

THE GREAT 2017 NON-EVENT

I'm really struggling with how to write this article. I really want to rip into the people that made a big deal about the whole "Revelation 12, woman in the heaven's" debacle but at the same time, I want to show some decorum and treat things a bit more gingerly. With those things in mind please forgive me if I vacillate back and forth between pity and sarcasm.

Believe you me, when I say that I've been in the Christian realm for close to forty years now. I've seen a lot and I've seen a lot not happen. I've read with anticipation many times as someone would make a claim that a certain prophecy would soon make itself evident only to see the hopes that were born dashed on the rocks of despair and distrust. I was around in 1987 when some jerk wrote a book with what seemed like compelling evidence that the "rapture" would occur in 1988 only to ring in 1989 without any sign of anyone being taken away except through sickness, or accident that led to death. I didn't become fooled again when the same author, thinking that he could pick up some more cash from unsuspecting fools, said that he had been wrong which caused him to publish a book stating that the "rapture" would occur in 1989. I remember being presented the book during a fishing trip upon which I took it and threw it into the Mokelumne River in the Sacramento Delta. Frankly, it would have polluted the river less had I thrown an absorbent baby diaper into the river. Yes, the guy that gave it to me was mad, but when he heard my explanation, he understood my feelings, but it didn't stop him from handing them out to others. I followed him around like a clean-up crew telling people the truth. Every stinking time that any US president or any pope went abroad, especially if they went to Israel the rumors would start to fly about how this emissary would sign a seven-year agreement with Israel and that this event would start a seven-year of tribulation.

Okay, so then we moved into the 90's and we no longer had the threat of mutually assured destruction that we were promised during the Cold War. In the news, we started to notice that Russia was making friendly overtures toward Israel so it started to look impossible that Russia could be the Gog character of Ezekiel 37/38 chapters. The "predictions" of Hal Lindsey, the man who wrote "The Late Great Planet Earth," the book that helped me to understand biblical prophecy, those words were having their foundations chipped away at a phenomenal rate. Old Hal sort of disappeared into a dark corner of the room, never apologizing for getting so much wrong. Surely Christendom would never listen to this man again? Wrong! Today he has, you guessed it, a prophecy show on television. The decade started to come to a close but the bovine scatology didn't, it got stronger. Pretty soon we started to hear about something called

Y2K, an acronym for Year Two Thousand, a time when all computers would crash because supposedly their software could not understand any year past 1999. Oh, the prophecy junk that came out that year. Planes were going to crash, as well as trains, and power plants would stop producing power because their computers would not work. And yes, hospital and emergency services would not be able to operate because their computers would all crash. Surely the false prophets pondered, this time would usher in the need for the Anti-Messiah to appear because the world would be crying out for answers that only he could give. The first of January, 2000 rolled around and voila, all computers started as normal and the false prophets proved wrong again.

We then started the 2000's and things were going along just fine until two planes crashed into the World Trade Center towers that plunged us into a war against terror that continues to this day. Answering attack was President Bush who sent our boys off to war in Afghanistan and continued the war in Iraq which had never really ended and has continued even right now. Right away the interpretation of scripture changed because now the US was in the Middle East en masse and of course this would cause Russia to come to the aid of some Islamic state. This would be an excuse for the Ezekiel 38 war to start and added to the fact that Turkey was starting to lean more toward becoming an Islamic Caliphate people started to feel for sure that Bible prophecies would start falling like a line of dominoes. The prophets were coming out with all sorts of scenario's but someone threw two wrenches into the mix, those being Russia's fight against terrorists in Syria and the election of a Muslim to the office of President of the United States. It seemed for a while that our nation was backing the wrong side and that the Russians were the ones fighting our enemies. Obama was picking fights with Israel and aiding America's and Israel's enemies and there were some, including myself that wondered if the US was the Gog of Ezekiel the 38th chapter.

As time moved forward the progression of strangeness only became worse. The world started to worry about comet Elenin that seemed to be on a collision course for Earth. There were many dire predictions from worldly sources but then some "prophets" started to say that a fragment of Elenin (which broke up on approach toward earth) would crash into the ocean and that this event would be the star that crashes into the sea in the Book of Revelation. Well, Elenin passed with no ill effects. Right about that time a pastor named John Hagee predicted that a series of Blood Moons was prophetic and that these events would usher in catastrophic events upon the earth. Also, about that time, a man named Harold Camping predicted that Jesus would come back on a specific date. He urged people to prepare, telling them that worldly possessions would not matter anymore. Some people listened and sold their earthly goods. One group, a group of poor Vietnamese Christians heard Camping's message and on the day that Camping

predicted Jesus's return they all sent to a mountaintop to be received into the Kingdom of God. Well, they were, so to speak because the Vietnamese government, which hates Christians heard about the gathering and they slaughtered the Christians, each and every one. The date passed and Camping was wrong. He later had a stroke that damaged the speech center of his brain and died a couple of years later, a fitting end to a false prophet.

When 2012 and all of the other "non-events" failed to produce any result for upcoming doom it seemed like people started to dig deeper into scripture in an attempt to win the race for the next bizarre event that they could muster up. To keep people busy in the interim people some people in the guise of Christians started to focus and enforce strangeness like gold dust during services, gold fillings in teeth, angel's feathers manifesting during services and the cleverly diabolical Bethel Redding practice of Grave Sucking. Sites on the internet such as Elijah's list became very popular with no lack of wacky prophets to shed new prophetic revelation that strangely contradicted Holy Scripture. Even today, if you pick any subject on Elijah's List you will find a bevy of prophets that have had "divine inspiration" on that subject and they all seem to be in a race to be the one that claims a prophet of the year award. If it weren't so tragic it would be funny to compare all of the prophecies on any subjects to see how they all contradict each other on many points but they're all supposed to be getting information from one Ruach Ha Kodesh (Holy Spirit). We are spiraling into the days of Jeremiah, where there hundreds of false prophets and only a handful of true Prophets of Yahweh.

Now I've been really bothered by the whole September 23rd "Sign of The Woman" thing that people have put onto the internet. At the time of this writing it is two days past the deadline of some fantastic thing that was supposed to happen, and here I sit writing this Journal. There was no Pre-Trib Rapture, no axis shift on earth and no, there was no semi-mass extinction of mankind on earth. Now that doesn't mean that I don't think that perhaps a sign did occur two days ago, but perhaps that sign was to tell people that Yahweh operates under entirely different ways and purposes than we operate on. Let's look at a little history, shall we?

Israel had many warnings because Yahweh sent prophets to them; Elijah, Elisha, Amos, Hosea, and Nahum just to name the ones that are mentioned in Scripture. Israel had an attitude problem. Israel broke away from Judah because they thought that they were the true Israel. Jeroboam feared that if he let the people go back to Jerusalem to worship, they would leave him and he would be a wanted man, so he set up false tabernacles in Dan and Bethel. Soon after, however, the worship turned from worship of Yahweh to worship of Baal. Yahweh sent just a few prophets as His representatives but they were ignored. The people listened to the Prophets of

Baal and when Yahweh had endured enough, He sent the Assyrians to invade the land and to lead the Ten Tribes into captivity. Yahweh wanted repentance and restoration of Israel but the people wanted what they heard the prophets of Baal forecast. The prophets of Baal predicted a non-event, the people fell for it thus believing a lie and they went into captivity. You see, they believed in what they wanted, not what Yahweh had for them, and that never works.

Next, we move down the road about a hundred years or so and we read that Yahweh sent many prophets to Judah in order to warn them about their sin of idolatry. Judah had many brushes with idolatry throughout the centuries, but not so brazen as Israel had, until the last couple of hundred years. Yahweh sent reformer kings who listened to Yahweh's prophets and three revivals did occur, however, after the death of the reformers, the people and leaders went back to idolatrous ways. One prophet named Yirmayahu (Jeremiah) was sent to the people and to the leaders to extend Yahweh's offer to change or to be conquered by the Babylonians. The warnings went unheeded and just like Elijah, Yirmayahu had to endure the fact that every time he came with a word of Yahweh there were many false prophets of both Yahweh and Baal who had the king's ear. The false prophets told the king that Yahweh was with Judah and that He would never allow the Babylonians to capture Jerusalem. Yirmayahu, on the other hand, heard from Yahweh and was told to convey a message that Judah should surrender to the Babylonians which would save the lives of many. The king believed the false prophets, that the non-events would happen and as fate would have it, Jerusalem was sacked, many of its people were murdered and the rest were led off into captivity for seventy years.

Let's save some time and move ahead about six hundred years, shall we? We come to a time when Rome ruled the world and they had an iron fist on Israel. Israel yearned for deliverance, they wanted their Messiah, the Son of David which had been prophesied over the centuries. The prophecies said that Mashiach would come with a Rod of Iron and that He would defeat Israel's enemies and rule the world from Jerusalem. The people wanted a physical deliverer and they were expecting one because the prophets of their day were educated in the Book of Daniel, who explained how many years it would take before a deliverer would come. You see, they wanted to physical deliverance from Rome, but they didn't read the whole story, just what they wanted for themselves:

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be

seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. Daniel 9:24-25

The scripture above shows that Mashiach would come would come about the time that Yeshua became incarnate and ministered on Earth. This part of the scripture, if read alone would indicate that the Lion was going to come to Jerusalem to conquer Israel's enemies. There is one word however that shows that it could be a different scenario, that word being "Prince." The scripture was not promising a King, but a Prince. I'd like to post an excerpt from research by Chuck Missler on this matter because it explains the prophecy, but note one thing, Missler says that the word for "prince" in Hebrew is Nagid and that it means King, which my research could not find:

The idiom of a "week" of years was common in Israel as a "Sabbath for the land," in which the land was to lie fallow every seventh year.² It was their failure to obey these laws that led to God sending them into captivity under the Babylonians.

Note that the focus of this passage is upon "thy people and upon thy holy city," that is, upon Israel and Jerusalem. (It is not directed to the Church.)

The scope of this prophecy includes a broad list of things which clearly have yet to be completed.

The First 69 Weeks (Dan 9:25)

A very specific prediction occurs in verse 25:

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. Daniel 9:25

This includes a mathematical prophecy. As we have noted in previous articles, the Jewish (and Babylonian) calendars used a 360-day year;⁴ 69 weeks of 360-day years totals 173,880 days. In effect, Gabriel told Daniel that the interval between the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem until the presentation of the Messiah as King would be 173,880 days.

The "Messiah the Prince" in the King James translation is actually the Meshiach Nagid, "The Messiah the King." (Nagid is first used of King Saul.)

Bull's-Eye!

The commandment to restore and build Jerusalem was given by Artaxerxes Longimanus on March 14, 445 B.C.⁵ (The emphasis in the verse on “the street” and “the wall” was to avoid confusion with other earlier mandates confined to rebuilding the Temple.)

During the ministry of Jesus Christ there were several occasions in which the people attempted to promote Him as king, but He carefully avoided it: “Mine hour is not yet come”.

The Triumphal Entry

Then, one day, He meticulously arranges it. On this particular day he rode into the city of Jerusalem riding on a donkey, deliberately fulfilling a prophecy by Zechariah that the Messiah would present Himself as king in just that way:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. Zechariah 9:9

Whenever we might easily miss the significance of what was going on, the Pharisees come to our rescue. They felt that the overzealous crowd was blaspheming, proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah the King. However, Jesus endorsed it!

I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. Luke 19:40

This is the only occasion that Jesus presented Himself as King. It occurred on April 6, 32 A.D.

The Precision of Prophecy

When we examine the period between March 14, 445 B.C. and April 6, 32 A.D., and correct for leap years, we discover that it is 173,880 days exactly, to the very day!

How could Daniel have known this in advance? How could anyone have contrived to have this detailed prediction documented over three centuries in advance?

[Source: <http://www.khouse.org/articles/2004/552/>]

Just to provide a little clarity about the meaning of the Hebrew word for Prince, I present the following from Strongs Word Definitions:

נָגִיד nâgîyd, naw-gheed'; or נָגִיד nâgid; from H5046; a commander (as occupying the front), civil, military or religious; generally (abstractly, plural), honorable themes: — captain, chief, excellent thing, (chief) governor, leader, noble, prince, (chief) ruler.

As I have explained so many times it is important to look at root words and/or verbs that apply to a noun when researching Hebrew. Note that the definition of the noun for “prince” says that it is from a verb root word. Let’s look at the meaning of the word for the verb associated with the word for “prince,”:

נָגַד nâgad, naw-gad'; a primitive root; properly, to front, i.e. stand boldly out opposite; by implication (causatively), to manifest; figuratively, to announce (always by word of mouth to one present); specifically, to expose, predict, explain, praise:— bewray, × certainly, certify, declare(-ing), denounce, expound, × fully, messenger, plainly, profess, rehearse, report, shew (forth), speak, × surely, tell, utter.

You’ll notice in the definition of the verb there is a letter “x” in front of some of the words. This denotes that the meaning is an idiom. An idiom is a phrase that we use to accentuate the mood of a thing or event. In American society we often use the idiom, “it’s raining cats and dogs outside” to express the fact that it is raining hard and the drops are so big that they equal the size of cats and dogs.” In the southern states, they often say, “Lord willing and the creek don’t rise,” to convey the fact that they have hope that things will turn out okay if things don’t get worse. In the east, especially in the inner cities when someone would express a wish that another person concurred with the phrase, “from your mouth to God’s ears,” is often used. We can look at the meanings of the verb that are marked with an “x”, the words certainly, fully and surely using the theory of idiom and say that the meanings could convey that Messiah being a “King,” which the Brit Hadasha says was pronounced, was actually conveying that Yeshua would be King now, if the nation capitulated or later if another mission for Yeshua had to be accomplished before he could physically take an earthly king’s role. From history’s lesson, we know that Yeshua came to be a priest for us as well as a king, and He has fulfilled that in a heavenly and spiritual sense, but his earthly Kingship will commence after He returns to Earth to vanquish all of his enemies.

We know that Daniel was told that Mashiach would be cut off (Killed) and that afterward the Empire that controlled Israel would destroy it, partly because they were disobedient and partly because they lost hope in the true Mashiach and listened to false Mashiach’s and rebelled until the Romans finally fulfilled the next verse of Daniel’s prophecy:

*And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.
Daniel 9:26*

The next verse I feel has been misinterpreted and I must address it. If you have followed the Lindsey camp over the years then you are probably under the assumption that the next verse talks about the Antichrist making a covenant with Israel for seven years, however, this cannot be correct:

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. Daniel 9:27

The scriptures above this one talk about Israel and we know that they address Israel because the angel refers to Israel as “thy people.” In verse 27 however, we see a different group of people at the start. When the scripture says “and he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week,” it isn’t talking about the Jewish people, it is a covenant with the people of the world, in essence, a covenant that is sealed with “the Mark of The Beast.” Then, in the middle of the week, this evil prince will put an end to the sacrifice in the Beit Ha Mikdash as well as the Oblation.

Get to The Point Already Dave:

The point that I’m trying to establish is that people see in prophecy what they want to see. Many times, prophetic scripture is not taken into correct context because people read until they see what affirms their hopes and wishes. We saw how this happened during the time when Yeshua appeared. The people wanted a king to vanquish Rome but Yahweh knew (and knows) that peace cannot occur until men have peace within them. That peace comes through an indwelling of the Ruach Ha Kodesh and that only happens when someone recognizes and receives the King that conquered sin and death through his own death and propitiation through His Blood. Yes, Yeshua could have come off the cross and he could have called legions of angels to fight against Rome and the demonic hordes that were principalities over Rome and the whole earth, but what would happen to people when they died? Even if they worshipped the Lion before He became the Lamb they would die in their sins because the blood of the sacrifice was not shed by the Lamb. No, the opportunity had to be offered for mankind to become clean in the

eyes of Aveinu so that sin was conquered first, then the Lion can come to bring about physical justice.

I find it very ironic when people condemn the Jews that didn't see the plan and who called for the crucifixion of Yeshua. Many of these same people make rapture predictions over and over again and when their predictions do not go as planned, they just say, "oops, I made a mistake," and move on to the next prediction date. For the millions who got excited when events like Comet Elenin, the Blood Moons and now The Sign of The Woman in Heaven but saw nothing pan out just move along to the next great event, yet you berate Israel for missing the Lamb of Yahweh, you should be ashamed of yourselves. It is people like you who have called my people "Christ Killers" for two millennia yet your false predictions just get swept under the rug because you excuse your false prophecies using Yahweh's Grace. Well no, a false prophet and those who believe false prophecies are NO DIFFERENT than the Jews that called for Yeshua's crucifixion. You call the exile of the Jews, the pogroms, the inquisitions and the Holocaust as Yahweh's judgment on the Jewish people, yet you just jump from false signs and wonders to other false wonders and you know what, you are too blind to see that the world sees you as a bunch of nuts, a people insane because you keep making the same mistake expecting different results.

I often call my friend Jim Wilhelmsen and we talk about the supposed signs. For the "Woman in Heaven" sign Jim had some interesting ponderings. Jim has lived long enough as a believer to realize that prophecy isn't seen until after it is played out, so when he thinks that Yahweh is showing him something that could occur he does the smart thing and says that he's not sure if this sign will play out, but that he finds it interesting and that he will watch it play out if it is meant to play out. He and I have both been fooled before and to quote a "WHO" lyric, "We don't get fooled again."

People who believe in a Pre-Trib Rapture really need to start praying about what they believe. It is a shame to see people falling for every whim and fancy put out there by false prophets only to see their hopes being dashed on the rocks time and time again. There is a doctrine that is practiced by worldly people that the church is taking on and practicing. The new doctrine in this world is that there are certain groups of people who that can express their needs, wants, desires and of course their objections to others without letting those others have the same rights. For quite a few years I kept my Mid-Trib thoughts mostly to myself and shared them with others who held the same doctrine. When people did find out that I didn't adhere to a Pre-Trib Rapture they would castigate me like might be done if someone said that they didn't believe in

the Trinity or in the Resurrection. We were told that we were sinners because we didn't believe the Bible. One day I decided to step out to show why I believed what I do and I have been berated many times because I speak my mind.

Several years ago, I made a friend who hails from a southern state. He believes in a Pre-Trib rapture because that is what he has been indoctrinated to believe. You see, I might disagree with that doctrine, but my thoughts have always been, "gee it would be nice if they are right, but I just don't think so." When I talk to Pre-Trib people I often tell them what I just quoted. If people are level headed (which is the case with my wife who is a Pre-Trib believer) they accept what I say. They don't have to believe as I do, but we can agree to disagree. So, about three years ago my southern Pre-Trib friend became militant in his beliefs and he started to berate me whenever I mentioned a Mid-Trib Rapture. Anyone who knows me can testify that I use sarcasm when talking to people who are obstinate or who want to debate issues. I'm Italian, Jewish and I'm from the New York metropolitan area so sarcasm is inherent in my genetic structure. I have come to the point in my life, especially after probably two decades of political correctness coming against American culture to the point of where it has literally destroyed America, and having seen it destroy Europe and other places, that I won't tolerate it in the Church. If I touch on a subject that I cannot rectify as being scripturally sound, I will talk about it, and if some sarcasm is involved then so-be-it. Many will say, "well, that's not Christlike." News Flash, Yeshua was probably the most politically incorrect person that ever lived. He took on the Pharisee's, Sadducees and the Doctors of The Law and didn't care what they thought. He went against many traditional conventions, never violating the written Torah, but almost always ticking off teachers of the oral law. He addressed perversion of religion and aggressively came against false doctrine. Someone once said that if Yeshua were alive today he'd be criticized for "not being Christlike." I tend to agree. Anyway, my southern friend and I agreed to disagree about the event's timing. To me, that means that we can still talk about it in a public forum and that I would not be censured for my opinion. This was not the case.

I was at work the other day and something funny came to my mind. I was talking to a patient who was criticizing Christians, first for the belief in a Flat Earth and then for the non-event of September 23rd, a world-shattering event that would happen on Saturday that never happened. Many Christians suspected that perhaps the Rapture would happen on the 23rd and I made a comment that the only noise that occurred on the morning of the 24th was the collective sigh of those who were disappointed that the Rapture didn't happen. About the middle of the day, I posted another post on Facebook. I posted a fictitious event where I went to the doctor after trying to lift a heavy object which caused me to get an inguinal hernia. I continued on to say

that the pain of this hernia caused me to trip and fall and that the doctor charted the event as “a pre-trip rupture.” I expected to get flak from people but to my surprise, 99% of the comments consisted of agreement and laughter, all except for one older lady who warned me to be careful, and my southern friend who read me the riot act for what I wrote. My goodness, the words of accusation were so uncalled for. The thing is that when I see a doctrine that cannot be backed up by scripture, I tend to attack the doctrine. The problem is that when you address a doctrine to discredit it is natural that the people that follow the flawed doctrine get insulted because deep down inside their insecurity becomes revealed and they feel that they need to defend their doctrine and in doing so, they defend themselves. Since I had gone around and round with this man and he dishonored our agreement where we agreed to disagree, I decided to unfriend this man from my Facebook.

In the 18th Century, an Irishman once spoke words that would be quoted from that day and probably throughout the rest of the history of mankind. Burke once said:

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.

As I said, this is a universal truism. There are some who would say that such action is not “waiting upon the Lord,” another phrase that has been ingrained into our souls if we have attended any church whatsoever. However, scripture is rife with examples of men who were moved to do things that they thought was right and those things paid off for the benefit of all concerned, and those things were Yahweh’s will. Yahweh has given us a brain and a heart to meet things out and if we meet things out and the consensus agrees with scripture then our decisions are viable and true. Yahweh gives us knowledge and we are to use it, otherwise, we perish:

*Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest. Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.
Hosea 4:4-6*

You want to talk about sarcasm, that is what the first verse is. Yahweh was saying that the people were so lacking in knowledge that they refused to confront one another because they would lose an argument just like they would if they debated with a priest. In addition, they viewed priests as being a special class, a person that represented Yahweh so arguing with one

would be like picking a fight with Yahweh. In our current day and age, people refuse to address issues because it is seen as being judgmental. Yes, Yeshua told us not to judge, but in most of those instances the word that is used in the Greek is not to call someone out about sin, but it means that we're not supposed to condemn someone. When someone is not obeying scripture, it is perfectly okay to address the issue with them as long as condemnation is not ascribed to them. When a false doctrine is addressed the person, who believes and/or teaches the false doctrine feels conviction (if they belong to Yahweh) and it is up to that person to either fix their situation. If they fix the situation the conviction leaves, if they fail to fix their situation then condemnation naturally occurs because they have refused to obey Yahweh's Word.

What has occurred ever since I can remember is that many Christians have held other in blackmail because of the verse where Yeshua tells us not to condemn, misusing the scripture to keep anyone that wants to raise a question as to the veracity of actions from acting. I could say that it is not the fault of all of the people who have called me judgmental and such, but when you think about it, those same Christians that play this blackmail game are the ones that are the first to quote the scripture that tells us to study scripture to show ourselves approved to be workmen for Yahweh that is not ashamed. It's okay to tithe, join the choir, usher and teach children, but don't you dare ask questions that might upset the ship.

I have to say that I have never felt comfortable about the whole tithing issue. I became a believer at the beginning of our current era when pastors take in the tithe and buy big cars, large homes, and other things while they ask for their parishioners to sacrifice. After a few years of being browbeaten about tithing, I decided to study tithing and what Yahweh really requires. What I found was revelatory, to say the least. What I found contradicted what I was being taught and it bothered me that others were being taught in a wrong manner. I presented my findings to the people that told me to do the Bible Study and they were not happy with what I found. I was called a Pharisee and other names too numerous to mention here. I shared it with another man who was bothered by tithing, the only caveat being that he does not share it with anyone else in the church. Well, he was so excited that it caused him to share it with his brother-in-law who was an elder in the church. He told the pastor and the rest of the church and I was seen as a rebel that was trying to divide the church. The elder came to where I lived and said that he was concerned that I would be asked to leave the church. I told him that I had to stick by my convictions, but I would not share them with anyone else at that time and if the Church was making that consideration, I would save them the bother and would leave on my own accord. I was asked not to make a hasty decision but I ended up leaving on my own accord about a month later.

Years later I would marry my second wife and we attended a church that was pastored by a man that used to be a music minister. He was and is a very nice man. As is usual in my habit, I started listening to every word that this pastor said because I like a good message, but more importantly, I like to know that a pastor is keeping in line with scripture. After about a year of attending his church, he began to talk about something called “The Tabernacle of David” movement. In a nutshell, this movement consists of pastors who are in a constant mode of praise and worship, meaning that when one praises with his church for an hour another church takes over the praise and worship so that somewhere in the area praise and worship are happening. It takes on Melech David’s name in that David was a man of praise and worship. Having a Jewish background, I know that the word “tabernacle,” means a house so I couldn’t see how this name would apply to a group of singers that praised nonstop. Even David took naps and slept throughout the night. So, I looked in Scripture for the words “tabernacle,” and then the phrase “Tabernacle of David,” and my research showed me that a tabernacle was always a house and that the term, “Tabernacle of David,” referred to Melech David’s actual dwelling place. It never once referred to continual worship in Scripture so I deduced that this was a classic Christian phenomenon of “spiritualizing” something was clearly physical in all scripture references. During this time I started to notice, along with my wife and our friend, that other things were being allowed into the church that was clearly New Age, and that some very controversial books were being touted as being “helpful” in learning more about Yahweh, even though at very best these books were bastardizing scripture and doctrinal principals. Talking to the pastor did no good because it became quite clear that the pastor’s wife was the pastor of the church and that her husband was just a figurehead that existed to make the church look like its foundation was scriptural.

What Is Faith?

I truly believe that Christians in a large number have no idea what faith actually is, or they have forgotten what they once knew or in the worst case, they lust for more than just faith. Rabbi Paul explains to us in the first verse of the eleventh chapter of his letter to the Church in Jerusalem:

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

In the verses that follow Rabbi Paul’s opening statement, he gives examples of what true faith is. In each and every example that Rabbi Paul gives in this glorious chapter something is

noticed, that thing being that Yahweh asks his follower(s) to do something that is very hard to do or very hard to believe but they do it anyway. If you want to know what true Faith is then read chapter eleven of Hebrews and you will walk away with a new found knowledge of Faith. The antithesis of Faith is asking for signs and wonders or falling for counterfeit signs and wonders when they appear. Counterfeit signs and wonders are presenting themselves more and more as the time of the end approaches. Faith is not defined as sitting in church pews while supposed gold dust, gems and angel's feathers fall from the ceiling of a church. True faith is not manifested in people falling to the floor in uncontrollable laughter or them snorting like pigs, mooing like cows or neighing like horses. True faith is not manifested by people writhing around on the floor like demon-possessed fools and it certainly is not manifested by one man waving his hand so that the people in the first three rows of seats all fall down. No, these are all manifestations of possession or manifestations of the Kundalini spirit, which is Satan's counterfeit of the Ruach Ha Kodesh.

In essence, what I am trying to convey is that we live in an age when Christians do not have faith in Yahweh's Word or the promises found in the pages of His Word. People are going to and fro looking for signs and wonders to prove to themselves that their faith is real. But one has to ask the question that if a person is seeking signs and wonders where does faith fit in? Well, it doesn't fit in if people need proof of what they believe. The people of Yeshua's day asked him for a sign and his answer should be quite bothersome to those who seek signs and wonders to uplift their faith:

Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. Matthew 12:38-42

So Yeshua was saying that in his time people that asked for a sign from him were an adulterous generation, even though they had the Torah and an awesome history with direct interventions by Yahweh time and time again. They wanted Yeshua to prove himself so that they could verify that he was who he claimed to be. They lacked faith. Had the leaders of Israel at that time just examined the Torah and put aside their oral tradition they would have recognized

Yeshua as Mashiach, but again, like I said before, they wanted a king that would vanquish Rome and set up His Kingdom on Earth. Today, those of us who have become Born Again through the Ruach Ha Kodesh should not be demanding a sign. If someone walks with Yahweh Yeshua, they have the Ruach of Yahweh and He is much more efficient at validating Yeshua and building up the faith of those who truly love Yahweh.

The things that have been searched out in recent years are an attempt to bring validity to faith through signs and wonders. It is confusing whether these signs are being sought to prove Yahweh to adulterous Christians, or if they are being sought out so as to see a Pre-Trib Rapture on the horizon so that Christians can use fear to bring people into the Kingdom of Yahweh. Yahweh only knows that so-called believers have been very lax in any attempt to preach the Gospel of Yeshua to the lost people of this world. I don't recall Yeshua handing out offices to the 12 Disciples as they stood on the shore of Galilee. He didn't say to Peter do this and to John do that. No, while they were all his audience, he commanded all of them to go out into the entire world preaching the Good News to the lost. Yet somehow in today's "Church," we tend to think that some should go out while others can just occupy pews or sing in the choir or teach Sunday School. No, our primary ministry is to bring Yeshua to the lost and those other things are offices that come when the primary job is finished. And, even if a person is shy and they don't feel like they cannot go out to call others to Yahweh, they can live a life that can cause others to want the Yeshua that they have. You know, I work for a state entity and we're constantly accused of being lazy and such, but there is nothing lazier than a building full of ambassadors that want the blessings of Yahweh for doing absolutely nothing in return. If you've ever been in a one-sided relationship you know how much such a thing hurts, not magnify that feeling millions of times.

Earlier on I mentioned that when one questions a false doctrine that those who believe in that false doctrine feel attacked and they fight back, mostly because there is a deep-rooted insecurity that perhaps they are wrong. In the case of my southern friend, the doctrine of a Pre-Trib Rapture is a thing of faith, but is it really? If someone believes something so deeply and so thoroughly like a person of faith is supposed to do then nothing and no one can challenge that faith. Yes, we can question our faith, but that is done on a personal level and that is good because when we question our faith it leads to a renewed faith and a stronger faith. However, this belief by many in a Pre-Trib Rapture takes on almost a Christmas Eve aspect. I can remember being a small child at Christmastime. Since much of our family ancestry was from Northern Europe, we took on the tradition of opening our gifts on Christmas Eve. Our parents would send us to bed early telling us that Santa would not come until we were asleep and after he had come, we would be awakened to open our presents. Every noise that we heard in the house caused me to think

that it was Santa, so I would wait a minute and burst out of my room asking if Santa had come yet, many times only to be told that he had not and that I should get back to bed or Santa wouldn't come. There were times when our parents became frustrated with us and they would allow us to fall asleep so we would miss the festivities that night and we'd wake up the next morning to open presents. How does this correlate with the Pre-Trib Rapture adherents?

The correlation with Pre-Trib Rapture adherents is very easy to make. Every time there is a disaster, or there are blood moons, or there is a comet or there is the Sign of The Woman in Heaven or any such thing you will find many on the internet stating that "perhaps this will be the Rapture." Every fall, when our Jewish Feasts arrive excitement builds that this Yom Teruah (Feast of Trumpets) is the one when the Rapture will occur. This is no different than me hearing a chair move or hearing a door open and wondering if it was Santa that was arriving. Yet another reason why I believe that people fail to delve into scripture study is that it is plain and simple that Yeshua said that He would return when people least expected it, that He would come as a thief in the night. The very fact that the Greek word for Rapture, which is Harpazo means to be snatched away, like a thief would do. Reading the Bible would further show that Rabbi Paul clearly says that Yeshua will return to Rapture His Church "at the last trump," meaning at the last trumpet. There are 7 trumpets in Revelation and I haven't even heard the first one blow, have you, no you haven't. Jim Wilhelmsen wrote an interesting thought on Facebook just before September 23rd of this year. Jim wrote that there will probably not be a Rapture on the 23rd because too many people are expecting it.

My wife is such a blessing to me. Like I said we differing in the timing of the Harpazo, but we agree that there will be a Harpazo. The Harpazo is our blessed hope, and part of our faith is knowing that when things get really bad Yahweh Yeshua will call us to be with him in the Heavenlies. Yes, that is our blessed hope. But you know what? Yahweh has a blessed hope too. His blessed hope is that His People would be obedient and that they would be about His work of finding those who are called and leading them to their assigned faith so that they can participate in the blessed hope too. That means that we become proactive in our Faith, which is exhibited by love for our brothers and sisters and love for the lost people of this world.

When you think about it, it is sort of ludicrous for people who are living a fairly comfortable life, who are free from persecution for the most part and who have never suffered any real persecution, for them to expect to be taken out of this world to avoid persecution. Add to that, Christians around the world who are going through persecution, those in China who have to hide in underground churches, those in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa who are hunted

down by Muslims and murdered by the hundreds and thousands and believers in most of the world who fear for their lives because of those who hate them for their faith in Yeshua, yet the Church in the West don't feel like they are worthy to have to suffer like our brethren in the rest of the world suffer, that is so selfish. I do believe that within the next five to ten years the Church in America and other western places will feel real persecution, and then we will have reason to want to be rescued from the carnage within our midst. I do believe that until persecution happens worldwide when Christians have no place to hide, this is when the Rapture becomes more of a reality. And, I do know that at the blowing of the Seventh Trumpet (the last trump) is when Yahweh's wrath will be poured out on unbelieving mankind. A Pre-Trib believer once told me that scripture says that we are not appointed to wrath and there is some truth to that, but he neglected to point out that we are not appointed to Yahweh's wrath. Christians have experienced the wrath of Satan and wrath of unbelievers for the past two thousand years. If you want to see a sign that points to the Rapture, look for the wrath of Yahweh to come upon the entire world, then you will know that the Harpazo is near and right at the door. You'll save yourself a lot of anxiety and a lot of guessing and date setting that won't pan out because it simply is not Yahweh's way of doing things.