

The Rapture Hoax II

Fred R. Coulter—August 23, 2014

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

As human beings we all know we're going to die, but we can't think of a time when we're going to die. Look at it the other way around, you can neither think of a time when you didn't exist, except by looking at your birth date.

All those secrets and power belong to God! God won't forget any of us, and God won't leave any of us behind, much to the chagrin of the people who believe in a rapture!

Temptation vs Tribulation:

I did a sermon some years ago *The Temptation to Try the Whole World* (Daniel/Revelation series #26). The word *temptation* is different from *tribulation*.

- What is the temptation that is coming on the whole world?
- What is going to tempt you more than anything else in the history of the world?

It's not going to be the Tribulation. I do not know, it's a mystery to me.

Years ago the Churches of God taught that the *mark of the beast* was Sunday-keeping, because the sign of God was Sabbath and Holy Day keeping. That sounds like a reasonable argument.

Seventh Day Adventists believe that in the end-time the *mark of the beast* will be Sunday-keeping, and the whole world is going to obey the pope in keeping Sunday. Well, I don't think you're going to have that happen for the atheists. Do you think Muslims are going to do that. How are they going to be converted to Sunday-worship? Besides, if it were the *mark of the beast*:

- if you're Muslim, *take away Friday*
- if you're Church of God and the Jews, *take away Saturday*
- if you're the Sunday-keeping Christians, *take away Sunday*
- What does that leave you?
- How many days of the week does that leave you to shop?
- Collectively, *four*, but individually: *six!*

Revelation 13:16—this is the beast that had the wound, but was healed: “And he causes **all**...” This is why the book of Revelation is a separate division. You need the whole Bible to understand it.

“...the small and the great, and the rich and

the poor, and the free and the bond... [everybody] ...to receive a mark in their right hands, or in their foreheads; so that no one may have the ability to buy and sell unless he has the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” (vs 16-17). ***That is the temptation!***

Great pressure when it's enforced; it's going to be voluntary at first. There are going to be a lot of people going around saying, ‘Look how wonderful this is, and no one can steal my identity’—until a Muslim comes along and hacks off your hand. A little gruesome! Or your head if you've got it in your forehead.

- How many have a backyard garden where you grow all your food for the year, and you harvest it and store it? *Nobody!*
- How many have chickens? *Some may have, you can have eggs and chickens!*

I believe God gave chickens for all of us ‘dumb people,’ because it's easy to get them. Eggs are easy to get. You can catch them, you can kill them and use the feathers and all that sort of thing. He made them for ‘dumb-clucks,’ I guess. (humor)

Think of it today: How long would you last if you could not go to the store? The other day I went over to the store—we live in the little town of Hollister—and I was going through the neighborhood; house after house, nice and clean, nice yards, nice and green, all trimmed, everything lovely and beautiful.

I thought of the Scripture that says, ‘Woe to you who lay house to house and land to land.’ Why? *Because you have no room to grow any food!* We are all totally dependent on the supermarkets. You may have a nice selection of supermarkets, and if you like deals then you belong to Sam's Club or Costco or something like that. Safeway has a deal that every Friday, if you have a club card number—not the beast but the provider—you can get special deals.

One time when we were coming out of Costco, here are all the carts stacked high, all kinds of stuff. I thought: How is it going to be with the *mark of the beast*? If you don't have it, you can't go in, you can't buy anything. If it's your family—husband/wife, children, etc.—**what is the temptation to try all the earth?** It says *all, the whole world!* The temptation would be:

- Why don't you get it?
- Don't you love your family?

Of course I love them, but God says it will cost me my eternal life; who do I love more?

- Well, we don't know whether the Bible is true or not.

You can almost hear all the arguments! But it's going to be just like when the 'heavens are rolled back as a scroll.' All of a sudden it's going to be there!

In this sermon you will see that *that is the temptation*. The Tribulation is a different story. It was brought up that *the temptation will be to save your life, save your family's life*. How about your children? *Dad, I don't want to starve!* What are you going to say? *You go get it and you buy food for us!* How is that? ***There are all kinds of temptations!*** It is going to be so wonderful!

I got a report that they're working on these tattoos. There's one where you can turn on and off your phone and things like that. Now they have discovered that they are able put something in the tattoo that draws from your system enough electronics to run that tattoo. *Think on that!* They're working on it.

The next thing that's going to be is it will be invisible; you won't even see it. That's a far cry from when I gave the sermon years ago on the Digital Angel—*The Mark of the Beast is Here*.

Let's be sure and understand very precisely what the Bible tells us. We need to go through 1-Cor. 15 so that we understand it. We're going to see that there is *one precise time* that the resurrection takes place. When we read other Scriptures we cannot make assumptions that it's at different times, or that whole vast groups of people will be taken to a place of safety or wafted up into heaven (as they say).

1-Corinthians 15:50: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit *the Kingdom of God*, nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery..." (vs 50-51). It is a *secret* of God! How is He going to do this?

Now we have come very close in technology today to that *secret*, through cloning, and through understanding DNA. They can take a drop of blood, and they can analyze it with various things concerning figuring out the DNA. From one drop of blood (I watch Forensic Files) they were able to determine almost precisely who a killer was. On one show the police were told to look for a white man, but the DNA says 85% black. That changed the whole story.

There was another one where the killing was so thorough, everything was scrubbed down, and the killer didn't realize it, but where he was wrapping up the body to take it out—and he had been wounded himself—a drop of blood fell over on a little pipe,

kind of like an air-conditioning pipe. He didn't even see it. They found it and identified him.

Is it any great thing for God to resurrect the dead? What happens when we die? *Our bodies go to the grave and they rot, fall apart!* If you're lucky, you died years ago, centuries ago, and you lived in a dry climate, someone is going to come along and find your bones. But you're dead. God doesn't need that, because *the spirit of man* goes back to God Who gave it!

In the spirit of man—and if you're converted—coupled with the Spirit of God, everything that you are, have been—and in the case with the Spirit of God—at the resurrection, is there. That does not have to be any more than just a little point. Flesh and blood cannot do it. We all have to be changed.

"...we shall not all fall asleep, but we shall all be changed, in an instant, in *the twinkling of an eye*, at **the last trumpet**..." (vs 51-52)—there are seven (Rev.). This cannot be the Feast of Trumpets. Why? *Because it doesn't say 'trumpets.'* The Feast of Trumpets is a memorial of the blowing of trumpets and is a *war feast*.

...for **the trumpet** shall sound..." (v 52).
Sidebar: How many trumpets blew at Mt. Sinai when God came down to speak to them? *One!* One trumpet, not trumpets!

"...and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (v 52).

Let's also establish something else. I want to make this point very clearly: There comes a point where Satan tries to go up into heaven again, and he and his angels are cast back down to the earth:

Revelation 12:13: "And when the dragon saw that he was cast down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who had brought forth the man-*Child*." What happens is the same thing that Satan always does.

What did the Nazis—in Nazi Germany—do to the Jews first? *They persecuted them!* Then they killed them!

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**..." Note that nowhere in the Bible is heaven called *a wilderness!* It's called *the paradise of God!* Where is the wilderness? *Someplace on the earth!*

"...where she is nourished *for* a time, and times, and half a time... [3-1/2 years] ...from *the face of the serpent*. And the serpent cast water out of his mouth as a river..." (vs 14-15). Remember that Satan can do miracles. Remember what happened when Aaron and Moses went to Pharaoh? *The first, I*

think, five things that they did, the magicians were able to copy it! Satan was able to do this.

“...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...” (vs 15-17). Couldn’t get to her anymore. This also shows that the woman means *many people* because it is likened to the Church. We are called *her children!*

“...and went to make war with the rest of her seed, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (v 17). So, they’re on the earth. This is when the fifth seal is opened.

We have these things come along: the first four seals come quite quickly. Just like it is over in the Middle East, you watch ISIS on the news, it follows the same thing. They come along and the army is coming and then they start killing and beheading and confiscating and all of that sort of thing. So, seals one, two, three and four come quite quickly. Then the fifth seal; this is a vision to tell us something very important:

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.” We’ll talk about the testimony of Jesus Christ in just a bit, and what that means.

Verse 10: “And they cried out with a loud voice, saying...” The thing is this, our lives are to be a living testimony of what God is doing. Remember: all Christians have died! None have gone anywhere but to the grave! We know that this is a vision because the dead know nothing! In the day that we die our thoughts perish; some of them we’re happy to get rid of.

“...‘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... [showing that they’re going to get salvation] ...and they were told that they should rest a short time, yet, until *it* be fulfilled *that* both their fellow servants and their brethren also would be killed, just as they had been” (vs 10-11).

That goes along until the time of the sixth seal. Here is the Tribulation coming on the earth. Then the sixth seal is open, which is about two complete years into the last three and a half years.

The Testimony of Jesus Christ/The Spirit of Prophecy:

Revelation 19:9: “...‘These are the true words of God.’ And I fell at his feet to worship

him...” (vs 9-10)—the angel. Isn’t that interesting?

What happened to Joseph Smith? *An angel—Moroni—came to him and he fell on his back and worshiped him!* How do people worship God? *On their face!* Even the 24 elders do—don’t they? *Yes!*

“...Then he said to me, ‘See *that you do not do this!* I am a fellow servant of yours, and of your brethren, who have the **testimony of Jesus...**’” (v 10). That’s how we know Joseph Smith was a liar. The angel would have said, ‘Don’t do that.’

“...Worship God. For **the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy**” (v 10).

- What is the spirit of prophecy? *The understanding of it!*
- How do we understand prophecy? *Through the Sabbath and Holy Days!*

Let’s see what they say concerning this, and how the Scriptures are turned and twisted and distorted. With all that background:

Daniel 12:1^[transcriber’s correction]: “...And at that time your people shall be delivered...” It has to be before God’s wrath on the nations, also known as the Great Tribulation. He’s got it half right and half wrong [referring to Mark Lawrence’s booklet on the rapture].

Revelation 6:17: “Because the great day of His wrath has come...” In prophecy, how long is a day? *One year!* Trumpets to Trumpets. What happens?

Revelation 8:1: “Now, when He opened the seventh seal, *there* was silence in heaven *for* about a half hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel, who had a golden censer...” (vs 1-3).

Let’s see how this comes along. It’s hard to keep up with their writings because they’re so mixed up. The reason being is that they have partial truth and partial understanding. Since they don’t know the Holy Days and don’t know the plan of God, they make assumptions and come to a wrong conclusion. That’s what’s happened here. So, after that event:

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

...I believe...

Let’s see what he believes.

Rev. 8—here are the trumpet plagues. It stops at four (v 12) and then the next three are going to be *woes*.

Revelation 9:1: “And the fifth angel sounded *his* trumpet...” Nowhere does it show that the trumpets are sounded out of sequence. Remember what we read last time {in part 1}: “What if the seventh trumpet is blown before the sixth trumpet?” **How can you have the seventh trumpet blown before the sixth trumpet?** Then we go through two of the woes (Rev. 8-9).

Revelation 10:1: “Then I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud, and *with* a rainbow on his head; and his face *was* like the sun, and his feet *were* like pillars of fire; and he had in his hand a little book *that was* open. And he placed his right foot on the sea, and *his* left foot on the earth” (vs 1-2). That’s a pretty giant angel.

Verse 3: “And cried with a loud voice, as a lion roars. And when he cried, the seven thunders uttered their voices.” We don’t know what the seven thunders said, because John was told not to write it. So, we can’t understand what it is.

Here’s what John was to do, v 8: “Then the voice that I heard from heaven spoke to me again, and said, ‘Go, take the little book that is open in the hand of *the* angel who is standing on the sea and on the earth.’ And I went to the angel, *and* said to him, ‘Give me the little book.’ And he said to me, ‘Take *it* and eat it; and it shall make your belly bitter, but in your mouth it shall be sweet as honey.’ Then I took the little book out of the angel’s hand, and ate it; and it was sweet as honey in my mouth; but after I ate it, my belly was bitter. And he said to me, ‘You must again prophesy against many people, and nations, and languages and kings’” (vs 8-11).

Here’s what Lawrence says about this:

After the event... [this event] ...I believe the rapture, the “little book” scroll, which is sweet as honey in the mouth but sour in the stomach, John is told to “prophesy against many people, and nations, and languages and kings.” He next prophesies about who would be all who are left behind from the early tribulation, rapture and resurrection.

Is there an early resurrection? How can you have an early rapture with an early resurrection?

By far, the vast majority of the world’s population, especially if all the nations of those taken in the early tribulation rapture fit in a “little book.”

This the premier study on the rapture! ***We’ll see why there will be no rapture!***

(go to the next track)

Let’s look at some of their other claims. They talk about Matt. 24. This is why we started

where we started. You have to ‘rightly divide the Word of God; a little here, a little there; precept upon precept; line upon line.’

Matthew 24:36: “But concerning that day, and the hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. Now, as *it was in* the days of Noah, so shall *it* also be *at* the coming of the Son of man. For as in the days that *were* before the Flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark; and they were not aware until the Flood came and took *them* all away; so shall *it* also be *at* the coming of the Son of man” (vs 36-39).

Verse 42: “Watch, therefore, because you do not know in what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have been watching, and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, you also be ready. For **the Son of man is coming at a time that you do not think**” (vs 42-44).

This is *suppose* to show a ‘pre-tribulation rapture’ that can come at any moment. Franklin Graham comes on the news and Hannity (Fox News channel) once in a while, and they always talk about when Christ will return. He always says that Christ could return at any moment. But he doesn’t tell you that that’s their interpretation of a rapture, and quotes this Scripture.

Let’s examine this a little bit more; let’s see what else this is telling us. Why do you need to survive if you’re going to be raptured? Concerning the days of Noah

If Jesus says in Matthew 24:37-42 that he will come at a time ‘as it was in the days of Noah,’ when people are eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage (basically, life as usual), that means he is going to come ‘as it was in the days of Noah.’

What does this mean? *The rapture!*

And Jesus says he will come as it was in the days of Noah, which was a time of “peace and security.”

They read 1-Thessalonians 5:3: “For when they say, ‘Peace and security,’ then sudden destruction will come upon them...”

- Was the time before the Flood peaceful?
- Are we living in a time today that is peaceful?
- ***NO!***

Genesis 6:5: “And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great on the earth, and every

imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. And the LORD repented that He had made man on the earth, and He *was* grieved in His heart. And the LORD said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, and the crawling thing, and the fowl of the air; for I repent that I have made them.’” (vs 5-7). Why?

Verse 11: “Now the earth also was corrupt before God... [Is it corrupted today? *Yes!*] ...and the earth was filled with violence.” Does that sound like a time of peace?

Verse 12: “And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt—for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth.”

What did Jesus say in Matt. 24 concerning how the times would be? In addition to marrying and giving in marriage, there are:

- false prophets
- wars and rumors of wars
- persecution

What also does it say that we have as Christians? *We have tribulations, trials, difficulties!* So, this is interesting.

It was a time of peace when people were eating and drinking and marrying and giving in marriage. That’s the same as peace and security of 1-Thess. 5:9

Not quite so!

For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This means that the last trumpet that Paul was talking about has to sound before the time appointed for wrath. It depends on what he means, *wrath*. In other words when the last trumpet sounds then the wrath occurs it has to happen this way. He’s got that part right.

In the Bible trumpets are used on numerous occasions. What that means for the topic is that the great trumpet of Matt. 24:31...

which is the resurrection

...and the last trump of 1-Cor. 15:51 and the trump of God 1-Thess. 4:16 cannot be proven to be the same trumpet sounding.

If there’s only one point when the resurrection occurs, it all has to be referring to the seventh trump. That’s Rev. 11:15 shows us.

However, the last trump (1-Cor. 15:51) and the trump of God (1-Thess. 4:16) are the same event and are sounded when the

rapture occurs, because they both describe the rapture/resurrection, and this event only happens once in the Bible.

You can’t have it both ways! He said you can’t prove that they’re the same, but they do happen at the same time. That is really quite a thing!

The Falling Away:

2-Thessalonians 2:1: “Now, we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken in mind, nor be troubled—neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by epistle, as if from us, *saying* that the day of Christ is present. Do not let anyone deceive you by any means because *that day will not* come unless the apostasy shall come first, and the man of sin shall be revealed—the son of perdition, the one who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is an object of worship; so that he comes into the temple of God and sits down as God, proclaiming that he himself is God” (vs 1-4).

I believe the apostasy is already here.

That depends on what you mean by the apostasy here. There has been antichrists and apostasy from the beginning. But he’s speaking specifically at the end-time.

That just leaves the antichrist, the son of perdition.” So, according to Paul (2-Thess. 2) we will not be gathered to Jesus Christ until the antichrist is revealed.

Scripture reads that antichrist will reign 42 months, for he will be an enemy of Mystery Babylon...

Not until the end, he’s a friend at the beginning.

...and will, in fact, destroy Mystery Babylon. I strongly believe that Mystery Babylon is modern day America. I also believe that the antichrist is already here.

Well, why aren’t you raptured away?

In fact, Rev. 17 describes the antichrist, the beast, as attacking the mystery of Babylon with ten horns.

If that attach happens in the next few months, years at most, that means the antichrist is already here; he is a world leader controlled by Satan.

You see how they have their ideas, parts of Scriptures, try to put them together and make a rapture happen.

So, my point is that if the apostasy of the church is here, and it is, are you part of it?

And the antichrist is here, and he is, then the rapture of the church is the next thing to happen.

So, they won't have to go through the Great Tribulation! Very interesting!

There are some who believe in a 'post-tribulation rapture,' which is really the resurrection. So, they are all in confusion as to how these events occur. So, no one is going to be whisked away; no one's going to be taken up into heaven, like they say. How many millions of books of *Left Behind...*? *Yes, indeed!*

- It makes you wonder what's going to happen to them?
- How are they going to take these things when they come?

The Day of the Lord:

Let's look at the Day of the Lord, which begins in Rev. 8. We covered part of that. We covered part of Rev. 9-10. Let's see where the seventh trumpet is blown; let's see that it does depict the resurrection, and at that the time of the resurrection the seven last plagues have not come, showing that the wrath of God will build and build and build, and then the last seven last plagues will finish it.

In Rev.11 we have the two witnesses. When will the two witnesses begin their ministry? Why does he not mention the two witnesses and that the pre-tribulation rapture should occur at that time. If it's pre-tribulation then you have to leave when the two witnesses come on the scene. We don't see that here:

Revelation 11:1: "Then *the angel* gave me a measuring rod like a staff, saying, 'Arise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it.'" There must be a temple built. We've said that many times. They're not really ready to build it now—are they? Look at what's going on over in Jerusalem and Gaza with Hamas and all of that. It's going to be a while before it gets to a time when they can build the temple.

Verse 2: "But leave out the court that is within the temple *area*, and do not measure it because it has been given *up* to the Gentiles; and they shall trample upon the Holy city for forty-two months." That's the time of evil!

Forty-two months is not exactly the same as 1260 days, because months have 29 days and 30 days. {note sermon series: *Daniel/Revelation*} This is the thing that helped me understand the difference: When is *the beast* and the false prophet thrown into the Lake of Fire? *When Christ and the saints come back to the earth!* That's when they die, and that

ends the 42 months for *the beast*.

It cannot be the same time as the 1260 days for the two witnesses. This means that the way we understand the time that it is, we take when their demise happens and count backward 42 months—see Daniel/Revelation Chart.

- When do the two witnesses' life end?
- When is the 1260 days?

Verse 3: "And I will give *power* to My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and *the* two lampstands that stand before the God of the earth" (vs 3-4). Zech 3-4 show that it's the coming high priest and the coming governor of Judea.

- they have their prophecy, it's completed
- the beast kills the two witnesses
- their bodies are in the streets for 3-1/2 days
- everyone on earth rejoices

The Resurrection:

Then 3-1/2 days later, v 11: "Then after the three and a half days, *the* spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them." What does the Bible say about the last and the first? *The first shall be last and the last shall be first!* Who were the last two martyrs of God? *The two witnesses!* They are the first to be raised, because it says: "...*the* spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them"

Verse 12: "And they heard a great voice from heaven, say, 'Come up here!' And they ascended into heaven in a cloud; and their enemies saw them *rise*. And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; and seven thousand men were killed in the earthquake.... [v 14]: ...The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming immediately." As they're rising in the air..." (vs 12-13).

I don't know how God is going to do it. The truth is—it just occurred to me—the only ones who are raptured to heaven are the two witnesses. At exactly what moment are they transformed from flesh to spirit? *Probably at the exact moment of the sounding of the seventh trump*, because that happens immediately.

Here they are rising in the air. God called them up there. Then the seventh trump is blown, and that coincides with the great trumpet, the trumpet of 1-Cor. 15 and 1-Thess. 4.

It is the seventh angel, v 15: "Then the seventh angel sounded *his* trumpet..."—just before

the sixth angel! *NO!* (have to have a little humor).

“...and *there* were great voices in heaven, saying...” That’s the time that Christ begins His reign. How does he begin His reign? *By resurrecting all of those who are going to rule with Him!* Those who are alive will be changed. Instantaneous death, transformed into spirit beings.

“...‘The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign into the ages of eternity.’ And the twenty-four elders...” (vs 15-16). One thing about the book of Revelation and why it’s so important, God is directly involved in nearly every one of these things transpiring on the earth; coming directly from God!

Verse 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. For the nations were angry, and Your wrath has come...” (vs 16-18). The finality of the wrath is ready to come.

“...and the time for the dead to be judged... [all those whose names are written in the Book of Life] ...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” (v 18). There we have the resurrection. Then where do we go?

1-Thessalonians 4:16: “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... [we saw all of that right there] ...and the dead in Christ shall rise first; 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**... [Stop and think for a minute!] ...and so shall we always be with *the* Lord” (vs 16-17). That’s why there is the Sea of Glass.

We’re going to meet Him in the air. There are a lot of things that are going to have to happen. First of all with the resurrection, we’re all going to have to be given a new instantaneous language just like God created it in Adam when he was created. Now we need a spiritual language.

- How are we going to communicate back and forth?
- What’s going to happen if different ones from different ages are all assigned to a particular area to work?
- Are we going to have translators?

No! We all have to have the same language to talk. We’re going to meet. Christ is going to

present us to the Father. Look at how many times in the book of Revelation it talks about the throne of God. We’re going to see the Father. We’re His children and He wants to see us—don’t you think? *Yes!* Christ is going to present us and say: *Behold, the children You have given Me!*

“...for *the* meeting with the Lord in *the* air...” Not to meet and come right back down, but *for the meeting!*

Rev. 14:12 shows that the three angels’ message has to be given *before* the *mark of the beast*. Look at it this way: If someone is ready to step out in front of a car and be hit by it, and they got hit but they just happened to survive. You walk up to them and say: *watch out for the car!* ‘Why didn’t you tell me before I got hit?’

Same way here. The third angel says, ‘Don’t take the *mark of the beast*.’ Well, that can’t be after it’s already given.

Revelation 14:12: “Here is *the* patience of the saints; here *are* the ones who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven say to me, ‘Write: Blessed *are* the dead who die in *the* Lord from this time forward...’” (vs 12-13). That covers all those killed with the fifth seal! All of those who suffer the persecution and death.

“...Yes, says the Spirit, so that they may rest from their labors... [they’re going to die] ...and their works follow them” (v 13). It immediately jumps forward to the same time as the seventh trump:

Verse 14: And I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and *one* like *the* Son of man sitting on the cloud, having a golden crown on His head; and in His hand *was* a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him Who was sitting on the cloud, ‘Thrust in your sickle and reap, because the time has come for You to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe’” (vs 14-15). You can tie that in with Matt. 13. The harvest is the *end of the age!* The reapers are *the angels* who carry us up for the meeting with Christ (Matt. 24).

Verse 16: “And He Who was sitting on the cloud thrust forth His sickle upon the earth, and the earth was reaped.” That ties in with the beginning of Rev. 15. But He also shows at that time—ahead of time—what’s going to happen. What happens right after we’re resurrected and meet Christ in the air for the meeting? *The seven last plagues!* That carries over to the time that we come down from the Sea of Glass.

Verse 17: “Then another angel, who also had a sharp sickle, came out of the temple that *is* in heaven. And out from the altar came another angel,

who had authority over fire; and he called with a loud cry to the one who had the sharp sickle, saying, ‘Thrust in your sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the earth, because her grapes are fully ripe’” (vs 17-18). This is where we get the term *the grapes of wrath!*

Verse 19: “And the angel thrust his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *its fruit* into the great winepress of the wrath of God.” That’s beginning with the seven last plagues.

Verse 20: “And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood spewed out from the winepress as high as the horses’ bridles, to the distance of a thousand six hundred furlongs.” That’s going to be something!

Revelation 15:1: “Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and awesome: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is filled up.” The wrath of God starts right with Rev. 6:17 carries over into Rev. 8-11, and then picks up again here to show how it’s going to be administered.

Verse 2: “And I saw a sea of glass mingled with fire...” Isn’t that what was seen in Rev. 4? John came up and saw the Sea of Glass, and on the Sea of Glass a throne.

“...and those who had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, **standing on the Sea of Glass...**” (v 2). Why stand on the Sea of Glass? *That’s how God does it!*

You will see in the Pentecost sermon that I did, when the elders went up to see God, there was a paving under God clear as crystal. They could see the image of God, and only Moses went up to see God and speak to Him face-to-face. Here’s the same thing.

Think of this: We don’t know how many are going to be in the first resurrection. Is it going to be hundreds of thousands? Millions? We know it’s going to be more than 144,000. There are two sets of 144,000, so that 288,000 plus the great innumerable multitude, plus all those from the time of the receiving of the Holy Spirit to the resurrection, plus all of those from the covenants before:

- the covenant beginning with Abel
- the covenant beginning with Noah
- the covenant beginning with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

They’re all going to be there. God is an organizer—is He not?

- Did He not have all the plans laid out for David before He gave the plans to Solomon to build the temple? *Yes!*

- Did Jesus say that He’s going to prepare a place for us? *Yes!*
- Are we going to be organized? *Yes!*
- Are we going to have clear instructions on what to do? *Of course!*

We’re not going to come down in a chaotic mass! We’re going to know what we’re going to do! So, they’re standing on the Sea of Glass! And the first thing we’re going to do is we’re going to have a song service.

“...having *the lyres of God*” (v 2). An angel comes along and says, ‘Here’s a lyre.’ *How to play it?* ‘It’s in the brain God gave you as a spirit being.’

Verse 3: “And they were singing the song of Moses *the servant of God...*” I don’t know what the song of Moses is; I know what it is in Deut. 32. If that’s the one we’re going to sing, that’s a long hymn. Go back and read it.

“...and the song of the Lamb...” (v 3). What is the song of the Lamb? *We’re obviously going to have some kind of hymnal!* How are we going to know what to sing?

“...saying, ‘Great and awesome *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty; righteous and true *are* Your ways, King of the saints. Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You* only *are* Holy; and all the nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been revealed’” (vs 3-4). Shows all the actions that are going to take place during the Millennium.

Notice how involved God is in this, v 5: “And after these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.” It says that the Ark of God was seen (Rev. 11:19). So, we’re going to see all of this. What is that going to be like? We’re talking about fantastic events that are going to happen. We’re going to all be a part of it.

Verse 6: “And the seven angels who had the seven *last* plagues came out of the temple; they were clothed in linen, pure and bright, and girded about the chest with golden breastplates. And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden vials, full of the wrath of God, Who lives into the ages of eternity. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from His power; and no one was able to enter inside the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled” (vs 6-8). Then God fulfills His promise:

- What does God say to us? *Vengeance is Mine!*
- What if you die before you see the vengeance of God?

- How are you going to know that it's done?

Here we all are on the Sea of Glass. We see all the nations gathering together for this bloody battle to come. We see the seven angels all ready to go. It's the vengeance of God. We're all going to see it! Think about what Abraham is going to experience with that? He's probably standing right alongside Jesus Christ.

Jesus is going to say, 'Okay, remember when I told you that your children would be like the stars of heaven? Here they are, all resurrected here and are as the dust of the earth.' Some of those through Ishmael and Esau, we're going to have to eliminate them now, they're part of the problem that we're facing.' I think Abraham is going to say, 'Ah, Lord God!' Then all the seven last plagues are poured out.

You'll have to come to the Holy Day on Trumpets to get the rest of the story. But in the meantime, if you are raptured away, give a call to the office and let me know how it is! (humor)

The rapture hoax is going to be a great deception! Think of all of those who are thinking: I can read all of this, but I'm going to be safe. Think what's going to happen. It's going to be much like it was in 1844. Do you know what 1844 was? *That was when William Miller said that we're all going to meet Christ in the air!* There were thousands of people that came to a certain place and some were standing on the rocks, 'O Lord, lift me up! O Lord, lift me up!' Then the sun went down and nothing happened!

They all gathered around William Miller and said, 'What happened.' *I was a year off!* So, a year later he did it again. *No rapture!* Well, it's going to be the same way for those who believe in a rapture today. They're going to be thinking: Here is the antichrist! Here's the temple! He's entered into it! 'Lord, take me up!' And a voice came from heaven and said, 'Not yet! There is no rapture!'

I hope this solves the problem. Maybe I confounded it even more. If I did, you'll have to let me know so I can straighten it out!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 13:16-17
- 2) 1 Corinthians 15:50-52
- 3) Revelation 12:13-17
- 4) Revelation 6:9-11
- 5) Revelation 19:9-10
- 6) Daniel 12:1
- 7) Revelation 6:17
- 8) Revelation 8:1-3
- 9) Revelation 9:1

- 10) Revelation 10:1-3, 8-11
- 11) Matthew 24:36-39, 42-44
- 12) 1 Thessalonians 5:3
- 13) Genesis 6:5-7, 11-12
- 14) 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
- 15) Revelation 11:1-4, 11-18
- 16) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- 17) Revelation 14:12-20
- 18) Revelation 15:1-8

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Hosea 6
- Revelation 8:12
- Matthew 24:3
- Zechariah 3; 4
- Deuteronomy 32
- Revelation 11:19

Also referenced:

Sermons:

- *The Temptation to Try the Whole World* (Daniel/Revelation series #26)
- *The Mark of the Beast is Here*

Sermon Series: *Daniel/Revelation*

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

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