

To Deceive The Elect - The Rapture Fact or Fiction?

Part 1 of 2

by

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**DON'T WANT TO READ ANYTHING!
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING!
I DON'T WANT TO DISCUSS ANYTHING!**



"I have made up my mind, please don't confuse me with the facts."

**IT'S TOO LATE TO BE AN OSTRICH - LEARN THE TRUTH FROM
GOD'S WORD!!! AND SAVE AMERICA!**

Recently (May 1991) I received the following newsletter from a Christian patriot pastor, in which he made statements which are consistent, with moderate differences, with what is being taught in most fundamentalist churches in America. I am bringing this to your attention, for scripturally I believe this man is a "false prophet," not intentionally so, but false nevertheless, who is preaching a doctrine that has done more to harm Christian soldiers, than anything the enemy has thrown at us.

Here are his remarks regarding the RAPTURE:

"Like all true evangelists, fundamentalist pastors, teachers and missionaries, we believe that Jesus is returning soon, even before the final tribulation begins! Dr. Jack Van Impe (who is a Christian Zionist - Editor Mohr) believes we have less than five years to prepare for a coming World War III. We agree! That means that Jesus Christ will come back to take us off this planet (rapture) anytime.

"Then we shall return (all 50-million of the estimated American Christians), after about seven years, with Jesus Christ, back to this earth, to rule over the earth for 1,000 years.

"Millions of post-tribulation Catholics, Lutherans, and other Protestants still DO NOT BELIEVE this truth! Nevertheless, like great Christians of the past, we still believe in the PRE-TRIBULATION-RAPTURE, even after sixty years.

"I personally think every true Christian shall be caught up into a huge angelic spacecraft in a split second of time, whether they individually believe this or not: WE SHALL ALL GO TOGETHER! AMEN! Perhaps before you read this letter we shall be caught up together! (See you then!)" (UNO.)

After a good deal of prayerful consideration, I was led by the Spirit, I believe, to answer this confused brother as follows:

Dear Brother _____

I do not understand why I am wasting my time writing this letter, except to say that I am being strongly pushed by the Spirit into doing it. I sincerely doubt that it will cause you to change your mind, since it seems to be "set in cement", and only the power of God will blow away the years of false teaching you received in fundamentalist circles.

Of course, I am referring to your latest newsletter, in which you upheld one of the most Satanic and destructive doctrines which has ever plagued Christianity, that of a Pre-Trib RAPTURE. I know something regarding the fundamentalist teaching, since I was raised in a Southern Baptist church, and on reaching manhood, as a Fundamentalist Baptist. To augment this teaching, I have two degrees in religion from one of the most prestigious fundamentalist Baptist seminaries, which is noted for its PRE-TRIB stand. So I'm pretty sure I know what it's all about. I was also a fundamental Baptist evangelist for eighteen years, with speaking engagements in some of their largest churches, and in such places as Bob Jones University and Tennessee Temple.

In all my time rubbing shoulders with these men, I never heard a pastor or seminarian discuss why, when Jesus was telling His disciples about His return, in Matthew 24 and Luke 21, He never so much as hinted at a RAPTURE. It always

seemed to me, even when I was in fundamentalist circles, that He would most certainly have mentioned such an important event. But when I asked the professors about this, all I received were rebukes about my faithlessness, or stony silence.

I do know what Jesus said about His return, for I can read it in the scriptures. He said there would be "wars and rumors of wars, famines, pestilence and earthquakes." These were to be a sign to us of His return (see Luke 21:28), for when we see them take place, we would KNOW that our REDEMPTION was drawing near. But there was no hint of a RAPTURE here! In Matt. 24:9, and again in Luke 21:12, He said that Christians would be persecuted, and some killed, and even strongly hinted who the persecutors would be, when He said this would happen in "synagogues". But there was not the slightest hint of a RAPTURE.

In verse 13, He did say: "He that endures to the end shall be saved." Of course, you must know that He was not speaking about "spiritual salvation," for we know this is of "grace through faith and not through works." He was speaking of physical salvation from the tribulation which would be afflicting the world.

Then in verse 22, He goes so far as to predict that unless the days of this Great Tribulation were shortened, no flesh would be saved on the earth. But He goes on to say, "thank God," that "for the ELECT'S sake" these days would be shortened. There is no hint here that Christians would escape going through the Tribulation, for the word ELECT is never used, in either the Old or New Testament, to refer to the people we now call JEWS. In the OT it was used for Israel, and in the New for "the spiritual seed of Abraham," those we know as Christians.

The first hint of His return in Matt. 24, comes in vs. 29, which follows "immediately after the tribulation of those days." In Luke 21:25, 26, He tells us that men's hearts would be failing for fear, as they saw the signs of His return, but that for the "true Christian" this should be a time of rejoicing.

The RAPTURE Theory was never taught in the early Christian church until about 1850, when it was brought to this country by John Darby of the Brethren Church, and was popularized in fundamentalist circles by the profligate Baptist, C. I. Scofield, in his Scofield Reference Bible. This has become so popular in many Baptist circles, that to many, Scofield's footnotes have the weight of Holy Writ.

Where in the world did you ever come up with the strange idea that 50-million American Christians would return with Christ for this fictitious RAPTURE? I know they are out there all right, but how can you say that most of these folks are "saved," when this country has "gone to hell" faster during the period when there was the largest growth among the "born agains?" Could it be, do you suppose, that it is because these Christians have been listening to the "ear tickling" RAPTURE doctrine? I have had many good Christians come up to me after hearing me preach and say: "Brother Mohr, we agree with everything you said about the dangers to our

country and our people. But I'm born again, you know, and I don't have to worry about those things, since Jesus will come back for me before things get all that bad!" Talk about being wrapped in a sheet of self righteousness, those folks are "wrapped in a shroud."

There have been more "soldiers of the cross," neutralized and turned into "panty-waisted, sissy-britches" religious cowards by the teaching of this heresy, than by any other weapon which the enemy has ever used against us in modern times. For instead of being on the "battle line" where they belong, most of these Christians are hiding in their comfortable, air-conditioned, "spiritual foxholes," folding their holy hands in prayer, while they ask God to handle the dirty work He gave them to do, and rescue them from the mess caused by their apathy.

Jesus was talking about religious folks like this when He said in Matt. 5:13 - "Ye are the salt of the earth, but when the salt has lost its savor (the ability to act like salt and hold back corruption) ...it is good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under the foot of men."

I say that the vast majority of your 50-million Christians will fall into this category, and will be the one's who will hear the Master say to them: "Depart from me! I never knew you!" (Matt. 25:41) How can I make such a shocking statement? "By their fruits shall ye know them," and very few of these 50-million, are bringing forth good fruit. If they were, things would be changing for the better.

You say that these 50-million will come back to "rule with Christ for a thousand years." Don't make me laugh! Are you so naive as to believe that people who don't have enough courage to say "grace" in a restaurant before they eat, will "rule with Christ?" Where's your scripture for that? Mine, coming direct from the King James Version says in Revelation 2:7,17,26; 3:5,12, and 21, that only the OVERCOMERS will "reign with Him." In every case, the Word, not Jack Mohr, but the WORD says: "To him that OVERCOMETH will I grant to sit with me in my throne."

Then to be so bold as to say that we will be caught up in a huge angelic spacecraft, is to lead people astray, for I am sure you have no scripture to back this assumption.

You quote from Jack Van Impe, who is a Zionist Christian. In other words he is a man who evidently does not believe the Master's words, when He said "Ye cannot serve two masters. For Van Impe gives utmost loyalty to the anti-Christ's of Zionism-Judaism. There is no reason to argue about this. just read his writing and find out for yourself. How can you place trust and respect in a man who turns his back on God's Word, as found in 2 John 10,11, where it tells Christians that if they support the anti-Christ's (see 1 John 2:22, 23) for a definition of such, they "become partakers in their evil deeds."

Brother, God will hold you responsible for the doctrines you teach and preach. This is why I am taking time to write. Its because I believe you will listen to me, but because I never want you to be able to stand before the King and use the standard excuse: "No one ever told me differently!" If you read this letter in its entirety, you will never be able to use this excuse (Read Matt. 18:6 and Luke 17:1,2). God holds each of us preacher, evangelist, and layman alike, responsible for questioning doctrines and teachings, by exhorting us to "Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are true, (Acts 17:11)

Have you ever thought about what might happen if Christians who have been taught the RAPTURE theory, suddenly find themselves in the middle of the Great Tribulation? They will become prime candidates to take part in the great "falling away" of 2 Thess. 2:3. Not only that, but they will be seeking out the false prophets who taught them, to do them physical harm! This is a warning to you!

Jesus promise's OVERCOMERS, the right to "rule and reign" with Him in His Kingdom, and if there is a RAPTURE, then would be gain. But to blindly accept the RAPTURE, with no consideration that God may have other plans for His people, might be tempting God, and this is a dangerous thing to do.

Recently I came across this RECIPE FOR PERPETUAL IGNORANCE, which I have found prevalent among many professing Christians:

- 1 - Be sure in your mind that only you have the whole truth;
- 2 - Be content with what you have already been taught and believe and never seek further truth, for it may come as a shock to you to find out that you have been wrong.

I know something about this traumatic experience, for after having been taught the RAPTURE fallacy for years, when one day I was illuminated by the Holy Spirit into accepting the truth, I had to admit I had been wrong and this was exceedingly difficult for me to do. Strangely, for admitting this error, I lost most of my so-called fundamentalist friends.

If you ever accept the potentially disastrous consequences of accepting the RAPTURE theory, then and only then, will you see the importance of searching for and finding the TRUTH.

You say that most "true evangelists" and "fundamentalist pastors, teachers, and missionaries," have accepted the RAPTURE. This is an outright falsehood and you know it! I could name many of these, but do not have the time in this letter. I do know it was never accepted in fundamentalist circles prior to 1850.

There are many in your group who are not sure just what they want to accept regarding this theory, so they have come up with "pre-trib," "mid-trib", and "post-trib" theories. They can't all be right, and it is very possible that ALL of them are wrong.

Van Impe, and others of his stripe, have made a lot of money by writing books on when and how the RAPTURE will occur. Some have gone as far as setting dates, even though the scripture clearly states that "no man knows when the Lord will return." The book 88 REASONS THE RAPTURE WILL OCCUR IN 1988, was a good example of this kind of fraud, with the writer explaining that he had merely made a mistake in his calculations.

You may say, but Jesus told the church that it would be spared from the horrors of the Tribulation. Just how big is your God? If He is powerful enough to physically remove you from this earth by means of a physical rapture, then He most assuredly is capable of protecting you on this earth in the midst of "holocaust," no matter what it may be. Of course this is not nearly as exciting as the RAPTURE, and you can't get as many good sermons from it; or as many good collections. I know, for I have seen evangelists use this teaching for this purpose.

The Rapture Doctrine has been one of the most divisive of modern day doctrines, and how can the world believe Christians when they keep on preaching things which are obviously wrong? It is just like the Jews being the Chosen People Theory, which has been proven false.

Christ tried to give His disciples an understanding of who was to be taken from this earth at His return, and did this in two Parables "the wheat and tares," and the "good and bad fish," in Matt 13. In both cases, it was the "good that remained while the "evil was cast out or removed." Neither of these Parables needs any explanation.

Going back to the scripture I discussed earlier, when I mentioned that the days of tribulation would be shortened for the "elects" sake. In Luke 18:7, we read about: "His (God's) own elect." In Romans 8:13, "...God's elect;" in Colossians 3:12, "the elect of God..." and in Titus 1:1, "...God's elect," again. If all Christians are removed from this earth via a RAPTURE, why would God shorten the duration of the "great tribulation for the elect's sake?"

To perpetuate a Bible doctrine, based on a single verse of scripture, as found in 1 Thess. 4:17, is inconsistency of the worst kind. It is a violation of the Bible principle which requires "two or three witnesses," and puts that one verse in direct conflict and contradiction with at least fifty other scriptures which refute it. There MUST be something wrong here, since Jesus said: "...the scripture cannot be broken," (John 10:35) and we KNOW that our God is not the "author of confusion," (1 Cor. 14:33). "God is not a man that He should lie (have contradictions in His Word)..."(Numbers 28:19)

So, perhaps your understanding of 1 Thess. 4:17 is wrong. Maybe it is in the translation from Greek to English. Or it could be in the fabrication of terms which theologians love to use. I will not argue with you about this belief, except to plead with you, to honestly sit down with your Bible and a Strong's Concordance. Put aside all the preconceived ideas you have acquired over the sixty years you have been a fundamentalist, and let the Word of God speak to you on it's own. I DARE YOU TO DO THIS, HONESTLY!

I will pray that God will open your eyes to the truth, for you are too valuable a man in the Kingdom work, to be led astray by false doctrine.

Your brother and servant in the King's service,

Jack Mohr

Spurred on by this letter, and as the Holy Spirit leads, I will attempt to answer this burning question. IS THE RAPTURE DOCTRINE, TRUE SCRIPTURE TEACHING, OR IS IT ONE OF THE GREATEST HOAXES OF THE MODERN CHURCH AGE? It appears to me, that it is a weapon, put out by the enemy, to sap the morale of Christian soldiers, and turn them into "foxhole" dwellers, even before the battle begins.

In this article, I am deeply indebted to Brother H. Speed Wilson, Col. USMC Ret., for his book **RAPTURE: PROPHECY OR HERESY!** For a detailed analysis of this doctrine, I would suggest you write for this book to:

**H. SPEED WILSON,
c/o Daring Books,
913 Tuscarawas St., N.W.,
Canton, OH 44702.**

We know from a study of the scriptures that they cannot be broken. John 10:35, is a passage where Jesus Himself assures us that "...the scripture cannot be broken (will not disagree, nor contradict itself in any part) and will come to pass, (be fulfilled)." In 2 Timothy 3:16, we learn that "ALL scripture (Old and New Testament alike) is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness..." Jesus rebuked the Pharisees in Matt. 22:29 and Mark 12:24, because they "erred, not knowing the scriptures."

I find it difficult to understand how some Christian leaders seem to believe that the Old Testament is not meant for modern day Christians. The Lord and His Apostles, continually quoted from it. Romans 15:4, certainly indicates that everything which was written in the Old Testament was meant to "teach us," (Christians). It states that the stories in the Old Testament were meant to be examples, or types, and were written as warnings for us. In Acts 20:27, we are told that we should accept

the "whole counsel of God." Not just a few verses we take out of context to prove our point.

Can we learn anything about a so-called RAPTURE from the Old Testament? While this word is not used in either the Old or New Testament, I believe we can. Here are a few examples:

1 - Ps. 125:1 - "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but which abideth forever." This agrees with 2 Cor. 9:9, which says: "...His (God's) righteousness remains forever."

2 - Prov. 2:21, 22 - "For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall REMAIN in it, but the wicked shall be CUT OFF (taken/destroyed) from the earth, and transgressors shall be ROOTED OUT of it."

3 - Ps. 145:20- "The Lord preserveth all that love Him; but ALL the wicked He will DESTROY." This agrees with 2 Peter 3:7.

4 - Prov. 10:30 - "The righteous shall NEVER BE REMOVED; and the WICKED SHALL NOT INHERIT the earth." (It is always the wicked who will be REMOVED, not the righteous.)

I do not believe these foregoing scriptures need any further explanation.

5 - Prov. 11:31 - "The righteous shall be recompensed (rewarded) in the (world) earth."

6 - Ps. 119:119- "All the wicked of the earth you (God) will DISCARD (throw away) like DROSS (garbage)."

Remember in the New Testament Parables of the "Wheat and Tares; and the Good and Bad Fish" in Matt. 13, that it was the "bad" which were always removed. The "good" remained behind.

When Jesus prayed in John 17:15: "Father, do not take them (Christians) out of the world, but keep them from evil." He was repeating the words of the Psalmist in 23:4, 5 - "Yea, though I walk through (no rapture here) the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me."

Ps. 37:29 says that it is the "righteous who shall inherit the land (earth) and dwell there FOREVER." Vs. 9-11 states that "evildoers (those who transgress God's Law, see 1 John 3:4) shall be CUT OFF (destroyed); but those who wait upon the Lord shall INHERIT (remain) on the EARTH."

In no instance, in any scripture, will you find reference to the "righteous, the perfect, the upright, and those who trust God," being RAPTURED out of this world.

In my favorite Psalm 91, sometimes called THE SOLDIER'S PSALM, vs. 7 says: "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it will not come nigh thee, only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward (destruction) of the wicked."

In Colossians 3:6 we learn that "The wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience." In Isa. 43:2, we are told: "When thou passeth THROUGH the waters I (God) will be with thee; and THROUGH the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou WALKEST through the fire (atomic maybe?) thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the fire kindle upon thee." (See Daniel 3:27.) In other words, God's people shall be safe in this world, no matter what kind of a catastrophe may hit.

There are a multitude of scriptures which indicate that the righteous will remain in this world, while the evil will be removed. In no instance is it the other way around.

Some Rapturists will come back with the statement that the destruction of the wicked takes place after Christians have left this world via a RAPTURE. But nowhere does the scripture teach such a thing.

Read Ezekiel 9:4-6 and see how God has a mark placed on those who love and honor Him, so that they will be spared from destruction. This agrees with Rev. 9:3, 4, where we are told how during the grievous "plague of scorpions," in the last days, God's people will be spared. (He is not talking about Jews.)

The only scripture which even remotely suggests that Biblical believers may be removed (RAPTURED) is in 1 Thess. 4:17. But scripture itself, charges us not to establish any scriptural belief on the witness of a single passage. (See Gen. 41:32; Job 33:14; Deut. 17:6; 2 Cor. 13:1).

There are many Christians who do not follow Christ's example of washing one another's feet before partaking of Holy Communion (John 13:14,15), because this is the only time it is mentioned in the scriptures. Yet some of these same people base their belief in the RAPTURE, on a verse which is much more vague than the passage in John 13.

We know that the word RAPTURE does not appear in any translation of the Bible. It has been my observation, that terms fabricated by theologians, instead of Bible terms, severely hampers one from honestly "searching the scriptures." Examples of this are RAPTURE: JEWS ARE THE CHOSEN PEOPLE; JESUS WAS A JEW; ANTI-SEMITISM, etc.

If you look into the two most popular Bible Concordances, Young's and Strong's, under the word CAUGHT, which is what the English word RAPTURE means (caught up), you will not find 1 Thess. 4:17 even listed. If you look for the word UP, you will not find it listed in 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

Strong's and Young's agree, and point out that the Greek word "harpazo", which is derived from the word "haireomai", when translated into English means: "to take for oneself; to prefer; to chose." This same Greek word, "harpazo," is used in - John 10:12, where it says: "...and the wolf catcheth (harpazo) them (the sheep)."

In Matt. 13:19 - "...then the wicked one comes and catcheth away (harpazo) that (the word) which was sown in his heart."

Acts 8:39, after Philip had baptized the Ethiopian eunuch: "...the Spirit of the Lord CAUGHTAWAY (harpazo) Philip."

In John 10:28, 29 this word is used in a verse which says: "...and they shall never perish, neither shall any man PLUCK (harpazo) them out of my hand."

In Jude 23, "harpazo" has been translated as "pulling," ...and others save with fear PULLING (harpazo) them out of the fire."

In Matt. 11:12, it is translated "take by force." "...until now the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent TAKE IT BY FORCE," (harpazo).

Another "key" phrase in RAPTURE phraseology, found in 1 Thess. 4:17, is "to meet the Lord in the air." By this they intimate that this means we will ascend into the sky to meet the King.

But the Greek translation of the English word AIR, in both Strong's and Young's Concordances is "AER". It is used in Acts 22:23 "...and threw dust into the air (AER)." In 1 Cor. 9:26 - "...not as one that beateth the air (AER); 1 Cor. 14:9 "...for ye speak into the air (AER)."

There is another Greek word for AIR which is used in the New Testament. It is "ouranos", and appears in Matt. 6:28; 8:20; 13:32; Mark 4:4, 32; Luke 8:5; 9:58; 13:19, and Acts 10:12; 11:6. In each case it refers to the "fowls of the air" (OURANOS).

So according to what the scriptures teach, the RAPTURISTS are not going to suffer from nosebleed, because they rise into the stratosphere, since there is no honest way the Greek word AER, can be changed to mean "heaven." We are in the AER now while our feet are firmly planted on the GROUND.

The Rapturists try and use Noah as an Old Testament type of the Rapture, by saying that as he was lifted off the earth by the flood waters, so they will be lifted off earth by the Rapture. But please note that Noah did not go to heaven, he still remained in the air (AER).

Another phrase the Rapturists like to use in this passage is "with them (the resurrected saints) in the clouds." There are several scriptures in which "divine clouds" came down to earth. In Matt. 17:5; Mark 9:7, and Luke 9:35, we learn how Jesus was "transfigured on the mount and a cloud came down and overshadowed them and behold a voice out of the cloud..."

The Apostle Paul in 1 Cor. 10:12, spoke about Israel's passing through the Red Sea, by saying: "...and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud (which must have come down) and in the sea."

In Hebrews 12:1, we are told that Christians today are "compassed (Greek "perikeimai" - meaning: "enclosed; encircled; hung about") about with so great a CLOUD of witnesses .

In 1 Thess. 4:17, this "great cloud of witnesses," are the same saints we find in Rev. 6:10, who are crying to God for vengeance against those who have killed and persecuted them.

In vs. 15, of 1 Thess. 4, we find these departed saints returning to earth with the King, to be united with their resurrected bodies and to be made perfect along with those who are alive and remain on earth at His coming.

But let's look back a bit and see what this passage really says, beginning with vs. 13. "But I would not have you ignorant (without understanding) brethren, concerning them which are asleep, (this verse deals with departed/dead Christians) that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (Those who die in an unsaved condition. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again (I'm sure that those of you read this, believe this), even so (in like manner) them also which sleep (are dead) in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by word of the Lord, that we (Biblical believers) who are alive and remain (on earth) unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede; have an advantage over them) them which are asleep. (Notice that these Christians who have died are not in heaven with Christ, as most churches teach, but are ASLEEP). For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven (compare this with Acts 1:11, where Jesus went directly from earth to heaven, and it was predicted that he would return in exactly the same manner, nothing is said, or even hinted, about a Rapture back to heaven, and a Third Coming.) with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and the trump(et) of God: and the dead in Christ shall RISE (Greek "anestemei" - "to sit up; to be resurrected") first. Then we who are alive (see 1 Cor. 15:51) and remain (on the earth in the AER) shall be caught up (made one; "harpazo") together (at the same

time) with them (the dead in Christ) in the clouds (the "great cloud of witnesses" who have been made perfect here on earth), and so shall we always be with the Lord. (In the AER, on earth forever.) Wherefore comfort (reassure) one another with these words."

(Notice that the "Lord descended from heaven," before we are made part with Him (harpazo); just as the New Jerusalem of Rev. 21:2, comes down to dwell with believers here on earth. We do not go to heaven to get into the New Jerusalem.

Wasn't this what Jesus meant when He taught us to pray in Matt. 6:10 - "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done, IN EARTH, as it is in heaven?"

If we choose the Greek meaning, and there are six of them, for the word "harpazo," which is "to be made one," then we will have removed the contradictions the Rapturists have brought to this wonderful and comforting scripture. This would make 1 Thess. 4:17, the answer to our King's prayer in John 17:21, when He prayed: "that they (Christians) all may be one (harpazo); as thou Father art in me, and I in Thee, that they may also be one in us: that the world (order) may believe that Thou hast sent me."

A translation of this Thessalonian passage by the great Reformer Martin Luther in German, reads: "the lesser was included in the greater." We Christians are the "lesser;" Jesus Christ, the King, is the "greater."

Jesus Christ was transfigured (changed; transformed) in the air (AER) right here on earth in the same manner that we will be changed. (Refer again to 1 Cor. 15:51-54.)

We are told again about this physical change in Cor. 3:4, where we read: "When Christ, who is our life shall appear (here on earth at His Second Coming, not in a Rapture), then shall ye (Christians) also appear with Him in glory." 1 John 3:2 elaborates on this by saying: "... now are we (Christians) the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that when He (Christ) doth appear (at His Second Coming), we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." (This will take place, here on this earth, in the "AER". It will not be in a Rapture in the sky.)

In John 14:23, Jesus states that if we love Him and keep His words (commandments, see 1 John 3:4), then the Father will love us and both He (Jesus) and the Father (God) will come unto him, (notice we do not go to Them, They come to us), and will make our abode with(in) him." (On this earth!) No mention of a RAPTURE! No mention of "going to heaven," but God and the Son will come and make their abode in us. HALLELU'YAH!

In 2 Thess. 2:7, we read another passage which is used by the Rapturists to prove that both Christians and the Holy Spirit are out of this world during the days of the

Great Tribulation, when the anti-Christ takes over. It says: "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work, (remember this was written in the First Century A.D.): only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way."

The English word "letteth" comes from the Greek "katecho" which means: "to have, hold, to hold down fast, possess, retain, seize."

During my study on this subject, I came across these old "study notes," which were written, believe it or not, before I became aware of the Rapture hoax. In other words, I was still preaching it. But you can see that even then, the Holy Spirit was dealing with me about this subject. These were written prior to 1975.

THE RESTRAINER

There is wide-spread disagreement as to who this "restrainer" really is. Most pre-tribs believe this to be the Holy Spirit. (I first noticed this when I saw that the "he" was not capitalized, as it should have been if it referred to the Holy Spirit.) They assume that He was removed from this earth before the Tribulation, at least partially, as the one who indwells believers, and because He has left, so the believers MUST be gone also.

But if the Holy Spirit "indwelling" is missing during the Tribulation, then it seems to me as though the Tribulation saints would be retreating to the "weak and beggardly elements," the Apostle Paul condemns as "legalism," in Gal. 4:9. Does it seem possible that 144,000 Jewish evangelists could do a better job of evangelizing the world in seven years, without the aid of the Holy Spirit, than the ecclesia had been able to do in 2,000 years? Doesn't make much sense, now does it?

If the Tribulation Saints are indwelt with the Holy Spirit, as they must be in order to be saved, then why does He not act as a restrainer during the Tribulation Period? I believe this - disproves the Rapturist theory that the antichrist cannot appear while the "indwelt" church is here on earth. Ask your pastor to show you the Greek words in 2 Thess. 2:7, which are translated "Holy Spirit." He can't!

What we have in this teaching, is a deliberate separation of the Rapture from the Second Coming of Christ. While all passages in the Bible dealing with the Second Coming are in harmony with each other, they are not exactly the same. But they never cancel each other out.

In 1 Thess. 4:17, nothing is said about where Christians are supposed to go after they meet the Lord in the air. In Zech. 14:4, where Jesus stands on the Mount of Olives, you find nothing saying that the saints have been in heaven with Him. This argument of silence can be effectively used to prove that the Rapture does not take place at the Second Coming. There is no "battle and bloodshed," mentioned in 1

Thess. 4 and this passage also omits speaking about our bodies being changed, with mortal putting on immortality, as seen in 1 Cor. 15:51-53. Just because the wording of these two Scriptures is different, does not mean they are speaking about different events.

Rapturists will try and tell you that Christ in Matthew 24, was speaking of His Second Coming, while in 1 Thess., Paul was discussing the Rapture. But Christ and the Apostle Paul taught the same thing, a single, Post-Tribulational, Second Coming, which had none of the aspects taught by the Rapturists.

If Paul were living today, he might very well write his warning to the "ecclesia" at Corinth, to the present day Rapture preachers: "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety (trickery), so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." If the Pre-Tribulation is such a big event in the lives of Christians, why did Jesus never mention it in the Gospels?

The Rapture people have developed an unusual ability to use both "inductive" and "deductive" reasoning to support their view.

"Deductive reasoning," is a logical thought process where by one comes to a conclusion based on a set of premises." Such as "Since all men are apes; this is a man; therefore, he must be an ape.

"Inductive reasoning" is a logical thought process in which a conclusion is proposed, that contains more information than that which can be obtained through observation and experience. An example: "Since every crow ever seen has been black; therefore all crows must be black."

Using these thought processes, the Rapturists say that because the word "church," cannot be found after Chapter Four in the Book of Revelation, they deduce, or conclude that the church must have left this world (hence a rapture). It is interesting to note, however, that nowhere in the New Testament is the Greek word for church used, instead it uses the Greek work "ecclesia," which literally means "an assembly of called out ones."

If you look closely at such scriptures as Eph. 4:11, 12; 5:27, you will find that in very clear terms, "saints, body of Christ, and the church," are one and the same people. These are synonymous terms.

Saints are mentioned at least 13 times in Revelation, after Chapter 4 and are on this earth in all incidents. In Rev. 13:10, we read about "the patience and faith of the saints." In 17:6, we see where the "whore of the Babylonian world system," is "drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus." So they must have been on this earth in order to have been martyred. She could not have reached them if they had been in heaven.

In 20:9, we are told that Gog and Magog "went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed (surrounded) the camp of the saints," under no conditions was this speaking about the antichrist Jews. These are Israelite Christians who are being besieged.

Now you may get some "kickback" from some Rapturists who will say that these saints mentioned, are the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. But if you want to be real technical about it, only the Tribe of Judah, could even remotely be called JEWS, since all the others are Israelites.

In addition, Rev. 7:13,14 clearly states that the saints are in great tribulation, and have come out of this tribulation with their garments "washed white in the blood of the lamb."

The Rapturists make much of the "mark of the Beast - 666." Yet they would have to be on earth at the same time as the anti-Christ, if they had to make a decision for or against him. Maybe this is one of the major reasons they want a Rapture, so that they will not have to make this hard and often fatal decision.

Brother Speed Wilson puts it mighty clear, when he said: "The tribulation saints are OVERCOMERS, NOT COPPER-OUTERS!" The word RAPTURE has the exact opposite meaning of OVERCOMING, for it is essentially the attitude of the "escapists," rather than the victorious attitude of a Christian soldier.

They also love 1 Thess. 5:9, which is a beautiful verse which tells us that "God did not appoint us (Christians) to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." It is interesting to note that the definition of the word "obtain," means: "to get possession of; to prevail; to be victorious. When you are "victorious," it means you have won a victory over the enemy, and no soldier ever won a victory, by hiding in a foxhole, praying for his king to come and rescue him from the trouble which was caused by his apathy and neglect.

We have already discussed some of the promises God gave to His saints, which will see them through this time of adversity, not by "escaping" (a rapture), but by OVERCOMING.

Some promote the Rapture belief by quoting Luke 21:36 "... pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and stand before the Son of man." I believe the "key" word in this verse is WORTHY, which comes from the Greek word "Axios," and literally means: "deserving."

If you will carefully read the first few chapters of Revelation, you will see that it is only the OVERCOMERS who are worthy to be "clothed in white raiment." Only the OVER-COMERS who will "rule and reign" with the king

Somehow or other, I think the King James Version is "off the mark," a bit in its use of the English phrase "be accounted worthy of ESCAPE." I like what the New Jerusalem Bible says better. It puts it this way: "Stay awake! praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen and stand with confidence before the Son of Man." How in the world will a Christian be able to do this, if he spends most of his time looking for a means whereby he can escape the unpleasant things which are coming to this country, due mostly to Christian apathy

The Rapturists often use Enoch and Elijah as examples of a Rapture. But Jesus didn't say: "As it was in the time of Enoch, or Elijah." He said: "As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be when I return."

While Scofield taught that the "restrainer" of 2 Thessalonians 2 was the Holy Spirit, a great Bible scholar named Oswald Smith once said: "There is no mention of the Holy Spirit in this verse. That is a Scofield Bible assumption. The Holy Spirit and the church remain in the world until the end of the age."

Jesus Himself predicted that the "wheat and the tares," would grow together to maturity and that one of His first acts on His return, would be to get rid of the tares.

Our Baptist friend from Washington, said in his letter that all the great church leaders believed in and taught the Rapture, but that just isn't so. I wonder where he studied his church history. Any honest study of church history, will show you that this doctrine did not show up in the modern church, until about 1830 Luther, and Calvin, and Wesley never taught it, and the early Baptist church in America did not teach it.

WHERE THEN DID IT BEGIN?

Two of the best books on this were written by my friend Dave MacPherson. THE INCREDIBLE COVERUP, and THE GREAT RAPTURE HOAX. Dave can be reached at P.O. Box 44, Monticello, UT 84535.

One of the greatest obstacles to acceptance of the truth revealed in this message, will be the tendency of some readers to become hostile at what they think are unfair criticisms of those they consider to be great Christian leaders, churchmen, of course, who have taught the Rapture theory. There is no doubt in my mind, as I look back on it, that some of the seminary professors I knew, were dedicated to the cause of Christ, yet they allowed denominational teaching to overshadow the truth of the Word.

Anyone would be foolish to hire a butcher to build a house, or a car mechanic to repair an expensive watch. Why then are Christians upset, when someone points out that men like Jerry Falwell, Jimmy Swaggart, Jack Van Impe, or Billy Graham, as examples, have proven themselves to be "theological duds," when it came to the prophetic department.

Jerry Falwell once told me: "Brother Jack, the reason God has been good to America, is because we have supported the Jews." But when I pointed out the truth, that America had gone "downhill" in every area - militarily, economically, politically, educationally, and spiritually, faster than any time in our history, since we recognized those "who say they are Jews, and are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan," (Rev. 2:9; 3:9), are recognized their right to the land of Palestine. When I pointed out these truths, Jerry got angry and walked off with his feelings hurt.

Instead of sitting in some church, or before a TV screen, with your mouth agape and your eyes popping, as some prophetic evangelist pontificates about when the Lord will return, or when the battle of Armageddon will be fought, or how the Lord will come in the Rapture before 1992, why don't you take your Bible, and a Strong's Concordance, and sit down at home and find out for yourself what the Word says. You don't need some pastor, who has been "brainwashed" in the seminary to tell you what it says. Think for yourself for a change. I know it means a bit more work, and its easier to listen to the preacher, but you will get a lot more out of it if you discover it for yourself. I can tell you from long experience in the evangelistic field, that in nine cases out of ten, your pastor will tell you what the seminarian told him.

Certainly fundamentalists and rapturists are saved if they really believe and are "bringing forth the fruits of repentance." But when they drift into a life "at ease in Zion," because some preacher told them not to worry what the communists do since they are going to escape through a rapture, then there is a lot of repair work to be done.

While seeking the lost and leading them to Christ is of first importance, remember it is only the first step in the salvation process. For once you reach this plane, then you are in a position where your responsibility to God and your fellowman has increased 1000 fold. These same brethren you lead to Christ need nurturing and you can't expect them to gain spiritual maturity, on the "sour milk mush" put out by the raptured crowd, who tell them: "Don't worry, if you are saved, God will take care of everything." My youngest son, who has become involved with a charismatic church, tells me: "Dad, you have lost your faith. All that is necessary is to have faith and God will take care of everything." If this is true, then why does a Christian soldier need to put on the armour of Ephesians 6. You don't put on armor to eat, or to go to bed, or to sit in a foxhole. Armour is put on before a fight, and whether you realize it or not, Christians are in a fight to the death, against the very forces of hell.

The brand of Christianity that says: "Leave everything to God, is about as anemic as anything I can think of and is a long, long way from being an OVERCOMER."

I think this reasoning, is why the average Christian is not worth a hill of beans, as far as the Kingdom of Heaven is concerned We have become a "twinky-marshmallow" type of people, instead of the rugged Christians our forefathers were, and weak Christians are always reflected in a weak church that is headed towards the disaster of the church of Laodicea (see Rev. 3:15-17). God said to them, and He says the same thing to modern Christians: "...I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would that thou wert cold or hot. So then (because of this) because thou art neither cold nor hot, I will spew (spit out in disgust) thee out of my mouth."

Then He gives an explanation of why the church has reached this pitiful states (vs. 17) "Because thou sayest I am rich, (we had the most baptisms last year; we had the biggest church building program; we had the biggest attendance growth; we had the best givings per parishioner,) and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." Many of our modern churches are like that. They literally clutter up the landscape of America, in town, city and the countryside. They often meet in impressive multi-million dollar edifices, with stained glass windows and organs that cost into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Their choirs are clothed in the richest raiment, they sit in conditioned comfort, on comfortable plush seats, but spiritually, they are like the Laodicean church and are "wretched, poor, blind, and naked," in the sight of God, because they preach a "man pleasing Gospel," instead of the "whole counsel of God's Word."

In Jeremiah 23:22, God tells Israel, that if their pastors will preach God's truth, then His people would turn from their wicked ways. There has been no turning in America, which indicates to me that the pastors have not been preaching the truth. The Rapture Doctrine is one area in which they have fallen astray.

Some of you may be inclined to say: "Brother Mohr, how can you make such a terrible statement?" And I MUST refer you back again to Jeremiah 23:22.

Could it be possible that many of our pastors have become the shepherds spoken of in Isaiah 56:10,11? "His (Israeli America's) watch men (pastors) are blind; they are all ignorant (mistaken in their teachings), they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark: (a watchdog who refuses to bark, or who cannot bark when danger approaches, is worse than useless) lying down, loving to slumber, greedy (covetous) dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand ("ever learning, but never able to come to an understanding of the truth," is how the Apostle Paul puts it in 2 Tim. 3:7), they all look to their own way ("doing their own thing,") everyone for his gain .

What a terrible indictment against the pastors of Christendom, but evidently true, the facts speak for themselves, for the people of America have not turned from their evil ways, to seek the Lord, and even professing Christians are more interested in "doing their own thing," than they are obeying God.

Will it be necessary for white Christian Americans, who have always been the "backbone of this nation," to be "knocked to their knees, and have their noses rubbed in the dirt," before they will "listen to God, obey and be saved, both spiritually and physically?" It will not come through politics, nor through a spiritual abortion such as the Rapture.

If our preachers of prophecy were to preach the truth, rather than a message that will "tickle the ears and titillate" their congregations, then we would see some changes in the lives of Christians, and thereby America.

It may come as a shock to those of you who have been taught the Rapture theory, that this teaching did not come from the Bible, and was never taught in the early Christian church. It was initiated by God's enemies, for the purpose of neutralizing the church. If the Rapturists would approach the Bible with a mind open to the truth, they would not be led astray by this false teaching, which began with two Spanish Roman Catholic Jesuit priests named Alcazar and Ribera.

To listen to the expositions of the present day Rapturists, one would never realize that a Bible expositor who taught the Rapture theory, never existed earlier than J. N. Darby, and to tell them the truth about this, makes them your enemy.

It is a known fact, that prior to 1830, no Christian church or fellowship had ever proclaimed a Rapture Doctrine. Before 1830, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 was accepted as a scripture which concerned the resurrection.

In Dave MacPhearson's book, he quotes men such as St. Augustine (354-430 A.D.) - "But he who reads this passage (Daniel 12) even half asleep, cannot fail to see that the kingdom of the antichrist shall fiercely, though for a short time, assail the church. (THE CITY OF GOD, XX, p.23).

MARTIN LUTHER (1483-1546) said: "The Book of Revelation is intended as a revelation of things that are to happen, and especially of the tribulations and disasters for the church." (WORKS OF MARTIN LUTHER, VI, p.480).

GEORGE MUELLER (1805-1898) - "The scripture declares plainly that the Lord Jesus will not come until the apostasy shall have taken place." (MISSION TOURS AND LABORS, p.148).

DWIGHT L. MOODY - "There is not a passage in the New Testament to support Scofield. The call of John to 'come up hither,' has reference to mystical ecstasy, not a pre-tribulation rapture." (SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD, p.203).

C. S. LOVETTE - "I no longer teach that Christians will not have to go through the tribulation."

Yet our Baptist friend from Washington State, declares unabashedly that "all past true evangelists and fundamentalist pastors, teachers, and missionaries believe that Jesus will return before the final tribulation begins."

Where in the world did this man study his religious history, or is he making it up as he goes along?

As far as I have been able to determine, the Rapture Doctrine began in the mind of a Spanish Roman Catholic Jesuit priest named Lacunza, who began to write a book under the name of Rabbi Ben Ezra, who was supposed to have been a learned Jew who had converted to Christianity, and who was trying to convert his Jewish brethren.

It is interesting to note, that "Futurist" writers often quote from this "bogus" Jew, thinking he was a Christian. That is exactly what Lacunza had in mind and with typical Jesuit cleverness and deceit, he deliberately set out to lead Protestant Christians astray.

At this time, Protestants were teaching that the Pope of Rome was the antichrist and this priest set out to turn their minds from this idea, by stating that all of the Book of Revelation was to be fulfilled at some future date. Even the opening prayer in his book was for the purpose of deception. In this, Ben Ezra pleads with God to use his book for the enlightenment of his Jewish brethren. But a study of Lacunza's book will show you that it was written to lead Protestant clergy astray, by getting them to dabble in the unscriptural theory of a future antichrist. His book was printed in two small volumes, but at his mysterious death in 1801, it dropped from sight, with the exception of a small volume which was printed in 1812.

Using typical Jesuit cunning, this book was put on the "prohibited list" by the Spanish Inquisition and immediately became sought after in Protestant circles. I can see how this would have happened, since I have had a similar experience.

All of my writings are forbidden in Canada, as being "anti-Semitic, hate literature," and since they were placed on the forbidden list, my sales in Canada have increased.

In 1816, a complete edition of Lacunza's book was published in London in four volumes and this book ended up in the library of the Anglican church, which was

the heart of British Protestantism. The enemy had drilled a hole in the foundation of the Reformation Movement in England, had laid the fuse, and was set for the blast that would blow Reformed Christianity to bits. It took a little over ten years before the explosion occurred.

In 1826, ten years after Lacunza's work was published, a Dr. Maitland, librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury, startled the Protestant world with a series of articles on prophesy, in which he taught the philosophy that had been expounded and taught by the Jesuit. This was that the book of Revelation referred only to the future, and would be fulfilled in a short period of time at the return of Christ. He taught that this return would be in two phases, the first secret, when He would gather His saved people from the earth, both the living and the dead, and take them to heaven in an event Maitland called the RAPTURE. The second phase would be when Christ returned seven years later, after the Tribulation, with these same saints, to set up His millennial rule on earth.

This is the same type of teaching our Baptist brother in Washington State is promoting, and which he wrote in his letter, when he said: "This means that Jesus Christ will come to take us off this planet (rapture) any time now. Then we shall return (all 50-million of the estimated American Christians), after about seven years with Jesus Christ, back to earth, to rule the earth for a thousand years." (UNQ.)

I wonder whether this brother realizes that he is teaching the doctrine of the enemy?

Those of us who can remember the past fifty or sixty years of world history, will remember, I'm sure, that many men have been looked on as being the antichrist by prophetic preachers. FDR was one; Mussolini was another; then of course Adolf Hitler and Joe Stalin; then President Johnson, and Henry Kissinger, and of course always the Pope. Somewhere in the lives of all these men, were some incidents, which led the prophetic preachers to 666, and the "Mark of the Beast," of Rev. 13:18.

Could it be that Fundamental Christianity has been looking for a man, whom they say will be a Jew, to be the antichrist, when he has been in their religious house for many years? Could this idea, harnessed to that of the RAPTURE before the antichrist appears, be one of the causes of the general apathy which has afflicted the Christian church?

The task of translating the wonderful works of Rabbi Ben Ezra, was undertaken by a brilliant, but rather eccentric young Scottish Presbyterian minister named Edward Irving; he was the founder of a sect called the "Irvingites," who are now known as the CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH. (Their beliefs are among the most peculiar in the Christian world.)

Irving knew about the Jesuit basis for the works of Ben Ezra, and knew enough about the morality of Jesuits, that he should have been aware he was committing spiritual suicide. But he went ahead with his work nevertheless, without warning his readers that the writing was "bogus."

Some church historians trace the origin of the modern Rapture Doctrine to a vision received by a Scottish lassie named Margaret MacDonald, of Port Glasgow, Scotland, early in 1830. (See Dave Mcpherson's documentation in his book THE INCREDIBLE COVERUP).

Others say that Irving said he had heard a voice from heaven, commanding him to preach the Secret Rapture of the Saints. So, obeying this voice (?) he began to preach that Christ would come back twice, with absolutely no scriptural backing for this premise, only going by what the "voice" had told him.

While Irving is supposed to have been the first prophetic preacher to have promoted this theory, 250 years earlier, this idea was hatched in the counsels of Rome, and was promoted later by the Jesuit priests Lacunza, and Ribera.

When Irving began to obey the "voice," a veritable deluge of "spiritual manifestations," descended on his deluded congregation, as is often the case, when men are led by their feelings, rather than by the Word of God. His congregation went from one fanatical extreme to another, until what had once been a Scottish Presbyterian church, formally asked to be admitted into the Church of Rome.

It is very probable that this teaching would not have had much effect on America Protestantism, if it had not been promoted by the profligate C. I. Scofield, and included in the footnotes of his popular Scofield Reference Bible. These footnotes, too many Baptists, hold almost the same place of honor as that of Holy Writ.

Using Scofield's footnotes, the fundamentalists began teaching in their seminaries, then from the pulpit, and in their Bible schools, the Roman heresy of the Rapture. This was a teaching that was used to turn Christian soldiers, into "spiritual foxhole" dwellers.

Carrie Ten Boom, the Christian heroine of World War II, was correct, I believe, when she stated: "The rapture doctrine is a false teaching. Jesus warned us to expect this in the last days."

The teaching of this doctrine was responsible for the slaughter of countless millions of Chinese Christians, when the communists took over. Those Christians who had been taught this doctrine, did nothing to protect themselves from the "antichrist's" of Communism, since they had been told they would be Raptured before the persecution got too bad. Many of those who had not been contaminated by this

doctrine, were able to escape and are the nucleus of the Christian church in China today.

In Rev. 2:20-22, Christ warned the church at Thyatira to beware of a false "prophetess" who was causing the church to commit "spiritual adultery."

What is "spiritual adultery?" Read Rev. 22:18,19, where you will find that anyone who adds to the teaching of the Word (Rapture; Jews chosen people, etc.), will not have his name in the book of life. (I hope our Washington pastor will read this passage and ponder on it.) Some will think that I am saying that those who believe the RAPTURE are not saved. But I didn't say that! I am merely quoting what Christ said about "adding to His Word."

In Matt. 24, Jesus warns us that His people will have to face "deceivers," in these last days, and that many of them will be persecuted, and that many will not have the spiritual courage or stamina to "endure to the end."

Duncan McDougall, in his book THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS, from which some of this information is taken, rightly says: "IGNORANCE IS THE MOTHER OF DEVOTION! There is a kind of 'self-righteousness' which thrives in the hotbed of ignorance, like a mushroom which grows only in the dark. It is of an emotional nature, akin to autosuggestion, easily captured by any wind of doctrine that appeals to the senses, or which gives one a feeling of exhilaration, and does not like to be hindered by the cold facts of history, experience, or the plain teaching of the Word of God."

It is interesting to note that one of the facets of J. N. Darby's Church of the Brethren, who was a chief promoter of the Rapture Doctrine, was to discourage individual Bible study, a thing which had been prohibited by the Roman Catholic church during the Middle Ages, and against which much of the Reformation Movement had been aimed.

The same kind of "know-nothingism" can be seen in fundamentalist circles today, where Christians are encouraged to get answers on such things as prophecy, not from the Book, but from the pastor. Of course, when they do this, they usually get a rehash of what the pastor got from the professor in seminary.

Today's pastors are kept so busy with extra-curricular church activities, board meetings, civic responsibilities, visitation, weddings and funerals, counseling, etc., that it is easy for Saturday to slip up on them and they have no sermon prepared for the Lord's Day. They often fall into the temptation of using Dr. So-and-So's Book of Sermon Outlines, which every pastor's library has. There he can find the scripture, illustrations, and everything needed to put together a pretty good thirty minute sermon in less than an hour. The problem being that his congregation gets a rehash

of what Dr. So-and-So believes, which may not necessarily be what the Word of God teaches.

God did not give us the Book of Revelation to confuse His people, for we know He is not the "author of confusion." Nor did He give us this marvelous book as some "happy hunting ground," for a sensation seeking prophetic preacher, who wants to titillate his audience.

As a result, we need to be extremely careful and not become dogmatic about unfulfilled prophecy. Today, with the United Nations victory in the Middle East, Christian Zionist preachers such as Pat Robertson, Jimmy Swaggart, and Jerry Falwell, are having a "field day," as they speculate (and this is all it is), on when Armageddon will take place, and whether the Lord will return before 1992.

Yet our prophetic preachers have trifled with prophesy in the past, to the point where they have often become the "laughing stock" of the world and rightly so. When a man can publish a book such as 88 REASONS THE RAPTURE WILL OCCUR IN 1988, which sold thousands of copies to gullible fundamentalists, and then get by with the lame excuse that he had made a miscalculation, we know something is desperately wrong.

In Col. Wilson's book RAPTURE, p.77, he says: "Many well-known evangelists and teachers of radio and TV had broadcast and written books that the Rapture would occur in 1981. When it did not come to pass, the date for the great Christian 'lift off' was changed to June 28,1981, but no go! Then they issued a correction (Noah's forty days of rain), so the heavenly countdown was delayed until August 7,1981. Still no launch! And today, ten years later, people still listen and finance these same false prophets.

I can recall no prophet, or Jesus Himself, who ever made a prediction, and when it failed, got by by saying: "Whoops! I made a mistake. What I really meant was . "1 John 4:1 tells us that we are not to "believe every spirit, but try (Greek "dokimazo" meaning: "examine; test; prove") the spirits whether they are of God: BECAUSE many FALSE PROPHETS are gone out into the world." We have droves of them in America!

2 Peter 2:1, says there will be "false prophets also among the people, even as there are false teachers among you ..." The sign of a false prophet is given in Deut 18:22 - "When a prophet (preacher of prophecy) speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing that the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet (preacher) hath spoken presumptuously (Hebrew - "zadown" meaning: arrogantly; with pride"), thou shalt not be afraid of him." In Jer. 28:9, Israel was warned of false prophets: "For they prophesy falsely: I have not sent them, saith the Lord."

Any prophet or preacher of prophesy who prophecies anything which will turn a man or woman away from the true meaning of God's Word, deserves the death penalty according to Deut. 13:5, and this includes those who turn Christians from being "soldiers of the cross," into "spiritual foxhole" dwellers, by telling them that they are going to be Raptured before the tribulation.

In closing, let me point out some of the consequences of believing and/or preaching the Rapture Doctrine, as taken from Speed Wilson's book:

1. - This doctrine says by implication "Accept Jesus as your Savior and your spirit will go to heaven when you die, or fly away to heaven while you are still alive." It makes heaven the "blessed hope" and creates a false sense of security that you will be removed from this earth before things get real bad. This makes for "lukewarm" Christians, who can never become the OVERCOMERS of Revelation 2 and 3.

2. - The Rapture will rob you of attaining the full salvation God has promised and prepared for you. When you are taught that when you are "saved you have it all; and will receive your reward in heaven," scripture does not teach this. Scripture does teach both a "spiritual" and a "physical" salvation, but not through a Rapture. Do not let the lie of the Rapture cause you to "stop short" of all God has promised and reserved for you through Jesus Christ.

3. - Do you want to go on to "spiritual completeness" with the Lord? Until "all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the fulness of Christ: That ye henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine (Rapture), by the sleight (meaning "pride") of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive," (Eph. 4:13,14.) Christ is in you "the hope of glory," not some false doctrine, whether it be the Rapture or any other unscriptural teaching.

4. - In Hebrews 11, we are told about men and women who were willing to "run the race that is marked out for us," and that we would "throw off everything that hinders our running." A long distance runner is not going to carry an eighty pound backpack. He will throw off any excess weight, so he can run more efficiently. We must do the same thing, if we love the Lord, and this means we must be willing to suffer with Him, if necessary, and even die, as millions of others have done. This idea is completely foreign to the teaching of the Rapture.

5. - The Rapture theory causes Christian men and women to "become so heavenly minded, they are no earthly good." Many Rapturists have completely detached themselves from national and world events, and will have nothing to do with the scriptural teaching of national salvation. Yet over 2/3rds of the Bible is taken up with this aspect of God's will for men.

These apathetic Christians are the major reason the Secular Humanists have been able to take over our public school system. It is impossible to "occupy until He comes," as He charged Christians to do, when you are cowering in a spiritual foxhole, waiting for Christ to rescue you from the mess caused by your apathy.

My challenge to you, like that of Brother Speed Wilson, especially to those of you who have become obsessed with the Rapture Doctrine, and who no doubt will be terribly upset with this article, is to prove me wrong. Not by what your denominational leaders say, not by what Doctor So-and-So D.D. has to say, but by the Word of God. I will take my stand on that!

Man was made in the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, holiness, and was given dominion over the earth (See Gen. 1:26; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24). Our Standards of Christian conduct cannot be man as he makes himself, but man as God made him. According to Psalm 138:14, man was "fearfully and wonderfully made." We were created to rule the earth, to have dominion over it, to rule it according to God's eternal Law. To diminish this calling and responsibility in any way; to reduce God's Law to a few vague moral precepts that man wants to follow, is to set a minimum for faithfulness, and this in itself is evil. Christians cannot afford to be amateurs. There is too much at stake. Our calling MUST be a total one! We MUST give God., nothing less than our ALL. Even if this means our life!

There is nothing which points up the weakness of the modern church, more than the reduction of faith from God's super-natural act of saving us, to any easy believism and casual disobedience," when we want to "to do our own thing instead of obeying Him."

A famous man on his death bed was reported to have said: "God will forgive me; that is His business." Protestants have been quick to condemn the church of Rome for its doctrine of "indulgences"; but we have fashioned our own doctrine of indulgence, when we tell our people "Accept Christ, and you will be safe; if you sin, He will forgive you." We have been guilty of turning salvation into a sort of fire insurance policy," to keep men and women out of hell. That's why it has become so easy for our white Christians, who should be in the forefront of bringing this nation back to God, to accept an easy doctrine like the Rapture. I'm not sure it will work!

Jesus said in Luke 6:46 - "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord! and do not the things which I say?" I am fed up with the signs I see as I travel around the country, which have been erected by some church group at the entrance to their city. They say: JESUS IS LORD OF THIS CITY! Yet I can find open bars, shops that sell pornography, abortion clinics, and for all I know, houses of prostitution. Jesus is NOT Lord of that town. That is just a cliché to make church folks feel good. These church folks should study Matt. 7:21, where our Lord clearly stated: "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord! Lord! shall enter into the kingdom of heaven (LISTEN CLOSELY NOW!) but

he that doeth the will (Obeys the law, according to 1 John 3:4) of my Father which is in heaven."

I don't know many fundamental preachers who have the "spiritual guts" to preach this truth. They know they would lose members, and along with that, the "almighty dollar" which has become so precious to them.

We turn our back on personal Christian responsibility when we tell ourselves and others, "All that is necessary is to have faith, and believe in Jesus. He will take care of everything else." These folks are making a mockery of God's Word, for He has given us certain responsibilities too.

Could these apathetic, "twinkie-marshmallow" Christians be the ones the King had in mind, when He said in Luke 13:25 "...and ye shall begin to stand without (the Kingdom), and to knock at the door, saying: 'Lord! Lord!, open unto us:' and He shall answer and say unto them, I know not whence (who) you are!"

Amateur Christians, the kind who would rejoice at the idea of a Rapture which would whisk them away from all earthly responsibility, when millions of others have suffered and died for our Lord, show the modern form of Phariseeism which the Apostle Paul describes in 2 Timothy 3:5 - "... having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." The road to hell will be lined with people such as this.

Take your Bible and look at the road signs, which are placed there to warn Christians of hazards ahead!

The Apostle John in his first Epistle (3:8) tells us: "For this purpose (to combat evil) the Son of God was manifested (made known) that He might destroy (utterly annihilate) the works of the devil: Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, (this refers to wilful sin); for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is of God. In this the children of God are manifested (made known) and the children of the devil; whosoever doeth not righteousness IS NOT OF GOD, neither is he that LOVETH not his brother." You see, Christian, there MUST be a difference between you and the world. If you act the same as they do, then you are NONE OF HIS!

So, my fundamentalist, Rapture minded friend, you can stand up in church and testify until you are "blue in the face," about what the Lord has done for you; you can knock on every door in town, inviting them to come to church; you can speak to your friends and witness of what Christ has done for you and what He can do for them. But if your life shows that you ignore His Law, and believe that because you are a Christian you can get away with it, then according to The WORD, "that man's religion is in vain!" For, "What you do, shouts so loud, I can't hear what you say!"

Don't get angry with me, for telling you these things. I am not making them up. They come direct from the Book. They were put there to warn you **DANGER!** **DETOUR! BRIDGE IS OUT!** Will you listen to these warnings and take a complete stand for the King, and the White Christian civilization which has given you every worthwhile thing you have, or are you going to listen to the "sweet talk," of the false teachers, and be destroyed?