

Betrayed By The Secret Rapture

By Kimberly Rogers

The Reformation of the 16th century did more than split the Catholic Church. It resulted in the creation of an insidious false doctrine that will cause the deaths of countless Believers during the end times. It will be just as if the Crusades and the Inquisition are reaching their evil deeds forward into the present.

The 16th century reformers Luther, Calvin, Knox, Tyndale and Wycliffe taught something about the Catholic Church that almost destroyed it. Along with the teaching that salvation comes by repentance and faith, not by purchasing a papal pardon, they taught that the Papacy was the Antichrist, Mystery Babylon, the Beast and the little horn of Daniel rolled into one entity. These Reformers so despised the Catholic Church, the Papacy and the filling of Church coffers by selling pardons for sin, that they were not only uninterested in reforming the Church – they wanted to destroy it.

They called on people to protest false doctrine by leaving the Church. One of the scriptures used to rally the masses away from the Catholic Church was:

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.**

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

The Reformers' call to "come out of her" worked. The Catholic Church witnessed a stream of people away from Catholic pews into Protestant pews. The Papacy needed a way to stop the flow. It needed to prove the Reformers wrong, so the Vatican employed the well-educated Jesuit Priest, Luis De Alcazar, to write a book called "Investigation of the Hidden Sense of the Apocalypse". This book denied the claims of the Protestant Reformers saying the Catholic Church could not possibly be the fulfillment of Revelation 18:4 & 5 based on Alcazar's new and improved eschatology called "Preterism".

Preterism postulated that all scripture was already fulfilled by the time of the Reformation. But no matter how well Alcazar twisted his convoluted theory, no one was buying it. Believers continued to pour away from Catholicism in favor of Protestantism. But help would arrive from Edwin Irving (1792 -1834), a charismatic Scottish minister associated with the origins of the 'Catholic Apostolic Church', part of the beginnings of the Pentecostal Movement. Edwin discovered an important book called *The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty* that he translated into English.

The doctrine of *The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty* was called Future Dispensationalism. It was written by Emmanuel Lacunza (1731-1801), a Roman Catholic and Jesuit Priest who used the pseudonym of Rabbi Ben-Ezra to portray himself as a converted Jewish

Rabbi. His book postulated that Yeshua/Jesus returns not once, but twice. At the 'first stage' of His return, He 'raptures', or removes, His Church so they can escape the reign of the future Antichrist. At the end of the Great Tribulation, the Church returns with Yeshua/Jesus on clouds of glory.

Lacunza's book was banned by the Vatican because it taught against Catholic Replacement Theology. Banned or not, the book found its way into the library of the Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1826, Dr Maitland, the Archbishop's librarian, came upon it and read it. He believed it was the answer to the Catholics' attendance problem and convinced the Archbishop of it. The Archbishop subsequently issued a series of pamphlets with this new view of prophecy. The new doctrine found immediate acceptance in the Anglo-Catholic Ritualist movement in the National Church of England. Soon after, it tainted the very heart of European Protestantism.

The Future Dispensationalist view effectively removed the scent of the Antichrist from the Pope and onto a nebulous future figure whose name added up to 666 because it redefined and pushed the appearance of the Antichrist into the end times. Believers now had something new to investigate. That is the preoccupation with changing the letters of men's names to numbers to discover the identity of the end times Antichrist.

Reverend Edwin Irving introduced his fledgling Catholic Apostolic flock to the new doctrine. He began to teach the doctrine in conjunction with some ecstatic prophecies of a young parishioner, Margaret McDonald. Starting in 1830, she began to experience trances that produced visions. Edwin believed her prophecies validated the secret two-stage rapture doctrine. She also prophesied that the Secret Rapture would occur in her lifetime. Margaret's credibility as a prophet was destroyed upon her death, but the Secret Rapture theory lived on.

John Nelson Darby (1800-1882) played an active role in the development of the Secret Rapture theory in America. He made at least 5 missionary journeys to North America between 1862 and 1877 to teach this new doctrine in America's Bible Colleges.

Darby, the author of his own Bible translation which is still in use today and can even be read online, was ever the fisher of proof texts trying to adjust his prophetic view to fit the Pre-Trib Rapture theory. It is known that he did not believe in Church Pastorship. He believed the Old Testament was irrelevant to Christians and that not even all of the New Testament was relevant. John was also a proponent of Replacement Theology. According to Darby, any Jews who come to believe in Christ become part of the Church, the heavenly people, and are no longer part of Israel, the earthly people.

In just a few short years, the work of Edwin Irving and John Nelson Darby produced the results for the

Catholic Church that the Catholic Church itself had not been able to attain. Protestant Christians were once again in step with Catholic doctrine.

This new doctrine was further ingrained into Protestantism by the works of Cyrus Scofield who created the well-known Scofield Bible. He incorporated the Secret Rapture doctrine in the notes of his Bible. Cyrus claimed to be a Bible scholar and often purported himself as "Dr. Scofield". Later, it came to light that Cyrus Scofield had no seminary training and no knowledge of the Hebrew or Greek languages. Yet, his reference Bible is still so popular that it can still be purchased in Christian bookstores and on Amazon.com today.

The history of Future Dispensationalism is as convoluted as the doctrine itself. In recent years, the Secret Rapture doctrine has found friends and been given a simple rendering in the fictional books of Tim LaHaye and Hal Lindsey. The problem with the *Left Behind* and *The Late Great Planet Earth* series is that its authoritative veneer parades as Biblical fact rather than fiction. Believers buy and read these novels as if they were "gospel truth" when in fact there is no basis in scripture for the Secret Rapture at all.

The result is that today the Protestant Christian Church is in the grip of a false doctrine promulgated by the Catholic Church, broadened by false prophets and maintained by fiction novels. Secret Rapture doctrine produces shallow spiritual growth and nonchalance about world events. Believers often ask why they should care about what is going to happen during the Tribulation when they know they will not be here? This is why so many modern Believers are fine attending an average, lukewarm church where the members are not really committed to each other or to the Lord.

The Secret Rapture doctrine is the most anti-semitic of all Christian doctrines. More so than Replacement Theology because it is more subtle. It teaches that God prefers Christians over Jews so much that He will remove Christians from the world during the time of Jacob's Trouble leaving the Jews to face it alone as punishment for having crucified Yeshua/Jesus.

Few Believers know that the word 'rapture' or the phrase 'Secret Rapture' do not appear anywhere in the Bible. It depends on whom you listen to whether you believe Yeshua/Jesus will come prior to the Tribulation (Pre-Trib), during the Tribulation about halfway through (Mid-Trib) or at the end of the Tribulation (Post-Trib). These timelines have caused many Church difficulties because Believers cannot reach agreement.

Both the Pre-Trib and Mid-Trib Secret Rapture requires Yeshua/Jesus to return three times – not twice as stated in scripture. The Bible clearly states He will only return once more, after the blast of the last Trumpet, yet Believers still cling to the idea of His return that will whisk them away from the time of trouble, only to have Him return again when He sets up His Kingdom on earth.

Secret Rapturists teach that during the Tribulation the Holy Spirit will be removed from the world because all Believers will be gone. It is during this time, when the Jews are facing the Tribulation alone, that one hundred forty four thousand of them get saved, become evangelists and bring more people to God than was brought to salvation during the entire two thousand years when the Holy Spirit was on earth.

This is quite miraculous, indeed, given that people come to salvation only after being called by the Holy Spirit. Yet, Secret Rapturists would have people believe that the Holy Spirit's presence on earth is not required for the Jewish people to accept their Messiah and bring others to salvation.

During the tribulation, these new Believers – without benefit of the indwelling Holy Spirit's presence – will refuse the Mark of the Beast and willingly be persecuted and martyred for their faith. All without benefit of the Holy Spirit's presence. I have personally heard this taught from the pulpit.

God has a plan that He laid out in plain sight in His Word. He reveals His secrets to us just as He did to Daniel.

Daniel 2:22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Our God has never left His people unprepared. He wants us to know His plans for us. God wants us to know that it is **the righteous who will be left on earth and that it is the wicked who will be removed!**

Isaiah 4:2 In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

3 And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem:

Verse two is about those of Israel who have escaped something. It talks about how beautiful and glorious it is. But notice verse three where it speaks of those who are left in Zion and remain in Jerusalem. Those who are left are called holy, not wicked. The wicked are gone – the holy are left. This verse does not say that the holy have returned – no, they are left.

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell

before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, **These are they which came out of great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelations shows us there will be a great multitude of people who have come **OUT OF** great Tribulation. It does not say that they died or were martyred. It says they came **OUT** of the Tribulation. When you come **OUT** of something, that means you have been through it – you have experienced it.

They came **OUT OF** the Tribulation – or **THROUGH** – and washed their garments in the Blood of the Lamb despite the Tribulation. This is the multitude's claim to holiness. They went through the Tribulation and still came out clean on the other side.

THROUGH and **OUT OF** are very important words. **THROUGH** means that you didn't miss it. **OUT OF** means the same thing. You had to be **IN** something in order to come **OUT OF** it.

God provides specific instruction about what to do when trials, temptations and tribulations come our way. Seeking to leave is never one of His instructions.

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

We are to count it all joy when we fall into temptations. There is no place in the Bible that tells us to wait to be removed FROM or even to try to avoid temptations. If early Believers had not understood the need to stand firm and let the joy of the Lord be their strength it is doubtful that we would have a Christian Church today.

Those prior generations of Believers were tortured – beaten, thrown to the lions, burned at the stake, beheaded, bruised and bloodied for their faith. None of them were removed, nor sought to be removed, from their tribulations.

Furthermore, the end times tribulation is not the only period of Tribulation mentioned in the Bible. Deuteronomy mentions tribulation, then there are 21 other times that the word appears in the Bible, 19 of them in the NT where Paul talks about the tribulations he endured and expected to endure in his future. He discusses tribulation with Believers to buttress them for the times that he saw coming. And Paul was right – Believers in subsequent centuries paid dearly for their beliefs. Paul paid for his belief with his life.

If Believers are supposed to wait to be taken **OUT OF** their troubles, why does God spend so much time teaching His people to rejoice while going **THROUGH** trouble?

1 Peter 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

We are to stand back and watch God's hand of salvation in these end times just like the Children of Israel did during the Exodus.

Exodus 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

Nehemiah recounts how God delivered all of Israel **THROUGH** the waters of the Red Sea.

Nehemiah 9:9 And didst see the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, and heardest their cry by the Red sea;

11 And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest into the deeps, as a stone into the mighty waters.

It was their persecutors who were thrown into the deeps to be destroyed. God has a pattern that He never changes. This pattern really started with Noah whose family went **THROUGH** – or came **OUT OF** – the flood with his family in tact.

Matthew 24:38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Yeshua/Jesus teaches us the rescue pattern of God in Matthew 24. First, we see that people were so indifferent to the coming apocalypse of Noah's time that they carried on as usual. These **indifferent** people are also known as **wicked** people. In the next verse, we see it is the wicked and indifferent people who are taken away. Yeshua/Jesus said His return would be like that.

What does this mean? In verse 40, two people are working together in the field. One is taken away and the other left. The one that is taken away is the indifferent, wicked person just as in the days of Noah.

Matthew 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Another group of people to be rescued by God was the mixed multitude that fled Egypt. This is the prime pattern for how God delivers His people. God saves His

people from destruction while they are still on the earth. He takes them **THROUGH** the time of trouble. Who was destroyed in the Exodus story? It was Pharaoh and his army.

Why does God choose to save His people while they are still on earth rather than whisk them away into the heavens until the danger passes? The answer is so He can show His might, get all the glory and praise, and draw unbelievers to Him.

Psalms 66:6 He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

10 For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.

12 Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.

Israel rejoiced because of the way God brought them **THROUGH** their Tribulation. The Psalmist sang about the people coming through the Red Sea on dry land. This has been a source of rejoicing for over three thousand five hundred years! The result of God saving His people **THROUGH** their Tribulations is praise and rejoicing to God. He does the most difficult thing right before our eyes so that we will know that He is God! He did not remove the people in order to save them, He took them **THROUGH** their troubles in order to save them. God swept away the enemies. He did NOT rapture the Children of Israel away.

Psalms 106:8 Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

The Psalmist understood that God did things this way so that His power and might should be known. It is much more difficult to save millions of people in the midst of their trouble than it is to remove them temporarily.

The Book of Daniel teaches us how God is with us **IN** our troubles. Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego were not removed. They were taken **THROUGH** their situation. And the Son of God was with them in the fiery furnace. Daniel was not removed. He went **THROUGH** his situation and was delivered by a miracle of God. Unlike what God does for Believers, at the time of Judgment He does not deliver sinners, He destroys them.

Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

Isaiah clearly teaches that God will destroy, or remove, sinners – not His own people. We are going to inherit His land. He will use us to glorify Him by taking us **THROUGH** the troubles of the end times – not by removing us. It is the sinners that get removed.

Yeshua/Jesus taught using stories so that we would be sure to not miss the point. The parable of the wheat and the tares illustrates very well who will remain and who will be removed.

Matthew 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

The tares are removed, not the wheat – not the good plants. The tares are gathered and burned. The gathering of the wheat into the barn is symbolic of gathering God's people into His Kingdom that He is going to set up on earth. The purpose of removing people is to pass judgment on them and to destroy them.

Matthew 13:47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

Again, we see Yeshua/Jesus teaching the same pattern. The people are gathered. A sorting process occurs. The bad people are cast away – they are removed. The good people are left behind. Tim LaHaye and Hal Lindsey got it backwards.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have Tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Yeshua/Jesus says we will have great tribulation, but we are to be cheerful because He has overcome the world. Tim LaHaye and Hal Lindsey do not give credit to Yeshua/Jesus for having accomplished what He came for – the overcoming of the world. The Secret Rapture theory removes Yeshua/Jesus' triumph because it suggests that He has NOT overcome the world since He

has to do the lesser thing which is to remove His people in order to save them.

This is not what God will do in these end times. He is making the way for His people to glorify Him and those who are not His will know with certainty that He is God. The Secret Rapture removes this glory from God by downplaying His power to deliver His people as He has throughout history.

Yeshua/Jesus prayed that God would not take us out of the world, but that the Father should keep us from the evil of the world.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Yeshua/Jesus prayed that God would leave us **IN** the world and keep us from evil. This is opposite of the Secret Rapture. The Rapture keeps us from evil, but only after removing us from the earth – the exact opposite of Yeshua/Jesus' prayer.

The apostles knew that entering the Kingdom comes only by tribulations.

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Those who seek to miss the Tribulation by sneaking out via the Secret Rapture are like those who sneak into the fold by the back door.

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

God provided us armor. The armor has the purpose of getting us through tribulations, temptations and trials.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Why would God go to so much trouble to armor us if we were not going to face tribulation? One might say that the armor was for those who had to live before the time when everyone will be Raptured away. But this doesn't make sense, does it? God doesn't change His patterns. He doesn't change His rules. What applies to one always applies to all others.

The Secret Rapture has fostered a Church full of foolish virgins. They not only do not care about what is going to happen on earth during the Tribulation, but they will not be prepared for it when they find themselves in the midst of it. The first preparation for the Tribulation, as well as the fate of evildoers, is given in Psalms 37.

Psalms 37:7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

It is evildoers who are cut off and the righteous who inherit the earth. Yet, the Secret Rapture doctrine teaches that God removes His people and literally turns His world, HIS earth, over to the devil for a short period of time. God has not ever, nor will He ever, turn His creation over to Satan. Revelation reveals how Satan tries to control the earth, but nowhere does the Bible say that God will ever turn His Kingdom – the earth – over to Satan.

The earth is for God's glory and God's people. The wicked are not going to inherit, be given or gain complete control of the earth even for a short time.

Psalms 37:28 For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

29 The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.

Throughout the Bible, God teaches it will be His people who inherit the earth. He even tells us the wicked person will pass away. The Psalmist even prophesies that the wicked person will be sought and not found!

Psalms 37:34 Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.

35 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

36 Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

But the righteous will be found in the earth!

Proverbs 2:21 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

22 But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

The wicked will be cut off and removed from the earth!

Proverbs 10:29 The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

30 The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

The righteous will NEVER be removed! How much more clear can it be?

Luke 17:36 two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.

This scenario ends in the devouring of the body by eagles. God said that he will give evil peoples' bodies to the birds to eat.

Ezekiel 39:4 Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

God is going to remove evil, wickedness and sin from the earth. He will never remove righteousness, goodness and holiness from the earth. This is why the Secret Rapture doctrine is not only a false doctrine, but is from the pit of hell!

The Secret Rapture is an insult to earlier martyrs and anti-Semitic to the Jewish people. It teaches Believers that they are so special that God will do for them what He has never done before – He spares them any and all trouble just because of who they are! God is not a respecter of persons. He does not care who you are, but what you do. What an insult to teach that God is going to take Christians and leave the Jews, who are the apple of God's eye, to face all the Tribulation without the presence of God! Know this: Nowhere does the Bible say that God will ever abandon His people, Jewish or Christian.

Dispensationalism and Replacement Theology, though created 1,600 years apart, are actually sister doctrines. Both curse the Jewish people. Both set Christians above the Jewish people. Neither have any scriptural basis. They are both the result of what I call "Doctrine by Extrapolation". Extrapolate a little bit of scripture out of context here and a little bit out of context there and it is possible to make the scriptures say exactly what they do not mean.

Yeshua/Jesus would not even allow Himself to be "caught up". No, He faced His moment. We are to be like

Him. We are not above Him. So, we WILL face the Tribulation in the end times. Some will come through it alive and others will die, but in the end we, the righteous, will inherit the earth which is God's Kingdom.

Is God just or is He not? The Secret Rapture theory is definitely unjust. While today's spoiled American generation gets to fly away before their troubles start, God's saints of past times did not get this option. One hundred million people have died in Russia as martyrs just since Communism began. Thousands of people are martyred worldwide every year. The Chinese Christian Church experienced a huge falling away when Mao Tse Tung became their leader because they were taught that they would be removed from the earth before their Tribulation began. Yet, millions of Chinese Christians were martyred. Not one of them was Raptured out. Not even Paul was not Raptured out. Polycarp and hundreds of millions of Believers were not Raptured out. The proponents of this evil doctrine look to Matt 24:43-44 to substantiate their claim.

Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

They say Yeshua/Jesus comes as a thief in the night, which to them means quietly and secretly. These two scriptures are at the head of the "snatch and disappear" theory. Yet, 1 Thessalonians contradicts Matthew when read in this light. The Bible is a book of harmony – not discrepancies.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Clearly, there is going to be a lot of commotion when Yeshua/Jesus returns. No thief in his right mind would come into a house shouting and loudly blowing a shofar to announce His presence. Then Matthew 24:43-44 must have a different meaning than the twisted one that most Christians believe. The meaning of this scripture has to do with timing, not method.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Yeshua/Jesus is seen when He comes. Thieves hope to not be seen when they come. They hope to slip in, steal something and leave without being caught. But our God comes on the clouds in the daylight so that every eye can see Him! This is His method. The scripture in Matthew 24 is all about timing, meaning that He comes when He is least expected by the wicked! Believers should have a fairly good idea about the timing

of His arrival. After all, He spent a lot of time detailing what to look for so we would know.

Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Revelation 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Again, it is about the timing, not that He is coming quietly. We are to watch, stay dressed and ready to go because of His timing. Now, having saved the best of these scriptures for last, let us see what happens when our Lord arrives as a thief in the night.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Now you see it! His timing is as a thief in the night, but his method is with great noise and lots of commotion. As He returns, the heavens pass away with a great noise and the elements melt with fervent heat. Does this seem like a quiet, secretive entry into the earth?

This scripture written by Peter coincides with Isaiah and John's Revelation about what is going to occur at that moment.

Isaiah 34:4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

Revelation 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

At this point, no one has any reason to continue believing that Yeshua/Jesus is going to be secretive and sneaky when He returns. He is not going to "steal" people off of the earth because our Savior is not a thief.

Beside the teaching that Yeshua/Jesus comes in a secretive, sneaky way to snatch His people off the earth and those who are left behind endure 3 ½ or 7 years of tribulation, depending on who you listen to, now, there is an additional twist to this doctrine. They say the Antichrist is revealed after the Rapture. This is backward.

2 Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

3 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;

The son of perdition has to be revealed BEFORE Yeshua/Jesus' return. For now, let us forget what the Apostolic writers taught. Let us turn to Yeshua/Jesus' own words.

Matthew 24:29 Immediately **AFTER the tribulation of those days** shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

AFTER the tribulation, He comes. How much clearer can He say this?

Mark 13:24 But in those days, **AFTER that tribulation**, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

We will meet Him in the air **AFTER** the tribulation. Another last ploy of the Secret Rapture crowd is this verse:

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Now don't get all excited because you think finally here is a scripture that clearly shows there is a Rapture because "lookie-lookie" He is coming with His raptured saints. The Greek word for saints in this verse is 'hagios'. It means "holy", "most holy thing" or "saint" depending on the context. And "context" is the issue with this faulty translation.

In Matthew 25:31, this same word is translated as 'holy'. It is in this verse that Yeshua/Jesus explains who it is that accompanies Him upon His return to earth.

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and **all the HOLY ANGELS with him**, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Whereas in Jude 1:14 the word 'hagios' is mistranslated as 'saints', in Matthew 25:31 it is correctly translated as 'holy'. The translator was inconsistent or failed to correlate these two scriptures. It is clear from

Yeshua/Jesus' words that 'holy angels' will come with Him to the earth, not raptured human saints.

Some Believers point to the taking of Enoch and Elijah as proof that God "raptures" people and that God has a pattern of "rapturing" people. The taking of Enoch and Elijah are not examples of rapture. According to the doctrine of Dispensational Preterism, AKA the Pre-Trib Rapture, it is a means to escape tribulation. Enoch was taken because he walked with God, not because he faced tribulation. The same can be said of Elijah, one of God's most powerful prophets.

These two men are called "my two witnesses" by God.

Revelation 11:3 And I will give power unto **my two witnesses**, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

The "I" and "my" of Revelation 11:3 is Yeshua/Jesus – God. Yeshua/Jesus spoke of two witnesses elsewhere.

Deuteronomy 17:6 At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.

Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

Anytime there is going to be Judgment, there must be a minimum of two witnesses. God took these two holy men to Heaven from where they have been watching everything that has happened on the earth from the time they were taken. At the appointed time, they will be sent to earth to give final warning to mankind.

Enoch and Elijah have never died. Of Enoch, Paul wrote:

Hebrews 11:5 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.

The Greek word for 'translated' is 'metatithemi'. This is Strong's number 3326. It has several related meanings: *to transpose (two things, one of which is put in place of the other); to transfer; to change; to transfer one's self or suffer one's self to be transferred; to go or pass over; to fall away or desert from one person or thing to another.* Enoch and Elijah can be said to have both transferred and to have passed over to another place – i.e. they simply went somewhere else.

Enoch was transferred or transported to another place so that he would not experience death at the end of his normal lifespan (Hebrews 11:5). He is alive in Heaven with Elijah. Enoch and Elijah did not die at their appointed times, but they will die in the future. God said that sin causes death. All men sin, so all men experience

death. Since God or His Word does not change and God does not make exceptions (even His own Son who was sinless died), the conclusion must be reached that both Enoch and Elijah will die because they are sinful men like everyone else. God will not make an exception for them.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Enoch and Elijah's bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem. They will die because they have not yet fulfilled their own human destiny of death.

Some claim that the story of Enoch and Elijah are examples of how some people are spared the fate of death. This supposedly supports the 'rapture' theory. According to scripture, Enoch and Elijah's bodies were not changed or transformed in the way that Believers' bodies will be changed/transformed when we meet Yeshua/Jesus in the air.

1 Corinthians 15:52 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**.

We shall all be changed when we meet Yeshua/Jesus in the air. The Greek word for 'change' in 1 Corinthians 15:52 is 'allasso'. Strong's number is 236. It has only one meaning: to transform. We will be transformed – an occurrence that Enoch and Elijah have not yet experienced. They will only experience the transformation of a corrupt body into an incorrupt body at the time of their own resurrections.

The stories of Enoch and Elijah do not point to a "rapture before tribulation" pattern. These were two individuals, not two entire populations of people. They were taken by God for a specific purpose to be revealed at a later time.

There will be no Pre-Tribulation Rapture. We must prepare to go through the tribulation. Ten years ago, we could see the end times coming. People have seen the end times coming since the Apostles were alive. But, now we are starting into the end times. The end time is no longer to be expected – the end time is not "coming" or on its way – the end time is here. We no longer have the luxury of setting aside discussion or the liberty of learning to get this right later on. Those who fail to get this correct will perish.

Hosea 4:6 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.

The Tribulation confronts us **NOW**. Events and situations are falling into place daily! The birth pangs of the Tribulation are coming closer and closer together. Only ten years ago, the spectre of the Tribulation was yet far into the future. We could afford to disagree over "Pre-Trib, Mid-Trib or Post-Trib". We no longer have that luxury because world events are shaping up precisely as

prophesied throughout the Bible. It is imperative that Believers come to the realization that they will be going through the Tribulation, not be raptured from it.

Why is this so important? Can a Believer lose his salvation if he does not believe he will go through the Tribulation? No. But he will very likely lose his life and cause his loved ones to lose theirs, as well. It is important to come to grips with this reality because God provides us another pattern. It is one of preparation. Noah prepared by building a way of escape as given to him by God. Joseph prepared for famine (economic collapse) as shown to him by God in a dream. The Hebrews prepared for Passover and leaving Egypt by listening to a prophet of God.

I repeat: If you do not understand that you will be here **THROUGH** the Tribulation, you will not be prepared when it comes. This increases your chances of perishing and causing those you love to perish, as well. Understanding the apostasy of the Secret Rapture doctrine will empower you to be among the overcomers spoken of in the book of Revelation.

1 Corinthians 15:52 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.

At the last trump, we shall see Him. Before then, we must go through our time of tribulation just like our forefathers who came out of Egypt. We must prepare for God's pattern is not the removal of His people, but the glorious deliverance of them **THROUGH** their troubles.

If we are being obedient to ALL of God's Word, including the Torah, His plan for us in these end times is clear. It has been shown to us in the Exodus story. We only need to recognize the pattern He has shown us. He has a plan of deliverance. God never leaves His people without hope and protection. For the details of this miraculous plan of deliverance **THROUGH** the tribulation, see *The Greater Exodus* series of articles written by Monte Judah of Lion and Lamb Ministries compiled by Kimberly Rogers. See you on the other side of the Jordan!

Shalom,
Kimberly Rogers

Permission is granted to reprint and GIVE AWAY copies of this article. Changing this article in any way is a violation of copyright laws and is prohibited. Copyright 2008.