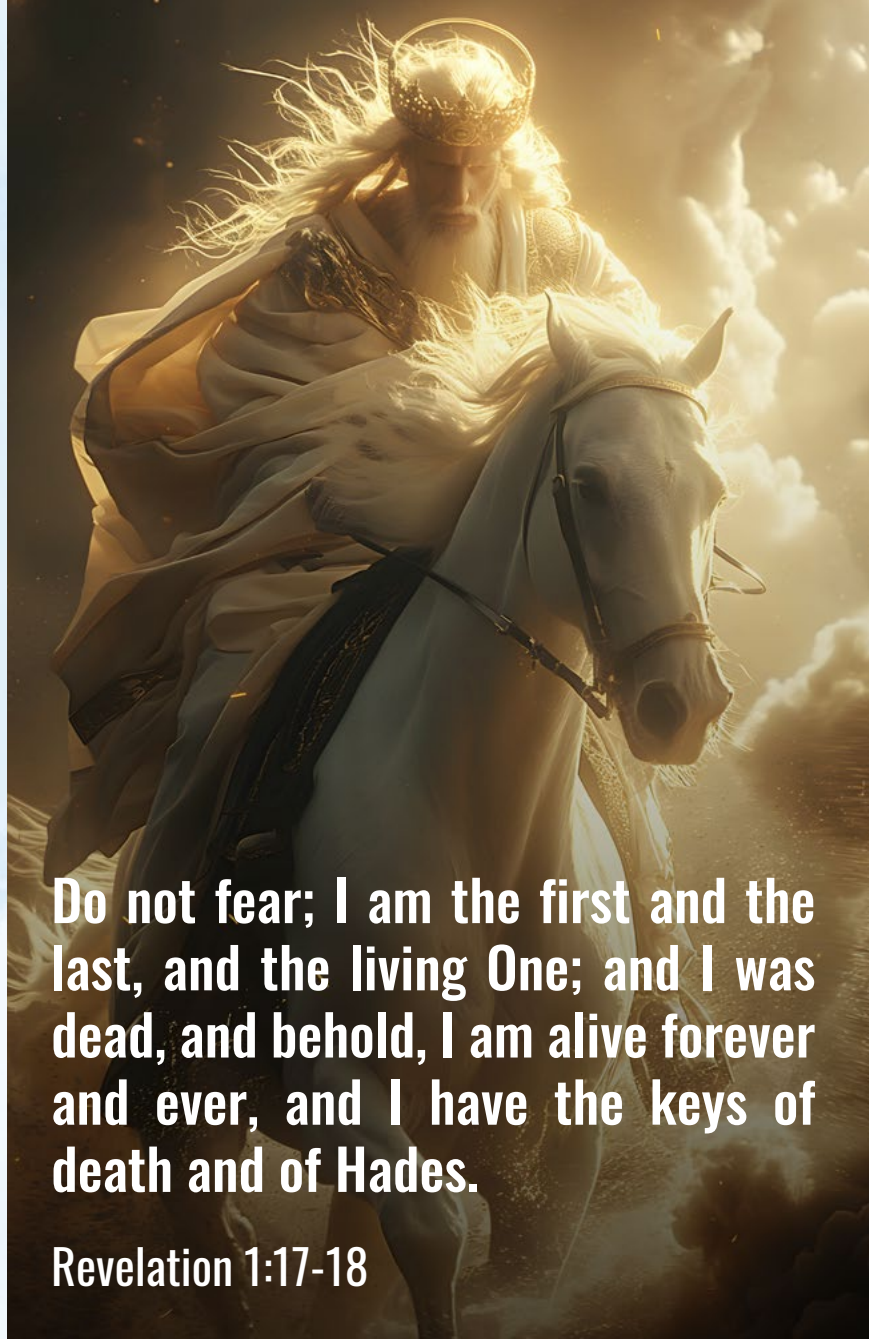
Everything in the Bible is crying out the same truth. Jesus, the Son of God came to the Earth to redeem mankind from sin, death, the grave, and hell; and Jesus is coming back to the Earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. There are many churches that focus on the good news of the First Coming of Jesus without revealing the good news about the Second Coming of Jesus. This leaves people with a false view of Jesus regarding His eternal purpose and coming kingdom. That's why many people today struggle with the true identity of Jesus.

I grew up in a church that never talked about Bible prophecy regarding the return of Jesus and the events that would precede His coming. They just taught that Jesus would one day come and take us all to Heaven. As a young man, I read the New Testament and fully believed in the Jesus who was revealed in the Gospels. However, it wasn't until years later, when I read and studied the prophetic books (especially the Book of Revelation) for myself that I saw the eternal Jesus, the glorious and eternal King Jesus.

## Encountering the Real Jesus

My life forever changed when I saw the Jesus of Revelation chapter one (verses 10-18). The Apostle John had spent three years of his life in deep fellowship with Jesus, but he falls on his face as if he were a dead man when he saw Jesus face-to-face. John was gripped with fear at the majesty and glory of the eternal and glorious King Jesus that stood before him.





**Do not fear; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forever and ever, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.**

**Revelation 1:17-18**

Why and what does it mean? Was this Jesus the same humble and Suffering Servant that rode a donkey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? Yes! But that's not what John saw that day. John saw glorious and eternal King Jesus, the Suffering Servant that is now the Glorious and Eternal King in waiting, the all-powerful King that holds the keys to death and the grave for all mankind. *John saw the future. John saw our future.*

That Revelation view of Jesus and our eternal future forever changed me. Like John, I was gripped with fear at the sight of this revelation of Jesus in His Heavenly-Kingdom glory. This all-powerful and glorious King of Heaven and Earth was holding the keys to death and the grave. Jesus was holding my eternal future in His wonderful nail-pierced Hands. And like John, Jesus tells the Church today to not be afraid but believe. In reality, it was because I was afraid and shaken that I truly believed.

But how can they believe if preachers don't tell them (Romans 10:14)? Yes, we preach the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. But that message alone will only confuse and frustrate people, unless they can see the Jesus of Revelation standing in front of them holding the keys to death and the grave. One-third of the Bible is prophetic in nature. Why? We need to know the future because this world is hard, and the adversary is real. We need to know that Jesus stands at the end of our journey with the kingdom power to defeat sin, death, the grave, and Hell itself.

## **Preaching the Full Counsel of God**

I've been preaching at the Ninevah Christian Church for over 25 years now. And yes, I preach about the Suffering Servant, Jesus, who went to the Cross as the atoning Sacrifice for our sins. But I also preach about the glorious and eternal King-in-waiting. And yes, I like to talk about things in-between. In between Jesus' ascension to the Father and His prophesied return to Earth. It gives the Church confidence and boldness to live out their faith each day because we've seen all the fulfilled biblical promises from the past.

In my early years of preaching, I was told that preaching about biblical prophecy would be controversial and divisive. Many told me to just focus on the historical Gospel message, the truth about that which has been. However, I have been compelled by the Holy Spirit to teach the full counsel of God's Word, Jesus' First and Second Coming and how we should live in the time of waiting. Jesus told us to watch and wait for Him (Mark 13:35-36). How can the Church watch and wait for what they don't know?

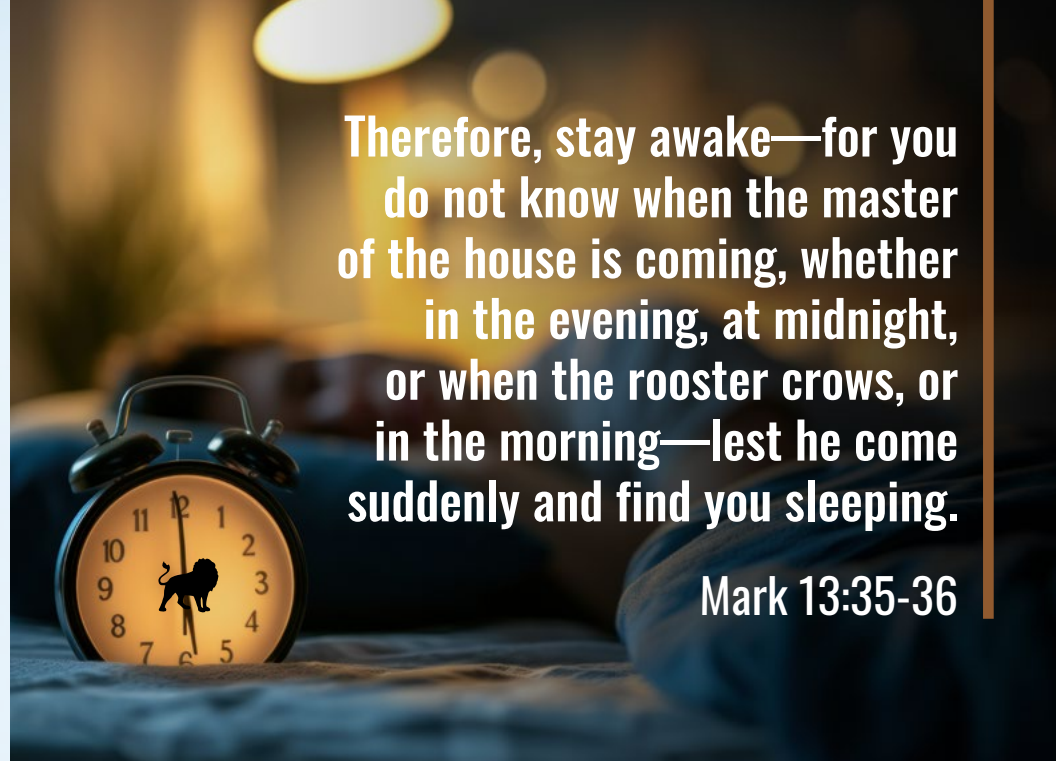
Yes, there are scoffers, some inside the Church and many on the outside. The Apostle Paul gives a warning about those who treat Bible prophecy with contempt.



Paul equates the scoffing of biblical prophecy to resisting or quenching the work of the Holy Spirit.

**Do not quench the Spirit; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.**  
(1 Thessalonians 5:19-22)

Yes, there are many that will mock the preacher that spends time preaching and teaching Bible prophecy. But I have this testimony. This church preaches and teaches the whole Bible, past, present, future and all the in-betweens. This church does not shrink back from the prophetic words of Scripture. And this church has never stopped growing in these past 25 years. The Church is hungry for hope. God designed the Church to live with expectancy. The Church needs to know the future and why we are called to persevere and stand against the darkness. The Church needs to see and know the signs that God has left for us. Signs that reveal the things that will be going on in the kingdoms of men before the Kingdom of Christ comes. Jesus talked about it and so should we.



**Therefore, stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you sleeping.**

**Mark 13:35-36**

Much of the New Testament was written by the Apostle Paul in the power of the Holy Spirit. When Paul was preparing for his final trip to Jerusalem as a free man he met and prayed with the elders of the Church in Ephesus. This is what he said to them and to the Church of the future.

**“Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. Be on guard for**

**yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”**  
(Acts 20:26-28)

The Apostle Paul declared that he was innocent of the blood of all men because he had preached the whole purpose of God to them. Paul had preached historical truth from the Old Testament and the First Coming of Jesus. But he had also revealed the truth about the future return of King Jesus and the judgment of God that would follow. Paul was challenging the elders/shepherds of the Church and all future preachers to follow his example and not shrink back from the full revelation of God.

**...for false christs and false prophets will arise, and will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But as for you, see! I have told you everything in advance.**

**Mark 13:22-23**

## **The Whole Truth and Nothing But the Truth**

People come to church seeking the Truth. The Church, the body of Christ has been given the Truth. Jesus is the Word and the Word is Truth. Jesus told us that knowing

the Truth would set us free. We can be free from fear and doubt regarding the events that are taking place in the world around us if we know the prophetic truth of the Holy Scriptures. Jesus told us that His followers would be able to interpret the signs of the times (Mark 13:22-23). The Holy Spirit's ability to interpret the signs of the times would give us peace and confidence in the Last Days, in the time of waiting.

**"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while, 'He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my**

**righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.' But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved."**  
(Hebrews 10:35-39, NIV)

We must never shrink back! The Church has been commissioned by our King to remain on offense and use the whole playbook that He has provided for us. We must continue to hold up the Bible as the only physical source of absolute Truth on Earth. We hold up all of it. We preach all of it. The past, present, future, and all the in-between revelations of God in our time of waiting. ☺



Terry Cooper was called to ministry in 2000, when he answered the divine call to serve at Ninevah Christian Church in Lawrenceburg, KY. Being obedient to the calling God placed on his life to be a watchman, he transitioned from a corporate career into pastoral work, driven by a strong conviction to prepare the Church for the imminent return of Jesus Christ.



garyvarvel.com



# ISRAEL – HIS STORY

Tim Moore interview with Vivian Summey and Wendy Howard



**A**ny focus on Bible prophecy today would be incomplete without acknowledging the greatest sign of all: Israel. Lamb & Lion Ministries has emphasized God's prophetic promises—and their timely fulfillment—for the past 45 years. Simply put, Israel is at the center of Bible prophecy history, because Israel is a key player in His Story.

Just prior to our annual Conference in 2025, Lamb & Lion Ministries released *Israel—His Story*. Written by Wendy Howard and Vivian Summey, it steps through prophecy after prophecy highlighting God's gracious calling of the chosen descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

As branches grafted into the True Vine, Wendy and Vivian seek to bless what Paul refers to as the natural branches (Romans 11:17-24), in hopes that they too

will be grafted back into the life-giving Root. Here are their responses to questions I posed to them regarding *Israel—His Story*:



Left to right: Vivian Summey, Tim Moore and Wendy Howard

**I was intrigued by your proposal to craft a booklet weaving together Scripture after Scripture to demonstrate God's deep and abiding love for Israel—the Land, the Nation, and the People. When did you come to understand the centrality of Israel in God's unfolding story?**

**ANSWER:** Vivian's love for Israel began over 40 years ago and I (Wendy) was drawn to love Israel through our 20+ year friendship.

Both of us have been reading, studying, and teaching the Word of God as inspired, inerrant, and God-breathed. From beginning to end, the Bible is God's story of His people, Israel, through which the Savior, Jesus Christ, would come to redeem the world. Making a pilgrimage to Israel deepened our love for the people and the land and what God's Word says about His eternal covenants with Israel, which can be found in our book in chapter 2, "God's Purpose for the Jewish People."

**Every Lamplighter edition presents the challenge of addressing a prophetic topic within a limited number of pages. How did you go about choosing the passages you would utilize to share His Story?**

**ANSWER:** In October 2024, we watched a three-part series from the 1960s on Israel by Derek Prince, a British pastor. He gave a plethora of Scriptures in support of Israel, and the Holy Spirit just spoke and basically said, "It's all in My Word." As we began putting these Scriptures

into categories, the Holy Spirit showed us additional categories and verses to include. It's not an exhaustive compilation but a selection of Scriptures to prove that God has an ETERNAL plan for the Jewish people and the Land through His unconditional covenants with them. We didn't know of any other resource using only God's Word to tell the story—His Story—of Israel. Who can argue with what His Word says, especially in this day and age since lies and demonic doctrines about Israel are far too prevalent, especially in the Church?

**Wendy, your heart for the Lord was evident when we were in Israel together on a pilgrimage and you shared a testimony at Magdala (the town on the banks of the Sea of Galilee where Mary Magdalene was from). What would you say to those who wrongly claim that Christianity minimizes women?**


**ANSWER:** All you have to do is focus on what Jesus did in His ministry. He lifted up women and honored them everywhere He went. Women like Mary Magdalene were very much a part of His ministry and others like Joanna financially supported His ministry. Also, Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection, a woman, who in that culture was not even looked upon as a credible witness. Denominations, individual churches, and people may minimize women and their roles in ministry, but Jesus Himself certainly did not! And He should always be our role model.



**For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?**

**Romans 11:24**





But God has chosen the foolish things  
of the world to shame the wise, and God  
has chosen the weak things of the world  
to shame the things which are strong...

1 Corinthians 1:27

**Vivian, Wendy has referred to you as both a mentor and friend—and someone who deepened her appreciation for God’s prophetic Word. How did you come to follow Christ as both as a Bible Study leader and now a published author?**

**ANSWER:** Ever since I was born again in Christ in 1972, I have been passionate about the Word of God. Early on, I was blessed to have pastors, Bible teachers, and radio programs which taught the truth of God’s Word concerning Israel, including David Reagan on the Lamb & Lion radio program in the ’80s and Pat Robertson on CBN’s 700 Club. I taught my four sons to love Israel during homeschooling, and two sons later served in Israel as volunteers with a Christian ministry. Wendy and I believe God truly spoke to us to write this book with Scriptures only, in order to convince those who have not been taught to know God’s heart and plan for Israel or who have been taught incorrectly (Replacement Theology) to deny God’s heart and truth about Israel.

**The title of your book captures your theme. Why do you think God chosen this specific people group to call His own and designate “the apple of My eye” (Deuteronomy 32:10 and Zechariah 2:8)?**

**ANSWER:** Deuteronomy 7:5-8a says, “For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers. . .” That explains it all! Isn’t that just like the Lord to use the foolish and weak things of this world to confound the wise and strong as it says in 1 Corinthians 1:27?! God’s pattern throughout history has been to use those least expected—the lowly and the weak. Israel is certainly the apple of God’s eye! We reiterate this powerful truth in our book in chapter 3, “God’s Election and Preservation of the Jewish People.”

**Over the past two years, we’ve witnessed an outpouring of animosity toward Israel—beginning with the heinous Hamas attack of October 7th, 2023, but metastasizing into abject anti-Semitism on American college campuses and a hail of ballistic missiles fired from Iran. What is behind this outpouring of hatred?**

**ANSWER:** As students of God’s Word, we all know that the root of all this hatred is Satan himself. It started in Genesis 3:15, when God announced that He would put enmity between Satan and his seed and the woman (Eve) and her Seed (humanity and ultimately the Messiah).

Throughout history, Satan's hatred for the Jews, God's chosen instrument to bring Messiah and the Gospel to a dying world, has never ceased. What started in the Garden continued through Pharaoh, Amalek, Haman, Herod, the Holocaust, Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis—all fervent haters of the Jewish people. Someone should do a study of why so many of those start with the letter "H"! We go into more detail in our book in chapter 8 on "Persecution, Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism."

**God's prophetic Word tells us that the Lord still has a plan for the Jewish people. He also offers His grace—His unmerited favor—to anyone who will believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. What would you say to someone who is wrestling with God (as Jacob did) but has not yet submitted to Him?**

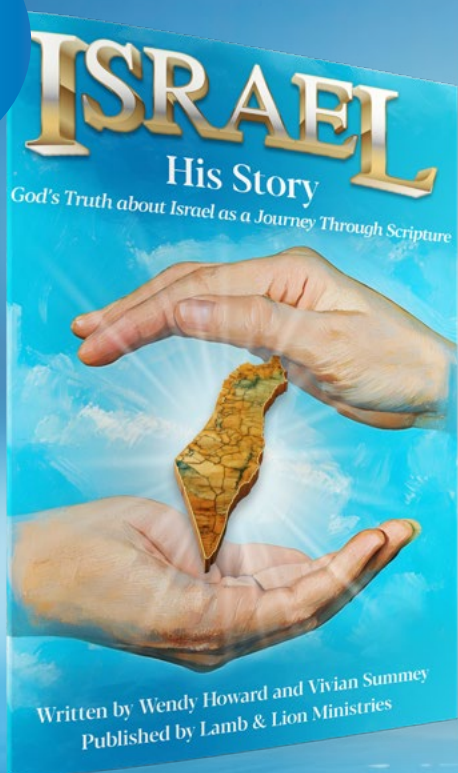
**ANSWER:** The wrestling is a good sign. We understand whoever is wrestling with God, it is because Jesus Christ loves them, His Holy Spirit is drawing them, and their flesh may be bat-

ting against Him momentarily. We would echo what the author of Hebrews says two times in Hebrews 3, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart." Surrender to God. We know that the Rapture of the Church is imminent and our heart to share the Gospel is paramount so that people may come to Christ and not have to experience the wrath of God during the seven-year Tribulation.

**Who is the intended audience for your book?**

**ANSWER:** Initially, we were prompted to write this for believers who have been taught falsely that God has no plan for the Jewish people or that the Church has replaced Israel. Then the Lord showed us that there are many believers who have not been taught anything about the Jews and Israel. Finally, He showed us that this book is also for Jewish people who don't know Jesus as their Messiah. We are praying it will bring many to faith in Him! ☺

**\$7**



# ISRAEL

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# MIKE HUCKABEE

**M**ike Huckabee was the keynote speaker at Lamb & Lion Ministries' 2024 Annual Bible Prophecy Conference. He is an outspoken Christian who champions conservative values. Appointed by President Trump, he currently serves in Jerusalem as the United States Ambassador to Israel.

Here is his pledge regarding that role:

**[President Trump] sent me to Israel to be your eyes, ears, and voice and to make sure our flag flies above our embassy. My job is to be the last one to leave. I will not abandon this post. Our flag will NOT come down!**

Ambassador Huckabee's response to calls to acquiesce to Hamas' demands for a Palestinian state:

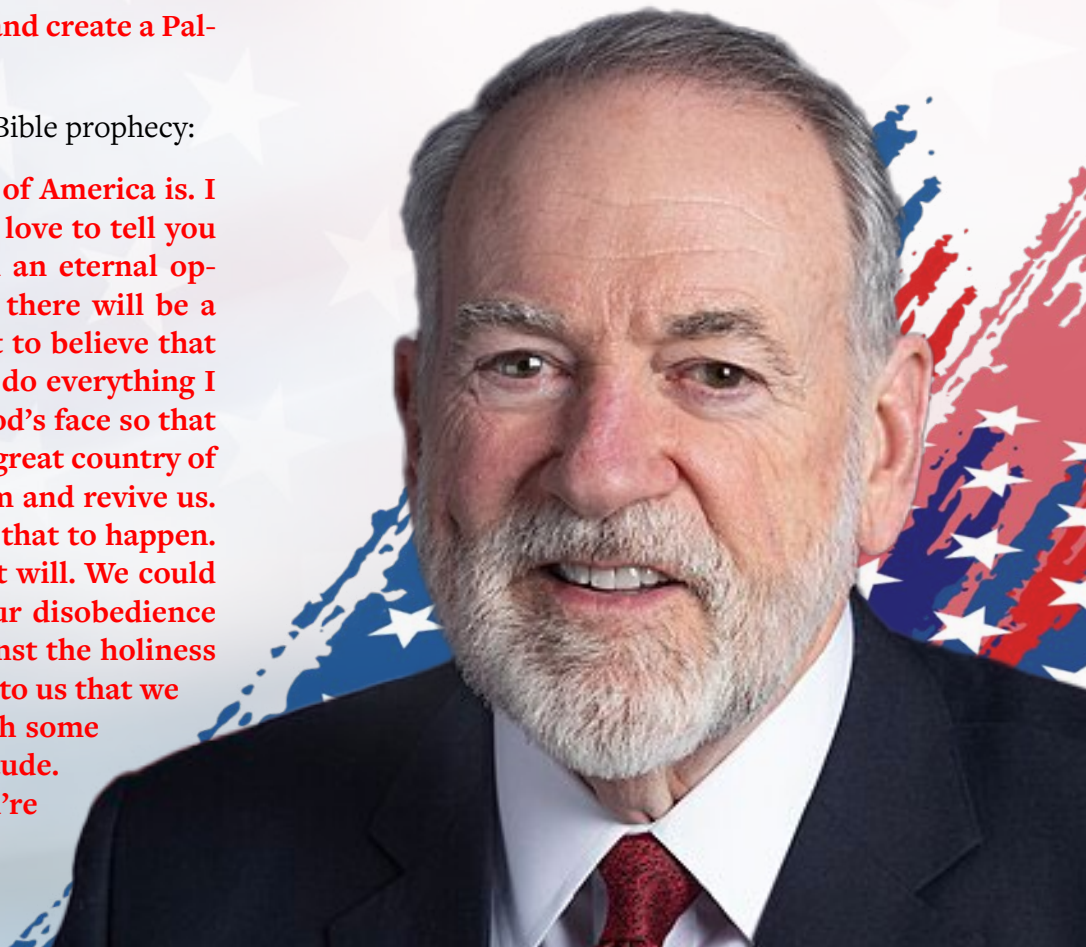
**If France is so determined to see a Palestinian state, I have a suggestion for them—carve out a piece of the French Riviera and create a Palestinian state.**

Mike Huckabee's affirmation of Bible prophecy:

**I don't know what the future of America is. I just don't. I can't tell you. I'd love to tell you it's all going to be fine. I am an eternal optimist. I tend to believe that there will be a remnant and a revival. I want to believe that with my whole heart, and I'll do everything I can to pray for and to seek God's face so that He would shine again on this great country of ours and bring us back to Him and revive us. That's my prayer. And I want that to happen. But I cannot guarantee that it will. We could fall as a nation because of our disobedience and our willful rebellion against the holiness of God who has been so good to us that we should at least serve Him with some level of humility and gratitude. I don't see it a lot. But if you're**

**a believer, I do have the good news that no matter what happens to the culture or to the country, I know what's going to happen to you because I did something that if you haven't done it, you ought to. I actually read the end of the Book. And you know what? Folks, we win!**

**We win. It doesn't mean that America will because America's not mentioned in the Bible, and I can't promise you that America will win. I can promise you that Israel will, and I would say to people who are attacking Israel, I'd get out of the way and don't stand near a window because folks, God will do what He will with His People and His Land, and He has made a promise and a commitment, and I don't want to be on the wrong side of that one. That is for sure. ☮**



# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

## NATURE

An unusually wet spring brought heart-breaking tragedy to places like Texas, causing leftist alarmists to double-down on their climate change mantra and right-wing conspiracy theorists to imagine dire governmental cloud-seeding schemes to drown or suffocate millions.



In a convergence of nature and technology, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory now has the ability to forecast asteroid fly-bys of Earth out for many years. What worries scientists is the possibility of a yet-undetected asteroid on a highly elliptical collision course.



## SOCIETY

Nations throughout Europe are coming to grips with the enemy within—millions of Muslim immigrants who refuse to acclimate and pose dire threats to daily life. In spite of that reality, the European Union as well as most individual governments reject any appeal to stop the insanity.



Unknown assailants in France injected an unidentified substance in 150 women in late June. The convergence of medical technology with societal breakdown and what is likely a religious motivation makes walking around in public a dangerous activity.



## SPIRITUAL

Largely silent when terrorists attacked Israel and Iran launched ballistic missiles against the Jewish state, official Catholic statements have unfailingly condemned every reported misstep of Israel in Gaza—both legitimate and clearly overblown for Palestinian propaganda purposes.



Zohran Mamdani, a 33-year-old Muslim from Uganda, won NYC's Democratic primary for mayor and is likely to win that office in the fall. The avowed Socialist has made extensive antisemitic and anti-Israel comments, and is poised to oversee the pinnacle of American business and capitalism.





“It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.” Charles Dickens’ words seem to aptly describe the times in which we live. The drama that unfolded in the skies and on the ground in Israel and Iran just as we were about to publish our July/August *Lamplighter* is still being analyzed. But even the spiritually blind recognized that they were witnessing prophetic events taking place at breathtaking speed. We can only pray that those who saw had their eyes opened to the Blessed Hope that Jesus is coming soon!

## WORLD POLITICS

Even as President Trump upheld his promise to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear capability, Russia (a nation unfazed by bombing civilians throughout Ukraine) signaled its willingness to give Iran nuclear warheads—a clear effort to sow uncertainty and fear throughout the Middle East.



Following Donald Trump’s apparent triumph in bringing the war between Israel and Iran to a close, the European nations of NATO were deferential but still reluctant to match the US expenditures in funding their own defense, demonstrating a growing antipathy toward America.



## TECHNOLOGY

The nuclear genie released in 1945 has spread around the world, threatening death and destruction on a global scale. Iran’s mad quest to acquire nuclear weapons led to the recent war and remains a lingering & converging threat to Israel.



Israel and America demonstrated the overwhelming military advantage of high-tech air forces by achieving absolute air superiority over Iran. The power and threat of ballistic missiles launched from Iran also confirmed the disastrous potential of technology in the hands of radical regimes.



## ISRAEL

In the midst of Israel’s existential fight for survival, French President Macron voiced support for a Palestinian state, the very prospect of which rewards the Palestinian Authority mafia in Judea and Samaria as well as the Hamas terrorists in Gaza.



Except for the Orthodox and a small minority of Messianic Jews, most Israelis are committed agnostics or even atheists. But the miracles witnessed during the recent war (with surprisingly few Israeli casualties given the incoming fire) has many Jews acknowledging divine protection.



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# ISRAEL

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