

The Rapture Hoax I

Fred R. Coulter—August 16, 2014—Transcript starts at 8:28 of Video

This is the rapture *hoax*, or the fact that there is not a rapture the way that they understand it. The word *rapture* is not in the Bible. Let's look at some Scriptures we always have to anchor everything on when we go into an in-depth study. There are always false doctrines coming along. The way you understand they're false doctrines is to first **know the Truth!**

2-Timothy 2:14: "See that *they* remain mindful of these things... [of not teaching other doctrines] ...earnestly charging them in the sight of the Lord not to argue over words that are not profitable in any way, *but which lead to the subverting of those who hear.*"

Here is what we are always to do, especially the ministry—those who are teachers—all of us together as brethren of Christ:

Verse 15: "Diligently *study* to show yourself approved unto God, a workman who does not *need to be* ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of the Truth."

- the Word of God is the Truth
- the Word of God is revealed with His Spirit
- God's Spirit accompanies obedience

for those who are not baptized, God's Spirit is *with* them to lead them as long as they obey what they have learned. For all of those of you who have cell phones, anyone can reach you anywhere. If men can do this, God knows everything about us.

Verse 16: "But avoid profane and vain babblings... [that is exactly what the rapture theory is] ...because they will *only* give rise to more ungodliness. And their words will eat away at the body like gangrene; of whom are Hymeneus and Philetus, Who have gone astray from the Truth, **claiming that the resurrection has already taken place...**" (vs 16-18). That is *the beginning of the immortality of the soul*, and when you die your soul goes to heaven.

Nowhere in the Bible does it say that you have an immortal soul. So many people believe it, but think of this:

- Does it matter what you believe if it is not truth?
- What good is it?

When you believe something that is a lie—you believe it and you believe it's true—you believe it with the same conviction as if it were true.

Sidebar: I think it was on the History Channel about the scientific investigation of the Shroud of

Turin. All of you have heard of that. That's supposed to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ. ***It could not have been***, because Jesus was wrapped with long cloth.

- there was not a shroud put over the top
- Jesus did not have a cross
- Jesus did not have long hair

The shroud shows not one wound. If it does, it's one of those little pricks in the side. They sent it out for forensic investigation. All the scientists got together and their conclusion was that it's no older than from 1290 to 1360_{A.D.} 'Oh, no, we can't admit that.' They've had so many tests, and every test comes up with that. 'Oh, but we venerate it,' which means *you preach idolatry*. People pray to it and bow down to it. It's a **total hoax** and everybody knows it.

They interviewed a couple who said they believe it's authentic. What value is belief if it's not in the Truth? *No value at all!* But they are convinced in their own minds. We could add: *'Every way of a man is right in his own eyes. There is a way that seems right to a man, the end thereof are the ways of death.'*

Let's look at another Scripture; we'll take this, add it together, and apply it on how we need to approach this. This is required in everything that we do:

1-Thessalonians 5:21 "**Prove all things...** [Most people go along, they prove *what they want to believe* by misapplying Scripture] ...**Hold fast to that which is good.**"

Let's see what they were doing back then with the Epistles of Paul and the rest of the Bible. What happens to people who try interpret the Bible, but don't keep the commandments of God?

2-Peter 3:15: "And bear in mind that the long-suffering of our Lord *is* salvation, exactly as our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has also written to you; as *he has* also in all *his* epistles speaking in them concerning these things..." (vs 15-16).

- What did Peter have? *All Paul's epistles!*
- What was the hardest one for him to accept, but do it in a Godly way? *Galatians!*
- Remember what was there in the 2-Peter 2? *Paul corrected Peter in front of everyone of them, because he was slipping back into Judaism!*

So, he calls him 'our beloved brother Paul.' That's quite a thing!

“...in which are some things *that are* difficult to understand... [and some of them are] ...which the ignorant... [unlearned] ...and unstable are twisting *and distorting...*” (v 16)—because they don’t know the Truth. We will see this is exactly what Protestantism does.

“...as *they* also *twist and distort* the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. Therefore, beloved, since you know this in advance, be on guard against *such practices*, lest you be led astray with the error of the lawless ones, *and* you fall from your own steadfastness; rather, be growing in *the* grace and *the* knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and into *the* day of eternity. Amen” (vs 16-18).

That’s what we all need to be doing. Who are the lawless ones? The ones that don’t keep the commandments of God.

We need to always remember this, and keep this in mind: There have been those who have once known the Truth. You saw it on the video, *To Be Free*. What happens when you leave the Truth? *The Truth is the light from God! Who is Jesus Christ? He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!* He’s also called the Light of the world. We’ll see what happens when you leave commandment-keeping.

Psalms 111:10 is very basic Scripture we need to learn. You have to take everything that we have covered up to this point, and add this into it, as well:

Psalms 111:10: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...” What did Peter say about those who are ignorant and lawless? *They don’t know; they twist and turn!*

“...a good understanding have all those who do His commandments...” (v 10). You have to be doing the commandments. You can’t understand the Truth unless you do it. Surely you’re not going to understand the difficult things unless you start with the basics. You’ll never understand about the Sabbath, if you reject the Sabbath.

Sidebar: Ron Carey sent me something about a man who speaks against the Sabbath. There was a video, a transcript, and at first Ron sent me the MP3. I’ve got it in my car and as I’m driving along I can listen to it. What you need to do is once you know the Truth and all these false doctrines come along, then you listen or read what they have to say and square it up with the Bible to prove what is true.

He completely distorted Mark 2:27-28. Then he said let’s go to Exo. 20, and he says it’s evident that nine of these commandments are binding today. He read the fourth commandment, ‘remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy.’ If the nine are binding, what about the one right in the middle?

Try this: If you get any money out of an ATM, go and leave out the three middle digits of your card and see if it gives you any money. Won’t work! Same way with understanding the Word of God.

Let’s look at one other one; this is how the Bible is put together. Some things are easy to understand, and they are easy to understand so that you will have an opportunity to learn more. Then you grow in grace and knowledge. Here’s how the Bible is put together, in particularly the Old Testament. I’m going through all of these basic things so that when we come to these Scriptures that they twist and turn, we’ll be able to see how they do that. We will be able to see what *they assume* as truth. Try that the next time you’re late in paying a bill.

Isaiah 28:9: “Whom shall He teach knowledge?... [because God wants you to learn] ...And whom shall He make to understand doctrine?... [that’s what we’re covering] ...*Those* who are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts.” That means you have to have understood the milk of the Word, the *foundation* of it.

Here’s why: If you know nothing about the Bible and you jump right into the middle of Gal. 2, you’re going to get it wrong. That’s where a lot of people like to go first, instead of what God commands.

Verse 10: “For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept... [rightly divide, put together the Word of God] ...line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little.” That’s how it’s put together. What does that do? *The Word of God is called a sharp two-edged sword!* What we just read applies two ways:

1. to those who believe and obey and apply it
2. to those who try to understand it without obeying God

Verse 11: “For with stammering lips and foreign tongue He will speak to this people. To whom He said, ‘This *is* the rest He gives to the weary;’ and ‘This *is* the refreshing’... [that’s what God will give you if you come to Him] ...yet, they were not willing to hear. So then, the Word of the LORD was to them... [same way] ...precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken and snared and taken” (vs 11-13). They are blinded and trapped in their own ways.

Verse 14: “Therefore, hear the Word of the LORD, you scornful men who rule this people in Jerusalem. Because you have said, ‘We have made a covenant with death, and we have made an

agreement with the grave; when the overwhelming rod shall pass through, it shall not come to us; for we have made lies our refuge, and we have hidden ourselves under falsehood” (vs 14-15). Oh, isn't that a wonderful place to be.

That's exactly what has happened with the world today and the Bible; all of Judaism. They have the structure of the laws, but what do they do? *They overlay it with all their traditions and all of their laws!*

I've got a thick book: *Code of Jewish Law*. In the back of the book *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men* by Philip Neal, I've got a good number of laws in the appendices. But the whole *Code of Jewish Law* is thick. When you read the New Testament, no one in Protestantism understands that it is about Judaism and not the laws of God, because they have done a very tricky sleight-of-hand: they call all their *traditions* the Torah of God. *Everybody thinks that's the Old Testament.*

It's just like a movie set, you see all these beautiful buildings, *but they are all fake*. They are just a façade. But in a movie it looks real. That's what it is when they construct *their* doctrines without doing it according to God's way.

Review of the Resurrection:

With that in mind, let's review concerning the resurrection; then we will review concerning those who go to a place of safety. This is important for us to understand. We've already established:

- the soul that sins, it shall die
- the dead know nothing
- in the day that they die, their thoughts cease

All the apparitions that people see about going to heaven are that. *They're apparitions*. No one has ascended into heaven, John wrote, except the Son of man, Who is in the bosom of the Father.

In 1-Cor. 15 Paul expounds on what we read in 2-Tim. 2 concerning those who say there's no resurrection. This whole chapter, every verse, is of paramount importance, so you read it through yourself. We'll cover the highlights here.

1-Corinthians 15:11: “Now then, whether I or they, so we preach, and so you have believed. But if Christ is being preached, that He rose from *the* dead, how *is it that* some among you are saying that there is no resurrection of *the* dead?” (vs 11-12).

Those who believe in a rapture believe that all go to heaven when they die and they will be raptured up in heaven to be with them *before* the Tribulation begins. There are some who believe that occurs midway in the Tribulation. There are some

who say that that happens at the end of the Tribulation. *If it's Truth, why are there three different versions?*

It's like saying, ‘Where were you last night?’ *I was at home, while I was at the bar, while I was driving my car.* ‘Oh, really, is that why you got a drunk-driving ticket?’ Doesn't make any sense.

Verse 13: “For if there is no resurrection from *the* dead, neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching *is* in vain, and your faith *is* also in vain” (vs 13-14). Hello, to all of those of you who say you believe in the resurrection of Christ, but your soul goes to heaven. Are you not right here talked about in 1-Cor. 15? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 15: “And we are also found *to be* false witness of God...”

- the God Who is Truth
- the God Who is love
- the God of grace

To Whom there is no shadow or variance or turning. That His Word is so true, that all He has to do is speak it once and it will happen. Who are the false witnesses of God? *The ones who preach false doctrine!*

“...because we have testified of God that He raised Christ, Whom He did not raise, if indeed *the* dead are not raised. For if *the* dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised. But if Christ has not been raised, your faith *is* vain; you are still in your sins” (vs 15-17).

Stop right there; let's ask concerning forgiveness of sin: There's forgiveness of sin by asking God to forgive you for certain deeds that you do, whether you know God in a personal relationship and you are converted or not. Even the world understands ‘forgive, so you can be forgiven.’ In many cases. If you try and claim the forgiveness without the repentance and without the obedience, *your faith is in vain.*

I've just begun reading *The Christian Passover* book (for audio on the website). I finished the whole Bible, so now I'm beginning to read that. One thing is absolutely clear. ***Unless you are in covenant with God*** through the Passover crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and you keep the Christian Passover in the way, in the manner, and on the day, and at the time that Jesus said, and you have the Spirit of God, ***you do not belong to Him.*** He may be dealing in your life to call you, that is true, and how many people are out there He may be dealing with in that way? But when it comes right down to those who belong to Christ, Paul wrote that ***if you don't have the Spirit of Christ, you are none of His!*** Will God give His Spirit to those

- who reject the Sabbath and keep Sunday?
- who reject the Passover and keep communion?
- who reject the Holy Days of God to keep their holidays?
- who take those lies and say the God of Truth has endorsed them?

That's what it gets down to. Some people don't like that kind of preaching, because you're not tolerant. When it comes to sin, God is very intolerant. He's merciful to forgive, but He does demand that you do keep His laws.

Notice this, you're still in your sins, v 18: "And those who have fallen asleep in Christ have then perished.... [No hope!] ...If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most miserable.... [because of all the things that you may go through] ...But now Christ has been raised from the dead..." (vs 18-20). **Paul knew it!**

- Why? *Because he saw Christ; Christ talked to him!*
- What did Jesus tell John when he saw the vision of Christ standing in the circle of the Churches (Rev. 1)? *He fell down as dead!*

Christ put His hand on him and said, 'Do not be afraid. I was dead, but now I am alive forevermore.'

Verse 21: "For since by man *came* death, by man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die... [we have a death gene in us and that is exactly true; we die] ...so also in Christ shall all... [who are His, for the first resurrection] ...be made alive" (vs 21-22).

All who have not committed the unpardonable sin will be raised for an opportunity for salvation—second resurrection. The second part of the second resurrection, all of the wicked shall be made alive for the second death. So, all shall be made alive. Can God do that? *Certainly!*

Sidebar: How many have heard of the movie, *The Boys From Brazil*? Quite a movie. The plot of the movie was that they had some of the blood of their savior Adolph Hitler, and the doctors in South America took this blood and was able to clone it and to cause pregnancies in women. They had about five_[corrected] little Adolph Hitlers.

The secret underground of the Nazis took these babies and put them in a home where the father was older and where the father would die. Gregory Peck played the part of Mengele, the one who did this. He finally found one of the boys up in New Hampshire and he was going to tell him of his great destiny. It completed backfired on him, because the boy, though he was vicious, and though Mengele came in and killed his mother and father and he

didn't know it, but the boy's dogs knew it. When he tried to convince him what a great future he would have, the boy 'sic' the dogs on him and got him. I forget whether he ended up shooting him with his father's gun or not, but I think he did.

The moral of the story is that it's no difficult thing for God to resurrect the dead. All God needs is the spirit of man, which on death goes back to Him. All He needs to do is command that that life be restored—BOOM!—and it's done.

Verse 23: "**But each in his own order...** [each of what? *The all*. So we covered the three instances that they'll be resurrected.] ...**Christ the Firstfruit; then, those who are Christ's at His coming.**" *No one* is going to be raised from the dead until the return of Jesus Christ. The return of Jesus Christ comes in an extended period of time.

Verse 24: "Afterwards the end *comes...*" So he jumps right ahead. He does not know about the second resurrection at this point. He only knows that 'all' will be raised. What did Jesus say in John 5? Let's go there and see what Jesus told the scribes and Pharisees.

The Jews were after Christ to get Him because He healed the man who had the infirmity for 38 years. That's comparable to a resurrection. The *King James Version* says He *broke* the Sabbath. Every Protestant reads that and says, 'Jesus broke the Sabbath. That means we don't have to keep it, because Jesus broke it. If Jesus broke it, it's not binding upon us.' Twisting? Turning? Distorting? *Yes, indeed! Christ loosed* the Sabbath from their regulation that carrying a sleeping bag that represented carrying a burden on the Sabbath. He said, 'Pick up your bed and walk.' You can be certain it wasn't a king-sized Serta Sleeper.

John 5:18: "So then, on account of this *saying*, the Jews sought all the more to kill Him not only *because He had loosed the Sabbath...* [that's the correct translation] ...but also *because* He had called God His own Father, making Himself equal with God."

I'm a Father; I have four children, and one of them is here. Is he equal to me? *Yes*, he's even taller; he's a man. So, if you say God is your Father, that means *you're going to be like Him*. Just think what kind of control that takes away from those control freaks of the Sadducees and Pharisees.

Verse 19: "Therefore, Jesus answered and said to them, 'Truly, truly I say to you, the Son has no power to do anything of Himself, but only what He sees the Father do. For whatever He does, these things the Son also does in the same manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him everything that He Himself is doing. And He will show Him greater

works than these, so that you may be filled with wonder. For even as the Father raises the dead and gives life, in the same way also, the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son so that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. The one who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father Who sent Him” (vs 19-23).

Can you imagine what these religious leaders were thinking? Remember, He ends up by saying, ‘I know you, that the love of God is not in you.’ They hated Him.

Verse 24: “Truly, truly I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him Who sent Me, has everlasting life and does not come into judgment; for he has passed from death into life.” That is, you’re under grace. Grace means you have direct connection with God, not license to sin, but the ability to keep the laws of God.

Verse 25: “Truly, truly I say to you, *the* hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live.” When is the first group going to hear? *When Christ returns!*

Verse 26: “For even as the Father has life in Himself, so also has He given to the Son to have life in Himself; And has also given Him authority to execute judgment because He is *the* Son of man. Do not wonder at this, for *the* hour is coming in which all who are in the graves shall hear His voice” (vs 26-28). But that doesn’t mean that that is the same hour for everyone.

Verse 29: “And shall come forth: those who have practiced good unto a resurrection of life, and those who have practiced evil unto a resurrection of judgment.”

- Christ the Firstfruit—The Wave Sheaf Offering Day
- those who are Christ’s at His coming—pictured by Pentecost

(go to the next track)

1-Corinthians 15:49: “And as we have borne the image of the *one* made of dust... [Adam] ...we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *one*. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God...” (vs 49-50). If anyone says the Kingdom of God is here, ***it is not here!***

“...nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery... [a secret—God’s secret] ...we shall not all fall asleep...” (vs 50-51). Some shall be alive when Christ returns. But Paul didn’t understand how far off that really was at this point.

“...but we shall all be changed, in an instant, in *the* twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet...” (vs 51-52). Remember the last trumpet, because we’re going to read something where someone says the last trumpet’s really not the last trumpet.

“...for *the* trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.... [there has to be the change] ...For this corruptible must put on incorruptibility... [only God can do that] ...and this mortal must put on immortality. Now, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruptibility, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory’” (vs 52-54).

Let’s review 1-Thess. 4; I want us to get all of this in line first so that we understand about *the resurrection*. We know it’s not going to happen until Christ returns. Some with the rapture say, ‘Only those who are Christ’s will hear that trumpet sound.’ How are you going to do that? We’re going to see something here that is done in Scripture very regularly. It tells us what’s going to happen first and then tells us how it’s going to happen.

1-Thessalonians 4:13: “But I do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, that you be not grieved even as others, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in exactly the same way also, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him” (vs 13-14). That’s stating what’s going to happen. This doesn’t tell us that souls went to heaven. Because souls don’t go to heaven.

Verse 15: “For this we say to you by *the* Word of *the* Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall in no wise precede those who have fallen asleep. Because the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with *a* shout of command, with *the* voice of an archangel and with *the* trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (vs 15-16). That’s at *Christ’s coming*, now defined as the trumpet.

Verse 17: “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in *the* clouds for *the* meeting with the Lord in *the* air; and so shall we always be with *the* Lord.” Some people would say they are in heaven. ***NO!***

- What is the Lord going to do when He returns?
- How do we meet Him in the air?

We have to put together everything concerning the resurrection. We have to put together the Sea of Glass that we’re raised to meet Him in the air and we are there as Rev. 15 shows us. We don’t

come back to the earth until the seven last plagues have been poured out. That's why in the book *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Day—Which?* we summarize all the Holy Days and show the things that have to take place on the Sea of Glass. That's the way it's going to happen.

Now let's see something else here concerning the resurrection. We'll just summarize very quickly. Rev. 6 has the seven seals. The seventh seal opens up for the seven trumpet plagues. Notice and understand that for the resurrection it talks about 'the trumpet'—not trumpets, plural—the trumpet.

Stop and think now! What happened when the children of Israel came to Mt. Sinai and God came down on the mountain to bring them the Ten Commandments, and that was on the Day of Pentecost. The trumpet sounded long and loud. It was a trumpet, not trumpets.

Here we have the beginning of the seven trumpet plagues, Revelation 8:2: "Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them." Notice the sequence.

Verse 6_[transcriber correction]: "Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound *their* trumpets." They blew them all at once. *NO! It doesn't say that!*

Verse 7, and the seventh angel sounded his trumpet. *NO! It's the first angel.* Do they go in sequence? *Yes!* That's important, because I'm going to read to you the unbelievable statement which a man says, 'What if the seventh trumpet is blown before the sixth trumpet?' How about twisting and turning Scripture?

- the first angel (v 7)
- the second angel (v 8)
- the third angel (v 10)
- the fourth angel (v 12)

Then we have v 13: "And I looked; and I heard an angel flying in the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, 'Woe, woe, woe to those who are dwelling on the earth, because of the voices of the remaining trumpets of the three angels who are about to sound *their* trumpets.'"

- the fifth angel (Rev. 9:1)
- the sixth angel (Rev. 9:13) sounded his trumpet

What do you know about that! Revelation 11:15: "Then the **seventh** angel sounded *his* trumpet..."

- Was that after the sixth angel? *Yes, it was!*
- Is there going to be a trumpet for the resurrection. *Yes!*
- Is it called the last trumpet?
- Isn't that what Paul wrote?

- If you have seven, which trumpet is the last trumpet? *The fifth one, of course! NO! The seventh trumpet!*

(You've got to have a little humor in this. It gets so heavy otherwise, you can't handle it.)

- How we know it's the resurrection at this time?

Verse 15: "Then the **seventh** angel sounded *his* trumpet; and *there* were great voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign into the ages of eternity.'"

So profound is this event, v 16: "And the twenty-four elders, who sit before God on their thrones, fell on their faces and worshiped God, Saying, 'We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come; for You have taken *to Yourself* Your great power, and have reigned'" (vs 16-17). And all the nations were rejoicing and waiting for Christ to return. *NO!*

Verse 18: "For **the nations were angry**, and Your wrath has come, and the time for the dead to be judged, and to give reward to Your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to *all* those who fear Your name, the small and the great; and to destroy those who destroy the earth." That is *the first resurrection!*

Verse 19: "And the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple; and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunders, and an earthquake and great hail."

Sidebar: Why is the book of Revelation—a single book—the seventh division of the complete Bible? *Because it relates to many different things going clear back to creation, all the way through!* You might do yourself a little study.

- Does it talk about the Tree of Life?
- Where was that first mentioned? *Does indeed!*
- What did Jesus call Himself? *The Beginning and the Ending!*
- Was there a beginning? *Yes!*
- What is He bringing? *The ending!*

Place of Safety:

We have one more thing to cover, which *appears to be* a rapture, and that is found in Rev. 12. This whole chapter begins before the creation of man and before the rebellion of Lucifer. Where do we find all of that? *The Old Testament!* I think if you go through you will find that the majority of verses

relate to things that are already in the Bible elsewhere and put together here in this book.

Revelation 12:9: “And the great dragon was cast out... [no more access to God] ...the ancient serpent who is called the Devil and Satan... [you have no question as to who it is] ...who is deceiving the whole world; he was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.” His angels are demons.

Verse 10: “And I heard a great voice in heaven say, ‘Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ because the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, who accuses them day and night before our God.’” That’s why we need to have contact with God, and have grace and forgiveness and mercy all the time.

Verse 11: “‘But they overcame him through the blood of the Lamb, and through the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death.’”

Notice what takes place; this happens just before the beginning of the Tribulation, v 12: “‘Therefore, rejoice you heavens and those who dwell in them. Woe to those who inhabit the earth and the sea! For the Devil has come down to you, having great wrath *because* he knows that he has *only* a short time.’ And when the dragon saw that he was cast down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who had brought forth the man-Child” (vs 12-13). The woman here in Rev. 12, the symbolism starts out as the prophecy of the bride of Christ before Satan ever rebelled. Then it comes down to Mary, who gave birth to Christ. Then it comes down in this instance to the Church.

Verse 14: “And two wings of a great eagle were given to the woman, so that she might fly to her place in the **wilderness**, where she is nourished **for a time, and times, and half a time...**” What does that mean? *As interpreted by Dan. 3, three and half years!* That’s when the Great Tribulation actually begins and it starts first of all with persecution.

“...from *the* face of the serpent. And the serpent cast water out of his mouth as a river... [Does Satan have a lot of power? *Yes, he does!*] ...so that he might cause her *to be* carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth, and swallowed up the river that the dragon had cast out of his mouth. Then the dragon was furious with the woman and **went to make war with the rest of her seed...**” (vs 14-17).

The *King James* says *remnant*. Remnant means *a small number*. There is no indication in the Greek of a small number. The *rest* of her seed. It

may be a number much greater than those taken to a place of protection or safety. Notice what they do, and ***why this cannot be a rapture to heaven.***

“...who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (v 17). The “...testimony of Christ...” is *the Spirit of prophecy* and it is the *testimony of His life*. The rapture says these are carried away to heaven.

- Is there any place in the Bible that the heaven and God’s throne is called a wilderness? ***NO!***
- Where is this wilderness? ***It’s not in heaven!***

Verse 16: “...**the earth** helped the woman...” The wilderness is on the earth, not in heaven. ***This cannot be a rapture!***

Besides, Satan had already been cast down and he couldn’t go back into heaven. If he’s going to persecute the woman who brought forth the man-Child and this was a rapture, then he had to have access to go back into heaven to go get them. ***But it doesn’t say that!*** If this were a rapture, it could not include any of those who believe in the rapture.

- Why? ***Look at the remainder!***
- What do they do? “...who keep the commandments of God...” (v 17)
- Do the Protestants keep the commandments of God? ***No, they say the Law of God is done away! They don’t keep them!***

“...and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (v 17). You don’t understand that *unless* you’re keeping the commandments of God.

We need to also send with this sermon, *The Temptation to Try the Whole World*, because that’s the coming *mark of the beast*, not the Tribulation.

What does he do to those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ? The Tribulation begins with the taking of those to a place of safety in the wilderness on the earth.

- God is going to send His angels
- God is going to make the choice
- God alone judges the heart

The only reason that there are going to be physical people in a place of protection in the wilderness is to fulfill the promise that Jesus gave that the Church would never die out. So, that does away with the whole Mormon Church—doesn’t it? Isn’t that simple? ***Yes!***

You heard me say this before. One time I was invited over to a man over in Utah and his name was

Job. He asked for a visit. When I got there, five minutes later, two elders from the Mormon Church walked in. He said, 'I invited them over because I would like to hear the difference how you explain things.' I ended the conversation very short. I said, 'I'm confronted with a problem, which is this: Joseph Smith claimed that God told him that the Church had died out, so He is raising it up through Joseph Smith.' I said, 'My problem is this: Jesus said the gates of the grave would never prevail against *the* Church. How is it that it died out when Jesus said it wouldn't? 'Either Jesus is a liar or Joseph Smith is a liar. Jesus never lied, nice to meet you,' and I walked out. That actually happened. But they didn't all fall on their faces and were repenting as I was leaving either.

What's going to happen to those who are left? *It says he makes war against them!* Probably going to be a lot like ISIS over in Iraq today. *Yes!*

So, they opened the seals—1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Let's come down here to five. Two, three and four are opened very quickly. Once you start war, then those other things happen very rapidly.

Revelation 6:9: "And when He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God, and for the testimony that they held." This is in vision to tell and convey to John what was going to happen. Not that souls are in heaven.

Verse 10: "And they cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, Holy and true, do You not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?' And white robes were given to each of them; and they were told that they should rest a short time, yet..." (vs 9-10). What is *rest*? *They are dead!* This has to be a vision.

"...they should rest...until *it* be fulfilled *that* both their fellow servants and their brethren also would be killed, just as they had been" (v 11). What is Satan going to do?

- he's going to have all the power
- he's going to know wherever the Christians are who were still living in the flesh, who were not taken to a place of protection
- he's going to hunt them down and kill them

We're going to have to be witness for Christ that way! That's the only reason why they are taken to a place of safety.

I had *their book on the rapture* sent to me. It's got the Scriptures and we just read it in 1-Thes. 4. We have proved from the other Scriptures that 1-Thes. 4 is talking about *the resurrection from the dead and those who still remain alive are not going to precede those who have first died.*

Notice the reply to this. Notice what they assume, *because they do not put all the Scriptures together.* Here is what they write concerning this:

From: The Rapture—Is It in the Bible? by Mark Lawrence

(www.surviveanydisaster.com/last_days/rapture_is_it_in_the_bible.html)

We clearly have a rapture here. There is no question that **a rapture will occur...**

So, if you question it, you're out of line.

...no matter what the critics say...

whether they tell you the truth or not.

...(some like to say the concept of the rapture is only recent. The word 'rapture' may be recent, but the event (as described above in Daniel 12:2,3 has ALWAYS been in the Bible....

Let's go to Daniel 12:2: "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake..." When does that occur? *The resurrection!*. But when does that occur? *At the seventh trump*, which is the last trump.

"...some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (v 2). Is there a timeframe given here or must we find it someplace else? *We must find it someplace else!*

Verse 3: "And they who are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever." Not a word about a rapture. *That is the resurrection!*

Notice what comes next, because they always use Scripture, whether they are applicable or not. What has happened here, they have it fixed in their mind that there is *a rapture* and nothing can dissuade them from it; so therefore, they read into the Scriptures what *they want to read into the Scriptures.* What they do when they do that, they like to use Scriptures to sound authentic.

They read John 14:1: "Let not your heart be troubled You believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were otherwise, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; so that where I am, you may be also" (vs 1-3). Once you understand the resurrection, you know this does not occur until the resurrection. Let's read their answer this:

With this well-known passage by Jesus, we have *proof* that God has prepared a new world for His faithful believers... [a

true statement] ...There is only one way for believers to go there. They have to be *taken* there.... [a rapture] ...In addition, throughout *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John* Jesus talks of the Kingdom of Heaven on numerous occasions, even telling us that we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven unless we first 'become like children' (in humility).

That's true! He quotes true statements, *but they don't apply to a rapture*. Very interesting. Let's see how they rationalize some of these other things.

In addition: I've received a couple of emails stating that 1-Thess. 4:14-18 is an event heard by the world, but there is no way to prove that....

Really? How is the return of Christ going to be? *Before the trumpet sounds!* You can listen to the other sermons on Pentecost that shows that this occurs just after two years of the three and a half year Tribulation.

Here is the proof. He (Mark Lawrence) says there's no way to prove that. Revelation 6:12: "And when He opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as *the hair of sackcloth*, and the moon became as blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its untimely figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then *the* heaven departed like a scroll..." (vs 12-14). How is no one going to know that?

"...that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the powerful men, and every bondman, and every free *man* hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us, and hide us from *the* face of Him Who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb'" (vs 14-16). ***They knew!*** How can they say they don't know?

Verse 17: "Because the great day of His wrath has come... [that's the beginning of it; it's not finished, it's starting] ...and who has the power to stand?"

...an event heard by the world, but there is no way to prove that. They say that the **"loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God"** would be something the world would see and hear, but is that the case?

Yes, it is!

What happens when the heavens depart as a scroll? *Let's see it!* There are going to be a lot of people saying Christ is on the earth.

Matthew 24:26: "Therefore, if they say to you, '*Come and see! He is in the wilderness*'; do not go forth. '*Come and see! He is in the secret chambers*'; do not believe *it*." There are some who believe He is in a secret chamber in New York City. How's He going to get out of there when all the elevators are not working? Here's how He's going to come. Will the world see this? *Of course!*

Verse 27: "For as the light of day, which comes forth from *the* east and shines as far as *the* west, so also shall the coming of the Son of man be." Quite a thing!

Verse 29 tells you what it is: "But immediately after the Tribulation of those days... [the two years of the Tribulation] ...the sun shall be darkened... [Rev. 6] ...and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (vs 29-30). They have to lie. They have to misapply Scriptures. Notice what he says:

What if only those who are raptured and those who are resurrected... [How can that be? It's not at the same time.] ...hear the 'loud command' with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God?

In other words: **If they are the only ones who respond to it, wouldn't they be the only ones to hear it?**

Reasoning in a circle.

In the end, 1-Thess. 4:16-18^[transcriber's correction] proves that there is a rapture (at the same time as the resurrection)....

How can that be? What he's saying is, where it says those who are alive and remain shall be caught up in the air. They won't precede those who are dead. That part of it is a rapture, when it's really a resurrection. So he says:

...however does not prove the timing....

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2-Timothy 2:14-18
- 2) 1-Thessalonians 5:21
- 3) 2-Peter 3:15-18
- 4) Psalm 111:10
- 5) Isaiah 28:9-15

- 6) 1-Corinthians 15:11-24
- 7) John 5:18-29
- 8) 1-Corinthians 15:49-54
- 9) 1-Thessalonians 4:13-17
- 10) Revelation 8:2, 6, 13
- 11) Revelation 11:15-19
- 12) Revelation 12:9-17, 16
- 13) Revelation 6:9-11
- 14) Daniel 12:2-3
- 15) John 14:1-3
- 16) Revelation 6:12-17
- 17) Matthew 24:26-27, 29-30

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Mark 2:27; 28
- Exodus 20
- Galatians 2
- Revelation 1; 15; 10:7-8, 10, 12; 9:13
- Daniel 3
- 1-Thessalonians 4:16-18

Also referenced:

Booklet/Article: *The Rapture—Is It in the Bible?* by Mark Lawrence
www.surviveanydisaster.com/last_days/rapture_is_it_in_the_bible.html

Books:

- *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or Religion of Man* by Philip Neal
- *The Code of Jewish Law* by Ganzfried and Goldin
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter
- *Occult Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* by Fred R. Coulter

Sermon: *The Temptation to Try the Whole World*

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