

# FAQ 49

## Testing Contemporary Appeals By God's Holy Word

**Q #49** We ask a lot of questions of you but do you have any for us?

We do. Please note our ultimate goal: to edify His people through sound doctrine appeal (II Tim. 4:1,2) unto our Lord's glory and praise.

Here are some FAIR questions (or is it *wrong* for us to "question" things that may not be of sound doctrine because if we do so we would be *sowing discord/causing division among the brethren* ? HMMMMM Biblical balance is BIG!):

We believe this: ***IF*** the Preterists are incorrect in their view (that much of the "end-time" material in Scripture has already been fulfilled during the period of the early church), ***then*** they are actually encouraging God's people in Jesus Christ to adopt a posture of ill-preparedness, a perspective which our Lord Jesus strongly counseled against.

Please understand, even their general perspective is not without problematic inconsistencies. By way of example, we refer you to page 160 of *The Apocalypse Code*.

In the concluding paragraphs of this chapter (chapter #5 - Historical Principle), the author condemns those who believe the "last days" need to be seen in light of God's perspective given our Lord has not yet returned. He uses condemning words when he employs these kinds of appeals: "Lest we be seduced ..." "... it is contrary to all propriety ..." "it is a reprehensible abuse of language ..." etc. These are all tied to his appeal that we cannot consider the possibility of there being two thousand years between the writing of the book of Revelation and its actual fulfillment. (We disagree in that our Lord has not yet come and, as a result, we are indeed in the last days just prior to our Lord's glorious appearing.)

But here's the contradiction: After saying we cannot apply the book of Revelation to our day, the author then goes on to close this very same chapter - in the very next paragraph - by saying there are aspects of Revelation which are yet future.

WOW!

**Question:** Are we discerning prophetic voices in light of God-given common sense **and** the whole counsel of His Word?

**Question:** Do we understand the absolute **need** to be in His Word regularly whereby we can properly "watch" through His lens?

**Question:** In light of clear biblical data concerning our day, are we protecting ourselves from the many deceptions God said would indeed flourish before His Son's glorious return?

We need to open our eyes!

Another source's opening introductory words prove equally insightful:

"The Scriptures present six raptures. Four have already taken place. Two are still to come." (pg. 11; *Maranatha Our Lord, Come!*)

The author then lists the four which have already taken place and the two which he believes are yet future (I only quote the two which he says are yet future.):

1. "the coming of Christ to take His bride, the church ... the church's Rapture" and,
2. "The other future rapture will occur when the two witnesses of the future Tribulation period ascend to heaven after God has resurrected them from death (Rev. 11:3, 11-12)."

**Oops!** He missed (at least!) one: the global gathering of the elect in Mt. 24:31!! (The author quoted immediately above does not believe Mt. 24:31 is addressing the rapture of the church.) (Note: IF the author attributes the rapture of the two witnesses as the event of Mt. 24:31, on what grounds does he use this non-literal interpretation to do so?)

**Question:** If the author does not write accurately when he makes factual statements (e.g., "The Scriptures present six raptures."), should **we** automatically - without critical thought as to what the Bible actually teaches - believe him when he makes inferential appeals which (he believes) support the **Pre-Trib** rapture?

(Please note our [comments](#) RE: the Greek word for "gathering together" [II Thes. 2:1 - a rapture text] ; "gather together" [Matthew 24:31].)

**Question:** If the author's warrants for "What Paul Could Not Have Meant" (namely, the "last trumpet" of I Cor. 15 is emphatically NOT the final [seventh] trumpet of Revelation 11; pp. 259-268) are not sound, are you willing to consider a very Bible honoring end-time position called the "Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering" as defined and proposed on this site?

In closing ...

**Question:** Are you truly one who affirms the authority voice which defines the Christian Worldview: The **BIBLE** is our authority for faith and practice?

If so, PLEASE allow for end-time appeals which are explicitly stated in His Word. Remember, one aspect of *the JOY of the Lord* is tied to His precious revelation to us - Nehemiah 8:1-12 ... sweet!