



Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

It is hard to believe that we are almost through the first quarter of this year. 2015 is proving to be a year filled with natural disasters, political turmoil, civic unrest and continued moral decadence as the world continues to spin seemingly out of control.

Surely, we are entering the "Day of God" the prophets have foretold of! The nature of the beast is being manifested all over our planet as ancient acts of evil such as beheadings, crucifixions and burning people alive are occurring more frequent as copy-cat demon possessed murderers get into the act. As dark and ominous as this all sounds, I am greatly encouraged that we will also soon see the manifestation of the sons of God and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ! Remember, the whole creation is groaning and traveling in pain for this great event to come to pass.

As we look for the end with great anticipation, I must remind you this is not a time to settle down and just simply wait! No! This is the time to arise and do the work God has called His glorious church to do! A poor, hungry, diseased, confused, lost and dying world needs Jesus. We have what the entire world needs and that is the abundant life Jesus promised to every believer. Praise God!

I pray the power of God will be manifested in your life as you make the remainder of this year your year to win souls, feed the hungry and clothe the poor.

Surely you can see the needs everywhere: Spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, material and financial. Jesus came to meet every one of these needs. I believe He meets these needs through you and I. *Romans 10:13-14: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they*

have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Yes, the Gospel must be preached into all the world. But, not only should the Gospel be preached; the poor and afflicted must never be forgotten! As great a man of God the Apostle Paul was, he never forgot the poor! He said in Galatians 2:10, *"Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do."* Can you imagine this great Apostle carrying food and clothing to the poor? A far cry from some Christians and ministers of today that will hardly speak to a member of the church, much less provide for their physical needs.

Look friends, a ministry is more than singing, preaching and praying for folks. A real God called minister is a servant; he has a servants heart. He loves people, and wants to be with people. He is concerned with all their needs, not just spiritual! It's a shame but there are ministers and Christians that seemingly have no concern for the poor. They are missing a great blessing. Considering the poor is not only a requirement; it is a commandment with huge benefits attached to it!!

Look at these great promises to those that will remember the poor! *Proverbs 28:27, "He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse."* *Proverbs 19:17, "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."* *Psalms 41:1-2, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies."*

Be blessed my friends! Never forget, you are the light of the world! Work while we have the day, for night is surely coming when no man can work (See Matthew 5:14; John 9:4).
Brother Hayes

SECRET RAPTURE OR RESURRECTION

By: Phillip Hayes

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of god, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." [Revelation 20:4-6]

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." [Revelation 21:7]

Few realize the doctrine of the rapture was birthed from an interpretation of a dream a certain woman by the name of Mrs. Margaret McDonald had in the year 1830.

Mrs. McDonald, from Ireland, began to teach that Christians would not go through the final great tribulation in the last age.

She taught that the saints of God would be "RAPTURED" out of the world "SECRETLY." Then after this secret rapture the beast or Antichrist would appear and the time of the great tribulation would begin.

This teaching now influences almost all of the Christian community.

The rapture has become the main stay sermon for preachers and the title to many gospel songs. You hear about the RAPTURE in conversation with church folks on almost a day to day basis. It's the in-thing to believe in! But is it a true teaching?

Right now, take a Bible concordance and look up the word "rapture." Amazing, but true, it cannot be found in all the Bible! As a matter of fact there is not one scripture that will prove the rapture teaching!

I have discussed this teaching with many ministers and lay people over the years and not one has been able to prove their doctrine with the Word of God. Most have told me, "It just has to be revealed to you by the Spirit".

My answer is the same now as it was then: "God will only reveal revelation through his Word." The Spirit and the Word WILL ALWAYS AGREE! The Bible tells us to let every word be established by two or three witnesses.

This is why there are so many false doctrines today! Men and women have taken a scripture completely out of context to try and prove their dream or vision.

I have been accused of not believing in the resurrection because of my stand against the doctrine of the rapture. However, I do believe in the resurrection as all Christians should. The resurrection is the hope of the church and it will come to pass just as surely as all of God's Word will come to pass. But, child of God, it will be NO SECRET, for it will be the CLIMAX EVENT of the ages and will usher in the coming Kingdom age!

Almost all rapture proponents agree that any taking away of God's people from this earth will HAVE TO BE A RESURRECTION! Flesh and Blood CANNOT inherit the kingdom of God, mankind must be changed!

Before we begin, let me also make this very clear. There are only two resurrections spoken of in all the Bible.

The first one is for the saints of God who will rule and reign with Christ. The second is for the rest of humanity. See Revelation chapter 20). You will not want to be in the second one!

Now, let us look at the very scriptures the secret rapture teachers use to prove their doctrine.

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." [1Thessalonians 4:13-18]

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." [1Corinthians 15:50-52]

Look closely at the order of events Paul is describing in these two references of scripture: The Lord descends with a shout and with the trump (Trumpet) of God! Paul referred to this trump as the last trump. The dead in Christ will rise first. Secondly, those that are alive and remain will then be caught up and we will all meet Jesus in the air. Notice, it says air, not heaven.

There is absolutely nothing secret about this event! As a matter of fact, it is an earth shaking event when every eye will see Him and no doubt hear the final trumpet sound. Surely, every reader can see how plain the scripture is concerning the resurrection and second coming of Jesus! Don't forget, this all happens when Jesus returns, not before.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." [Matthew 24:29-31]

Jesus is describing His return and what will take place. The sun would be darkened, the moon would not give her light and the power of heaven would be shaken. And then they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven . . . And then the trumpet sounds and His elect are gathered.

Remember what the Apostle Paul said in First Thessalonians and First Corinthians? Jesus comes with the last trumpet of God and the dead in Christ rise from the dead and we will be changed!

The scriptures prove without a shadow of doubt that the church will be here on this earth during the "great tribulation" Jesus spoke of because He comes for the church after the tribulation. Jesus said in Matthew 24:34, *"Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled."*

After the tribulation, the wrath of God will be poured out and the wicked will be taken away (destroyed). Jesus said, as in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the coming of

the Son of Man . . . The flood came and took them all away . . . One shall be taken . . . One shall be left. Child of God, who was taken in the days of Noah? And who was left? The flood took away (destroyed) the wicked, and the righteous (Noah and his family) was left to inherit the earth. A perfect type of the true church in the end; inheriting all things, ruling and reigning with Christ a thousand years, on this earth!

I have heard rapture teachers say, "You won't find the church anywhere in the book of Revelation after the fourth chapter!" What a ridiculous statement! You find the church of Jesus Christ on almost every page of every chapter in the book of Revelations. The Lord Jesus told John in the fourth chapter of Revelation and in the first verse, *"Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter."* Therefore, from the fourth chapter of Revelation to the end of Revelation are prophesies of things that were to come to pass after the year 96 AD as this was the approximate year John received the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

The destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD had already come to pass at the time of this Revelation. Therefore part of our Lord's prophesy of Matthew 24 had already come to pass but the final days of the last generation was to come. Some have taught that the tribulations endured by the early church was the great tribulation Jesus referred to in Matthew 24, and there would be no tribulation before Jesus returns. According to the time frame of what we just read, this cannot be so.

This world has seen much the past two thousand years since this great prophesy. It has seen great wars, plagues, natural disasters and evil of all descriptions. During this time the world has seen the rise and wounding of the beast. Soon we will witness the rise once again of this powerful religious order described in Revelation as the great whore!

the voice is already in the land, crying, *"Come out of her, my people!"* Soon we shall see the fulfilling of all Jesus'

Words of Matthew 24! The scripture will soon be fulfilled, "Here is the patience of the saints" (See Revelation 14:12). Soon this scripture will be brought to pass, *What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said unto him, sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the lamb. [Revelation 7:13-14]*

These are the Overcomers! The Blood bought, Blood cleansed, Church of Jesus Christ! God's church is not some powerless denomination or organization! It is not cowering in fear of the Antichrist or the mark of the beast!

This glorious church of the last days will be a perfect church. A church without spot or wrinkle! A church that has overcome the beast, the whore, the mark, and the Antichrist, with the word of their testimony and the Blood of the Lamb! This is the church that will inherit all things! Although some will be beheaded for their witness of Jesus, they will not bow the knee to the beast!

God has reserved Himself a seed that will not bow, just as He did in the time of Elijah, Noah, Daniel, Moses and the other prophets.

God will soon turn the hearts of the vessels fitted to wrath into stone and He will make them accomplish His will. As He surely raised up Pharaoh and hardened his heart that the glory of God might be manifested, God himself will raise up the Beast for this same purpose! The final testing of God's people is at the door!

The spirit of Elijah is already among the people, restoring the church back to the faith once delivered, and also the spirit of Moses the deliverer will be among us to deliver the church from the bondage of Egypt.

The false city of God, (Natural Jerusalem) which is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, where our Lord was also

crucified, will also kill these but, behold, they that were slain shall live again as the Spirit of God comes into them (See Revelation Chapter 11).

It seems the religious systems of the great whore will be victorious for a time, but God will avenge the blood of His faithful martyrs!

Remember, the Pharisees and the Sadducees killed Jesus! They were inhabitants of natural Jerusalem. They represented God to the people in their time, but they had perverted God's Word just as many are doing today. The true church is the New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ! (Revelation 21:2). The false church is also a city called Babylon!

But Babylon has pretended to be the New Jerusalem! Child of God, can't you see the great persecution that is about to befall the true saints of God?!

If Israel had stayed in Egypt and had not obeyed what the man of God told them, they would have suffered the plagues of Egypt. God will send plagues upon all those that remain in this unholy system.

As God brought Egypt down, He will bring Babylon down! Just as the plagues and wrath of God fell on those in Egypt, they shall fall on this ungodly world. The only hope and the only safety, is in the Ark of the New Covenant, which is Jesus Christ! Jesus is our Ark of safety: let us all flee to Him in this hour.

The secret rapture teachers will soon see the error of their teachings and many millions will wonder, whose names are not written in the book of life from before the foundation of the world. Multiplied millions will take the mark of the beast and completely align themselves with the beast. But God has reserved those that He foreknew to stand for His Word and His righteousness during this evil time!

I started this article with verses four thru six of Revelation twenty. This great scripture identifies those that

would rule and reign with Jesus . . .

(1) They were beheaded for the witness of Jesus and for the Word of God.

(2) They had not worshiped the beast.

(3) They had not worshiped his image.

(4) They neither received his mark upon their forehead or in their hands.

Obviously the things that happened to these precious saints occurred during a time of great tribulation and persecution.

To further document that there will be no rapture before the mark of the beast and the tribulation, let us look again at the 5th verse of the 20th chapter of Revelation: *"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection . . . Verse 6 says in part, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection . . ."*

Remember, Jesus comes at the end with the last trumpet, the dead in Christ rise first, and we are caught up together with them. The resurrection comes at the end, just as Jesus, Paul and John clearly revealed to us! Again, no mysterious secret rapture before the great tribulation.

The tribulation period is for the perfecting of the saints. Paul said, through much tribulation, we enter the Kingdom of God. Can we glory in tribulations as they did or shall we run like cowards?!

There is only ONE CATCHING AWAY FOR THE SAINTS OF GOD! It is the resurrection! One "rapture" if you still choose to use an unbiblical term . . . And who shall be in this?

Surely, you can see that Jesus comes at the end, and we are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye . . . (1Corinthians 15:52) This is the resurrection!

Do you desire to live and reign with Christ? If so, then my friend you will surely be called upon to witness for Him and

yes, perhaps even die for Him . . . Are you ready for this commitment?

In closing, I would like to relate a vision I had a few years ago. In this vision, I was preaching in our church, and as I concluded the message God had given me, I noticed a man in front of the church looking at me strangely. As I dismissed the congregation and started to walk down the aisle of the church, this man grasped my arm firmly and said, "You must come with me."

When he said this, great fear gripped my heart. I sensed this man had authority to do with me whatsoever he wanted. In my mind I said to myself, this is someone from the government or law!

As we started out the door of the church, he asked me, "Is everything in order? Has the business of the church been taken care of?" As I began to think of what I should say, I felt his grasp tighten and he literally pulled me alongside him. Suddenly, in the vision, we came to a closed in area with a high metal fence. It was very dark in this place but I noticed the fear I felt previously had left me. I was wondering in my mind if he was going to beat me up or kill me, when he spoke these words, "Now you are going to find out what the TRUE BAPTISM of the Holy Ghost is all about!" As I wondered what my outcome was to be, the Word of the Lord came to me, saying, "ARE YOU ABLE TO DRINK OF THE CUP I DRANK OF? OR TO BE BAPTIZED WITH THE BAPTISM I WAS BAPTIZED WITH?" As soon as these words were spoken the vision vanished! As I came to myself, praying, I wondered in my heart the meaning of this vision.

Since this vision I have faced many trials, tribulations, heart ache, and trouble. However, I know that we will face much more in the near future and I fear God's people are not ready to face what we must face. May God have mercy upon all and give us Grace to stand in this evil day.

THE FORBIDDEN BIBLE

By: Roy Peterson

Religious persecution is not something that most Americans have personally experienced. While we may hear the odd snide remark about our religious group or be offended by the depiction of our faith in popular entertainment, we nevertheless experience an unsurpassed degree of religious freedom. We wake up each day with the ability to read our sacred texts, attend our religious services, and speak and write freely about our beliefs. While incidences of targeted religious hostilities do exist in the U.S., they are relatively few and far between.

But religious persecution is all too common in many parts of the world. And religious persecution targeting Christians is on the rise.

That reality was driven home for me with the recent release of Open Doors USA's 2015 World Watch List. This annual ranking of the 50 countries and regions where it is most difficult and dangerous to be a Christian features a diverse group of nations. They vary in location, from Asia to Africa to the Middle East to the Americas. They vary in size from the small to the vast, in governance from the totalitarian to the democratic, and in socio-economic conditions from the staggeringly wealthy to the startlingly poor. But what they have in common is a culture that allows for the persecution of Christians.

Persecution takes different forms in different contexts. In some places, Christians are ostracized and marginalized from society. In other nations, Christians are attacked financially, having their assets confiscated and the earning

ability curtailed. And in far too many places, Christians face imprisonment, torture and death simply because of their faith in Christ. Whatever the type of persecution, the goal is the same: eliminate or minimize the influence in society of people of a particular faith.

One insidious type of persecution against Christians is the denial of access to the Bible. For followers of Christ, the Bible is a source of hope and encouragement. Yet in too many places in the world, this life-changing book is forbidden.

According to Open Doors USA, up to three generations of a family can face imprisonment and even death if one member of the family is caught with a Bible in North Korea. In Central Asia, Christians' homes are raided to see if they are guilty of the crime of owning a Bible. Terror groups across the Middle East, and in increasingly in parts of Africa, target Christians—people of the Bible—for torture and death.

Yet many Christians living under unimaginable oppression continue to risk their freedom and their lives in order to have access to even a portion of the Bible. At the American Bible Society, we hear from ministry partners around the world of those who are literally dying for access to a Bible.

What is it about this book that many of the regimes on the World Watch List find so threatening?

The Bible is a revolutionary book. Christians open the pages of the Bible and read about loving one's enemies, standing up for the oppressed and worshipping God alone. Totalitarian regimes and those who hope to bring a society into unquestioned obedience to a particular doctrine must see the Bible as a threat to their control.

In the pages of the Bible, we find the story of Daniel and his three brave friends who refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar, even under threat of death. It is a story that surely must threaten those who seek god-like worship from

their citizens.

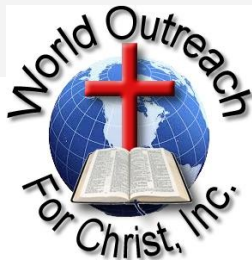
At a time when racism and sexism was prevalent, the Bible says Jesus called his followers to show love to all. Whether by honoring the actions of the Good Samaritan (a man from a group that was reviled by the Jewish society of the day), reaching out to an outcast leper or affirming the worth and dignity of women, Jesus bucked the rigid social rules. Such a philosophy of equality is anathema to those who seek to depress and exploit the largest part of their citizenry in order to reserve exclusive powers and privileges for themselves and their cronies. And those regimes who seek to impose a religion on its people by any available means must despise Jesus' invitation (rather than command) to follow Him and His clear teaching that true faith must be born in the heart rather than imposed or inherited.

Simply put, the Bible is not the friend of the hate mongering or the tyrannical.

I hope that people who have religious freedom will not forget those who do not. Show your support by praying and advocating for those without the Scriptures.

And lets pray that those with Bibles on their shelves will avail themselves of the privilege to engage with God's Word daily.

Roy Peterson is president and CEO of American Bible Society.



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