



It's Never Really Unexpected

*Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, and said to the men, "**I know that the LORD** has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you. For **we have heard how the LORD** dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; **for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.** — Joshua 2:8-11*

Rahab confesses to Joshua's spies that the people who have rejected God have known the truth as to the signs of the times they were living in for a very long time. Her acknowledgment of the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea betrays the fact that they have been keenly and increasingly aware of what was coming their way not only historically in the physical advance of Israel coming out of Egypt, but of the greater spiritual working of God Himself both on His people's half and, ultimately, against His enemies—for nearly 40 years! This is not only the repeated pattern throughout the whole of history, that inevitable forces of change are discerned and acknowledged *long* before the hour of their actual arrival, but that even in the open consciousness of the unsaved there is at least the most rudimentary understanding of God's working behind it all. Christ's Second Coming is unfolding in this exact, same manner. No one can know the day or the hour, but Christ Himself made it repeatedly clear in the Olivet Discourse (Mt. 24-25; Mk. 13 ; Lk. 21:5-35) that an increasingly intensifying series of events, not unlike what the people of Canaan observed taking place in the forty years of the Exodus leading to their "sudden" overthrow, presently testifies to *everyone* how near His Return truly is in the here and now.

This topic is currently and deeply entrenched in my mind and heart as I just finished a three year project helping Jacob Prasch of Moriel Ministries complete a book titled, "*HARPAZO: The Intra-Seal Rapture of the Church*", which should be available through his [website](#) and as an Amazon Kindle e-book by the end of September or there about. And

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at the risk of inflating my ego to hitherto unimagined proportions, there seem to be a number of simultaneous events taking place which cause me to speculate that Satan is going to extraordinary lengths to discredit the book, or at the least inflict so much confusion that its message will become masked by all the noise that is presently rising to drown it out. Or perhaps it's not the book in particular, but an attack on *all* teaching having to do with Christ's Return.

A "Coming Out" Party

This is not by any means an endorsement and I don't even recommend casual viewing, but HBO has been running a weekly series called "[*The Leftovers*](#)" which portrays the Rapture as taking just under 200 million worldwide and focusing on the lives of those remaining on earth in the years following what they have termed "The Departure". The name itself is an obvious slight and tongue in cheek insult overall, but the series itself is simply one of the worst acted, worst written, just plain awful examples of television in and of itself in all of boob tube history. Even secular reviews declare this series to have engendered a new low for television badness, but that hasn't stopped HBO from going ahead and renewing it for at least two more seasons.

Coming soon is a movie titled "[*The Remaining*](#)" which is billed as a "Christian horror film" with, you guessed it, the Rapture as the centerpiece to the storyline. There seem to be reports that one of the major plot points is that only the *souls* of the raptured are actually taken and that their physical bodies are left behind to become a walking dead zombie apocalypse, much to the chagrin of those not taken.

In the past week or so, the Lifetime television network announced it has authorized a series to be called "[*Damien*](#)", a spin-off from *The Omen* movie franchise which will "entertain" us with a weekly glorification of the life and times of the Antichrist. (Think "*Smallville*" meets "*Leave It To Beaver*" meets Satan.) There was very little adherence to the truth of Scripture regarding the Antichrist within *The Omen* movies originally, so shame on us if we expect to see it here, but neither can it be found in *The Leftovers* nor *The Remaining* where the Rapture, or any End Times event, is concerned. But that won't stop people from getting their eschatology from these things (even Sunday-going Christians) at the expense of God's Word.

Finally, also scheduled for public distribution during this same general time period is the full-blown Hollywood movie version of Tim LaHaye's and Jerry Jenkins' "[*Left Behind*](#)"

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book. I'm sorry to disappoint many of you reading this, but contrary to their assertions, this is not only *really bad* eschatology, but is *not* representative of how Scripture depicts the Last Days nor the *Harpazo* (the Greek term for "Rapture") specifically. I know I'm going to get an avalanche of email from those shocked that I would "lump together" the *Left Behind* movie with these other things, but false teaching is false teaching no matter how pure the original intentions. The authors' claims that their platform for a work of Christian fiction whose "framework for the entire series is based on the theology found primarily in the book of Revelation" (see "[FAQ: Is the Left Behind series based on the Bible?](#)") is tragic in its doctrinal effect on God's people, much less the unsaved. Wake up and smell the ratings, friend. Hollywood does *nothing* it cannot manipulate for simultaneous profit and dilution of God's Word—not even this.

These seemingly independent efforts (we know who is actually coordinating them all, don't we?) are all due to be released in the same general time period. And I'm not bothering to list the explosion of films and television shows with an apocalyptic theme which seem to have increased exponentially in recent years. *Everyone* knows *something* is coming; even the so-called "unspiritual" have some level of conscious sense that things are escalating toward something very big, spiritual and inevitable. This is just as it has always been.

A Long Time Building

Hitler didn't just "happen" one day. His coming was seen, anticipated by many and treated by others in denial over what they still knew to be inevitable. The world watched him ramp up for seven long years after formally taking the reins of power before engaging in seven direct years of conflict and war. No one may have been able to guess the day or the hour of the pinnacle of his so-called "arrival", but its inevitable nearness was obvious to practically *everyone*, detractor and supporter alike.

Sixteen years prior to their "sneak attack" on Pearl Harbor, Colonel Billie Mitchell, the acknowledged father of the American Air Force, was court-martialed for, among other things, naming the Japanese as the enemy whom the United States would have to inevitably confront. The activities and incursions of the Japanese Empire took place for a very long time before the "sudden" thrust of America into World War II. The day and the hour of the sneak attack itself may have been a surprise, but few were actually "blindsided"; its inevitable nearness was obvious to practically *everyone*.

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I could go on and on with example after historical example of the long, inevitable rise of a movement, nation or empire whose actual date of historical victory was impossible to precisely predict, but whose inevitable rise to such an achievement was long foreseen, anticipated and, in the end, not such a big surprise after all. But this is also the same, well-rehearsed pattern in *biblical* history as well.

Although there are other Prophets specifically mentioned in Scripture, most Bible dictionaries list Joel as the earliest Old Testament work assigned authorship and published in a Prophet's name. More than 200 years *before* it literally took place, Joel explained that for what remained of Israel at the end of that time would come "*the day of the LORD*", described as multiple invasions of what would then be a great and mighty world empire. At the time of Joel's prediction, the Assyrian Empire was barely coming into its own to overtake the scope and power of all previous empires which would take away the Northern Kingdom of Israel, but itself would be subsequently swallowed whole by the greater yet-to-come Babylonian Empire who would devour Judah.

Joel may have initially laid the foundation of what was to come, but during the ensuing two centuries it would be repeatedly verified through Amos, Hosea, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah and Habakkuk, not to mention substantiated by the heavy weight Prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah. The exact day on which Israel was taken into captivity may have been a surprise, as well as that of the Southern Kingdom of Judah to follow about a hundred years later, but the rise and dominion of each empire was not. *Both* took place over a long period of time, and when ultimately turned against God's people, came as no "secret" or without warning of that final day. *Everyone* had a sense of an inevitable arrival of something building for a very long time.

Unknown But Not Unprepared

Now if you're about to fire off an email declaring me a heretic because, as we all know so well, Jesus Himself said, "*Behold, I am coming like a thief*", hold off for just a little while longer, take a deep breath, and read the *whole* verse:

*("Behold, I am coming like a thief. **Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes**, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.") — Revelation 16:15*

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Yes, He says we cannot know the day or the hour, but at the same time He says we must be *prepared* for its arrival! In fact, look what Paul says about our role concerning that day:

*But you, brethren, **are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief**; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. — 1 Thessalonians 5:4–6*

Like Christ, Paul exhorts us to stay awake and ensure that we are **NOT** surprised by that day! It is the Apostolic commentary on what Jesus told us in the Olivet Discourse:

*“But when these things begin to take place, **straighten up and lift up your heads**, because your redemption is drawing near.” — Luke 21:28*

Jesus provides a very healthy list of indicators which will transpire and reveal to us the nearness of His Return so, as Paul admonishes, that day *should not* overtake us by surprise. We cannot know the exact day or hour, but like every major historical pattern prefiguring this ultimate one to come, everyone has some sense that something inevitable is about to take place, especially the people of God in the character of the Wise Virgins (Mt. 25:1-13) maintaining their anointing in God’s Word by the Holy Spirit (the meaning of the oil in their lamps).

One of the most important hermeneutics for understanding what will literally take place at Christ’s Second Coming is to fully understand what took place at His First Coming. Biblical prophecy is not so much anchored in predicting a date for a single, isolated fulfillment as it is a repeated pattern revealing in each successive “birth pang” something of the character of the *ultimate* fulfillment to come.

When Jesus came the first time, the world was in control of a one-world ruler who demanded to be worshiped as a god and had the population “marked” (that’s how a census actually worked back then) for the purposes of financial control. This teaches about the ultimate work of the Antichrist taking place at Christ’s Second Coming and, among other things, what is actually the greater meaning of the Abomination of Desolation and the mark of the Beast.

When Jesus came the first time, Herod in the character of Satan tried to kill the Christ child by murdering all of the Hebrew children; at His Second Coming, Satan in the

character of Herod as both a serpent and dragon seeks to murder all the Hebrew children. (Rev. 12)

The Ultimate Sign of the Times

There are many such foreshadowings we can draw upon from Christ's First Coming to illuminate the ultimate fulfillment of His Second Coming, but perhaps none so relevant for us personally than a cosmic announcement for those not knowing the day or hour of His arrival, but knowing of its nearness nonetheless.

*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For **we saw His star** in the east and have come to worship Him." — Matthew 2:1-2*

The Magi saw it. Zechariah and Elizabeth were prepared for it. Mary and Joseph were groomed for it. John the Baptist had been born for this very purpose. The shepherds, Anna and Simeon were all looking for it. A faithful remnant knew what it meant and what to do about it, but how did the rest of God's people handle it?

*When Herod the king heard this, **he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.** Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: — Matthew 2:3-5*

Those not actually prepared spiritually and looking for the fulfillment of Scripture, while claiming a heritage as God's people, were actually His enemies. Instead of embracing and welcoming the sign, they were afraid and troubled and would actually turn against and try to kill Him. (Mt. 2:13-15) Even more amazingly, that sign was available for viewing for about two years! (Mt. 2:7, 16) Do you realize that the plain teaching of Scripture explains that the exact, same thing is going to happen again? Do you fully understand that there will be a recapitulation of the sign to the Magi which will immediately precede our Rapture and Resurrection and that a multiplied fulfillment of the same reaction will take place once again?

*"And then **the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky**, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. — Matthew 24:30*

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*BEHOLD, **HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him**, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. — Revelation 1:7*

As with the rest of the world, we will enter the Tribulation together with everyone else and experience the first round of judgments known as the seal judgments in Revelation 6-7 in the same way that the children of Israel experienced the first third of the judgments which came upon everyone in Egypt. (Ex. 7-8) After the first set of three plagues, God's people were exempted from the next two sets.

*“For if you do not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and on your servants and on your people and into your houses; and the houses of the Egyptians will be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they dwell. **But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living**, so that no swarms of flies will be there, in order that you may know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land. — Exodus 8:21–22*

Likewise, in the interlude between the 6th and 7th seals when the opening of the final seal unleashes the wrath of God in the character of the trumpet and bowl judgments, God's people who had to endure judgment along with everyone else are now exempt from the wrath to come poured out on the kingdom of the Antichrist.

*After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands...I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, **“These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation**, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. — Revelation 7:9, 14*

This does not provide us with the precise day or hour of His Return, but it certainly substantiates all the great and terrible signs which we are warned will take place as confirmation that “*your redemption is drawing near*” and what will be the obviousness nearness of this event.

There will be the birth pangs of increasingly intense and prolific earthly events warned about by Christ personally in multiplied wars, rumors of wars, famines, pestilences, and the proliferation of even more dangerous spiritual deceptions in the form of *many* antichrists and *many* false prophets in prelude to the *ultimate* Antichrist and False Prophet. There will be great hardship coming with the release of the four horsemen

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followed by a period of unprecedented persecution and the immanency of “*the day of the Lord*” announced by the 6th seal. But likewise there will be at this time something taking place which will divide those expecting His Return and those who will mourn in the knowledge that it is now too late for them:

*“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and **then all the tribes of the earth will mourn**, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. — Matthew 24:30–31*

The Ultimate Public Choice

What will be the true and actual reaction of those left behind? Will there be a revival? A zombie apocalypse? A host of people standing around wondering what just happened?

*The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent** of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and **they did not repent** of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts. — Revelation 9:20–21*

Just like Herod, the religious authorities of the time and all Jerusalem who were troubled with them, those who rebelled against God’s Word and rejected Him to begin with, all will consciously *multiply* their rebellion and rejection in response to what takes place and *not* be changed in any way by it. They will become *even worse* than before.

*At the morning watch, the LORD looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion. He caused their chariot wheels to swerve, and He made them drive with difficulty; so the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from Israel, for **the LORD is fighting for them** against the Egyptians.” — Exodus 14:24–25*

Even after experiencing all the judgments brought upon them, and finally acknowledging the supreme work of God against them, what happens to the Egyptian army? It is too late.

*“For **we have heard** how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.*

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*When **we heard it**, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. — Joshua 2:10-11*

There was explicit acknowledgment on the part of the Canaanite nations that God was at work not just because, as was traditionally held, Yahweh was just another god of a particular nation, but that "*He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath*". But other than Rahab and her immediate family, was there repentance? Did this admission change their ways? No, like every other example in Scripture and history, the same signs and divine working which strengthen the faith of those already in a scripturally compliant relationship with God works simultaneously to condemn and harden the hearts of those who have chosen to rebel against and reject Him. Revelation replays the exact, same pattern which has *always* occurred, that signs and wonders are not enough in and of themselves to overcome the oft-repeated choices of the heart. Jesus explains it...

*Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. But you do not believe because **you are not of My sheep**. — John 10:25-26*

What is going to take place with the sign of coming of the Son of Man in anticipation of the Rapture and Resurrection between the 6th and 7th seal is the ultimate point of division when *everyone* will have openly and publicly chosen their sides. The Church will be extracted and God's attention refocused on completing what He has promised for literal Israel, and although the rest openly acknowledge Christ's Return, due to a lifetime of rebellious behavior and inappropriate choices they elect to *remain* with the wrong team. The Rapture is not a secret, misunderstood event open to interpretation when it transpires, but a very public acknowledgment of personal choice wherein one side knows vividly what it gained by faith and the other its willful loss by choice. The mystery, if there ever truly was one, will no longer remain unsolved for *anyone*, either those taken or those remaining.

While I always prefer to stay as much as possible within the confines of Scripture in such things, it's worth pointing out how the picture presented by God's Word is so relentlessly undermined by both false teaching within the Church and Hollywood's repeated attempts to redefine it through television and the cinema. We may find a fleeting reference to scriptural truth here and there, but this in itself is the essence of deception.

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*But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly **introduce destructive heresies**, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. — 2 Peter 2:1*

The underlying Greek rendered in English, "*introduce destructive heresies*" is "*pareisaxousin apoleias haireseis*". "*Paraisaxousin*" literally means to lay side-by-side with, indicating that a false teaching is actually the result of taking truth and intertwining it with an error so as to render the truth ineffectual. This is why false teaching *within* the Church is always more detrimental to us because there is usually a higher percentage of the truth under attack than normally employed by agents of the world. But we must resist the notion that we should accept such things because, "At least there is *some* truth in it". That is *exactly* what Satan is hoping to accomplish.

Just as Christ's First Coming is a prolific shadow of His Second Coming, there are several events in Scripture which characterize the Last Days. Among these are the days of Noah, the days of Lot, the conquest of Jericho, the Exodus of Israel and the last days of the Northern Kingdom of Judah. There are also the historical extra-biblical accounts of what took place during the Maccabean Revolt in the Inter-Testamental Period and the events of 70 AD. When we combine the chief characteristics of these scriptural "birth pangs" teaching something about the ultimate fulfillment of the *eschaton*, we get a picture of the times leading up to the Rapture which is very different not just from Hollywood's many overtly false iterations, but much of what has been offered within the walls of the Church under the guise of "orthodoxy".

As in the Days of Noah

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. — Genesis 6:5

The days of Noah were not simply characterized by extreme spiritual darkness, but a time when violence and moral corruption became accepted as the norm and only the smallest of faithful remnants remained in stark contrast to what overwhelmingly outnumbered them.

Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. — Genesis 6:11–12

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Jesus says that in those days mankind was so consumed with their own desires that *"they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away"*. (Mt. 24:37-39) The writer of Hebrews explains that Noah's actions could only save himself and his immediate family but that his spiritually right behavior actually *"condemned the world"*. (Heb. 11:7) Peter further explains that what came upon the rest of mankind was in response to their rejection of Noah's message of righteousness. (2 Pe. 2:4-5) There was a stark contrast between what had previously been the extreme but subsequently became mainstream in the world, and a very small, righteous remnant which by comparison came to be seen as the new extreme.

When Noah was first tasked with this responsibility, at the outset of God's acknowledgment of how perverse and spiritually corrupt everything had become, Noah was 500 years old, (Gen. 5:32) but when the Flood commenced he was 600 years old. (Gen. 7:6) No one knew the day or the hour when the waters would finally fall, much less the precise date and time when the Lord Himself shut the door of the ark (Gen. 7:16) and ended the chance for anyone to join them, but it could not possibly have been a complete surprise, could it? ("Noah's such an awful neighbor; he's been hammering on that thing for a hundred years now!") And although many believe the earth was originally mostly cloud covered before such released their catastrophic rains, there still had to be signs from above which were not just unusual but unprecedented betraying what was about to come, but they chose to ignore more than a hundred years' worth of warning signs.

It's worth noting that during the last days of the Third Reich, even as the armies of the Allies squeezed the remaining forces in and around Berlin and the end was inevitable to just about everyone, the Nazis and their families spent every night drinking, dancing and partying right up to the very end, even while bombs and artillery shells fell around them. This kind of behavior is not new, but has been repeated throughout history all the way back to the days of Noah. Isaiah mentions this kind of behavior as well. (Is. 22:1)

In a time of extraordinary spiritual darkness, when it was not simply sinful behavior which became normative but extreme violence and corruption, when the demonic activity of the Nephilim (Gen. 6:4) heightened, there was a faithful remnant not just continuing to preach the Gospel of righteousness but fervently making its own preparations for what was to come.

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Now consider overlaying on this what can be learned from the days of Lot.

As in the Days of Lot

*“It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: **they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building;** but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. — Luke 17:28–30*

The spiritual conditions in the days of Lot do not merely recapitulate those present in the days of Noah, but amazingly deteriorate to *even lower* depths than one might think possible. There are two particular traits which will specifically replay again for God’s people in particular.

*But they said, “Stand aside.” Furthermore, they said, “This one came in as an alien, and already **he is acting like a judge;** now we will treat you worse than them.” So they pressed hard against Lot and came near to break the door.
— Genesis 19:9*

The first is that at one time Lot was afforded a prominent position of leadership in the community and perhaps acknowledged as a positive contributor. But the time comes when his morality is determined to be standing in the way of their amoral desires and is therefore discarded. A time has come, and is already taking shape, when no Christian leader will be accommodated at any governmental or community level, especially when it comes to issues of sexual immorality. Their accusation that Lot is “*acting like a judge*” is the exact, same thing taking place today when Christians are told to “stop judging” homosexuals, or to “stop judging” those seeking an abortion, or to “stop judging” any particular sinful aspect of someone’s lifestyle.

*They struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that **they wearied themselves** trying to find the doorway. — Genesis 19:11*

A normal person suddenly experiencing such a severe medical problem as blindness would drop everything and seek immediate attention for their condition. But what kind of person, in spite of what has happened, is so obsessed that they press on to satisfy their addiction in spite of everything else? We usually only see this kind of behavior in extreme alcoholics or drug addicts, who no longer care about the next meal or where they live or about any aspect of their personal life, and live entirely for the purpose of

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getting that next drink, that next fix, that next desire. That is the level to which moral depravity and sin will sink to in the Last Days; an addiction to sin sets in to such a degree that it becomes an all-consuming obsession that refuses to acknowledge anything else except the opportunity for the next sin and nothing but the next sin.

Can you see that the biblical picture revealed in just the examples of the days of Noah and Lot affirm the kind of spiritual darkness to come? When behavior sinks to these levels, it is easy to see why Pharaoh's army acknowledged God but still would not repent, why the people of Noah's day ignored everything for over a hundred years right up until the door was shut, why those in Sodom and Gomorrah, even on the eve of destruction, sought nothing but their own gratification, and why the people of Jericho and the other Canaanite nations could acknowledge the divine working of God and yet refuse to repent. What is recorded in Revelation 9:20-21, that in spite of all the judgments experienced as a result of the seven seals and an escalation to the wrath of God by way of the seven trumpets, is the twice stated caveat that "*mankind...did not repent*".

It's Always the Same

We could go on with not only more scriptural examples, but bring to bear all the historical cases as well. The bottom line is that the growing spiritual darkness, increased persecution and unprecedented moral decay which we are already seeing take root is but the beginning of an ultimate fulfillment of what, in past examples, was but a shadow of what is literally yet to come. And somewhere along the way during this satanic "dress rehearsal" for the ultimate arrival of this time of darkness, during a time which Christ Himself described as "*a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will*" (Mt. 24:21), the Holy Spirit will cease to restrain evil (2 Th. 2:6-7) and to convict the world concerning sin (Jn. 16:8) and we will experience something unprecedented leading up to the Rapture and initiation of "*the day of the Lord*". All the examples of darkness in the past could not be combined to equal that which is currently coming into play.

"Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy." — Revelation 22:11

There will be no worldwide revival as some claim (and unsupported by Scripture), but as Jesus describes it, only those who will continue to live and operate as they always have leading up to the fulfillment of these events: *"the one who does wrong, still do wrong...the one who is righteous still practice righteousness"*. The Rapture itself will no longer be a mystery or have the imagined impact of all the Hollywood story lines or, worse still, the false teachings about it propagated within the Church, but will instead be the public decision point of the entire world for or against Christ. And the selection for each side won't be delayed until that final day or hour, but is underway right now, because it is our daily, repeated choices for or against a crucified life in Christ which is establishing who is choosing Christ and who is going to openly take a stand against Him. Essentially, our present behavior has already pre-selected us for being taken or left behind.

At the heart of every false teaching within the Church is an attempt to get us to care for and trust in the comforts of this life at the expense of the next. At the center of every false and undermined eschatology is an attempt at the exact, same thing by engendering the false belief that there is yet plenty of time and, even if we miss it, there's still a second chance. This has never been the scriptural nor historical case—just ask the Foolish Virgins. (Mt. 25:1-13) Our place in the *Harpazo* is being prepared *now* by the way we currently conduct our life, whether for righteousness or evil.

"...However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" – Lk. 18:8b

In Him,

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