

NOW The RAPTURE ?

Rightly Discerning the Way of Death

(Part 2a – Booklet #2)



Do Christian churches take seriously their Lord's Counsel to be watching and are, as a result, ready for His Return? Many today don't think so. In fact, many popular end-time perspectives encourage, to varying degrees, the polar opposite—they actually foster ill-preparedness. ... Seriously!

Dr. Jon Swanson appeals to Scripture in order to present *the challenge of the hour*.

Don't be caught unprepared as a result of having accepted a faulty, unbiblical view concerning end times. It continues to be the Word of God which provides our Lord's insights into, what has now become, an eternally significant topic. Will the Church rise to the occasion? The Bible offers prophetic insight on this and many other related and most pressing questions. Please, because you're in harm's way, read on.

NOW The RAPTURE? Part 2 **Rightly Discerning The Way Of Death**

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Endurance Ministries; P.O. Box 92098; Portland, OR 97292

For more information on the author and/or about Endurance Ministries, go to the concluding pages of this document.

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NOW The RAPTURE ? ***Rightly Discerning the Way of Death***

(Pre-Release of Part 2 — Booklet #2)

Jon Swanson
Endurance Ministries

Lord willing, the posting of
Booklet #3 will take place after
the revealing of the lawless one.

Please go to
<https://vimeo.com/521078459>
for a short but important video
presentation pertaining to these matters.

A note of preface from Endurance Ministries

The message herein is one of the most pressing issues of our time. How can we, as followers of Jesus Christ, persevere in our faith during the rule of the antichrist? The next few years will indeed confirm our eternal state in Jesus Christ. It is our prayer this booklet and the information on the listed web sites will be of encouragement to you.

The following presentation makes a simple yet crucial appeal: We need to get back into His Word if we are to avoid being deceived by the father of lies. This work then goes on to suggest ways to endure in our most precious, eternal faith. Because most now agree there were grave errors in many end-time positions, we encourage Family in Christ to participate in a very God-honoring challenge and one very important to our best interest: Let's go back to the Word of God and build our end-time viewpoint—our eschatology—upon what He has revealed. As this is done, please consider the chronology briefly highlighted on the web sites. (A more thorough definition of this proposed end-time position has already been released.)* At this time, simply consider the general appeal in light of the clear content of the Bible. Please remember, “eternity” is a v e r y l o n g time.

* *The Final Trumpet RAPTURE Gathering: An Introduction* (2017 ; available through [Endurance Ministries](#))

CRUCIAL NOTE:

This Booklet #2 is a “**Pre-Release**” of *NOW The RAPTURE ? Part 2* (Booklet #3).

This pre-release has been adjusted to read from a FUTURE PERSPECTIVE—as if written **after** the public début of the man of lawlessness. (As a result of this approach, the material in this booklet may **yet** be future.)

PLEASE READ THIS ARTICLE ACCORDINGLY!

We hope the following future reality from God's Holy Word will be of eternal significance to you.

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.” Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”

(Revelation 14:9-13; ESV)



PLEASE READ THE “**CRUCIAL NOTE**” ON PAGE 3 **BEFORE** PROCEEDING (just in case you missed it).

We’re not going to dwell on the “We told you so’s.” (See *NOW The RAPTURE ? Part 1*)

Instead, we hope to provide you with some last-minute help even though, as a result of possible ill-preparedness on your part, you may find yourself in a very difficult situation.

Here’s what will be coming in the days ahead.

Contractual obligations will potentially serve to lead many into compromise by taking the mark of the beast in order to retain what little they have. But you are smarter than that! You have an **eternal** perspective as a result of being open to the gracious revelation of God in His Word, the Bible.

You KNOW anyone who takes the mark will suffer eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire. Revelation 14 is most clear on this. (There will be NO sufficient excuses for taking this mark—none! God’s Word is emphatic here. Because this is crucial, we state it yet another way: There is no such thing as a true Christian who willfully receives the mark of the beast. NB: If your name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, you will **not** take the mark. Conversely, if you take the mark, you are destined for eternity without God ... even if you claim to be a “Christian.”) Perspective! Since you know a brief moment in time — say 7 years — is nothing compared to eternity, there’s NO WAY you’re going to make this eternally binding concession in order to simply avoid persecution from the world as it follows the antichrist. Again, you’re smarter than that!

In light of this, you’re going to have to make some HUGE decisions in the next few years. Here are some related questions which will help lead you in the right direction.

- ☞ Are you willing to walk away from worldly bondages (for example, home ownership) in order to assure your eternal existence in God’s glorious presence if it ever gets to this *either/or* dilemma?
- ☞ Are you willing to suffer through hunger, physical persecution, whatever, during this time when God allows His saints *to be overcome* for a season? (see Daniel 7:21, 25 and Revelation 13:7) If you’re not, remember the long-

term picture. Today is not a day to be placing your eternal life in Christ in jeopardy. Our LORD tells His people to say “no” to the mark at any cost.

☞ Are you willing to go back to the Word of God in order to seek out what it actually says concerning your upcoming eternal state? This is a crucial inquiry because the more people understand the gravity of the issue at hand, the more they will persevere in their commitment to God. What we’re emphasizing here is mental and emotional preparation in order to face these days with resolve to endure in Jesus Christ. Knowing that one’s eternal state will actually be determined by the **decisions** made during these next few years will help—oh Lord, we pray!—people make the right ones.

This brings up an extremely important biblical truth, one which we need to address at this juncture.

YES, those who are genuinely *in* Christ are eternally secure. Question though: On what grounds do you believe this? Isn’t it as a result of the clear revelation found in the Word of God? If you said “yes,” we fully agree. **But** it’s here where some get really inconsistent with God’s revelation. Shouldn’t we also go on to accept “the full counsel of the Word of God” and not repeat the same mistake the world is presently making—picking and choosing which passages they’ll accept and which ones they won’t? This is a crucial end-time concern—including perseverance unto eternal life!

- ~ When God’s Incarnate Word – Christ Jesus our LORD – says some will be offended – “fall away” (ESV) (Matt. 24:10) ...
- ~ When God’s Holy Spirit says some will “fall away from the faith” (I Tim. 4:1) ...
- ~ When God’s written Word clearly says “apostasy” will precede “the coming of our Lord Jesus and our gathering together to Him” (II Thess. 2:1-12) ...
- ~ When God’s Word clearly says those who compromise will suffer eternal consequences (in the case under present consideration, for example—the reception of the mark, for Revelation 14 says, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger; and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.” There’s more, but read it for yourself.) ...

When God’s Word says all these things, we would be foolish to pick and choose to reject these passages while at the same time fully believe the eternal security passages. Be wise here, for eternity is indeed at stake! Let’s acknowledge the *both/and* when Scripture

calls for it. This Bible-affirming perspective honors God's call to His Saints in Jesus Christ to fear Him – see Ps. 34, Ecc. 12, Phil. 2, and II Peter 1.

Okay, here's what will be coming in the days ahead:

1. A one-world system which includes the religious order of the antichrist will begin.

Religious movements, even *Christian* ones, will be calling for further syncretistic tolerance. We know—again, you're smarter than those who will compromise on this clear, logical dilemma—the syncretistic appeal cannot be made if the religious perspectives retain their basic teachings. This is undeniable, factually speaking.

For example, if one seeks to be both faithful to each religious expression AND attempts to merge the systems into one spiritual system, contradictions immediately emerge. From a biblical perspective, some of these divinely revealed Truths contain eternal consequences. Never forget, “forever” is a long time! Those who say all spiritual paths lead to God are false teachers, for multiple reasons. Basic common sense denies this blatant inconsistency.

Biblical Truth is clear: The Way is narrow. Jesus Christ continues to be the only way to Father God. There is no other name under heaven whereby members of humanity can be saved. Only the biblical message teaches forgiveness of sin before God through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ. There is no Savior but one: the LORD Jesus Christ. If you are reading this and you're not currently “in Jesus Christ,” please see the Good News appeal at the end of this paper and/or [click here](#). (visit www.currentmatters.org)

In a way relating to this religious relativism (outlined immediately above), the relative *hermeneutic* is also foolishness, logically speaking, but is indeed being used by many to justify concession. What do we mean by this? Some say you can conclude with just about anything you want to in relationship to the meaning of a biblical text. **This is nonsense.** The Author of the text intends to communicate to us through it. Yet, some would have you believe we should not take the Bible literally. “Do anything but take the Bible literally,” they say. But YOU know better. Once again, you're smarter than that!

Here's another cultural appeal which will be coming shortly:

2. A tough system of government will mandate all take an identification mark.

Global society, under the direction of the antichrist (though the world will call him savior and lord due to his abilities), will institute requirements whereby the world will be forced to receive the *mark* predicted long ago in Revelation 13. Buying and selling are tied to this mark—if you don't have it, the system will deny you these basic rights. Are you pre-

pared for this? If not, you need to make some adjustments. Some will be difficult, seemingly impossible, to make. (If you're *in* Jesus Christ, Philippians 4:13 is most comforting!)

The Bible teaches our LORD has called His people to discern the times and to be watchful in the days immediately prior to His Son's glorious return. Yes, we are called to be ready for His return. Included within this call is proper preparation in order to face the closing days before His return to the earth. You see, His appearing in the clouds in Revelation 6—an event which is yet to take place—is only the **first** stage of His glorious return. The Rapture follows! See our *chart proposals* here: www.currentmatters.org/gifts-from-em.

Although months unfold between His initial appearing and the Rapture, the next event directly tied to His three-part return (following His initial appearing) is the Gathering event as depicted in Matthew 24:31, I Corinthians 15:52, I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Revelation 11:15-18; 14:14-16. This is one of the very purposes of this second booklet. Even though you're possibly late in preparing for His return, **it's not too late**. Only if you yield to the worldly system will it be *too late*. Truth: "Ill-preparedness is dangerous." (Our promise to you: We'll do everything we can to keep the web sites [listed on pages 11 & 12] up as long as possible whereby His crucial Counsel is available to those who wish it. If you find the sites are not accessible, please understand, it's not our doing.)

It's for this *Truth* reason our Lord Jesus said to be ready like the five faithful virgins were ready, NOT like the other five who were actually waiting for the bridegroom's return but who failed to prepare adequately—in the manner He prescribed in His Word. But again, there's hope IF you're willing to do exactly what He's always called His people to do: lose your life for His sake ... take up your cross daily ... do not be weighed down with the cares of this world ... come out from among the world (e.g., don't accept or give in to the system under the antichrist) ... etc. In short, be willing to give up EVERYTHING, even your very life as opposed to compromising with the worldly system. **Remember, ETERNITY is at stake here!** We can't make this point too clear, especially due to all the deception the Word of God says will take place during these years.

In Luke 21 we find some will be killed. Yet, in that very context, God also goes on to say, "... but not a hair of your head shall be lost. By your patience (endurance) possess your souls." You see, it's that important to say "NO" to the world system—now in the hands of the antichrist, the man of lawlessness, the little horn, the beast. God has been very clear on this matter. Read Revelation 13 & 14.

Changing times demand we go back to the Word in order to better know how we should be living today – during this era of the antichrist.

Have we made clear the issue at hand?

Our Lord Jesus gave us fair warning when He shared, in the context of *end-time* address, the parable of the Wise Virgins. Here it is from the biblical text – our Lord Jesus speaking:

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

(Matthew 25:1-13; ESV)

It is our suggestion the five foolish virgins (who were also waiting for the bridegroom’s return) were **ill-prepared** unto their peril. Don’t miss the point of the parable: Watching for His return—with His sufficient provision—is what it takes to get into the wedding banquet. Wow!

Is it possible our LORD includes proper preparedness as a part of being “ready”?

We know others are making appeals which contradict Christ’s appeal here. Please discern ... the following divine Counsel is most appropriate to this current cultural affair: Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge, but as for me and my house, we will serve and thus obey the Lord rather than men. (see Joshua 24:15 & Acts 4:19b, 5:29b)

We offer another helpful suggestion: www.enduranceministries.org has some projected stories—crucial ones—which are most appropriate for these days in which we live.

In light of all this, there’s more. This “more” includes further warning and reminders that in the end, our God will make all things right. Praise to His dear and precious Name.

Please continue reading for some of the more pressing details.



AGAIN, PLEASE READ THE “**CRUCIAL NOTE**” ON PAGE 3 **BEFORE** PROCEEDING if you haven’t already done so.

We write and publish this small booklet/article not to be sensationalistic but because we are realistic. You observe what’s going on all around you. By God’s grace, through the precious revelation of His Word, we are able to discern the times just as He’s called us to do!

Recall the many end-time passages which forewarn of great deception prior to Jesus Christ’s glorious return. The man of lawlessness—the antichrist—is also described as a great deceiver. Is it possible the present popular diplomat is the one God said would come on the world scene just prior to the return of His Son? Is it possible this one is the “little horn” of Daniel 7? Is it possible this one is tied to the fourth and final beast of Daniel 7? Is it possible this charismatic world leader is the ruler of Daniel 8:23ff? Is it possible this man of peace—and soon to be miracle-worker—will have a part in fulfilling Daniel 9:27? Is it possible the upcoming global *king*—and he will seek that position shortly!—is the same individual as the one described in Daniel 11:21ff? Is it possible?

Remember the outcome of these chapters. Recall Daniel 7:26, 27 and 8:25! Remember Daniel 11:45! This man of deceit is put down!

Is it possible this global tyrant is the man of lawlessness as predicted in II Thes. 2:3ff? Is it possible this one is one of the beasts of Revelation 13? Is it possible this *nice man* is actually the antichrist? IS IT POSSIBLE ??

Remember II Thes. 2:12!—those who fall prey to his deception will be condemned ... and Revelation 19:20! ... and, especially tied to one of Endurance Ministries’ main purposes:

“Let this encourage God’s holy people to ENDURE persecution patiently and remain firm to the end, obeying his commands and trusting in Jesus.” (Revelation 14:12; NLT; emphasis ours)

The Abomination of Desolation will take place shortly. READ the Word of God. One’s eternal state is at stake.

If you knew your beloved parents were about to suffer great loss as a result of a certain action, wouldn't you respond appropriately in order to prevent that great tragedy?

We are talking about eternal tragedies as a result of people being willfully ignorant concerning what God has clearly said about our days. "If we neglect the passages God has graciously given us for the purpose of better discerning the many false teachings currently being propagated today, will we not be making a conscious choice toward casting aside one crucial means He has provided to help us avoid becoming deceived?"

When our Lord Jesus was asked by His disciples when His return would take place, He said to be ready. But ready for what? In the Matthew 24, 25 address, Jesus answers the question, "What will be the sign of Your coming?" Note His very first response includes the counsel to watch. He says "Take heed that no one deceives you." He then goes on to forewarn them that much tribulation (from the world, not from God) will come to those who are in Christ in those closing days of human history. But this is not all. He counsels them to discern false prophets who will continue deceiving many.

The signs continue. After the tribulation of those days there will be heavenly signs. See Matthew 24:29 for details. Thereafter, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven. All the inhabitants of the earth will see Him coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Wow! Luke 21:28 is especially interesting in light of these signs. Do you recall what we're to do next?

We are to look up, for our redemption draws near! Read this passage in its context. In short, our Lord Jesus simply states certain signs will take place before His return. This includes His return for His Church—His bride.

Even now, today, the Rapture event is NOT the next event on the prophetic calendar, **biblically** speaking. We are privileged with a similar honor His early followers experienced: reproach in Christ Jesus' name. Indeed, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." May we respond in like fashion as did His first-century followers: They rejoiced in the fact "... they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name."

Perspective!

We are well served knowing we will face some difficulty in the days ahead. To know this/to be mentally prepared ahead of time will help us keep the eternal perspective in sight. This is not a day to deny the Lord Jesus. To do so is to play with one's eternal state. It sincerely is that important an issue. In fact, as we stated at the beginning of this brief address, it is indeed one of the most pressing issues of our day.

Side Bar :

Perhaps you are not a follower of Jesus Christ at this late moment in history. It's not too late, even for you! The context of "Whoever calls on the name of the LORD (Jesus) shall be saved" is in the setting of the end times—Joel 2:32. Romans 10:9ff continues the thought in the context of the New, eternal Covenant:

“... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*” (Romans 10:9-13; NKJV)

So do it! Call on the name of the One who alone imparts eternal life with God as a result of forgiven sin through His atoning death-sacrifice on the cross—Ephesians 1:7. Jesus Christ is the only Savior and LORD. In Him, you also can have abundant eternal life! You have time. Read the New Testament. Make time! See additional information about this Good News in Jesus Christ on page 14.

We call people to make a decision for Jesus Christ because we are talking about the quality of one's immortality. A brief time of tribulation from the world is nothing when one considers his/her eternal life-state.

The Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering proposal is further defined on the following sites. God's revelation continues to unfold in the exact manner in which He said it would. Praise to His name. If you would care to write to Endurance Ministries, you will find the means to get in touch with us on these sites. Please be sure to look over these site materials before contacting us. It's a good possibility your question(s) may have already been addressed. For a definitive introduction to this new end-time position, please read our 260-page book. [Click here](#) [<https://vimeo.com/521078459>] for a video sound-bite.

WORLD WIDE WEB

We've posted quality material on the Internet.
(Please download the material while you still can.)

www.TruthMatters.com

It's crucial one has a sound foundation upon
which to build. In God we really can be *set free*.

WEB LISTINGS (continued)

www.TruthFoundations.com

Only in God's Word do we find His eternal Truth revealed in such a clear manner.

www.endmin.com

This site states the basic intent of our ministries and contains our popular FAQs.

www.endmin.org now published online at:
<http://enduranceministries1.047c5f0.netsolhost.com/>

This issue of end times is MOST practical.
Our days are fulfilling Bible prophecy!

www.endmin.net

You'll find our radio broadcasts at this location. Also enjoy the pertinent handouts.

www.FinalTrumpet.org

The Final Trumpet Gathering is worthy of consideration. This is our "definition" site.

www.FinalTrumpet.com

A chronology of events is presented on this end-time site, especially highlighting the Final Trumpet Rapture event.

www.EnduranceMinistries.org

This site is our "what if" offering, based on the data we find in Scripture. Practical application is emphasized.

www.DestructiveDogmas.com

As the Bible predicted, deception will be rampant in the days prior to the return of Jesus Christ! Doesn't that describe our world today?

Our closing note:

The hour is late. Please email us if you have any questions after looking over the web information. By God's mercy and grace, we have done much to help God's people in

Jesus Christ prepare for His glorious return. Please read what we've posted on the Internet (if it's still available). Even more important, go to the Word of God for His last-minute counsel concerning the days ahead. We cannot emphasize enough how important this really is.

“My thoughts are nothing like yours,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.”

(Isaiah 55:8-11; NLT)

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

(Hebrews 4:12, 13; NLT)

Remember, His Word works wonders—Isaiah 55:8-11; Hebrews 4:12. His promises will not return void but will accomplish His purposes.

Our Creator יהוה God is great and greatly to be praised!

Even so, come LORD Jesus!

Please recall:

This Booklet #2 is a **Pre-Release** of *Now The Rapture? Part 2* and has been written from a **future perspective**—after the public appearance of the one who the Bible calls the little horn, the man of lawlessness, the beast. **Thank you** for reading this booklet from this yet-future perspective.

The Berean Challenge

“Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.”

(Acts 17:10,11; NKJV)

We encourage you to honor God in the following way:

1. Learn the [*Final Trumpet Rapture Gathering*](#) perspective thoroughly. (Some have misjudged this position as a result of failing to understand its basic tenets.)
2. After coming to an understanding of the position, go to the Word of God and evaluate the proposal ... *to find out whether the things presented are so.*

Good News !

The Gospel is in one sense so simple a child can understand it and accept it for his/her very own. Yet, God’s wonderful plan of salvation from sin and death is so deep even the inspired theologian, Paul, concluded his treatise on salvation with these words: “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!” (Romans 11:33; NASB) This presentation of the Gospel is one of those *simple* ones.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the One who provides forgiveness of sin and victory over death. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. We would encourage you to *shout* this call to Him in the following way, for there is no greater life decision than where one chooses to spend eternity. Call on Him, acknowledging He came as God in the flesh and as such was able to make a sufficient sacrifice to atone for or make right (forgive) your sins. Confess you are a sinner needing God’s deliverance. In your new, *born-again* life in Christ, repent and worship God though godly walk (in His precious Spirit) – as His living sacrifice – in Christ Jesus, our Vine. Claim and apply the resurrection victory Jesus Christ secured through His own resurrection.

This Good News is everlasting, not temporal. Salvation has been secured for those who would receive Him. Pray to our Creator God. As you do, tell Him you say “yes” to His love gift. Receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin and Provider of eternal life in God’s very presence. Read the Scriptures which especially address this eternal issue at: www.currentmatters.org.