

NEWS BYTES

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

Ready Or Not, Here It Comes

By **Nathele Graham**

I've seen many articles lately with titles asking the question, “Are You Ready.” That's a very good question, but what are you ready for? How do you prepare for something you don't know about? The best way to prepare for anything is to study and learn about it. If the question is about the Rapture and the Great Tribulation, study Scripture. God's word has much information about both of these events, and Scripture will give you a good idea where we are in God's timing.

Let's talk a little about each of these events. There is so much information in Scripture that I can only lightly talk about each one. The Rapture is also called “The Blessed Hope” and only affects certain people throughout the world. It will happen quietly, quickly, and unexpectedly. You may be having a conversation with a friend or family member, and suddenly they will disappear.

“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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 **Corinthians 15:51-53**).

The Apostle Paul was the one who was given the privilege of disclosing the Rapture. Although it is hinted at in the Old Testament, it was never openly declared. The first hint is seen in Enoch. At a time when the world was very evil, fallen angels mated with human women, and wickedness was everywhere, Enoch kept himself away from the activities of the world.

“And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: and Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: and all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: and Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him” (**Genesis 5:21-24**).

The writer of Hebrews also talks about Enoch. “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony that he pleased God” (**Hebrews 11:5**).

Enoch didn't die but was taken to Heaven by God. God's judgment was coming, and God took him prior to the judgment of the Flood of Noah. Enoch is described as a man who walked with God, and that's the only way to be ready for the Rapture and miss God's wrath pouring out during the Tribulation period. Turn your life over to God. Repent of sin in your life, and ask Jesus to forgive you.

God's wrath is coming, but Christians can be sure we won't face it. When Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica, he commended them for turning from their pagan ways.

"For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come" (**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**).

Those who have chosen to reject the free gift of salvation through Jesus will be left on earth to face God's wrath. The Apostle John was given a look into the future and wrote what he saw in the book of Revelation. Jesus dictated seven letters to various churches, and those letters describe the history of the church age in advance. Once the last letter was written, John experienced the Rapture.

"After this I looked, and behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne" (**Revelation 4:1-2**).

John represents Christians who are Raptured when the Church Age is over but before God's wrath comes. There are many passages in Scripture that describe those final seven years, including Daniel chapters 9 through 12, and Revelation beginning in chapter 6. It begins when the first seal is broken and the evil horsemen of the apocalypse begin their deadly ride. The Tribulation is a seven-year period of time that will affect the entire world. Satan will be unleashed, and pure evil will permeate everything. A completely evil man will step into power; he will be controlled by Satan.

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**).

There will be a one-world economic system (keep your eye on the World Economic Forum) and a one-world religion. The evil world leader will require everyone to take his mark.

"And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (**Revelation 13:16-17**).

If you take his mark, you will forfeit your soul. You will have sealed your own fate. God's judgments will begin sometime after the Rapture; we are not living in the Tribulation today. We are getting close to the judgments, but as of the time I'm writing this, the judgments haven't begun.

When watching signs of the times, keep an eye on Israel; God hasn't forgotten them, and they haven't been replaced. They are ready to build the third temple, which will be the one the Abomination of Desolation (described by Daniel and by Jesus) will stand in.

"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains" (**Matthew 24:15-16**).

Studying prophecy will enlighten you, but does it prepare you? In some ways, yes. Don't delay in accepting salvation through Christ. Many signs of the Tribulation are falling into place today, which tells us that our time on earth is very short. It seems the entire world is focused on dividing Israel, and God won't condone that. Fighting near Damascus makes one think of the prophecy in Isaiah 17 stating Damascus will be a ruinous heap. Iran is about to have a nuclear bomb, which is a bad idea on many levels. The Jewish Temple is ready to be built, and that is a major sign. Earthquakes are increasing and occurring in unusual places. The covid craziness is a precursor to the pestilence of that time and the mark of the beast, and creating panic leading to government control. The wickedness seen around the world, as well as the moral decay, are signs.

How do we prepare for the total chaos of the Great Tribulation? We can stock up on food, medical supplies, and water, but is that enough? It's better to accept Jesus and miss it altogether by being taken in the Rapture.

As you follow prophetic events, keep in mind that Satan thrives on chaos and lies; truth is found in Scripture, not on CNN. Satan puts stumbling blocks in your way to stop you from studying Scripture. He wants fear and confusion to blind you to God's truth.

Many things are happening on a global level that indicate something big is about to happen. People "feel it in the air," and Scripture tells us what signs to look for (Matthew chapter 24 is a good place to start). Be sure you understand the sequence of events and the difference in them. The Rapture will occur first and will take Christians to Heaven, then sometime later, the Tribulation will begin, and that's when God's wrath will be poured out. The Second Coming will happen at the end of the seven-year Tribulation. As we near the end, events of prophecy will seem to speed up and happen faster. Don't live in fear, but study God's word, and you'll have peace knowing that God isn't surprised by these events and loves His creation.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (**John 3:16**).

Faith in Jesus is our only hope. Prophecies in Daniel warn the world in general, but Israel in particular, about very troubled times. The end of time is coming, and the signs are happening rapidly. The only way to be ready is to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. In that way, you'll be taken in the Rapture instead of remaining on earth to face the horrors of the Tribulation. God has warned us, but the choice to heed His warning is up to each person individually. The truth is, if you procrastinate, you may die before you accept Christ. Only faith in Jesus will assure that you spend eternity in Heaven with Him. Don't think that rejecting Christ and spending eternity in Hell is going to be a big party and lots of fun. God describes it very differently. Eternity in darkness in the lake of fire that burns forever won't be a party.

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (**Revelation 20:15**).

It's a choice that must be made prior to leaving this world. The good news is, if you've given your life to Christ now, you won't be on earth for that final judgment. God always gives warning and doesn't want any person to face the days of His wrath or eternity separated from Him. Turn to Him now, today, before it's too late. What's stopping you from asking Christ to forgive you and save you from damnation? Only you can make the choice for yourself. Look into your life. Is there anything you're holding on to that's worth eternity in Hell? Give your life to Christ now, and when the Rapture happens, you'll be one who disappears and enters eternity and peace with God. Ready or not, it's coming.

Make your decision now and find a Christ-centered, Bible-believing congregation. Fellowship with fellow Christians and witness to people who haven't come to faith in Christ. God wants you to find peace, but Satan wants you to allow fear to blind you to God's truth.

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (**2 Peter 1:19-21**).

Biblical prophecy is very neglected by many pastors today. Don't let that hinder your studies. Maybe you can teach your pastor a thing or two!

As you study Scripture, especially end times, remember many verses speak of the Rapture, and others speak of Christ's second coming. These are two separate events. The Rapture will happen at least 7 years before the Second Coming of Christ. One day, if you notice that many people have gone missing, that's the Rapture. You'll probably hear many stories of alien abduction or "mother earth" purging herself of people who don't care for her like they should. Those are lies. The truth is very serious, and you should pay attention to that truth now.

God's judgment is coming. Huge hailstones will pummel the earth, water will be undrinkable, demonic activity will be seen everywhere, and your life will be worthless. Satan, in the form of the Anti-Christ, will become the ruler of this world and require everybody to take his mark. If you refuse to take it, you cannot buy or sell. On the other hand, if you do take it, you won't be able to escape the final judgment, and you will spend eternity in the lake of fire. There will be some very brave people who'll come to salvation during this time, but when the enemy catches them, they will be beheaded. The tribulation of that day will be unbearable. Ready or not, it's coming.

Are you ready? Have you accepted the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for your salvation? Make your decision now. Ready or not, here it comes.

Why ruling elites hate and fear genuine Christians

David Kupelian on how oligarchs finally dropped the pretense and now openly identify their real enemy

By David Kupelian

In case you missed it, two shocking and unprecedented megatrends are unfolding simultaneously in the United States of America right now.

The first is the explosion of what can only be described as openly predatory targeting of America's children by legions of "gender activists" obsessed with seducing, grooming and recruiting kids into the phantasmagoric transgender world of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, surgical amputation of healthy body parts and astronomical suicide rates.

Incredibly, this wild celebration of transgenderism is being praised, promoted and funded by the ruling class at the highest levels, from the White House on down, while all who sound the alarm are demonized and canceled.

At first, this trend manifested most notably as “drag queen story hour” events hosted in public libraries across the nation, during which innocent toddlers would be made to sit at the feet of severely mentally ill men (often made-up to appear openly demonic) and be regaled with tales of heroic LGBT characters. But that was just the warm-up.

Throughout June, almost all of America’s big institutions – big media, big tech, big government, big education, big business, big sports – gushed uncontrollably over “Pride Month,” glorifying everything homosexual, transgender and “nonbinary,” while the push to groom America’s children into the LGBT lifestyle has gone into overdrive. Disney staffers explicitly brag on camera about inserting as much “queerness” as possible into their entertainment products. After-school “gay-straight alliance” (GSA) clubs, which purport to be support groups but in reality are all about recruitment, are rapidly proliferating throughout America’s public schools. Teachers with bizarre hairdos and multiple facial piercings openly proselytize America’s children, some evangelizing the new transgender salvation aggressively on social media platforms like TikTok.

However, as Tucker Carlson recently put it, “Having some purple-haired loser in a nose ring convince your six-year-old to get a sex change is not why most people send their children to school.”

And yet, although the nation is wracked with violent crime, edging toward financial collapse and losing 290 people daily from drug overdoses, the Biden administration is focused on recruiting children into transgenderism, with Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra fully supporting taxpayer-funded amputations of healthy body parts of these vulnerable young people. Or as Becerra ghoulishly put it, “We should help those have the life-affirming care that they need.”

Predictably, as a result of this explosion of LGBT proselytizers, promoters and cheerleaders, a newly minted syndrome has magically emerged among America’s youth: “Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria,” or ROGD. Mission accomplished.

Consider now the second megatrend.

While this sexual-gender anarchy is exploding nationwide – and alongside it, of course, the rest of the deranged Biden agenda, from engineering an ever-expanding foreign invasion of America across its southern border, to destroying the nation’s fossil fuel industry, to bringing the U.S. to the brink of nuclear war with Russia – the very same political, financial, cultural and sexual revolutionaries responsible for all of this chaos have finally dared to “come out” and publicly identify who exactly they consider to be their biggest enemy.

Christians.

That’s right. Bible-believing, Judeo-Christian morals-affirming, Ten Commandments and Sermon on the Mount-loving Christian believers are the real enemy.

Of course, throughout the Biden era, many tricky substitute names for Christians have been stealthily deployed by those in power, who daily blame “white supremacists,” “conservative fascists,” “violent extremists,” “domestic terrorists” and other never-defined groups for everything they claim to find intolerable about America. Some of their attacks have been staggeringly idiotic, like officially branding parents as “domestic terrorists” for complaining at school-board meetings about teachers indoctrinating their young children with Marxist critical race theory.

Yet, fantastical and extreme as all this demonization of normal, traditional-values, law-abiding Americans has been, there has always been a lingering sense that the ruling elites were holding something back – that they were not quite speaking plainly about what is really bothering them.

Until now.

The “progressive” ruling class has finally grown sufficiently brazen, deranged and desperate to openly admit that the people it considers to be the true and ultimate enemy of America – or at least the America they envision – are those who “identify” as biblical Christians.

Consider a few recent major media stories:

- * “With the Buffalo massacre, white Christian nationalism strikes again” – The Washington Post
- * “The Religious Right’s Hostility to Science Is Crippling Our Coronavirus Response” – The New York Times
- * “White Christian Nationalism ‘Is a Fundamental Threat to Democracy’” – New York Magazine
- * “How Christian nationalism paved the way for Jan. 6” – Religion News Service
- * “Christian nationalism on the rise in some GOP campaigns” – The Associated Press
- * “‘The View’ co-host blames ‘Christian nationalism’ for mass shootings” – FoxNews.com

Suddenly, bandying about an arcane academic term virtually no one used until recently – “Christian nationalism” – big media and Democrats are falling over each other to blame all of America’s problems on “Christian nationalists” (or “White Christian nationalists” or “White nationalists” or “Christian fascists” or “Christian fundamentalists” or “the Religious Right”). In rapid succession, virtually the entire leftwing media has taken to hysterically warning about Christians:

- * “It’s becoming increasingly clear that the United States is under siege by Christian fundamentalists and traditionalists,” warns MSNBC’s Ja’han Jones.
- * “Christian Nationalism Is The ‘Single Biggest Threat’ to America’s Religious Freedom,” announces the Center for American Progress.
- * “[The Republican Party is] a movement dedicated to imposing White Christian nationalism,” insists the Washington Post’s former token “conservative,” Jennifer Rubin.
- * “If Christian Nationalism isn’t essentially domestic terrorism, then I don’t know what is,” opines Cari Marshall of the Texas Democracy Foundation, who goes on to explain the treacherous methods of all those violent Christian extremists: “They simultaneously weaponize the Bible and the Constitution to justify their wanton disregard for the views and safety of others and their insatiable lust for weapons and violence.”

‘American Taliban’

Some of this elite denigration of Christianity is not entirely new. In fact, for years many on the left have been likening American Christians to terrorists, as the late Angelo M. Codevilla, author of the 2010 mega-bestseller “The Ruling Class,” explained: “Every time [Christians] try to manifest their religious identity in public affairs, they are deluged by accusations of being ‘American Taliban’ trying to set up a ‘theocracy.’”

Or as MSNBC anchor Joy Reid tweeted after the Taliban victory that resulted from Biden's catastrophic pullout from Afghanistan in the summer of 2021: "This is the real-life Handmaid's Tale. A true cautionary tale for the U.S., which has our own far religious right dreaming of a theocracy that would impose a particular brand of Christianity, drive women from the workforce and solely into childbirth, and control all politics."

What is new right now, however, is: 1) the extreme and ubiquitous Sodom-and-Gomorrah level of moral depravity in America, 2) the absolutely shocking campaign to recruit the nation's pre-pubescent children into deviant sexual and gender "identities" and lifestyles, and 3) the fact that all of this is not merely tolerated, but wildly celebrated and glorified, by almost all of America's most powerful institutions, from its schools to its government to its news and entertainment media.

Parallel to all this is the rapidly increasing demonization of those Americans who hold to the traditional Judeo-Christian values that formed the very foundation of the "American experiment," the biblical principles of morality and justice woven into the U.S. Constitution and legal system, and which, for over two centuries, have made America the greatest, freest and most prosperous nation in all of human history.

Indeed, biblical Christianity is what gave birth to the whole notion of "individual rights" in the first place, rooted as they are in the conviction that man is created in the image of God. Likewise, the biblical understanding that mankind is fallen and in need of redemption (prompting Lord Acton to famously observe that "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely") led to America's unique and extraordinarily wise constitutional separation of powers. The biblical roots of the American system made this country the unique oasis of liberty and human rights it has long been in an otherwise mostly dark world.

That is why the current power-mad elites hate genuine Christianity, and why the ruling class is at war with, and daily attacking, America's Christian foundations with increasing ferocity.

It also explains, as Pastor Andrew Brunson – who was imprisoned for two years in Turkey on fake "terrorism" charges – recently warned, the growing trend toward persecution of Christians in the United States of America.

In truth, to the radical left, Christians are not merely racists, misogynists, homophobes and transphobes, but Nazis, fascists, violent extremists and terrorists. But this perfect inversion of reality is because – bottom line – the left has always been in a state of war with Almighty God and His laws and His ways. In other words, at war with Reality. They are in perpetual rebellion against the Creator of the Universe because Marxism, by its very nature, amounts to hatred and rejection of God so that human "saviors" (who are generally sociopaths) can create their make-believe paradise on earth – with them in charge, of course. That, in turn, always ends up as hell on earth, with the 20th century being the bloodiest century in all of human history, thanks to the very types of God-rejecting, power-addicted Marxist utopians who are currently obsessed with ruling America.