

**The Rapture**

**Lesson Number 16**

**Hebrews 6:1-3 (KJV)**

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of **resurrection of the dead**, and of eternal judgment. 3And this will we do, if God permit.

Last week we talked about what happens when we die. We also talked about how Christians are more gullible, many times **(Luke 16:8b)**, than the “children of the world.” This is the reason **we must be very careful** to check out what we hear and what we believe by the Word of God.

Christians tend to take things on “blind faith.” Do you remember when you first became a Christian and everything was perfect? You were like a sponge, soaking in everything you heard.

Paul told us that many deceivers will fill the earth in the last days (2 Timothy 3). These deceivers don’t walk around with a big X on their forehead and they aren’t going to tell you what they are teaching is wrong. As a matter of fact, Paul says those people are deceived themselves and that is why they go on deceiving others. They are “sincere” but they are also “sincerely wrong.”

How are we to know if these people are wrong? Many of them are extremely charismatic, many are great orators. Many of them just have a way with people. They are able to motivate people and lead people and encourage people in what they teach. Some of them even teach the Word but as you research what they are teaching, you will find a little discrepancy here or there.

There are some that put on miraculous meetings with thousands and thousands of people in attendance.

There may be TRUE, VERIFIABLE MIRACLES happen in their ministries!

Let me tell you about one of the greatest ministers of our time, whether we like him or not. This man, first of all, has a television program that is viewed by thousands of people weekly. It is broadcast all around the world. This television program is the seed of his ministry. Without the television program he would not be able to show the **spectacular** things that happen in his crusades and he would not be able to motivate people to come to his future crusades.

Who is it that go to this man’s crusades? **It is mostly Christians!** He reaches very few unbelievers.

When these Christians go to his crusades, they are **expecting** to see the **spectacular!**

Always remember this; **“The spiritual is not always spectacular!”**

It can be spectacular but probably more times than not, it isn’t. The problem is, the Christians who follow this guy are walking by “sight” more than they are walking by “faith.” They will feel let down if they don’t see all the spectacular things that are going on.

Seeking a Sign is Evil! WHY? Because we need to **learn to walk by FAITH** (in God’s Word; in all He says) instead of depending on **what we “experience” or walking by our 5 physical senses!**

**Matthew 16:1-4 (NLT)**

One day the Pharisees and Sadducees came to **test** Jesus, demanding that he show them a miraculous sign from heaven to prove his authority. 2He replied, “You know the saying, ‘Red sky at night means fair weather tomorrow; 3red sky in the morning means foul weather all day.’ You know how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but you don’t know how to interpret the signs of the times! 4Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign, but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah.” Then Jesus left them and went away.

1. The first problem is that the Pharisees and Sadducees **CAME TO TEST JESUS**.
	1. We are only told to test God in the area of tithes and offerings!
2. The Pharisees and Sadducees **SINCERELY** felt like they were about the Father’s business!
	1. They were sincere, but **SINCERELY WRONG!**
	2. The Sadducees **DID NOT EVEN BELIEVE IN A BODILY RESURRECTION!**
		1. They didn’t even know God!
3. They demanded a **MIRACLE** or a **SIGN** to prove Jesus was who He said He was!
4. The ONLY sign they would get **FROM GOD** was the **SIGN OF THE PROPHET JONAH**.

**Matthew 12:38-41 (KJV)**

38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. 39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here.

**Back to Our Ministerial Example**

This minister’s **meetings are a “mass hypnotism.”** Let me explain this to you a little further.

**Hypnotism is simply “the power of suggestion.”**

Most of you have probably seen a mass hypnotist at work. The first thing the hypnotist does is to perform a series of tests to see who is open to the power of suggestion and who isn’t. The hypnotist may have the people all raise their arms after he supposedly puts some kind of spell on them and then he may tell them they can’t put their arm down, no matter how hard they try. He will watch closely and those that aren’t open to the power of suggestion will be weeded out and sent back to their seats. Eventually, he will have a few people left on stage **who are subject to everything he tells them** and the show gets hilarious from there on out.

This minister’s crusade is done almost the exact same way. It starts out by people attending who are **EXPECTING to see the spectacular and the miraculous.**

Next comes the music. This minister will make sure to hire the very best musicians available because he knows the music is the driving force behind the emotions. The music will alternate between slow, soft places and then fast, powerful places. Then the minister will begin to speak softly and in long, drawn out phrases, grabbing the attention of those in attendance.

Eventually, he will begin to declare how the Holy Spirit is moving across the crowds. After a time of this, he will ask people who have been healed or who have had the Holy Spirit do something in their lives to come forward.

As these people move toward the stage, there are people from his ministry who will question those who come forward. Only the ones who are more susceptible to the power of suggestion are allowed to move onto the stage. Once they move these people onto the stage, this is when the show really starts!

Bear in mind, as I tell you all of this, I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit! I know that the Lord still heals! I have born witness to spectacular things by the Holy Spirit. But, I also want you to know that some of these things are NOT from God! **The ONLY way we can know and “discern the spirits” is to make sure we are in the Word of God!**

This minister will wave his coat at people on the stage and they will be slain in the spirit. He will do other things that really put on a show. **People who attend, expecting to see the SPECTACULAR are rarely disappointed!** Being slain in the spirit **IS** a Biblical experience. When the angel came from heaven and rolled away the stone at the entrance to Jesus’ tomb, the Roman guards who saw him were slain in the spirit! Roman guards were the elite of the elite when it came to soldiers. They did not just fall down!

**Matthew 28:1-4 (NLT)**

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. 2Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and **they fell into a dead faint**.

**So realize that the world is FULL OF DECEIVERS!**

**I cannot encourage you to get yourself into the Word of God. Even if you only study three scriptures a day, that is twenty-one in a week and well over one thousand in a year.**

**What About the Rapture of the Church?**

Let’s start about the arguments against the rapture of the church.

1. The word, “Rapture” is never used in the Bible.
	1. This is true. But the Word Bible is never used in the Bible either.
	2. The term “Rapture” simply represents a **“catching away”** or **“the moving of someone or a group of people from one place to another.”**
2. The idea of the rapture began with 19th Century Theologian John Nelson Darby. It was not taught before him.
	1. It is true that Darby taught the “Pre-Tribulation Rapture.”
	2. While the teaching of the “Pre-Tribulation Rapture” may not have been widely taught in the “Church” (at this time the majority of the church was the Roman Catholic Church), **it is included in the Bible** where Paul originally taught about it.
	3. Because of this, we have to believe that those who followed the Bible closely had to have talked about this great catching away that Paul taught.
	4. There are times that God chooses for things to be revealed to His people.

**Daniel 12:4 (NLT)**

But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book **until** the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase."

* 1. Morgan Edwards published an essay in 1788 about the pre-trib rapture.
	2. Writings by Catholic Priest Manuel Lacunza as early as 1812 speak of the pre-trib rapture.
	3. **We have to believe it has always been taught** by someone since Paul since it was part of what the Apostle Paul wrote about.
1. While some preachers don’t believe in a rapture at all, others teach that there will be three different times at which a rapture will occur.
	1. **Pre-Tribulation Rapture** – This is the idea that the rapture will occur before the “Great Tribulation.”
	2. **Mid-Tribulation Rapture** – This is the idea that the rapture will occur during the middle of Daniel’s 70th week, or the Great Tribulation.
	3. **Post-Tribulation Rapture** – Obviously, this is the idea that the rapture will occur at the end of the Great Tribulation.
	4. I will show you how the Bible is very clear that the Church will be caught away before the time of God’s wrath which will be poured out on the earth. This time is referred to as the **Great Tribulation** also known as **“Jacob’s Trouble.”**
	5. There will be smaller raptures at the other times mentioned, mid-tribulation and post-tribulation.
	6. There have already been raptures which have been mentioned in the Bible but were not called “raptures.”
		1. When Enoch walked into Heaven.

**Genesis 5:23, 24 (NLT)**

Enoch lived 365 years, walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.

* + 1. When Elijah was taken to Heaven by a whirlwind.

**2 Kings 2:11 (NLT)**

As they were walking along and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared, drawn by horses of fire. It drove between the two men, separating them, and Elijah was carried by a whirlwind into heaven.

* + 1. After Stephen baptized the Ethiopian. He was taken between twelve and fourteen miles instantly!

**Acts 8:39-40 (KJV)**

And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.
40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

1. The Bible says that the just who live for the Lord SHALL suffer persecution instead of getting out of it through the rapture. Christians are martyred every day on this earth for their belief in Christ so to think that we won’t go through persecution because of the rapture is wrong.

**2 Timothy 3:12**

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

1. In the 20th century, it is a fact that more Christians were martyred for their faith than all of the martyrs combined in the centuries before that. There is no doubt we live in perilous times but we don’t see such persecution in this country like they do in the Middle East and Indonesia.
2. Daily, many Christians are killed for their faith in Christ.
3. The Rapture was not meant to stop everyone for dying for their faith.
4. The Rapture will come before a time like has never been seen before on this earth. It is a time where God begins to deal with Israel as a nation again.
5. It is called Daniel’s 70th Week, a week comprised of 7 years.
6. These 7 years deal with Israel specifically as a nation and Israel as God’s people.

**Between AD 33–2000, OVER 70,000,000 Christians were martyred! About half of those died in the 20th century (1900’s).**

Christians are the most persecuted religious group worldwide. **An average of at least 180 Christians around the world are killed each month for their faith.** (Source: Open Doors USA)

Christians in more than 60 countries face persecution from their governments or surrounding neighbors simply because of their belief in Christ. (Source: U.S. Department of State)

One of the worst countries in the world for the persecution of Christians is North Korea. With the exception of four official state-controlled churches in Pyongyang, Christians in North Korea face the risk of detention in the prison camps, severe torture and, in some cases, execution for practicing their religious beliefs. North Koreans suspected of having contact with South Korean or other foreign missionaries in China, and those caught in possession of a Bible, have been known to be executed. (Source: Christian Solidarity Worldwide)

In 41 of the 50 worst nations for persecution, Christians are being persecuted by Islamic extremists. (Source: Open Doors)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

An average of 159,960 Christians worldwide are martyred for their faith per year. **(438 per day!)**
[Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (2010)](http://worldchristiandatabase.org/wcd/)

As The New American [documented extensively](http://www.thenewamerican.com/world-news/asia/item/10970-christian-massacres-a-result-of-us-foreign-policy) after an in-depth investigation, U.S. government meddling has been closely linked to Christian persecution around the globe — especially in the Middle East. From funding regimes and organizations that ruthlessly persecute believers to overthrowing governments that protected Christians and allowing Islamists to take over, Washington's machinations have featured prominently in the growing terror facing followers of Christ worldwide.

In fact, some of the worst persecutors of Christians are actually top U.S. government allies, such as the dictatorship ruling Saudi Arabia. Others, in addition to being allies, are also top recipients of foreign aid — the government of Pakistan, for example, or Afghanistan. In the Ivory Coast, meanwhile, the Obama administration and the United Nations helped overthrow the Christian president and [replaced him](http://www.thenewamerican.com/world-news/africa/item/8321-un-backed-forces-slaughter-christians-in-ivory-coast) with a Muslim central banker whose militias slaughtered countless innocent Christians on the path to seizing power.

**http://www.thenewamerican.com/culture/faith-and-morals/item/17417-christian-martyrdom-doubled-in-2013-persecution-growing**

**Dispensations and The Church Age**

To fully understand the “Rapture” we must understand the age in which we live. God has dealt with people on this earth in different “dispensations.”

In each dispensation, He dealt with mankind differently.

The Age of Innocence was when Adam and Eve lived in innocence, before any law and before they had “conscience.”

There have been several dispensations. Last year, I taught about the ages and dispensations and they are available on our [class website](http://www.jaymc.com/truthsowers).

Under the Age of the Law, people were required to live by the law! The whole purpose of that was to show them that they absolutely can’t live by the law and they need Jesus to be the propitiation for their sin.

**Luke 16:16 (KJV)**

The law and the prophets *were* until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

The Age of the Law continued on until Jesus came and until He was crucified.

You can find people claiming that the Age of Grace began at all different times. Some will say it began on the Day of Pentecost when Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit and the believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Personally, I believe the Age of Grace began after Jesus had been resurrected, had ascended to Heaven to do the work of the High Priest and the work of the Lamb and then He returned to Earth and met with the Apostles and other believers in a locked, secured room. At this point, Jesus breathed on them and I believe these believers were born again!

**John 20:22 (KJV)**

And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

At this point, the Age of the Law, was suspended and the Age of Grace began. Some people refer to this as the **Church Age.**

The Old Testament Prophets **had glimpses** of this Age of Grace but they could not completely grasp what it was. The Lord kept this age a mystery to these Old Testament Prophets.

In this Age of Grace, salvation is available to all, Jew, Gentile, black, white, Asian, Mexican, American, Russian, etc. Everyone is equal in God’s sight.

**Acts 10:34 (NLT)**

Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism.

In this age, God is not dealing specifically with Israel as a nation as He was before. We did see Israel become a nation again in 1948 and we see Israel in the news every day but at the end of this age of grace, God will deal specifically with Israel as a nation and as His people.

The Rapture will mark the beginning of the “seven years of trials and tribulation.” This is also known as the “Great Tribulation” or “Jacob’s Trouble.”

Who was Jacob? If you will remember the Lord changed Jacob’s name to Israel!

These seven years of tribulation will be like the world has never seen before.

**Jacob’s Trouble**

**Jeremiah 30:7 (NLT)**

In all history there has never been such a time of terror. It will be a time of trouble for my people Israel. Yet in the end they will be saved!

The Church will be raptured, taken away to heaven, and God will begin to deal specifically with Israel as a nation and as His people again.

This will be a time when the world will come against Israel, led by Satan through the Anti-Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NLT)**

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. 15**We tell you this directly from the Lord[1]**: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. 16For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. 17Then, together with them, **we who are still alive and remain on the earth[2]** will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18So encourage each other with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (NLT)**

But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. **We will not all die[3]**, but **we will all be transformed!** 52**It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye**,**[4]**when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. 53For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

1. The Revelation of the Rapture came directly from the Lord.
	1. This had to have been through a spiritual gift (1 Cor. 12).
		1. Tongues followed by interpretation of tongues.
		2. Prophecy
		3. Word of Knowledge
		4. Word of Wisdom

These spiritual gifts are SO IMPORTANT for direction and guidance to the Church body!

1. If we REMAIN, we obviously will be ALIVE!
	1. I believe it is talking about those of us who are “Alive in Christ.”
	2. There will be many who call themselves “Christians” who are not ALIVE in Christ.

**John 15:7 (KJV)**

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

* 1. I do not believe that everyone who calls themselves a Christian will be taken in the Rapture. Only those who **ABIDE** in Christ shall be taken.

**Matthew 7:21-24 (NLT)**

“Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ 23But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’ 24“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.

1. There is one generation of Christians who will not taste death.
	1. **Hebrews 9:27 (KJV)**

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

* 1. God has set certain laws into motion or into place.
	2. Sometimes those laws are circumvented.
	3. In this case, God declared that, through the fall of Adam, every man has to die.
	4. Two men have not died in their generation up until this point but they will die at the end of the seven years of Tribulation.
		1. Enoch
		2. Elijah
	5. Only one generation of Christians will not taste death because they will be delivered from death through the Rapture.
	6. Paul said in 1 Cor. 15:51, “We will not all die!”
1. We will be changed or transformed immediately at the trump of Christ.
	1. The Bible does NOT say we will be taken immediately.
	2. The way the story of the rapture is told, those of us who are alive and remain will be taken to heaven right after those who have died in Christ, with almost no time differential.
	3. We will be transformed immediately after those who have died in Christ have gone on to heaven.
	4. What will happen once we are transformed?
	5. One of God’s “laws” that has been set in place is that people must “HEAR” the Word of God in order to be saved.
	6. The Word of God must be “PREACHED” in order for people to HEAR the Word of God and for them to be saved.

**Romans 10:13-15 (KJV)**

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

* 1. During the tribulation, people will be saved BUT if all of us Christians are taken off of the earth, how will those people be saved without anyone to preach to them?
	2. I believe we will put on immortality, our bodies will be changed and will all preach around this world to Jews and they will be born again.
	3. We will travel at the speed of thought as the Lord directs us to different places in the earth.
	4. We will not be limited by time or space!

The seven years are split into two, three and one half year periods. During the first period, the Anti-Christ will come into power. Up until that time, the only thing that will keep him from coming into power is the Church!

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-6 (NLT)**

Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. 2Don’t be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Don’t believe them, even if they claim to have had a spiritual vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us. 3Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Thessalonians+2&version=NLT#fen-NLT-29625b)] is revealed—the one who brings destruction. 4He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God. 5Don’t you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? 6And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes.

**The Purpose of this Epistle**

The purpose of this letter to the Thessalonians was to let them know that the “day of the Lord” had not started yet.

Paul told them that there were some things that had to happen first, a great falling away from the Lord and the rapture, before Jesus would return.

Paul was telling them not to worry about people who came saying they had had a revelation, a vision or if they even supposedly had a letter from Paul stating that the day of the Lord had begun. When it happens, the whole world will KNOW!

**Two Events that Precede the Day of the Lord**

**1. The Falling away.** Greek: *apostasia* (GSN-<G646>), defection, revolt, apostasy. Used only here and in Acts 21:21, but the same as apostasion, divorce, in Mt. 5:31; 19:7; Mk. 10:4. The Greek here has the definite article, "the apostasy," referring to the great apostasy during the tribulation days between the rapture and the second coming of Christ (Mt. 24:4-31; Rev. 6:1 -- Rev. 19:21). At the rapture of all dead and living in Christ in a moment (1Cor. 15:23,[51-58](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Co+15%3A51-58); 1Th. 4:13-18), not one soul will be left on earth who is a Christian. Multitudes will soon be saved afterward through an awakening (Acts 2:16-21; Rev. 6:9-11; 7:1-17; 12:17). The rest will become so hardened as to seek to destroy these being saved in those days (Rev. 9:20-21; 16:2,[9-11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+16%3A9-11)). The great whore of Rev. 17 will destroy multitudes of Christians during the first 3 1/2 years of Daniel's 70th week, while the Antichrist is coming to power over the 10 kingdoms inside the old Roman Empire (Rev. 6:9-11; 17:6). When Antichrist comes to full power over the 10 kingdoms in the middle of Daniel's 70th week, he, together with the 10 kings, will destroy the great whore, establish the worship of the beast, and kill multitudes who will not worship him and his image or take his brands (Rev. 7:9-17; 13:1-18; 14:9-13; 15:2-4; 16:6-11; Rev. 2-4; 17:16-17).

**2. The man of sin is revealed** (2Th. 2:3).

Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

The man of sin will be revealed as quickly as the Church is removed from the earth. He cannot be revealed until we are all taken off this earth. So his revelation will correspond with the Pre-Tribulation Rapture.

**The Hinderer of Lawlessness**

1. It is something already known (2Th. 2:6).

2. It now hinders lawlessness (2Th. 2:6-7).

3. It is strong enough to prevent the revelation of the Antichrist (2Th. 2:6-8).

4. It will hinder lawlessness until it is removed from the earth (2Th. 2:7-8).

5. It is called "he" (2Th. 2:7).

6. It will be removed from the earth before the second coming (2Th. 2:7-8).

7. It will not be here when Christ comes to destroy Antichrist (2Th. 2:7-8).

**The Hinderer is One of Three Things:**

1. Governments (Rom. 13:1-7; 1Pet. 2:13)

2. The Holy Spirit (Jn. 16:7-15)

3. The church (Mt. 5:13; 1Cor. 2:15-16; Eph. 6:12-18; 2Cor. 10:4-7)

The hinderer of lawlessness must be the one that will be taken out of the world before Antichrist can be revealed (2Th. 2:6-8). Will governments be taken out of the world? No, because Antichrist reigns over many kingdoms (Dan. 7:24; 11:40-45), and other kings reign over the rest of the earth all during the time the hinderer of lawlessness is removed (Rev. 11:15; 16:13-16). Will it be the Holy Spirit? No, for He will be here all through the tribulation and forever (Jn. 14:16; Acts 2:16-21; Rev. 12:17 with Rev. 19:10; Zech. 12:10-13:1). Multitudes will be saved by the Holy Spirit during the tribulation, as now (Acts 2:16-21; 12:5,[17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+12%3A17); 15:2-4; 20:4-6). So it must be the church. The church will be raptured before Antichrist comes and this is the only one of the hinderers of lawlessness that will be removed from the earth (1Th. 4:16).

Dake's Annotated Reference Bible: Containing the Old and New Testaments of the Authorized or King James Version Text.

This is one of the proofs of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture. The Church must be taken out of the way because the Anti-Christ cannot be revealed until the Church is out of the way!

In an article entitled, [“Who Sent This Curse”](http://club.bobyandian.com/who-sent-this-curse/) by Bob Yandian, he states the following:

**When God Sends Judgment and Destruction**

1. God gives warning far in advance.
2. God give opportunity to repent and be spared.
3. God only destroys the wicked who do not repent.
4. God spares the righteous, even those who are carnal.
5. God **removes the righteous before sending destruction or He protects the righteous during destruction**.

An example of this is Noah and his family. They were delivered by the ark when the rest of the world was destroyed.

**Other Proofs of a Pre-Tribulation Rapture**