Chapter 1

God will deliver us from the Great
 Tribulation, but not through the Rapture.
 There are dangers of misinterpreting this
 promise.

Differences between the "Ingathering" and the "Rapture"

First of all I would like to clarify that I believe in
the ingathering of the Christians during the Second
Coming of Our Lord Jesus, but I do not believe in
the "rapture" which will allegedly occur before the
Great Tribulation.

Hence, in this book, when I use the word
"ingathering", I am referring to that which will
occur <u>after</u> the Great Tribulation, during the
Second Coming of the Lord to the Earth.

Likewise, when I use the word "**rapture**", I am referring to the one which is erroneously thought to occur at **any time before the Great Tribulation**.

It is a typical mode of operation of our Lord 21 God, to always provide his own with an escape 22 route, whenever He sends a catastrophe. This 23 benefit is received if, and only if, His people are 24 open to the signs that He has provided in His word, 25 for the purpose of warning of the imminence of the 26 tragedy. God will save from the Great Tribulation 27 those servants that are attentive to his word, but not 28 by removing them from the planet by means of 29 this imaginary rapture before the Great 30 **Tribulation,** but rather by giving them the 31 opportunity of finding refuge in that place that the 32 Lord Jesus Christ reveals with the name of "the 33 wilderness". I will demonstrate this in chapter 6. 34

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Why the numbered lines

I believe that any author who holds a hypothesis 39 or theory should be accessible to discuss with those 40 who differ with him on the subject. For this reason I 41 have a number on each line, so that whoever 42 decides to object of anything said here, would have 43 the convenience of pointing out where, with only 44 referring to the line numbers that encompass the 45 subject. For example, this explanation encompasses 46 lines 38 to 47. 47

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To believe in the Rapture before the Great Tribulation is like believing that the Earth is flat

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To try to help somebody abandon an error that was taught to them since they were born is a very difficult task, because that concept has become rooted in their mind and personality.

This was the enormous difficulty that Christopher 57 Columbus experienced in convincing the professors 58 and wise men of the University of Salamanca, to 59 approve his plan. He said to them that due to the 60 roundness of the Earth, and not flatness, as they 61 believed, he could look for India by navigating 62 towards the West instead of the East. Since those 63 professors and learned men had grown up with the 64 error that the Earth was flat, and additionally, the 65 whole World "knew" that the Earth was flat, they 66 did not allow Columbus to convince them. 67

The theory of a Rapture before the Great Tribulation falls in this category of errors learned from birth. This theory survives by changing the meaning of words and phrases, such as "first", ⁷² "final", "twinkling of an eye", "saints", "second",

"church", "coming", etc., all of which I shall
demonstrate throughout this book.

Few even consider discussing this matter. It hurts
their comfort zone, it forces them to reason, it leads
them to differ with their denomination and their
friends, because all of them believe in such
"Rapture" previous to the Great Tribulation.

If we were to believe that something is true
simply because it is believed by many people,
then instead of being evangelical Christians, we
would be Catholics, Buddhists or Animists, since
any of these beliefs is held by more people than
those that hold ours.

Practically all of the brothers that teach this 86 harmful doctrine of the rapture, do it innocently. 87 Since the time they were born to the gospel, it is 88 what they were taught, it was drilled into them; in 89 other words they have been deceived in it. But they 90 can free themselves of this fallacy with a small 91 effort: by analyzing what others, that do not believe 92 the same, have to say about this issue. In this case 93 they can analyze what is presented in this book. It is 94 worth making the effort, not only for their sakes, 95 but because of the terrible responsibility of passing-96 on this deception to others. 97

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What harm is there in believing in the Rapture?

God has always provided an escape route for his people. This escape route is dependent on his holy people knowing the word of God and staying alert to the events and circumstances surrounding them. Let's look at three examples from the Bible.

The siege of Jerusalem by the Romans

During the siege of Jerusalem by the Romans, in 111 70 A.D., according to the annals of history written 112 by Josephus, the Romans lifted the siege without 113 explanation and left. This provided an opportunity 114 that the Christians took advantage of, having been 115 forewarned by Jesus himself (Luke 21:20-21), to 116 leave Jerusalem. Later on the Romans returned, this 117 time under the command of Titus Flavius 118 Vespasian, and then a great calamity followed. 119 Perhaps the Romans lifted the siege due to a rumor 120 they heard, as was the case of the Assyrians and 121 king Hezekiah, as we can see in II Kings 19:7-9. 122 Both passages are shown below: 123

"And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the 131 countries enter thereinto." (Lk 21:20-21)

"7 Behold, I will send a blast upon him, and he shall hear a rumour, and shall return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land... 9 And when he heard say of Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, Behold, he is come out to fight against thee..." (II K 19:7-9 abbreviated)

Definitely, something such as this will occur at the end of this era, in Jerusalem, as well as to the

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¹⁴³ Church in general, and possibly at the hands of a ¹⁴⁴ future "Babylon".

If the Christians that lived in Jerusalem, 145 instead of having listened to the prophecy of the 146 Lord, had believed that they were going to be 147 raptured before the Romans would take the city, 148 they would have died of hunger and diseases, or 149 they would have been sold as slaves throughout the 150 World, as did happen to the rest of the Jews that had 151 not believed the warnings of the Lord Jesus. 152

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The siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians

During the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in times of the reign of King Zedekiah, several centuries before the Roman siege, something similar happened. God always provides the escape opportunity to those that listen to him.

In this case we see that the Chaldeans lifted the siege of Jerusalem and appear to be retreating, opportunity used by the faithful which were aware of the prophecies and the news, to abandon Jerusalem.

The Babylonians had lifted the siege because they 167 had heard that the King of Egypt came to attack 168 them (37:5). But afterwards, when they heard that 169 the King of Egypt had desisted of such campaign, 170 they returned and surrounded Jerusalem. It is 171 probable that this rumor was created or used by God 172 to make the Chaldeans leave Jerusalem for a 173 sufficient amount of time for the faithful to leave. 174

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"Then Pharaoh's army was come forth out of Egypt, and when the Chaldeans that besieged

Jerusalem	heard	tidings	of	them,	they
departed from	om Jeru	salem"		(Jer 3	7:5)

We see once again that the Lord gives us an escape opportunity, as long as we believe his words. If God's servants had believed they were going to be raptured before the Chaldeans penetrated the city, they would have finished horribly treated.

The people of God received the same protection during the conquest of Babylon by the Medians and Persians

The people of God, in spite of finding themselves captive in Babylon, were able to enjoy a deliverance similar to that of the Christians of Roman times and of the faithful during the reign of Zedekiah, because they listened attentively to the voice of God expressed clearly by the prophet in Jeremiah 51:44-46.

In order that the people would know early enough 199 as to when the events would occur, God warns in 200 verse 46 that **first** a rumor would come in a year; 201 second, in another year there would be another 202 rumor, and third, that afterwards the violence 203 would come. In other words, seemingly they had 204 two years to realize what events were going to take 205 place, and to recognize the times they were in and 206 the fulfillment of the prophecy. 207

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"44 And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I
will bring forth out of his mouth that which he
hath swallowed up, and the nations shall not
flow together any more unto him; yea, the
wall of Babylon shall fall. 45 My people, go

ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye 214 every man his soul from the fierce anger of 215 the LORD. 46 And lest your heart faint, and 216 ye fear for the rumour that shall be heard in 217 the land; a rumour shall both come one 218 year, and after that in another year shall 219 come a rumour, and violence in the land, 220 ruler against ruler." (Jer 51:44-46)

If the servants of God had stayed in Babylon
waiting to be "raptured", they would have
suffered afflictions during the siege of the MedoPersians.

It shall be likewise at the end of this era, those that listen attentively will be freed from the Great Tribulation. Those that do not heed what God has announced and remain sitting, waiting for the much advertised but false Rapture, will then have to go through the Great Tribulation.

As we have just seen, God has always given his 233 people an escape from tribulation without 234 having to take them out of the planet. The same 235 happened with the plagues of Egypt, even though 236 the people of Israel were in Egypt, they did not have 237 to suffer the plagues. God can spare us from the 238 Great Tribulation without taking us out of the 239 planet, without producing this much talked about 240 false Rapture. Later on I will show how God has 241 promised to spare us from the Great Tribulation. 242

After finishing reading the 21 chapters, and appendixes "A", "B" and "C", it is convenient to read Appendix "D" in page 208 "How to better understand the prophetic sermon".

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To believe or not in the "Rapture" could become a matter of life or death, a matter of torture or liberty

The brethren that believe in a Rapture previous to 254 the Great Tribulation should analyze very carefully 255 this issue, because it can become a matter of life or 256 death, of torture or liberty, for themselves and 257 their family. It is like having upon them the blood 258 of their family members, for the foolishness of not 259 searching in detail, without the prejudice or emotion 260 caused by a desire to believe in this supposed 261 Rapture. 262

If these brothers are preachers, then they have 263 a double responsibility, because in addition to 264 their own family, they will have the blood of 265 those they deceive upon them, and for whose 266 deception those unhappy ones would be tortured 267 and murdered during the Great Tribulation. A most 268 terrible weight on the conscience for those who 269 preach the doctrine of the Rapture! 270

I warn you clearly about the falsehood of that 271 heretical interpretation of "a Rapture before the 272 Great Tribulation". I demonstrate in this book that it 273 is erroneous, and with this I am free of the blood of 274 those that want to close their eyes to the truth. The 275 apostle Paul warned the churches of the Greek 276 Thessalonians very clearly, so that they would not 277 allow themselves to be deceived with doctrines 278 like that of the Rapture. Hence he knew that 279 someone would try to deceive the brethren towards 280 the latter days. In essence, by warning them he 281 warned us too. 282

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284 "1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the
285 coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our

gathering together unto him, 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 <u>Let</u> <u>no man deceive you</u> by any means; for <u>that</u> <u>day shall not come</u>, except there come a falling away first, <u>and that man of sin be</u> <u>revealed, the son of perdition</u>; 4 who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." (II Thes 2:1-4)

Different risk of those that believe in the Rapture and those that believe in the Ingathering

If there were a Rapture before the Great Tribulation, what would happen to the Christians that **do not** believe in it? Nothing would happen to them; they would be raptured along with the other brothers that do believe in the Rapture.

On the other hand, if the Rapture before the Great 308 Tribulation is false, what would happen to those 309 that do believe in this false Rapture? What would 310 happen is that they would not be alert. But if they 311 were alert, they would think that they would not 312 need to do anything other than wait some more to 313 be raptured. The terrible harm that this doctrine of 314 the Rapture will cause the brethren is that they will 315 not leave their comforts and move to the 316 "wilderness" where God has determined that they 317 will be taken care of. Instead they are going to stay 318 waiting where they can be captured, always 319 thinking that the Rapture is imminent. 320

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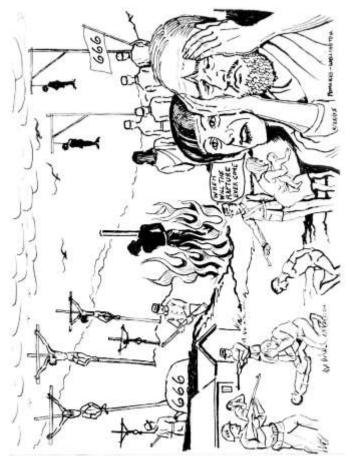
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of this doctrine and of the terrible harm it causes? Would a corporation that sells videos that attractively present the alleged benefits of this false Rapture, be sufficiently honest to the point of allowing themselves to be convinced that these are falsehoods and of the harm caused by what they are selling and preaching? Would they throw in the



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trash bin tens of millions of dollars that they have invested in this heretical material, for the love of their brethren? Yes they can, but they would have

to love God more than Mammon. Would they 345 have sufficient honesty to discuss publicly this 346 issue? Yes they can, but they would have to love 347 God more than their egos and their pockets. Would 348 they do it? Only time will provide an answer. 349 350 351 352 Summary of Chapter 1. The issue to be decided 353 is whether to continue teaching the brethren a false 354 and harmful doctrine, risking the blame of their 355 blood on our heads, or to tell them the truth and be 356 free of such a horrible charge. 357

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Chapter 2 Let's be certain of what we believe relating the Rapture

Why examine ourselves?

In many occasions I have seen two friends arguing an important issue without realizing that both have the same opinion. A third party had to point it out to them. This happens because they are not clearly conscious of what they believe. They have not outlined and verbalized their own beliefs to themselves.

To spare the reader this situation it is useful that the reader answer a questionnaire which will never leave the reader's own hands. It will help the reader, however, know what issues the reader currently believes regarding the Rapture. Afterwards, as you
read the book, you will be able to go back to see
what idea you had on every issue. Let's see the
questions.

Remember that in this book, whenever I use the word **"ingathering"**, I am referring to that which will be happening after the Great Tribulation, during the Second Coming of the Lord to the Earth. Whenever I use the word **"rapture"**, I am referring to that which is erroneously claimed that will happen at any moment before the Great Tribulation.

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Questionnaire for the brethren who believe in the Rapture Before the Great Tribulation

I would like that you answer the following questions to yourselves, so that you may gain a clearer idea of what you believe regarding the "Rapture". Mark with a "X" the answer that best fits your current concepts or answer them in writing, if need be.

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1-At the instant of the Rapture, besides the transformation of those that are living, do all the believers from Adam to the Rapture rise from the dead, or is it limited to only certain believers?
<u>All rise from the dead</u> <u>There are limitations</u>
<u>Don't know</u> <u>I will explain</u>

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2-If in question # 1 you answered "There are limitations", describe which are those limitations.

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416 417 3-If in question # 2 you showed the limitations, 418 would you please mention three Bible passages 419 where you consider is the base for that idea? 420 421 _____ 422 423 4-During the Rapture, will Christ be among the 424 clouds? Yes No Don't know 425 426 5-During the Rapture, will we all see Christ among 427 the clouds? Yes No Don't know 428 429 6-During the Rapture, will we hear the voice of the 430 Archangel? Yes No Don't know 431 432 7-During the Rapture, will we all hear the final 433 trumpet ___Yes No Don't know 434 435 8-During the Rapture, do all Christians in the planet 436 leave or do some remain? 437 ____All leave ____Some remain 438 439 9-If some remain, what is the criteria that 440 determines which Christians leave with the Rapture 441 and which remain? What conditions or 442 requirements must they meet in order to be in the 443 ____Don't know Rapture? 444 I'll list them: 445 446 447 448 449 450

12 -Besides the Rapture which is said to before the Great Tribulation, is there an ingat	ase
of all the believers, after the GT, during the S Coming of Christ? YesNoDon't know	ther
13 -If in question # 12 you answered "Yes", taken up in this ingathering after the Tribulation? Don't know I'll explain	

16 -How	v long will they be there?
	t do the raptured do during the time that bes through the Great Tribulation?
seals, h	en Christ is in Heaven, opening the se as the Rapture occurred already? esNoDon't know
is in he	e Rapture has already occurred when Je aven opening the seven seals, where are l found?
is in he raptured 20 -Whe their ne	aven opening the seven seals, where are
is in he raptured 20-Whe their ne Y 21-Will and after	aven opening the seven seals, where are l found? erever they may be, will the raptured h w bodies?

Don't know Yes No 523 524 24-If there exists more than one "Christ's Church", 525 how many are there? 526 527 528 25-Is it acceptable to call "Christ's Church" the 529 group made up only of all the Christians of all 530 times? Yes No Don't know 531 532 26-Would there be a case where membership in 533 "Christ's Church" would be rejected for a group of 534 faithful Christians, due to the times they lived in? 535 Yes No Don't know 536 537 27-Do Enoch and Noah belong to "Christ's 538 _ No ___Don't know Church"? ___Yes 539 540 28-Do Moses, Joshua, David, Isaiah and Daniel 541 belong to "Christ's Church"? 542 ___Yes ___No ___Don't know 543 544 **29**-Do the Gentiles, like Job, which converted to the 545 faith before Jesus' crucifixion belong to "Christ's 546 Church"? __Yes __No Don't know 547 548 **30**-Do the **Gentiles** that converted to the faith, after 549 Jesus' crucifixion belong to "Christ's Church"? 550 ___No Don't know Yes 551 552 31-Do the Jews converted to the faith, after Jesus' 553 crucifixion, but before the alleged Rapture, belong 554 to "Christ's Church"? 555 ___No Don't know Yes 556 557

32-After the alleged Rapture, can some Gentiles 558 convert to Christ? 559 __Yes __ No Don't know 560 561 33-After the alleged Rapture, can some Jews 562 convert to Christ? 563 Yes Don't know No 564 565 34-Do the Jews that accept Christ after the alleged 566 Rapture, belong to Christ's Church? 567 Yes No ____Don't know 568 569 35-Do the Gentiles that accept Christ after the 570 alleged Rapture, belong to Christ's Church? 571 Yes ___No ___Don't know 572 573 **36**-If after analyzing the questions from 25 to 35, 574 any of the previously mentioned groups do not 575 belong to Christ's Church, how would that group be 576 named? 577 I don't know what to call them 578 Their name would be the following: 579 580 581 582 37-Would all the Jews of the World, without 583 exception, be gathered up to the nation called Israel 584 today, or would many of them remain scattered 585 throughout the World? 586 ____All will be gathered up 587 ____Many will remain scattered Don't know 588 589 38-What is preventing the appearance of the 590 antiChrist? 591 592

39-Does the antiChrist dominate the **whole** planet, 594 without exception, or almost all of it? 595 Don't know ____Almost All All 596 597 40-How do the believers of the period of the Great 598 Tribulation get saved, the same as we do now, or 599 are there other requirements? 600 ____Same as today 601 There are other requirements 602 Don't know 603 604 **41**-If in question # 40 you answered that other 605 requirements are needed, would you please mention 606 them._____ 607 608 609 610 42-Can those that are saved during the period of the 611 Great Tribulation be called Christians? 612 Yes _ No Don't know 613 614 43-Will any part of Christ's Church go through the 615 Great Tribulation and the reign of the antiChrist? 616 Yes Don't know No 617 618 44-In the Bible "The Book of Life" is mentioned 619 several times, or a similar name. Is there only one 620 Book of Life or are there more than one? 621 There is only one 622 There is more than one Don't know 623 624 45-Will Christians like ourselves who are currently 625 alive, participate in the Millennium Kingdom, or is 626 that only for the Jews? 627 ____Yes we shall participate 628 _The Millennium is only for the Jews 629

630 46-When at the end of this era, the Second Coming 631 occurs, and hence the Ingathering, have all those 632 that were not raptured died or will a lot of people 633 still remain? 634 ____All will have died 635 ____A lot of people will remain 636 637 47-Is our meeting the Lord in the air during this 638 alleged Rapture considered a coming of Christ to 639 the Earth? 640 ___Yes No Don't know 641 642 48-Does the phrase "in the twinkling of an eye", 643 used by the apostle Paul, means an instant, 644 something like a fraction of a second, or an 645 indefinite and much longer period of time? 646 Means a second more or less 647 ____Means a long and indefinite period 648 649 **49**-The souls seen under the altar in Revelation 6:9-650 10 belong to Christ's Church or not? 651 Yes No Don't know 652 653 50-Will all the believers form one Church, after the 654 Second Coming, or will the believers be divided in 655 different groups and churches according to the era 656 that they lived and in which they became believers? 657 They shall form only one Church 658 _They will be divided 659 Don't know 660 661 51-Is the Millennial Kingdom of Christ with the 662 Jews different than the Millennial Kingdom of 663 Christ with the Gentiles? 664 Yes No Don't know 665

52-If you believe that they are different, where would one be and where the other? Don't know I'll explain: 53- How many wives does the Lamb have? One Two More Don't know * Summary of Chapter 2. Once we have outlined the details of what we truly believe in reference to the alleged "Rapture previous to the Great Tribulation", we can reason about the subject. *** **Chapter 3** Let's be alert so that we may remain honest when we discuss our beliefs Let's avoid setting dogmas In most cases those believers that discuss a subject limit themselves to setting dogmas about their beliefs. In other words they assert their opinions so that they may be believed without a friendly discussion of the subject. It is the attitude of "believe what I say, because I know more than

you", or because "I have an inspiration that comes
from beyond". This is a more prevalent inclination
when we are dealing with religious beliefs, because
many of the believers think that they have received,
by "direct connection" from the regions beyond, the
revelation that what they are thinking is the truth.

These brethren do not realize that **if**, **in effect**, **the Holy Spirit had placed in their hearts or mind that thought or doctrine that they now have**, He would have also given them words and wisdom to be able to support that belief, as our Lord Jesus Christ promises in Luke 21:15.

> *"For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist."* (Lk 21:15)

In other words, when our beliefs were truly 718 inspired by the Holy Spirit, we also receive the gift 719 of effective defense of what we believe and with 720 solid arguments. We must not engage in a mutual 721 swapping of Scripture portions, but rather 722 demonstrate that our friend's biblical quotes are 723 erroneously applied and at the same time, that our 724 quotes make sense. If we cannot support it, or if we 725 avoid friendly discussion with our brethren, it is 726 because inside ourselves we know that the idea is 727 only our own, it is not a case of heavenly 728 inspiration. But we like to engage in that harmful 729 fantasy. We should never avoid discussing our faith 730 and hope, since the apostle Peter challenges us to 731 act in this way. 732

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"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts,
and be ready always to give an answer to
every man that asketh you a reason of the

hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I P 3:15)

Discussions are like light, they only bother those that prefer darkness

Malicious scheme of altering the meaning of words: 3+2=10

When one discusses with dishonest atheists about 747 matters of faith, one of the schemes that they use is 748 that of changing the meaning of words. It is the 749 same dirty skill that at times, those believers that 750 discuss religious subjects, also use. They resort to 751 the story that "word such and such", in Hebrew 752 means "green" rather than "red"; or simply that in 753 this case the Bible says "blue", but it means to say 754 "yellow". 755

If you have learned that 3+2=5, but someone tells
you that the Greek word for "two" really means
"seven, and you swallow that fraud, from there on
three plus two would be equal to ten, for you.

Hence, we must be very alert to the meaning that
try to be given to words by those that support
questionable doctrines.

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Not all who tell lies are liars

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In times of Christopher Columbus many honest
people asserted that the Earth was flat. They were
not liars, they honestly believed what they affirmed.
Even so, today many brethren affirm that there is
going to be a Rapture before the Great Tribulation.

They are not liars, they have been simply deceived
for decades, perhaps by a seminary teacher, who in
turn was deceived by the professors of the seminary
where he studied, who were deceived by....etc..

However, it is an unavoidable duty of 776 Christians, specially those that have positions of 777 responsibility in the Church, to uncover the truth. It 778 is not a matter of passing on to others the error that 779 we were taught, just because the one who taught it 780 to us was an "authority". If we had acted this way 781 we would still be worshipping the images of 782 Romanism. It is a matter of reasoning about the 783 Scriptures and discussing in a friendly manner with 784 the brethren who think differently. Only those who 785 think differently can help us, if we are wrong. 786 Those who think as we do, cannot help us. 787

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Summary of Chapter 3. Let's be ready to 791 discuss with our neighbors, because the Christian 792 should obey what is said by the apostle in I Peter 793 3:15. Let's not be dogmatic, believing that we are 794 beings anointed by the Holy Ghost, in spite of 795 realizing that we have no arguments to refute those 796 who disagree with our interpretations. And this 797 happens to us in spite of the promise of Jesus of 798 giving us lips of wisdom when it is the truth that we 799 are defending. 800

And most of all let us not fall for that satanic scheme of the "2+3=10". Let us remember also that not all who say lies are liars, but we should make the effort to know the truth so that we don't preach lies.

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Chapter 4 What are the main claims of the Rapture?

What the brethren, with whom I have discussed the Rapture, have told me

Throughout my life I have spoken many times 818 with the brethren that believe in the Rapture. They 819 have shown me books and films about the alleged 820 Rapture. Thanks to those conversations I have been 821 able to understand what are the main claims that 822 they make about this matter. Not all think exactly 823 alike, but I believe that I can summarize the main 824 beliefs of that doctrine. 825

Remember that, in this book, when I speak of the "Rapture", I am referring to the one that is claimed to occur before the Great Tribulation. When I mention the word "Ingathering" I am referring to that which will happen during the Second Coming of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here is a summary of what I have been able to
compile about the beliefs of the alleged Rapture
from my brethren that believe in it. Further on in the
book, I will reason regarding each of these claims.

1-This doctrine of the Rapture claims to be based on
the Bible verses that speak of the return of our Lord.
Which are these verses? See chapter 5.

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2-One of the foundations of this hypothesis is the
belief that, in order for God to be able to protect the

⁸⁴³ Church from the antiChrist and the Great
⁸⁴⁴ Tribulation, He would have to remove Her from the
⁸⁴⁵ Planet by means of the Rapture. In other instances
⁸⁴⁶ God has protected His people without removing
⁸⁴⁷ them from the planet. See chapter 6.

3-Another argument raised by this doctrine is that
God and Christ would not permit that the Church
suffer during the Great Tribulation, hence, the
Church has to be removed from the Planet. The
Church has always suffered. See chapter 7.

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4-One of the teachings of the Rapture is that during
the alleged seven years of the Great Tribulation, the
Wedding of the Lamb will be celebrated in Heaven.
False; the wedding occurs much later. See chapter
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5- This doctrine claims that if we remove from the 861 brethren the idea of the "imminence" of the 862 Rapture, the Christians will not seek holiness. 863 Likewise, according to this doctrine, to believe that 864 they will be raptured at any moment provides 865 Christians with a great comfort that they otherwise 866 would not have if this belief is taken away. It is 867 sinful to lie in order to provide comfort. See 868 chapter 9. 869

6-This doctrine claims that because the word
"Church" does not appear in Revelation from
chapters 4 to 21, this means that the Church is no
longer on the Planet, because it has been raptured
before the Great Tribulation began. See chapter 10.
7-According to the hypothesis of the Rapture, the

Jews and the Gentiles form two different groups, in

spite of the fact that Paul speaks to the contrary:
that we are all one in Christ. This doctrine teaches
that the Jews that come to believe after the Rapture,
do not belong to Christ's Church. See chapter 11.

884 8-Another dogmatic claim of the Rapture
hypothesis is that the Holy Spirit will be removed
from the Planet when the Church is raptured. If it
were like that, how will those that remain here be
converted? See chapter 12.

9-The doctrine of the Rapture implies three comings 890 of Christ to Earth. The first one, when He was 891 crucified. The second one for the Rapture. And the 892 third and final one, to establish his Kingdom. In 893 order to transform these into only the first coming 894 and one return, this doctrine claims that the second 895 and third comings are actually one, in spite that they 896 are separated by seven years. According to this, the 897 coming for the Rapture is the Second Coming 898 "phase A", and the final one is the Second Coming 899 "phase B". See chapter 13. 900

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10-The teaching of the Rapture is forced to stretch
the first resurrection and the transformation of the
living Christians, for seven years, which according
to their interpretation, spans the Great Tribulation,
instead of it happening in the "twinkling of an eye".
See chapter 14.

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11-The doctrine of the Rapture denies that the
trumpet to which Paul is referring in I Corinthians
15:52, is the seventh trumpet of Revelation. Instead
it fabricates a new set of trumpets of which the one
mentioned in Corinthians is the final one. However,

it cannot show the former six trumpets in thatfabricated group. See chapter 15.

12-The doctrine of the Rapture considers the <u>Great</u>
Tribulation and <u>the plagues of the last Seven Bowls</u>
to be the same thing. This is not so. See chapter 16.

13-This doctrine emits the dogma that the Rapture 921 comes before the antiChrist, in spite of what was 922 prophesied by Paul to the contrary. During the 923 opening of the seals, Christ is in Heaven. How can 924 it be, if the Great Tribulation has already begun 925 with the first seal, there is still no mention anywhere 926 that the Rapture has occurred? Such a great event 927 would not be mentioned in the verses previous to 928 the first horseman of Revelation? See chapter 17. 929

14-According to the interpretation that this rapture doctrine makes of John 14:1-3, only after the Rapture will we be able to be in the House of the Lord. See chapter 18.

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15-Relative to the antiChrist there are several generalized errors like that of thinking he is going to rule the whole planet. See chapter 19.

16-Let's analyze some biblical passages that this
hypothesis utilizes erroneously as a "foundation"
for the belief in an alleged Rapture. This Rapture is
thought to happen during an imaginary Second
Coming "Phase A", before the Great Tribulation,
and before the true Second Coming which this
doctrine calls "Phase B". See chapter 20.

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Summary of Chapter 4. What we have done
until now is simply to prepare to search for the truth
as to whether there is, or not, a Rapture before the
Great Tribulation, in addition to an Ingathering after
it.

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Chapter 5

Where does the Bible say there is a Rapture?

The Bible always speaks of an Ingathering during the Second Coming, but never of a rapture before the Great Tribulation

Remember that this book refers to **"rapture"** as that which is alleged to occur before the Great Tribulation. It calls **"ingathering"** that which will occur at the moment of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

I can point to various verses that deal with the
return of the Lord, in which the existence of the
Ingathering is clearly announced during the
Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. But I
have not seen <u>a single one</u> where there is any <u>clear</u>
mention of a sudden, silent and secret Rapture
before the Great Tribulation.

Matthew, Mark and Luke included the Prophetic
Sermon in their Gospels. In that sermon Jesus
speaks of the events that would occur from the
moment he was speaking, until his Second
Coming. The Lord was speaking to his Church, in

the form of his apostles, at no instance did he tell them that there is going to be a rapture before the Great Tribulation. Nevertheless, He does speak clearly and specifically of the occurrence of an Ingathering after the Great Tribulation and during his Second Coming.

How can we believe in a rapture which Jesus 991 never mentioned and which is not mentioned in 992 any Scripture? Moreover, how can we think that if 993 Jesus has spoken of the events that would occur 994 until his Second Coming, He would forget to 995 mention the Rapture or warn about it? Or how can 996 we think that he would leave the leaders of his 997 ignorant about Church an issue so 998 transcendentally important? The answer is quite 999 simple: the Rapture simply does not exist, it is a 1000 diabolical ruse to deceive the Christians, as Jesus 1001 himself warned, as well as the apostle Paul. But, 1002 unfortunately, most of Christians have allowed 1003 themselves to be deceived. 1004

If the Rapture were real, the Lord, would have 1005 spoken about it during the Prophetic Sermon, 1006 just as He did about the Ingathering occurring 1007 after the Great Tribulation. Review for 1008 yourselves, verse by verse, each chapter in each of 1009 the three gospels where the Prophetic Sermon is 1010 presented (Mt, Mr y Lk), you will see that nowhere 1011 our Lord Jesus Christ warns his Church that there 1012 would be a Rapture previous to the G. T. 1013

After concluding our own investigation into this matter, would we continue believing this heresy? Brethren, it is justifiable that a Christian be deceived, but it is unjustifiable that he would insist in remaining deceived, without having any reasons that would support those beliefs, and without being able to answer against the reasons that here are presented.

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1025God gave the Bible so that all may understand it,1026not only the learned

The prophecies and doctrines in the Bible are 1027 clear; anyone can understand them without having 1028 have studied theology, Greek, Hebrew, to 1029 hermeneutics, etc., nor having to graduate from a 1030 seminary. God does not give His revelations so that 1031 only a few experts can understand them. He gives 1032 them so that fishermen and all his children may 1033 have access to the truth, if indeed they desire to 1034 know the truth. 1035

The Lord Jesus said once that God had revealed these things to the little and not to the learned and expert. Hence, we don't necessarily need to be learned or experts to understand.

"At that time Jesus answered and said, I
thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and
earth, because thou hast hid these things from
the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them
unto babes." (Mt 11:25)

"In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes; even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight." (Lk 10:21)

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Where did Jesus speak of the Rapture?

Anyone that reads the Bible can realize that there 1057 is an Ingathering during the Second Coming of the 1058 Lord. It is unnecessary to stress the mind making 1059 inferences, twisting verses, etc., to come to such a 1060 conclusion. To convince someone about the 1061 Rapture, however, one has to avail oneself of 1062 Greek, Hebrew, use expert statements for support, 1063 twist the true meaning of words, act dogmatically, 1064 talk about hermeneutics, exegesis, eschatology, 1065 grind incessantly about the matter, so that after all is 1066 said and done prove nothing, but insist that it has 1067 been proven. It would seem that they who are not 1068 geniuses cannot understand the Bible. 1069

Jesus spoke clearly and specifically about the 1070 Ingathering that would occur during his Second 1071 Coming. In what verses did Jesus speak clearly and 1072 specifically about a silent, secret and sudden 1073 Rapture? The Lord spoke clearly and specifically of 1074 his Second Coming, where did He speak of his 1075 "third coming"? Would the Lord have left such an 1076 important event in the most absolute obscurity? If 1077 the Rapture were real, the Lord would have clearly 1078 explained it in the Gospels as He did his Second 1079 Coming. However, it has not turned out that way; it 1080 is an indication that the Rapture is not real. 1081

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Let's review the verses that speak of the return of Christ

I will list the verses which speak of the return of
Jesus and let's see if any of them mention clearly
and specifically the existence of a silent, secret and
sudden Rapture.

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"29 Immediately <u>after the tribulation</u> 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. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Mt 24:29-31)

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Read for yourselves Chapter 24 of Matthew from 1107 the beginning. There isn't in the whole chapter a 1108 reference to a surprise Rapture, nor to any other 1109 type of coming of Christ than the quite visible one. 1110 Neither is there anything in this passage that would 1111 make us suspect a surprise Rapture, because we get 1112 to see the darkening of the Sun and Moon, etc.. 1113 Neither is it a silent rapture, because the trumpet is 1114 heard; and it cannot be a secret rapture, because no 1115 one can ignore what is happening in those moments. 1116 If the Rapture were real, would Jesus miss 1117 mentioning it in this chapter? Let's now see Mark 1118 13:24-27 1119

"24 But in those days, <u>after that tribulation</u>, 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 fou	ır wind	ds, from	the utter	mosi	t part
of the earth	to the	utterma	ost part of	^r hea	ven."
			(Mk 13:2	4-27)

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Neither do we see in this passage of Mark, 1133 anything that would make us think of a silent, secret 1134 or surprise Rapture instead of the Ingathering. Read 1135 this chapter from the beginning and you will see 1136 that in spite of future events being announced, 1137 nothing about a rapture previous to the Great 1138 Tribulation is mentioned. Only an Ingathering after 1139 the Great Tribulation is cited. How can we believe 1140 what Jesus never spoke of? Let's look at Luke now. 1141

"25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea 1145 and the waves roaring; 26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the Earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. 27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a 1150 cloud with power and great glory." (Lk 21:25-27)

Luke does not talk about the Rapture either. Can 1154 we say that the Rapture is real, but neither Matthew, 1155 Mark nor Luke knew anything about it? In other 1156 words, that we have to believe there will be a 1157 Rapture before the Great Tribulation, in spite of 1158 Jesus never mentioning it to his Church in the 1159 Prophetic Sermon. In the three chapters where the 1160 Prophetic Sermon is included, where also the 1161 Ingathering during the Second Coming is 1162 mentioned, and where everything that is going to 1163

occur before and during the Great Tribulation is 1164 talked about, nothing is mentioned of the Rapture. 1165 But we have to believe it because it is proclaimed 1166 by those who have taken for themselves the place of 1167 a protestant Pope, with infallibility and all. Clearly 1168 Luke says men's hearts are going to fail them for 1169 fear, and for looking after those things which are 1170 coming on the Earth. It is to say that people will 1171 see what is coming. How then they tell me about a 1172 sudden, silent and secret rapture? Now we will look 1173 at John. 1174

"1 Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (Jn 14:1-3)

In these verses in John there is a promise that 1185 Jesus is going to prepare a place in Heaven. This 1186 does not imply a "Rapture", even though many 1187 want to see it that way. If we were to believe that 1188 this is speaking about the Rapture, we would have 1189 to think that all of the Christians that have died, 1190 including the apostles, have not yet been taken to 1191 Heaven, because they have to wait for the Rapture 1192 to be taken there. Let's see now what the angels 1193 said in the book of Acts. 1194

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"10 And while they looked stedfastly toward
heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood
by them in white apparel; 11 which also said:
Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up

1200	into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken
1201	up from you into heaven, shall so come in
1202	like manner as ye have seen him go into
1203	<i>heaven.</i> " (Acts 1:10-11)

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In the verses that we just read we see that the 1205 angels tell the apostles about the Second Coming of 1206 Christ, when He will be seen with the clouds. They 1207 mention nothing about the alleged Secret Rapture, 1208 when He supposedly comes but is not seen. If there 1209 was a Rapture, would the angels overlook such an 1210 important event, without announcing it to 1211 Christ's Church, which was represented at that 1212 moment by the apostles and which is that which, 1213 according to this erroneous doctrine, would be 1214 raptured before the Great Tribulation? Let's read 1215 now what we are told in I Corinthians. 1216

"51 Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall 1218 not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. 52 In 1219 a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the 1220 last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and 1221 the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we 1222 shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must 1223 put on incorruption, and this mortal must put 1224 on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible 1225 shall have put on incorruption, and this 1226 mortal shall have put on immortality, then 1227 shall be brought to pass the saying that is 1228 written: Death is swallowed up in victory." 1229 (I Co 15:51-54) 1230 1231

Again, also in First Corinthians we are clearly 1232 told of the Second Coming of Christ, not of the 1233 supposed Rapture, though some erroneously want to 1234 see it that way. From the moment that it says death 1235

is swallowed up in victory, it is referring to the 1236 Second Coming, since during the Great Tribulation 1237 death has not yet been swallowed up in victory. If 1238 what these verses were referring to were the 1239 Rapture, it would not say that death had been 1240 swallowed up in victory, since there would still be 1241 deaths after the Rapture. Let's look now at two 1242 passages in Thessalonians. 1243

"₉ For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10 and to wait for his Son from Heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come." (I Thes 1:9-10)

The verses from First Thessalonians that we have 1253 just read tell of how the Lord Jesus freed us from 1254 the punishment for our sins. It can't be saying that 1255 the resurrection of Jesus Christ freed us from the 1256 Great Tribulation because such is not the case. The 1257 sacrifice of Christ freed us from the wrath that is to 1258 come upon the World when, after the Final 1259 Judgment, those that were not saved by Christ 1260 would be punished. There is no way we can 1261 reasonably conclude that these verses are talking 1262 clearly and specifically about the Rapture. Let's see 1263 other verses in First Thessalonians. 1264

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¹²⁶⁶ "13 But I would not have you to be ignorant,
¹²⁶⁷ brethren, concerning them which are asleep,
¹²⁶⁸ that ye sorrow not, even as others which have
¹²⁶⁹ no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died
¹²⁷⁰ and rose again, even so them also which sleep
¹²⁷¹ in Jesus will God bring with him. ¹⁵ For this

we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that 1272 we which are alive and remain unto the 1273 coming of the Lord, shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall 1275 descend from Heaven with a shout, with the 1276 voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 1278 Then we which are alive and remain, shall be 1279 caught up together with them in the clouds, 1280 to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort 1282 one another with these words." 1283

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(I Thes 4:13-18)

We see again in this passage we just read that 1286 nowhere does He tell us clearly and specifically that 1287 there is a sudden, silent and secret Rapture. From 1288 the moment that the trumpet is sounded it is not a 1289 silent Rapture. Neither can it be secret since so 1290 many millions are taken up. Later on I will discuss 1291 this matter again to show that it is also not a sudden 1292 and surprise Rapture. 1293

The following verses, also from one of Paul's 1294 epistles to the Thessalonians, speak more clearly 1295 about this matter. In this passage it clarifies what it 1296 leaves unspecified in the previous quote: that the 1297 gathering of the Christians will not happen before 1298 the appearance of the antiChrist. Let's see. 1299

"1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the 1301 coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our 1302 gathering together unto him, 2 that ye be not 1303 soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither 1304 by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from 1305 us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let 1306 no man deceive you by any means, for that 1307

day shall not come, except there come a 1308 falling away first, and that man of sin be 1309 revealed, the son of perdition; 4 who opposeth 1310 and exalteth himself above all that is called 1311 God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God 1312 sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself 1313 that he is God. 5 Remember ye not, that, when 1314 I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6 1315 And now ye know what withholdeth that he 1316 might be revealed in his time. 7 For the 1317 mystery of iniquity doth already work, only he 1318 who now letteth will let, until he be taken out 1319 of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be 1320 revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with 1321 the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy 1322 with the brightness of his coming; yeven him, 1323 whose coming is after the working of Satan 1324 with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 1325 and with all deceivableness of 1326 unrighteousness in them that perish; because 1327 they received not the love of the truth, that 1328 they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God 1329 shall send them strong delusion, that they 1330 should believe a lie, 12 that they all might be 1331 damned who believed not the truth, but had 1332 pleasure in unrighteousness." 1333 (II Thes 2:1-12) 1334 1335 As we can see from the verses we just read: 1336 1) The apostle Paul considers himself as one of 1337 those that will be gathered at that time, during the 1338 Second Coming, since the first verse says: "our 1339 gathering". And in that phrase it also includes the 1340 Church.

2) Further on, in verse 3, he considers it important 1342 warn the Christians of the Church in to 1343

Thessalonica, an apostolic Church, a Gentile 1344 Church, a Church very much like the one we now 1345 have. He warns them to be alert that no man 1346 deceive you regarding the Second Coming of Jesus 1347 Christ and our ingathering. If Paul warns about a 1348 deception it is because the Holy Spirit showed 1349 him that near the end times a deception would 1350 arise regarding the Second Coming. This 1351 deception is clearly the heretical and false doctrine 1352 of the Rapture; although it may not be the only one. 1353 By the way, Russellites say the Second Coming will 1354 be spiritual, will not be seen, just as the Rapture. 1355

3) Right after it warns them of the coming 1356 deception, it tells them that Jesus would not come 1357 without the previous appearance of the antiChrist. 1358 Since Paul considers himself as one of those that 1359 will be gathered at that time, we can see that the 1360 Ingathering of the Church will not occur without 1361 the appearance of the antiChrist first. If Paul had 1362 believed he would be leaving with the Rapture and 1363 not in the Ingathering, he would be thinking that 1364 neither himself nor the Church in Thessalonica 1365 would be present when the antiChrist appears. 1366

If it were true, according to Rapture, that 1367 Christians would be with Jesus in Heaven, at the 1368 Wedding of the Lamb, during the Great Tribulation, 1369 why would Paul warn the apostolic and Gentile 1370 church of the Thessalonians to not be deceived? 1371 Who could deceive them in Heaven, during the 1372 seven years of the Great Tribulation. According to 1373 the Rapture doctrine, "they wait" for the Second 1374 Coming of Christ in Heaven; who would deceive 1375 them there? 1376

4) If the hypothesis of the Rapture were true, in
other words, if the only "raptured" Christians were
Gentile Christians, then why would Paul warn of

such a thing in an epistle to Gentiles? If this idea
were indeed true, he would have warned of it in
the Epistle to Hebrews, not in the Epistle to the
Thessalonians. We can deduce from this that the
Christians, both Jews and Gentiles will be on Earth
during the reign of the antiChrist.

5) Later on, in verse 8 we can clearly see that the
Ingathering to which Paul refers, the Ingathering in
which he considers himself included, is the one in
which the Lord will destroy that wicked one with
the brightness of His coming.

It is quite clear that Paul did not foresee a 1391 Rapture previous to the Great Tribulation, and 1392 that he thought that neither he nor the Church of 1393 Thessalonica, would participate in such a Rapture. 1394 Rather, he thought that they would participate in the 1395 Ingathering which would occur simultaneous to the 1396 Second Coming. Let's see now what Paul tells us in 1397 the epistle to Titus. 1398

"12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and
"12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and
worldly lusts, we should live soberly,
righteously, and godly, in this present world;
Looking for that blessed hope, and the
glorious appearing of the great God and our
Saviour Jesus Christ." (Tit 2:12-13)

This is another passage that, in spite of talking about the Return, nothing can be gleaned from it that would point to a Rapture. Every time there is a reference to the Second Coming, it is mentioned in clear and specific terms; however you will not find **a single passage** that speaks clearly and specifically of the Rapture. Let's check Revelation.

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"15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there 1415 were great voices in heaven, saying: The 1416 kingdoms of this world are become the 1417 kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and 1418 he shall reign for ever and ever. 16 And the 1419 four and twenty elders, which sat before God 1420 on their seats, fell upon their faces, and 1421 worshipped God, 17 saying: We give thee 1422 thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and 1423 wast, and art to come, because thou hast 1424 taken to thee thy great power, and hast 1425 reigned. 18 And the nations were angry, and 1426 thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, 1427 that they should be judged, and that thou 1428 shouldest give reward unto thy servants the 1429 prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear 1430 thy name, small and great; and shouldest 1431 destroy them which destroy the Earth." 1432 (Rev 11:15-18) 1433 1434 In these verses in which the Return of Jesus is 1435 mentioned, we do not see a mention at all of the 1436 Rapture either. To see it we have to invent it, twist 1437 the Scripture, and change the meaning of words. 1438 We have seen that in not a single passage that 1439 speak about the Jesus' return we can perceive 1440 that a sudden, silent and secret rapture exist 1441 before the Great Tribulation. Why then believe 1442 and preach the Rapture? 1443 1444 1445 1446 The doctrine of the Rapture and of the so-called 1447 Jehovah's Witnesses agree in the view that Jesus 1448 returns unseen 1449 The theology of the Russellites (erroneously 1450

called Jehovah's Witnesses) and the doctrine of the
Rapture, are the only ones, as far as I know, which
deny that Jesus will be seen in his return. Contrary
to what both of these heretical doctrines affirm, the
Apostle John says that every eye shall see Him
on his return.

During the absurd so-called "presence" of Christ 1457 which the Russellites have invented, and during the 1458 no less absurd "surprise Rapture" which that other 1459 doctrine invented, they say Jesus will not be seen. 1460 What's more, according to both doctrines people 1461 will not even know that the Lord was here. In other 1462 words the Russellites say that "He is present", but 1463 He is neither seen nor noticed when He returns. The 1464 doctrine of the Rapture says that he will return, but 1465 that He won't be seen. 1466

It seems evident that someone, in the spiritual
darkness plane, has great interest that such things be
believed. Quiet the opposite of both heresies is what
the Apostle John says in Revelation.

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1476 1477 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and <u>every</u> <u>eye shall see him</u>, and they also which pierced him, and all kindreds of the Earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." (Rev 1:7

No one can say that this, which is from the first 1478 chapter in Revelation, does not refer to the Church, 1479 since it is precisely the gentile Churches that are 1480 being addressed; and referring to the Christians that 1481 belong to the gentile Churches he says that every 1482 eye shall see Him. If every eye shall see Him then it 1483 cannot be a Rapture where the Lord is unseen in the 1484 clouds. 1485

These are all the verses that I can remember 1486 that speak of the return of the Lord. All these 1487 verses speak clearly and specifically of the return of 1488 Jesus. In none of these does it speak clearly and 1489 specifically of a rapture before the Great 1490 Tribulation, a surprise, silent, invisible and secret 1491 Rapture, which this heretical doctrine claims to 1492 exist. 1493 If I have failed to show other verses which 1494 speak of the return of Jesus, and in which we can 1495 see clearly and specifically the existence of the 1496 Rapture, please show them to me. 1497 1498 1499 1500 Summary of Chapter 5. The Bible, which God 1501 gave us so that even a child can understand it, does 1502 not show, in any of the verses that speak of the 1503 return of Christ, not even one that tells us clearly of 1504 the Rapture. However there are several that speak 1505 with all clarity of an Ingathering which will occur 1506 during the Second Coming of Christ. The doctrine 1507 of the Rapture and of the Russellites (falsely called 1508 Jehovah's Witnesses) are the only ones that speak 1509 of a coming of the Lord in which He is not seen. 1510 1511 *** 1512 1513 1514 1515 1516 1517 1518

Chapter 6

Spared of the plagues without leaving the planet: the "wilderness"

They that reason based on false premises shall come to erroneous conclusions

Let us recount: the "Rapture" is the one that is alleged to occur before the Great Tribulation, whereas the "Ingathering" is that which will occur during the Second Coming, after the Great Tribulation.

One of the false bases of the hypothesis of a 1530 rapture before the Great Tribulation is that, for God 1531 to protect the Church from the antiChrist and from 1532 the Great Tribulation, He has to remove it from the 1533 planet with the Rapture. That is absolutely false. Up 1534 until today God has protected his People and has 1535 never had to remove them from the planet, or 1536 rapture them and take them elsewhere. 1537

Since the chain of reasoning of the Rapture
doctrine begins with a false premise, the conclusion
will also be erroneous, even if the intermediate links
were well reasoned, which they are not either. Let's
examine several examples of how God protected his
own without taking them out of the planet through a
rapture.

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In the midst of the Apocalypse God delivers His people without taking them away

When we read Rev 9:4 we see that in the midst of the Great Tribulation, during the sounding of the Fifth Trumpet, the locust will harm **only those that do not have the mark of God.** That shows us that

Christians do not have to suffer the plagues sent by
God, regardless of how generalized and extensive
they may be. God protected his own without
"rapturing" them. We would only suffer human
persecutions.

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1564 1565 "And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have <u>not</u> the seal of God in their foreheads." (Rev 9:4)

This verse tells us that the locust will harm only 1566 those that do not have the sign of God on their 1567 foreheads. This shows us two things: a) that there 1568 are going to be Christians on Earth during the Great 1569 Tribulation, because they would be the ones that **do** 1570 have the mark of God on their foreheads; and **b**) 1571 that Christians will not necessarily suffer the 1572 plagues and torments of the Great Tribulation, 1573 because those torments are for those that do not 1574 have the mark of God on their foreheads. 1575

This soundly contradicts the hypothesis of the 1576 Rapture, which says that there wont be Christians 1577 on Earth during the Great Tribulation, because the 1578 punishments and plagues are of such magnitude that 1579 no one on Earth can escape from them. From this 1580 false assumption, this doctrine "infers" that 1581 Christians have to had been "raptured suddenly, 1582 silently and secretly" before the Great Tribulation 1583 begins. 1584

Christians will definitely be spared the divine
plagues, even in the midst of the Great Tribulation,
but we shall not be definitely spared the human
persecutions. There will be places to find refuge, as
we are told in Revelation chapter 12, some shall be

killed and others shall escape, and many will find
refuge, we shall not be definitely free of human
persecutions, but we will be spared the divine
plagues.

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According to the Old Testament, God also delivers His own without removing them

A similar example is found in Ezq 9:4-6 where we see how God protects his servants in the midst of the catastrophes that He sends.

These verses show the governing dynamic in the 1602 protection of God's servants. He ordains the placing 1603 of a sign of God, on His own people. This being not 1604 a physical sign, visible to humans, but rather one 1605 visible to the angels charged with harming, 1606 destroying or killing, in order that they do us no 1607 harm. As we can see God protects his own without 1608 taking them out of the Planet. 1609

"4 And the LORD said unto him: Go through 1611 the midst of the city, through the midst of 1612 Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the 1613 foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry 1614 for all the abominations that be done in the 1615 midst thereof. 5 And to the others he said in 1616 mine hearing: Go ye after him through the 1617 city, and smite; let not your eye spare, neither 1618 have ye pity. 6 Slay utterly old and young, 1619 both maids, and little children, and women; 1620 but come not near any man upon whom is 1621 the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then 1622 they began at the ancient men which were 1623 before the house." (Ezk 9:4-6) 1624 * 1625

1627 During the coming Apocalypse God will also 1628 mark his people for their protection, without 1629 "rapturing" them 1630 It seems that something similar to what we have 1631 seen above, will happen towards the end of the 1632 World, as we can see from Rev 7:3, where it 1633 speaks of placing a seal on the servants of God. 1634 1635 "Saying: Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, 1636 nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants 1637 of our God in their foreheads. 1638 (Rev 7:3) 1639 1640 This explains the underlying process. In other 1641 words, the divine protection which we do not see, 1642 and which is promised us in Psalms 91:3-7. 1643 1644 "3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare 1645 of the fowler, and from the noisome 1646 pestilence. 4 He shall cover thee with his 1647 feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust; 1648 his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. 5 1649 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by 1650 night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 6 1651 nor for the pestilence that walketh in 1652 darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth 1653 at noonday. 7 A thousand shall fall at thy 1654 side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but 1655 it shall not come nigh thee." 1656 (Ps 91:3-7) 1657 * 1658 1659 1660

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In this next portion we see two groups of believers; one that finds refuge and is saved and another that does not look for refuge

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If we read the portion of Rev 12:14-17 we would 1664 see in verse 14 that during the Great Tribulation 1665 there are two groups of Christians. One group 1666 represented by a woman, is spared the Great 1667 Tribulation. They seek refuge in the "wilderness". 1668 On the other hand we see that once the Dragon 1669 realized he could do nothing against this group of 1670 Christians that found refuge (verse 16), he turned to 1671 make war against the others that kept the 1672 commandments of God and had the testimony of 1673 Jesus, namely, the second group (verse 17). 1674 Obviously, this other finds itself within reach of the 1675 Evil One. 1676

"14 And to the woman were given two wings 1678 of a great eagle, that she might fly into the 1679 wilderness, into her place, where she is 1680 nourished for a time, and times, and half a 1681 time, from the face of the serpent. 15 And the 1682 serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood 1683 after the woman, that he might cause her to 1684 be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth 1685 helped the woman, and the earth opened her 1686 mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the 1687 Dragon cast out of his mouth. 17 And the 1688 Dragon was wroth with the woman, and went 1689 to make war with the remnant of her seed, 1690 which keep the commandments of God, and 1691 have the testimony of Jesus Christ." 1692 (Rev 12:14-17) 1693

It is correct to note that **both of these groups are** on the Earth during the Great Tribulation. Hence, the Church couldn't have been "raptured",
since two groups of Christians would not be left
behind. If someone persists in affirming that those
two groups are not made up of Christians, and do
not form part of the Church, then they would have
to go back and redefine what is the Church and
what is a Christian.

We see in this portion, however, that God did 1704 indeed protect Christians in the midst of the GT. 1705 One of the two groups (14) took shelter under 1706 God's plans; the other stayed where they were, and 1707 to them the Dragon made war against. This shows 1708 us that there will be protected Christians on Earth 1709 during the GT, as well as Christians that suffer. We 1710 can see from all this that the plagues of this period 1711 do not make the Christians suffer even if they are 1712 found on Earth. It depends on the attitude of each 1713 and every one. 1714 *

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The Disciples believed that they had to send these people away

The Apostles believed that to be able to feed 1720 5,000 they would have to send all these people 1721 away from that place, but the Lord proved that He 1722 could feed them without having to remove them 1723 from that place. Likewise, those that believe that to 1724 protect the Church she must be removed from the 1725 planet, will see that the Lord can do it without 1726 having to rapture her. 1727

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"15 And when it was evening, his disciples
came to him, saying, This is a desert place,
and the time is now past; send the multitude
away, that they may go into the villages, and

buy themselves victuals. 16 But Jesus said unto 1733 them, They need not depart; give ye them to 1734 eat." (Mt 14:15-16) 1735 1736 1737 1738 Where will the Christians that listen to God's 1739 voice and not sit to wait for the supposed 1740 **Rapture, find refuge?** 1741 We have already seen several biblical examples of 1742 how God always provides an escape for His own 1743 and a place of refuge. Where would that refuge 1744 during the Great Tribulation be? It will definitely be 1745 what in Rev 12:14 is called "the wilderness". 1746 1747 "And to the woman were given two wings of 1748 a great eagle, that she might fly into the 1749 wilderness, into her place, where she is 1750 nourished for a time, and times, and half a 1751 time, from the face of the serpent." 1752 (Rev 12:14) 1753 1754 It is not misguided to believe that in this portion 1755 of Revelation, the eagle lends the woman its two 1756 wings, symbolizes a powerful government, since He 1757 does call it a "great eagle". The act of giving the 1758 two wings to the woman, can be due to that nation 1759 lending its power to facilitate the transfer of 1760 Christians to the refuge or "wilderness" prepared 1761 by God for them. 1762 I do not believe that the transfer of the Christians 1763 would be something compulsory. In other words, 1764 that the Christians will be forced to go to the 1765 "wilderness" or refuge. But rather that they will 1766 allow them to go. Perhaps as a way of getting the 1767 more controversial citizens of that future society out 1768

of the way.

I also doubt that all the Christians will desire to be
transferred to the wilderness or refuge. There may
be thousands that for various motives will not desire
to take refuge and will ignorantly prefer to remain
in the society of the nascent antiChrist.

The possible motives that many may have in remaining where they are, could be:

a) They believe in Jesus, but they are un-aware 1777 of the prophecies. The propaganda that currently 1778 prepares the coming of the antiChrist will make 1779 them think that going to a "wilderness" to seek 1780 refuge is an exaggeration and a "fanaticism". Many 1781 will believe it, because those brothers have not read 1782 the Bible sufficiently. Ask the Christians you know 1783 what is the antiChrist. The majority do not know 1784 much about him and confidently expect that they 1785 will be "secretly raptured" before the antiChrist 1786 and the Great Tribulation. 1787

b) Their emotions: Christians in love with 1788 persons that do not wish to leave their nation; 1789 Christians that love their wealth and possessions 1790 and are holding on to them; those that think they are 1791 too "clever", and figure they will be able to deal 1792 with problems without having to leave their place; 1793 those that are afraid of starting a brand new life 1794 from scratch; the procrastinators that always leave 1795 everything for later; those that do not want to 1796 separate from their unbelieving relatives; etc.. 1797

1798I am not talking of things that do not happen.1799Each and every one of the examples just mentioned,1800were reasons why, in a certain country where1801tyranny reigned, hundreds of thousands remained1802which could have left on time and however, did not.1803Nevertheless, these that did not leave on time,1804would later torment their relatives in the United

States desperately begging to be rescued from that
hell. At that point it was either impossible or a huge
sacrifice to do it. I am not talking of what I have
been told, I am speaking of what, as a person who
knew perfectly that country I saw, heard, and
experienced.

c) Those that have God's duty to fulfill in the place where they are; and those that do not have it, but think that they have it.

d) Those that disguise their true motives to remain, with the pretext of the duty that they say they need to fulfill.

e) Those that have two or more of the aforementioned motives, etc..

I do not believe that all the Christians of the 1819 World will go to the refuge, due to the previously 1820 mentioned facts. Perhaps it may be only those that 1821 make up the description given in Rev 3:7-13 (the 1822 Church at Philadelphia), especially if we guide 1823 ourselves by the promise of verse 10 of that portion, 1824 "because you have kept the word of my patience...". 1825 Something else to have in mind is that when it 1826 says that the woman will be given two wings of a 1827 great eagle, it is referring to the times of the end. 1828 In these days of the End there is only one powerful 1829 country that has as its national symbol the eagle, 1830 and that country is the United States of North 1831 America. It may be that this country may hold the 1832 "wilderness" which is spoken of by the prophecy, 1833 or it may be that the "wilderness" be elsewhere, but 1834 that the United States makes their power and means 1835 available to those that want to flee to a separate 1836 "wilderness". 1837 * 1838

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Christians can avoid the Great Tribulation 1841 according to what Jesus says 1842 Christians can avoid the Great Tribulation. If that 1843 were not the case the Lord would not have advised 1844 us to pray that we may be held worthy to escape all 1845 these things. 1846 1847 "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that 1848 ye may be accounted worthy to escape all 1849 these things that shall come to pass, and to 1850 stand before the Son of Man." 1851 (Lk 21:36) 1852 1853 By using the phrase "stand before the Son of 1854 Man", he lets us see that in this verse Jesus is 1855 referring to the last generation just before his 1856 Second Coming; not to the generation of the 1857 Apostles. Referring to that generation which will 1858 see the Second Coming, He exhorts to pray and 1859 watch. In other words, to ask God, and to act 1860 accordingly, so that they may avoid the Great 1861 Tribulation and stand before Christ. 1862 If such were not the case, that is, that the last 1863 generation of Christians could avoid the Great 1864 Tribulation, the Lord would not have urged us to 1865 pray requesting such a thing. 1866 1867 1868 1869 Jesus again mentions that the antiChrist can be 1870 avoided by Christians 1871 In Rev 3:10 we see the Lord asserting again that 1872 the Church can be freed of the Great Tribulation. 1873 Basically, it is not an outlandish idea that Christians 1874 can avoid it. Notice that He is referring to end-time 1875 Christians. 1876

"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the Earth." (Rev 3:10)

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When God protected his own people in Egypt He did not have to remove them from there

It is useful to remember, when we speak of the 1888 plagues that the Lord will send during times of 1889 Revelation, that God protected his people 1890 thoroughly, from the plagues that afflicted Egypt. 1891 Basically, we cannot be called optimists, if we 1892 expect that during the plagues of Revelation, the 1893 magnificent and absolute protection of God on His 1894 people will be repeated. 1895

"22 And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. 23 And I will put a division between my people and thy people; to morrow shall this sign be."

(Ex 8:22-23)

"4 And the LORD shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt; and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel. 5 And the LORD appointed a set time, saying, To morrow the LORD shall do this thing in the land. 6 And the LORD did that thing on the morrow, and all

the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of 1913 the children of Israel died not one." 1914 (Ex 9:4-6) 1915 1916 "25 And the hail smote throughout all the 1917 land of Egypt all that was in the field, both 1918 man and beast; and the hail smote every herb 1919 of the field, and brake every tree of the field. 1920 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the 1921 children of Israel were, was there no hail." 1922 (Ex 9:25-26) 1923 1924 "They saw not one another, neither rose any 1925 from his place for three days; but all the 1926 children of Israel had light in their 1927 dwellings." (Ex 10:23) 1928 1929 From the reading of these portions we see that 1930 the divine protection is full and complete. 1931 Nowhere we see that His people in Egypt, had 1932 suffered the same plagues that were being suffered 1933 by those around them. Not even the side effects of 1934 these plagues. 1935 This same thing will happen at the End of this 1936 Era, when the foretold plagues come. The people 1937 of God shall be protected, at the very least, those 1938 that allow themselves to be protected. Those that 1939 persist on waiting for a "secret rapture" may not see 1940 the opportunity of escape, and will be prevented 1941 from getting refuge in the "wilderness". 1942 At that future time, the best advice that Christians 1943 can receive is not to cling to their properties nor to 1944 others that may not want to leave for the 1945 "wilderness" that God provided. Not only that, but 1946 also in many cases they may have to leave without 1947 their material goods, leaving everything, so that the 1948

people surrounding them may not suspect that they
are fleeing and not planning to return, and may try
to retain them. Things like that I have seen in
countries under tyrannies.

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1955 Summary of Chapter 6. God has always 1956 protected his people without removing them from 1957 the planet, as happened in Egypt and as is promised 1958 that will happen with the future Church of 1959 Philadelphia. It is true also when we see that in 1960 Revelation He marks His own so they are not 1961 affected by the locust; and when we see that He 1962 gives refuge in the wilderness to the woman that 1963 flees. Christ personally tells us that we can escape, 1964 when He tells us to pray that we may be considered 1965 worthy of avoiding that which will come. 1966

Chapter 7

The doctrine of the Rapture argues that God and Christ will not allow the Church to suffer, and for this reason rapture has to exist

What does history teach us about the sufferings of the Church?

God, in addition to being sovereign, (accountable to no one) is also all knowing (omniscient), among this, He knows what is best for the Church. To say

that the Church has to be raptured, because God is 1984 not going to allow it to suffer, is a cavalier 1985 statement. If the Church were to suffer, it would be 1986 for a purpose. In many occasions persecution has 1987 purified the Church. Those who are in it for 1988 illegitimate motives abandon it. We cannot impose 1989 upon God the thresholds of "justice" of those that 1990 believe they know better than Him. 1991

The history of the Lord's Church has been one of 1992 suffering and persecutions. The prophets of God 1993 were assassinated by the hundreds during the rule of 1994 Achab. His wife Jezebel took it upon herself to 1995 persecute the servants of God. During the years 1996 after the resurrection of Christ, the Church was 1997 persecuted with viciousness. Not only Stephen, 1998 many others were also killed by the Apostle Paul 1999 before he converted to Christ. After this it was 2000 persecuted by the Roman Empire. Afterwards the 2001 Roman Church took its place with the dreadful 2002 persecutions, tortures and murders of the 2003 Inquisition. How can the hypothesis of the Rapture 2004 say that the Church must be taken out of the planet, 2005 because God and Christ will not allow the Church 2006 to suffer? The Church has always suffered. 2007

The false teaching of a pre-Great Tribulation rapture, gives as one of its "powerful" arguments that the Church have to be "raptured", because God the Father and Jesus Christ will not allow the Church to suffer during the Great Tribulation. That is a false premise.

Even in the case that such premise be true, (which is not), we have already seen that God can deliver His own without rapturing them to remove them from the planet. God has always provided an escape for His own people, if they pay attention to the voice of God, not the voice of man. To affirm that God will not permit that the Church suffer, as a means of supporting the false hypothesis of the rapture, is to support a lie with another lie. Jesus himself warned us that we would have affliction in this world.

"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." (Jn 16:33)

One of the errors that drives the Rapture hypothesis away from reality is that of **confusing The Great Tribulation with the Seven Bowls.** The former originates from men, and we shall still be here; the second is of divine origin and during that one we will have been gathered up already.

Basically, during the Great Tribulation, Christians 2037 will still be on Earth, Christ would not have 2038 returned yet. Actually, during the sounding of the 2039 Seventh Trumpet, which is when the Second 2040 Coming of Christ and the true Ingathering occur, 2041 would be when the pouring of the Seven Bowls 2042 with the seven plagues that fulfill the wrath of God 2043 begin. This is explained in more detail in chapter 2044 16, page 140. 2045

From the true Ingathering until the beginning
of the Kingdom of God, an indeterminate
amount of time shall transpire in which the
Christians will be with the Lord.

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Summary of Chapter 7. In the Bible, as well as
throughout history we confirm that the Church has
never wholly escaped afflictions that the world has

imposed on us. Do not confuse these with the
plagues that God will be sending. From these we
shall be spared.

Chapter 8 The Wedding of the Lamb

Weddings are a feast in which we all participate and enjoy

Let us remember that the Rapture is said occur before the Great Tribulation, whereas the Ingathering shall occur during the Second Coming.

In all cultures of the world, weddings are meant to
be celebrated with great joy, music, feasting and
enjoyment. The joy is put aside only if by
misfortune, before or during the wedding a tragedy
occurs among the family of the couple.

The Wedding of the Lamb shall be something unforgettable for those of us that are Christians. A true moment of real joy, a time in which no suffering or thought will come to make us sad.

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When shall the Wedding of the Lamb happen <u>according</u> to the Rapture doctrine

According to what I have always heard from the brethren which discuss this matter with me, the Christians that were raptured shall be happily enjoying the Wedding of the Lamb, in Heaven,

during the same time that other Christians suffer 2091 horribly the Great Tribulation on Earth. The 2092 antiChrist and his followers murder, burnt at the 2093 stake, crucify, etc., the Christians on Earth, while 2094 we are enjoying a good old time up in Heaven. This 2095 without our being a bit concerned with what is 2096 happening to our brethren. ¿Does this sound 2097 logical? ¿Do you truly believe this is what Jesus 2098 planned for his wedding day? 2099

Not only would that be bad enough; but if the 2100 Rapture were true, then we would have that those 2101 poor martyred and murdered Christians during the 2102 Great Tribulation, would never get to partake of the 2103 Wedding of the Lamb. This because they would not 2104 have their resurrection until after the quite public 2105 Second Coming. And by then the Wedding of the 2106 Lamb would have passed. 2107

What's more, since the Rapture hypothesis 2108 falsely asserts that it will happen before the 2109 opening of the First Seal, and given that in the 2110 Fifth Seal we see the souls of those slain on the 2111 Earth because of the witness of Jesus, we would 2112 have to conclude that in spite of these souls being in 2113 Heaven, they could not participate in the Wedding 2114 feast, but rather see them from far away. This due to 2115 the passage that states that these martyrs have to 2116 wait for the rest that shall be killed. Not light fare is 2117 it! 2118

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2120 "9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I
2121 saw under the altar the souls of them that
2122 were slain for the word of God, and for the
2123 testimony which they held. 10 And they cried
2124 with a loud voice, saying: How long, O Lord,
2125 holy and true, dost thou not judge and
2126 avenge our blood on them that dwell on the

2127Earth?11 And white robes were given unto2128every one of them; and it was said unto them,2129that they should rest yet for a little season,2130until their fellow servants also and their2131brethren, that should be killed as they were,2132should be fulfilled."2133

To these martyrs of the Great Tribulation the doctrine of the Rapture denies their position in Christ's Church. How could it be possible that they would not belong to His Church, when it is Christ himself who is with them in Heaven?

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When shall the Wedding of the Lamb be, according to the Bible

I do not know from what part of the Bible the 2144 doctrine of the Rapture has gotten the idea that the 2145 Wedding of the Lamb shall be celebrated during the 2146 Great Tribulation. In spite of repeatedly asking 2147 my friends that believe in the Rapture, they 2148 cannot tell me on what passage they base 2149 themselves to believe such a thing. The only thing 2150 that I can gather is that these brothers believe it 2151 because they were told by others, which "others" I 2152 have not been able to ask, because they are not 2153 available for this discussion. 2154

In addition, they have brought me books, but when I ask them to tell me in what part of the book the author shows the biblical origin of the concept, they still cannot point it out. No one seems to know, but all seem to firmly believe it. This is the sad tendency towards dogma that is very common among those who are simply religious.

The only two parts of the Bible where I have 2162 seen reference to the Wedding of the Lamb are in 2163 Revelation 19:7-9 and 21:9; both verses are found 2164 quite a bit after the Great Tribulation. Let's see. 2165 2166 " τ Let us be glad and rejoice, and give 2167 honour to him, for the marriage of the Lamb 2168 is come, and his wife hath made herself 2169 ready. 8 And to her was granted that she 2170 should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and 2171 white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of 2172 saints. 9 And he saith unto me: Write: Blessed 2173 are they which are called unto the marriage 2174 supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me: 2175 These are the true sayings of God." 2176 (Rev 19:7-9) 2177 2178 "And there came unto me one of the seven 2179 angels which had the seven vials full of the 2180 seven last plagues, and talked with me, 2181 saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the 2182 bride, the Lamb's wife." (Rev 21:9) 2183 2184 Already for the time mentioned in these two 2185 portions, the Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God 2186 were poured upon the Earth. This is easy to show 2187 because in Revelation 16:17 we see that the seventh 2188 and last bowl has been poured. In 19:2 we see that 2189 the Great Harlot has been judged, and that God had 2190 avenged the blood of His servants at her hand. 2191 Hence, the Great Tribulation is finished. However, 2192 we see in verse 7 of this same chapter, that the 2193 Wedding of the Lamb has not yet taken place. From 2194 there we can deduce, without much mental effort, 2195 that the Wedding of the Lamb comes after the Great 2196 Tribulation, and after the destruction of the Great 2197

Harlot, not as the Rapture proclaims. 2198 2199 "And the seventh angel poured out his vial 2200 into the air; and there came a great voice out 2201 of the temple of heaven, from the throne, 2202 saying, It is done." (Rev 16:17) 2203 2204 "And after these things I heard a great voice 2205 of much people in heaven, saying: Alleluia; 2206 Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, 2207 unto the Lord our God; 2 for true and 2208 righteous are his judgments; for he hath 2209 judged the great whore, which did corrupt 2210 the Earth with her fornication, and hath 2211 avenged the blood of his servants at her 2212 hand. 3 And again they said: Alleluia. And 2213 her smoke rose up for ever and ever. 4 And 2214 the four and twenty elders and the four beasts 2215 fell down and worshipped God that sat on the 2216 throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia." 2217 (Rev 19:1-4) 2218 2219 Another item to thoughtfully consider is that in 2220 verse 6 it says that God has reigned, and later that 2221 we should rejoice because the Wedding of the Lamb 2222 is going to be celebrated. It's not hard to realize that 2223 if God has taken the Kingdom, the Great 2224 Tribulation must have concluded. And if after 2225 God takes the Kingdom the Wedding of the 2226 Lamb is then celebrated, this means that they 2227 have not been celebrated before. This in turn 2228 means that the wedding happens after the Great 2229 Tribulation, not during the seven years, as the 2230 "secret rapture" hypothesis claims. 2231 2232

"5 And a voice came out of the throne, 2233 saying: Praise our God, all ye his servants, 2234 and ye that fear him, both small and great. 6 2235 And I heard as it were the voice of a great 2236 multitude, and as the voice of many waters, 2237 and as the voice of mighty thunderings, 2238 Alleluia: for the Lord God saying, 2239 omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and 2240 rejoice, and give honour to him: for the 2241 marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife 2242 hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was 2243 granted that she should be arrayed in fine 2244 linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the 2245 righteousness of saints." (Rev 19:5-8) 2246

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As we see, the only places in the Bible that speak 2248 of the Wedding of the Lamb imply that the Great 2249 Tribulation is past. Hence, the hypothesis of the 2250 Rapture is totally erroneous in claiming that the 2251 wedding will occur during the Great Tribulation. 2252 If we look again at the first portion (Revelation 2253 19:7-9), we see that at the end it says: "Blessed are 2254 they which are called unto the marriage supper of 2255 the Lamb". From this it can be implied that those 2256 not called to the marriage supper of the Lamb, are 2257 not blessed. 2258

Since according to the confusing doctrine of the 2259 Rapture, the wedding occurs during the Great 2260 Tribulation. it becomes evident that the 2261 unfortunate brethren that suffer during this 2262 period cannot participate of the wedding supper 2263 and hence are not blessed. In other words this 2264 heresy has excluded them de-facto from their 2265 blessing. You have to trample logic and excessively 2266 twist Scripture to match the doctrine of the Rapture! 2267 2268

Summary of Chapter 8. According to the 2271 Rapture hypothesis, the Wedding of the Lamb will 2272 occur during the segment of time between the 2273 alleged pre-Tribulation Rapture and the Second 2274 Coming of Christ. We will have celebrations while 2275 our brothers are being tortured, crucified, burnt at 2276 the stake, etc.. The truth, however, is that the only 2277 two portions that speak of the Wedding of the Lamb 2278 are in Chapters 19 and 21 of Revelation. These 2279 chapters are a good amount of time after the Great 2280 Tribulation. 2281

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2282 *** 2283 2284 2285 2286 2287 **Chapter 9** 2288 The fake "need" for an "imminent" 2289 Rapture 2290 2291 Fake "reasons" why we "must" believe in the 2292 "imminence" of the Rapture, in spite of being 2293 false. 2294 One of the "reasons" that I have gotten from my 2295 friends, regarding the need for the hypothesis of the 2296 Rapture, is the concept they call "continuous 2297 expectation". According to them it is necessary that 2298 Christians believe that the return of Christ can 2299 happen at any time. Supposedly, he may come in 2300 the next minute just as likely as he may come a 2301 century from now. 2302

Since I have never gotten this impression from my 2303 reading of the Bible, I have asked them why it is 2304 crucial to maintain the brethren under "continuous 2305 expectation". The answer given has left me 2306 astonished. According to them, if Christians do not 2307 believe that Christ can come at any time, they do 2308 not sanctify themselves, and they would be robbed 2309 of the comfort they feel with this dream. 2310

I told that brother, that it was a sin to use a lie for 2311 a good purpose, to what he responded that the 2312 "continuous expectation" was found in the Bible. 2313 Let us analyze this case. Let's first see if it is true 2314 that we have to deceive the brethren, if we have to 2315 use deception, which is a satanic invention, so that 2316 Christians may be sanctified and to give them 2317 comfort. Afterwards, we shall analyze what the 2318 Bible says about that. But before that, let's 2319 remember again that the Rapture is the one that 2320 allegedly occurs before the Great Tribulation, 2321 whereas the "Ingathering" occurs during the Second 2322 Coming. 2323

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Deception for sanctification and comfort?

If a Christian needs to be frightened so that he 2328 proceeds toward sanctification, that Christian leaves 2329 much to be desired. The Christian, that in order to 2330 proceed to sanctification, to depart from sin, to obey 2331 God, needs the goad of uncertainty, the fear that the 2332 rapture may surprise him sinning, is in reality a bad 2333 Christian, if indeed a Christian at all. That is a 2334 person that continues to love sin, who has not 2335 repented, who does not desire to leave sin, except 2336 under threat of death. 2337

The process of sanctification is followed out of 2338 gratitude, because we know that our sins were 2339 suffered by Jesus. Our knowledge that every time 2340 we sin, we grieve our Lord, is reason enough to 2341 restrain ourselves by avoiding sin. It should not be 2342 necessary to use the scare tactic that Jesus can 2343 return in the moment that we are sinning, and thus 2344 be lost. It is enough that he who sins realize, that 2345 God sees him at that moment. It is enough that he 2346 who sins realize that he may die while he sins. It is 2347 not necessary to fabricate a deception to get 2348 Christians to sanctify themselves. Lying was 2349 invented by the Devil, for he is the father of lies, 2350 and to use his methods to obtain God's purpose is to 2351 honor Satan. 2352

"Ye are of your father the Devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **abode not in the truth**, because **there is no truth in him**. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for **he is a liar, and the father of it.**" (Jn 8:44)

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Not only is it sinful to lie so that Christians 2362 become holy, in addition, it is self defeating. 2363 When they are fed the fantasy that there is an 2364 imminent Rapture before the Great Tribulation, and 2365 then an Ingathering after it, they are telling that 2366 brother that there are two possibilities of being 2367 gathered by Christ. If due to sin they miss the 2368 Rapture, which supposedly is the first one, they 2369 still have an opportunity with the second round. 2370 And instead of being stimulated towards holiness, 2371 they would become negligent in their sanctification. 2372

To deceive a person with the Rapture concept, so 2373 that they feel comforted, is like deceiving them with 2374 Buddhism's transcendental meditation to obtain 2375 "spiritual comfort and inner peace". Similarly, with 2376 the followers of Jim Jones, who felt comfortable 2377 doing, whatever he ordered; likewise, the cultic 2378 group that committed suicide in order to leave with 2379 a flying saucer. All these felt comforted in their 2380 beliefs, but they were false beliefs. It would have 2381 been worthwhile, in all these cases, that someone 2382 would have destroyed that rapturous fantasy, that 2383 comfort. It is not honest or kind to promote belief in 2384 a lie, simply because those that believe it feel happy 2385 with it. 2386

Other brethren allege that by preaching the 2387 rapture, we get more conversions than if we 2388 taught about the Ingathering. The previous 2389 reasoning applies also to this case. Should we lie to 2390 obtain more people to fill the pews in the churches? 2391 Would we claim that we had an apparition of the 2392 Virgin, in order to get more people to "convert"? 2393 Should we falsely claim that we perform miracles in 2394 order to provoke people to convert to Christ? Those 2395 who apply deceit are Satan's agents. 2396

Another false reason put forth is that, according 2398 them, all the reformers believed in the to 2399 "continuous expectation". That is debatable; but 2400 even in the case that it were true, why if some 2401 brethren were mistaken, must we follow their 2402 mistake? Do you believe in each and every 2403 doctrine, put forth by Luther, Savonarola, Hus and 2404 Calvin? Do you approve every single thing they 2405 did? Should Evangelicals have their own pope? 2406 Since we are not to follow men, let's analyze the 2407

2408 "continuous expectation" from the biblical point2409 of view.

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The "thief in the night" will not surprise Christians, only unbelievers

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The fact that the return of Christ will surprise 2415 "like a thief in the night", refers to unbelievers, 2416 not to Christians. This means that Christians won't 2417 be surprised by his return. Even though the day and 2418 the hour will not be known (nor does it have to be 2419 known), the era can be known; and perhaps even 2420 the year. I am not saying that it can be known 2421 now, but rather that it can be known when the 2422 principal signs begin to appear. 2423

Why do I say that the surprise of the thief in the 2424 night shall be for unbelievers and not for 2425 Christians? I say it, because that phrase "thief in 2426 the night", referring to the surprise effect in the 2427 return of Christ, is mentioned six times in the 2428 whole Bible, and in none of these it indicates that 2429 it is referring to Christians. However, in some of 2430 these we can see clearly that it is referring to 2431 unbelievers. This is clearly expressed by St. Paul in 2432 the following portion: 2433

"1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, 2435 ye have no need that I write unto you. 2 For 2436 yourselves know perfectly that the day of the 2437 Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3 For 2438 when they shall say: Peace and safety; then 2439 sudden destruction cometh upon them, as 2440 travail upon a woman with child; and they 2441 shall not escape. 4 But ye, brethren, are not 2442 in darkness, that that day should overtake 2443

you as	a thief.	5 Ye	are	all	the	childre	en of
light, a	nd the ch	nildrei	n of	the	day;	we ar	e not
of the n	ight, nor	of da	rkne	ss."	•		
Ū				(I T)	Thes	5:1-5)	

If we read verse 3 we will see that when they shall 2449 say: "peace and safety, then sudden destruction 2450 comes upon them.... and they shall not escape". It 2451 is not logical to think that in saying "sudden 2452 destruction comes upon them", it refers to 2453 Christians. Rather it must be to unbelievers. 2454 Something similar can be said about the phrase 2455 "they shall not escape", since the Christians will 2456 escape. Hence, when it speaks of the "thief's 2457 surprise", it refers to those that will suffer 2458 destruction and will not escape. From that fact we 2459 can easily deduce that those who will be surprised 2460 shall be the unbelievers and not Christians. 2461

In verse 4 we see that **Paul tells Christians that** 2462 this does not refer to them. He says this when he 2463 explains, "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, 2464 that that day should overtake you as a thief". It is 2465 quite clearly explained that Paul considers that 2466 Christians wouldn't be surprised by the return of 2467 Christ. In other words, he excludes the Christians 2468 from the thief in the night surprise. 2469

So all the arguments based on the Christians being
surprised are refuted. From all this it clearly
follows, that the ones that will be surprised are the
unbelievers, not the Christians and hence, the
"continuous expectation" concept is a myth, an
error of interpretation.

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When Jesus speaks of "a thief in the night" He is 2479 referring to his enemies 2480 When in Mt 24:43 Jesus speaks of the surprise 2481 like a thief in the night, he is referring to the fact 2482 that if his enemies would know the time of his 2483 return, they would prepare and not allow their house 2484 to be broken in. Here we see again that it refers to 2485 those who would oppose Jesus if they could, not to 2486 Christians, which would never oppose his return. 2487 Similarly in Luke 12:39. 2488 2489 "But know this, that if the goodman of the 2490 house had known in what watch the thief 2491 would come, he would have watched, and 2492 would not have suffered his house to be 2493 broken up." (Mt 24:43) 2494 2495 "And this know, that if the goodman of the 2496 house had known what hour the thief would 2497 come, he would have watched, and not have 2498 suffered his house to be broken through." 2499 (Lk 12:39) 2500 * 2501 2502 2503 Peter does not specify who will be 2504 surprised 2505 As far as II Peter 3:10 which also mentions the 2506 phrase "thief in the night", he does not say to whom 2507 this applies. It only says that His return will be a 2508 surprise without saying for whom. It would be 2509 logical to interpret it in the light of what Paul has 2510 already taught us in I Thessalonians 5:1-5, where 2511 he explicitly excludes Christians, from those to 2512 suffer the surprise. 2513

"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." (II P 3:10) *

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Jesus implies that they who are not in fellowship with Him, will be the only ones surprised

In Revelation 3:3 Jesus tells the angel of the church in Sardis, to repent and to keep what he has received and heard, because <u>if he doesn't do it</u>, He will come like a thief. It follows logically from what Jesus says that if the angel repents, and keeps what he has heard and received, then the coming like a thief does not apply.

"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. <u>If</u> <u>therefore thou shalt not watch</u>, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee." (Rev 3:3)

In the verse above we see that the **coming like a** 2542 thief does not happen to all unavoidably, it 2543 depends on the person. If they do not keep that 2544 which was heard and received, if they do not repent 2545 and keep watch, the return of the Lord shall surprise 2546 them like a thief in the night. It follows from this 2547 that if they keep what they have heard and received, 2548 if they repent and keep watch, the return of the Lord 2549 will not surprise them like a thief in the night. 2550

Hence, again, the thief in the night surprise will
be only for those that are not right with the
Lord.

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Whoever watches and keeps his garments will not be surprised

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In Revelation 16:15 the phrase "as a thief" is 2559 mentioned again. In this verse it is implied that the 2560 one who watches and keeps his garments, will 2561 not be surprised. It is logical to think that those 2562 who watch and keep their garments are the 2563 Christians, and that the ones that do not watch or 2564 keep their garments are the unbelievers. The 2565 warning that He comes as a thief, is evidently for 2566 the latter. 2567

> *"Behold, I come as a thief.* Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." (Rev 16:15)

These six passages are the only ones where
"thief in the night" is mentioned and <u>none</u> of
these apply to Christians. On the contrary, in five
of these portions they are explicitly excluded.

In all these passages we see that: **a**) either it is applied to the enemies of Christ, or **b**) it does not say to whom it applies. It would be logical to conclude that the reference to the return of Jesus surprising like a thief in the night, refers to the unbelievers, never the Christians.

In addition, it is difficult to believe that with so
many signs given in the Bible so that we recognize
the proximity of Christ's return, Christians would

still not realize of its imminence, and it would takethem by surprise.

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Did the apostles believe in the immediate return of Christ?

During the ministry of the Lord on earth, the 2594 disciples believed that the Kingdom would be 2595 established shortly. But as they gradually learned 2596 from the Lord, they realized the truth. The last time 2597 the apostles believed that, was when they asked the 2598 Lord if He would restore the Kingdom of Israel in 2599 those days. To that the Lord answered that it was 2600 not for them to know. 2601

Nevertheless in their time they had several signals 2602 that indicated that the return of Jesus would not be 2603 imminent or surprising. The first signal refers to a 2604 conversation with Peter and another with John. 2605 Both conversations occurred after the resurrection 2606 in John 21:18-23. This episode shows us that the 2607 disciples could not have been awaiting the return of 2608 Jesus at any moment. Let's read. 2609

"18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee: When thou 2611 wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and 2612 walkedst whither thou wouldest, but when 2613 thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy 2614 hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry 2615 thee whither thou wouldest not. 19 This spake 2616 he, signifying by what <u>death</u> he should 2617 glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he 2618 saith unto him: Follow me. 20 Then Peter, 2619 turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus 2620 loved following; which also leaned on his 2621 breast at supper, and said: Lord, which is he 2622

that betrayeth thee? 21 Peter seeing him saith 2623 to Jesus: Lord, and what shall this man do? 22 2624 Jesus saith unto him: If I will that he tarry till 2625 I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me. 2626 23 Then went this saying abroad among the 2627 brethren, that that disciple should not die; 2628 yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; 2629 but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is 2630 that to thee?" (Jn 21:18-23) 2631

From the conversation with Peter the disciples 2633 must have concluded that before the return of 2634 Jesus, Peter would have grown old and would 2635 have died, because that is precisely what Jesus tells 2636 him in verse 19. If Peter was to grow old (18) and 2637 die extending his hands, it is logical to think that it 2638 had to happen before His return, because the Lord 2639 would not permit that after his return. 2640

Later on, in verse 23 it says that the disciples 2641 concluded that what Jesus said was that John would 2642 not die. If they concluded that John would not die, it 2643 is evident that they expected that all the others 2644 would die. If they thought that the other disciples 2645 would die, it is because they did not expect the 2646 return of Christ during the time they were alive. In 2647 other words, they did not believe that Jesus would 2648 appear unexpectedly and at any moment. They had 2649 no reason to believe in a "continuous expectation" 2650 of the return of Christ. 2651

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The "continuous expectation" and the destruction of the Temple in AD 70

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To support the false premise of the "continuous expectation" of the Lord's return, the doctrine of the Rapture tells us that the Apostles awaited His
return at any moment. That is not true. The
Christians of the first century could not have been
under the "continuous expectation" of His return.
They knew that the Lord had given them certain
signs that hadn't been accomplished yet.

While Jesus was with them, the disciples believed that the Kingdom of God would be established at any moment. After the Prophetic Sermon and the resurrection, however, they already understood that His return would not occur unexpectedly.

In chapter 21 of Luke, Christ informs His apostles 2670 the events which had to occur before His return. 2671 That is: the Temple would be destroyed, there 2672 would be earthquakes, Jerusalem would be 2673 destroyed, there would be signs in the sun, and in 2674 the moon, and in the stars, and then the return of the 2675 Lord would occur. Since the apostles did not see the 2676 first of these signs until AD 70, when the Temple 2677 was destroyed, rest assured that they were not 2678 expecting the return of Christ at any moment. 2679 Notice that all these warnings are being given by 2680 Christ to members of His Church. For sure the 2681 first Christians did not expect Jesus any time. 2682

"5 And as some spake of the Temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said: 6 As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." (Lk 21:5-6)

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2691 "And great earthquakes shall be in divers
2692 places, and famines, and pestilences; and
2693 fearful sights and great signs shall there be
2694 from Heaven." (Lk 21:11)

"20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem 2696 compassed with armies, then know that the 2697 desolation thereof is nigh. 21 Then let them 2698 which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; 2699 and let them which are in the midst of it 2700 depart out; and let not them that are in the 2701 countries enter thereinto." 2702 (Lk 21:20-21) 2703 2704 "25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and 2705 in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the 2706 earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the 2707 sea and the waves roaring; 26 men's hearts 2708 failing them for fear, and for looking after 2709 those things which are coming on the earth. 2710 for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. 27 2711 And then shall they see the Son of man 2712 coming in a cloud with power and great 2713 glory." (Lk 21:25-27) 2714 * 2715 2716 2717 The analogies with Noah and the mention of the 2718 "day and hour", in the Prophetic Sermon, could 2719 not be referring to the Rapture 2720 This deceiving doctrine considers that the moment 2721 of the rapture of the church is continuously 2722 uncertain, basically a "continuous expectation", 2723 until it actually happens. To support this absurd 2724 idea, the doctrine of the rapture utilizes the analogy 2725 made with Noah, and the statement made by Jesus, 2726 that no one knows the day or the hour of his return. 2727 But in utilizing these it self-destructs. Let us see. 2728 The doctrine of the Rapture states that it occurs 2729

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before the Great Tribulation. In other words, that

when the signs in heaven, the persecution and
killing of the Christians and other events narrated in
Matthew 24 will occur, the Church would have
already been raptured from the planet according to
this doctrine.

But it should be noted, that not knowing either 2736 the day or the hour of His return is mentioned 2737 only in the Prophetic Sermon. This doctrine of the 2738 Rapture, states that chapter 24 deals with what 2739 would happen after the supposed Rapture. How 2740 then can it attribute not knowing the day or the hour 2741 to the Rapture considering that with respect to the 2742 events of chapter 24 rapture has already happened? 2743

This doctrine affirms that what is prophesied in 2744 chapter 24 pertains to a time after the Rapture. If it 2745 applies to events after the Rapture, then the 2746 mention of "the day and the hour" cannot be 2747 applicable to this event, but rather to the Second 2748 Coming of Christ. Without realizing it, this 2749 doctrine's argument is actually implying that there 2750 no such Rapture previous to the Great is 2751 Tribulation. 2752

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In verse 29 it says that after the affliction of 2754 those days, this is to say, after the Great Tribulation, 2755 it will be followed by signs such as the darkening of 2756 the Sun and Moon and the fall of the stars; in verse 2757 30 it says that the Sign of Christ will be displayed in 2758 the heavens, the nations will mourn and Christ will 2759 be seen. It is after all these signs that portend the 2760 impending return of Christ, when it says in verse 2761 36 that the day and the hour is known by no one. 2762 It is evident that the "day and the hour" refers to a 2763 period in which these signs occur. In other words, it 2764 refers to the period from the Great Tribulation to 2765 the Second Coming. Hence, there is no reason to 2766

say that the phrase "the day and the hour" is
"proof" that the Rapture is a surprise, that it is an
event under "continuous expectation".

Similar reasoning can be used when the Rapture 2770 hypothesis makes use of the analogy made with 2771 Noah in the Prophetic Sermon, in order to support 2772 the "imminence" and "surprise" of the Rapture. 2773 That analogy is mentioned only in the Prophetic 2774 Sermon. In other words, during the period 2775 encompassing the Great Tribulation and the Second 2776 Coming. Hence, these analogies or parables, given 2777 during the Prophetic Sermon, do not cover what 2778 would happen before the Great Tribulation. For this 2779 reason, they are not a "proof" that the Rapture, 2780 which according to this hypothesis happens before 2781 the Great Tribulation, will be surprising and 2782 continuously imminent. 2783

All this can be said even before considering that 2784 the "surprise", and the "imminence", in the case 2785 of Noah, was for the unbelievers, not for the 2786 believers. For Noah and his family, who were the 2787 only believers in that era, there was no surprise; 2788 they knew what was going to happen. This shows 2789 that this analogy was not made by the Lord to 2790 illustrate surprise for the believers, but rather 2791 for the unbelievers. 2792

Now then, if the reference to the day and the hour 2793 not being known, and the analogy of Noah, were 2794 not made by the Lord to say that believers would be 2795 surprised, on what other Bible portions does this 2796 doctrine base itself to say that the alleged Rapture 2797 would occur without previous warning or signs, by 2798 surprise, secretly and silently, and what's more, that 2799 it would be constantly imminent? 2800

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To what extent is the return of Christ indefinite?

What Jesus said was that **the day and the hour** of his Second Coming was not known by anyone, not even by Himself. Nevertheless, the Lord purposely gave us signs so that we may recognize that it is "**at the door**" (Mt 24:33; Mr 13:28-30 y 32).

For this reason, the era, including maybe the year 2811 can be known whenever the final events begin. If 2812 we could not even know the year, it would be 2813 needless for Jesus to warn us of these signs that 2814 precede His Second Coming. God does want for 2815 us to realize the proximity of the return of Christ. If 2816 it were not that way He would not have taught us to 2817 distinguish these signs. 2818

Besides, knowing that the antiChrist will last only three years and a half, and knowing that in His Second Coming, Jesus will catch the antiChrist still in operation, it is easy to deduce that we would know approximately, the year of the Second Coming of Christ, when all the final events will be present.

The prophet Daniel read the scriptures in order to learn when the 70 years of the desolation of Jerusalem would end (Dn 9:2). Likewise there is nothing inappropriate about us reading the prophecies to know the era of the Second Coming of Christ.

Is there something in the Bible that tells us that
we should not inquire in the prophecies when Jesus
would return? Quite the contrary, in II Peter 1:19
the apostle encourages us to heed the prophecy like
a light that shines in the darkness. Lets read the five
passages previously mentioned:

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"32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When 2839 his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth 2840 leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: 33 So 2841 likewise ye, when ye shall see all these 2842 things, know that it is near, even at the 2843 doors. 34 Verily I say unto you, This generation 2844 shall not pass, till all these things be 2845 (Mt 24:32.33) fulfilled." 2846 2847 "28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When 2848 her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth 2849 leaves, ye know that summer is near; 29 so ye 2850 in like manner, when ye shall see these things 2851 come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at 2852 the doors. 30 Verily I say unto you, that this 2853 generation shall not pass, till all these things 2854 be done." (Mk 13:28-30) 2855 2856 "But of that day and that hour knoweth no 2857 man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, 2858 neither the Son, but the Father." (Mk 13:32) 2859 2860 "In the first year of his reign I Daniel 2861 understood by books the number of the 2862 years, whereof the word of the LORD came 2863 to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would 2864 accomplish seventy years in the desolations of 2865 Jerusalem." (Dn 9:2) 2866 2867 "We have also a more sure word of 2868 prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take 2869 heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark 2870 place, until the day dawn, and the day star 2871 arise in your hearts." (II P 1:19) 2872 2873 2874

St. Peter did not expect an imminent return

I base my thought in the fact that in addition to knowing that he would eventually die before the return of the Lord, in II Peter 3:3 we see that the apostle prophesied for the end times. From this, we realize that he did not consider that he was living in the last days.

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts..." (II P 3:3)

By prophesying that scoffers would come in the 2888 last days who would scoff at the fact that the 2889 Second Coming had not yet occurred, he lets us see 2890 that he **did not** believe that he was living in the last 2891 days. We can see that he considered the last days to 2892 be in the far future, whenever the Second Coming 2893 occurs. That's why he uses the verb in the future 2894 tense: "shall come". Therefore, neither Peter nor 2895 the other apostles believed in such a falsehood 2896 as the "perpetual imminence". 2897

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Paul did not expect an imminent return either

The same can be said about St. Paul. When he 2903 wrote the First Epistle to Timothy, he shows that he 2904 did not believe in the imminent return of the Lord 2905 either. It can be seen in what he says in I Tim 4:1-3 2906 where Paul assures us from the Holy Spirit, that 2907 the return of Christ would occur after the apostasy, 2908 which at that time was still in the future. In other 2909 words, that he considered that the times he was 2910

living in were not the time of the return of Christ,
since the great apostasy that he prophesied had not
arrived yet.

"1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in 2915 the latter times some shall depart from the 2916 faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and 2917 doctrines of devils; 2 speaking lies in 2918 hypocrisy; having their conscience seared 2919 with a hot iron; 3 forbidding to marry, and 2920 commanding to abstain from meats, which 2921 God hath created to be received with 2922 thanksgiving of them which believe and know 2923 the truth." (I Tim 4:1-3) 2924

It was the Holy Spirit in person, who told the 2926 apostle Paul that an apostasy of Christianity was 2927 yet to come, and that it would prohibit marriage and 2928 eating certain things. It is evident that once Paul 2929 received such a revelation directly from the Holy 2930 Spirit, he did not believe in the imminence of the 2931 Second Coming, until such apostasy would come 2932 and the apostates would prohibit marriage, etc.. 2933

Paul is more specific in II Thessalonians 2:1-4 2934 where he stipulates that the antiChrist will come 2935 before the return of Christ, and before the 2936 **Ingathering.** Most probably, he mentioned this 2937 because he had received new explanatory 2938 revelations. In other words, when Paul wrote the 2939 second epistle to Timothy, he did not consider 2940 **himself** to be living in the last days, the time when 2941 Jesus would return. Hence, he could not have 2942 believed in the imminence of the Rapture. 2943

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2945 "1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the
2946 coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our

gathering together unto him, 2 that ye be not 2947 soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither 2948 by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from 2949 us, as that the day of Christ is at hand 3 Let 2950 no man deceive you by any means; for that 2951 day shall not come, except there come a 2952 falling away first, and that man of sin be 2953 revealed, the son of perdition; 4 who opposeth 2954 and exalteth himself above all that is called 2955 God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God 2956 sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself 2957 that he is God." (II Thes 2:1-4) 2958

As we can read, the disciples received clear and specific revelations to let them know that there was no such imminence in the return of our Lord.

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From what Paul has told us in his epistles, we 2963 realize that in the beginning, he did not meet with 2964 the other apostles, rather he went to Arabia, and was 2965 on his own for several years. It seems that for that 2966 reason, in the beginning, he was not sure whether 2967 the Lord would come immediately or not. In 2968 Philippians 3:11 we see that Paul believed that he 2969 could be alive to see the resurrection of the dead. 2970

"If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." (Phil 3:11)

It seems that in those moments, he had not yet 2975 received the revelation of the sequence of events 2976 that would occur before the return of Christ, or 2977 maybe even having received it, he thought he was 2978 going to be alive then. However, later on in his life, 2979 you can tell that he knows that this event would not 2980 occur so soon, or without previous signs. This 2981 attitude is shown in II Thessalonians 2:1-4, which 2982

we read previously, where he admonishes the 2983 brethren to not let themselves be deceived with the 2984 alleged imminence of the Second Coming. 2985 2986 2987 2988 Summary of Chapter 9. The belief that 2989 Christians need to believe in the imminence of 2990 Christ's return is false. God does not authorize the 2991 use of diabolic methods (lying) to "improve" 2992 Christians. The coming as a thief will not surprise 2993 Christians, only unbelievers. The apostles did not 2994 expect an imminent return, because they knew that 2995 the Temple was yet to be destroyed, and they had to 2996 see Peter die. In addition Paul had clearly warned, 2997 that the antiChrist had to come first. 2998 2999 *** 3000 3001 3002 3003 3004 **Chapter 10** 3005 The alleged "absence" of the Church in 3006 **Revelation** 3007 3008 What is the "proof" put forth by the 3009 doctrine of the Rapture? 3010 Remember that the "Rapture" is the one that 3011 supposedly happens before the Great Tribulation, 3012 whereas "Ingathering" is the one which occurs 3013 during the Second Coming. 3014 In order to "prove" that the Church would be 3015 raptured before the Great Tribulation, the doctrine 3016 of the Rapture alleges that the word "church" does 3017

not appear in the book of Revelation, from chapter 4
until chapter 21. This doctrine "deduces" that the
reason for this, is that during the events narrated in
those chapters, the Church is no longer on Earth,
since it has already been "raptured". There are
several strong arguments which refute such flimsy
assumption, and I will present them subsequently.

Basically, according to this "logic", the fact that the word "Church" is not used from chapters 4 to 21, "proves" that there was a rapture of the Church. However, the fact that in these first four chapters this Rapture is not mentioned, does not likewise prove to them that there was no Rapture.

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The word "Christian" appears in only two books of the Bible

If the fact that the word "Church" does not appear 3036 in this section of Revelation, should lead us to 3037 believe that the Church is not on Earth at that time, 3038 then we would have to "reason" that since the word 3039 "Christian" appears only in Acts and First Epistle of 3040 Peter that should also lead us to believe that 3041 Christians did not exist during the period that the 3042 rest of the books of the New Testament were 3043 written. 3044

We can see that the simple fact that a particular word does not appear in a portion of a book does not mean that the subject represented by that word is absent.

The word "Church" is also absent in 2nd Timothy, Titus, Hebrews, 2nd Peter and in First and Second of John. However, this does not "prove" that the Church was raptured when these epistles were written. If this is so, how can we say that the fact that the word "Church" does not appear in
Revelation "proves" that the Church was raptured?
Let's see first if it is true that in those chapters of
Revelation, the Church is not mentioned.

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If the word "saints" is used in the New Testament to refer to those that belong to Christ's Church, why does the Rapture doctrine deny that same meaning when the word is used in Revelation ?

To make it seem like the Church is not mentioned in Revelation from chapter 4 to chapter 21, the Rapture doctrine spurns, as not belonging to the Church, all those that in that portion of Revelation are referred to as "saints".

If there is something like a good rule of 3071 interpretation, it would be the one that attributes the 3072 same meaning to a word in a certain portion as the 3073 meaning given to the same word in other portions. 3074 This would be the case with the word "saints" 3075 throughout Scripture. If in the whole New 3076 Testament the members of Christ's Church are 3077 called "saints", what would be the reason or logic, 3078 to denv that those who are called "saints" in the 3079 portion from chapter 4 to 21 of Revelation 3080 belong to Christ's Church? 3081

I am listing several portions that speak of the 3082 "saints", so that the reader may verify that in the 3083 New Testament those that belong to Christ's 3084 Church are called "saints". Hence, it is illogical and 3085 suspicious, that someone would try to change the 3086 meaning of the word for chapters 4 to 21 of 3087 Revelation. Since there are many of them, I am 3088 going to put a few here and the rest in appendix 3089

3090	"A", which is in page 182. This way I do not
3091	overburden the mind of the reader with only this
3092	issue, nor make this chapter unusually large; and
3093	also, so as to not interfere with the train of
3094	reasoning by quoting too many verses.
3095	
3096	"Then Ananias answered: Lord, I have heard
3097	by many of this man, how much evil he hath
3098	done to thy saints at Jerusalem" (Acts 9:13)
3099	
3100	"Which thing I also did in Jerusalem; and
3101	many of the saints did I shut up in prison,
3102	having received authority from the chief
3103	priests; and when they were put to death, I
3104	gave my voice against them." (Acts 26:10)
3105	
3106	"6 Among whom are ye also the called of
3107	Jesus Christ, 7 to all that be in Rome, beloved
3108	of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and
3109	peace from God our Father, and the Lord
3110	Jesus Christ." (Ro 1:6-7)
3111	
3112	"Unto the church of God which is at Corinth,
3113	to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
3114	called to be saints, with all that in every place
3115	call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
3116	both theirs and ours." (I Co 1:2)
3117	
3118	"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will
3119	of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the
3120	church of God which is at Corinth, with all
3121	the saints which are in all Achaia"
3122	(II Co 1:1)
3123	
3124	"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will
3125	of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus,

3126	and to the faithful in Christ Jesus"
3127	(Eph 1:1)
3128	
3129	"Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus
3130	Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which
3131	are at Philippi, with the bishops and
3132	deacons:" (Phil 1:1)
3133	
3134	"1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the
3135	will of God, and Timotheus our brother, 2 To
3136	the saints and faithful brethren in Christ
3137	which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and
3138	peace, from God our Father and the Lord
3139	Jesus Christ." (Col 1:1-2)
3140	
3141	"I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be
3142	read unto all the holy brethren ."
3143	(I Thes 5:27)
3144	
3145	"Salute all them that have the rule over you,
3146	and all the saints. They of Italy salute you"
3147	(Heb 13:24)
3148	
3149	If you have also gone to appendix "A", you have
3150	read 41 portions which use the word "saints",
3151	applied to those that form Christ's Church.
3152	There should not be any doubt that this word has
3153	this meaning. Subsequently we will read 10 portions
3154	from Revelation that have the word "saints".
3155	Why would we change our interpretation and say
3156	that in the case of Revelation , the word "saints",
3157	does not apply to members of Christ's Church?
3158	Why does the heretical hypothesis of the Rapture
3159	want to change the meaning of that word? Why
3160	does it want to spread the idea that those that are
3161	mentioned in Revelation as "saints", do not

belong to Christ's Church? Basically, because if 3162 this doctrine admits that the saints mentioned in this 3163 portion are members of Christ's Church, then it is 3164 obvious that the Rapture is not real, because then 3165 the Church would still be on Earth during the Great 3166 Tribulation. Notice that all the verses of Revelation 3167 that follow now, belong to the portion from 3168 Chapters 4 to 21, where the doctrine of the Rapture 3169 says that the Church is not mentioned. 3170 3171 "And when he had taken the book, the four 3172 beasts and four and twenty elders fell down 3173 before the Lamb, having every one of them 3174 harps, and golden vials full of odours, which 3175 are the prayers of saints." (Rev 5:8) 3176 3177 "3 And another angel came and stood at the 3178 altar, having a golden censer; and there was 3179 given unto him much incense, that he should 3180 offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the 3181 golden altar which was before the throne. 4 3182 And the smoke of the incense, which came 3183 with the prayers of the saints, ascended up 3184 before God out of the angel's hand." 3185 (Rev 8:3-4) 3186 3187 "And the nations were angry, and thy wrath 3188 is come, and the time of the dead, that they 3189 should be judged, and that thou shouldest 3190 give reward unto thy servants the prophets, 3191 and to the saints, and them that fear thy 3192 name, small and great; and shouldest destroy 3193 them which destroy the earth." 3194 (Rev 11:18) 3195 3196

3197	"And it was given unto him to make war with
3198	the saints, and to overcome them; and power
3199	was given him over all kindreds, and tongues,
3200	and nations" (Rev 13:7)
3201	
3202	"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into
3203	captivity; he that killeth with the sword must
3204	be killed with the sword. Here is the patience
3205	and the faith of the <u>saints</u> ." (Rev 3:10)
3206	
3207	"Here is the patience of the <u>saints</u> ; here are
3208	they that keep the commandments of God, and
3209	the faith of Jesus." (Rev 14:12)
3210	
3211	"For they have shed the blood of <u>saints</u> and
3212	prophets, and thou hast given them blood to
3213	drink; for they are worthy." (Rev 16:6)
3214	
3215	"And I saw the woman drunken with the
3216	blood of the <u>saints</u> , and with the blood of the
3217	martyrs of Jesus; and when I saw her, I
3218	wondered with great admiration."(Rev 17:6)
3219	
3220	"Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye <u>holy</u>
3221	apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged
3222	<i>you on her</i> " (Rev 18:20)
3223	
3224	"And in her was found the blood of prophets,
3225	and of saints, and of all that were slain upon
3226	<i>the earth.</i> " (Rev 18:24)
3227	
3228	Brethren, we have to be wise. We have already
3229	seen that St. Paul has prophesied that someone
3230	would want to deceive us with respect to whether
3231	the return of Jesus would occur before the Great
3232	Tribulation. If we have already been warned, then

please, let's not be deceived. All the arguments putforth by the Rapture doctrine are false.

- Let us look now at the other reasoning previously mentioned.
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The rapture of the Synagogue

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In order to make their followers believe that the Church was already "raptured", since that word is not mentioned in Revelation, from chapter 4 to 21, the Rapture doctrine denies that those who are called "saints" belong to the Church.

If we were to accept this method of "reasoning", we would have to conclude that, if the word "Church" not appearing in this portion, means that the Church was "raptured", then, because the word "synagogue" does not appear either in this same portion, that would mean that <u>the Synagogue</u> was also "raptured".

And, if we extend that same illogical method of 3253 "reasoning", we would have to "conclude" that 3254 since in no part of the Bible the word "rapture" 3255 appears, that means that the Rapture does not exist. 3256 However, I refuse to discard the Rapture simply 3257 because the word does not appear in the Bible; I do 3258 discard it, but based on much more solid evidence 3259 than simply because the word does not appear. 3260

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Would we exclude Enoch, Noah, Job, Moses and Daniel from the Church?

When Christ comes to gather his Church, all the servants of God shall rise from the dead, from the time of Adam until our days. In other words, Enoch,

Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, Daniel, Isaiah, 3269 David, Peter, Paul, Thomas, Luke, Timothy, etc., 3270 will rise and be gathered along with the 3271 Christians that are alive at that time. The latter 3272 will be transformed, since all of these belong to 3273 Christ's Church. 3274 Even though the word "Church" does not appear 3275 in the Old Testament, nobody can deny that these 3276 prophets and saints of the Old Testament belong to 3277 Christ's Church. That is evident by reading Mt 3278 8:11, where we see Gentiles of all around the world, 3279 sitting with the patriarchs in the Kingdom of God. 3280 Let's see. 3281

³²⁸³ "I say unto you that many shall come from
³²⁸⁴ the east and west, and shall sit down with
³²⁸⁵ Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the
³²⁸⁶ Kingdom of Heaven." (Mt 8:11)

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Neither can it be denied that the words used in the 3288 Old testament, such as "congregation", "people of 3289 God", "saints", etc., mean the same as what the 3290 word "Church" means to us today. The only 3291 difference is that in the Old Testament it received 3292 Hebrew names whereas in the New Testament it 3293 was called "Ekklesia", which is a Greek derived 3294 name. 3295

Hence, the absence of the word "Church" in the 3296 Old Testament does not imply that there was no 3297 congregation of the type we currently call 3298 "Church". For the same reason the absence of the 3299 word "Church" in some sections of Revelation 3300 does not mean that Christ's Church is not on 3301 Earth. In as much as it is called by other names it 3302 still means the same, like those which are called 3303 "the saints" the "martyrs" and which form part of 3304

Christ's Church, since on His account they were 3305 killed. 3306 * 3307 3308 3309 3310 Would we believe that the Church had already 3311 been raptured in times of Mark, Luke and Paul? 3312 The fact that the word "Church" does not appear 3313 in the various gospels of Mark, Luke, John, and in 3314 II Timothy, Titus, Hebrews, II Peter, and I and II of 3315 John, does not mean that in those days Christ's 3316 Church had already been "raptured". Likewise, the 3317 simple absence of the word "Church" in the 3318 chapters from 4 to 21 of Revelation, does not mean 3319 that the Church had been raptured. 3320 3321 3322 3323 Why would Jesus give testimony to the Churches 3324 if they were not going to be on Earth? 3325 Another item to think about is the fact that in 3326 Revelation 22:16 Jesus says that he has sent his 3327 angel to testify. Testify what? Testify of "these 3328 things", of all He had said in Revelation, including 3329 all that was said from chapters 4 to 21. And to 3330 whom does the Lord want to give this testimony? 3331 He wants to testify in the churches. 3332 3333 "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto 3334 you these things in the churches. I am the 3335 root and the offspring of David, and the 3336 bright and morning star." (Rev 22:16) 3337 3338 If the Lord wants to give in the churches, the 3339 testimony of the things that will occur from chapter 3340

4 and onward, this means that the churches will be
here during that period. Because if they would not
be here, why would they need testimony of what
was to occur?

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Would we exclude from Christ's Church those which suffer and die for their love of Jesus?

After this line of reasoning, we will demonstrate that during the period encompassed by chapters 4 to 21, it is mentioned that Christians will be on Earth. And this occurs, regardless of whether there is no mention of the word "church" nor the word "Christians". Let's analyze several verses.

The tangled doctrine of the Rapture asserts that 3356 during the Great Tribulation, Christ's Church will 3357 not be on Earth. However, prayers are offered from 3358 the Earth, by the believers, this is to say, the saints, 3359 the Christians. Can we deny the name of Christians 3360 to those persons which die and suffer for their love 3361 of Jesus? Can we exclude membership in Christ's 3362 Church to those which love Him that much? The 3363 following verse shows us that in chapter 5 of 3364 Revelation there were Christians on the Earth. 3365

"And when he had taken the book, the four
beasts, and four and twenty elders fell down
before the Lamb, having every one of them
harps, and golden vials full of odours, which
<u>are the prayers of saints.</u>" (Rev 5:8)

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If there were "prayers of the saints", it is because
there were saints on the Earth. If there were saints
on the Earth, it is evident that there are
churches, because the saints make up the

churches, and the churches are made up of saints. Would any of you exclude the brethren which pray from the Earth, from belonging to Christ's Church? The Rapture doctrine, however, does indeed exclude them. Let's view another case.

Would you say that those which are beheaded for their faith in Christ do not belong to His Church?

It is without argument that those which have been 3388 killed for the word of God and because of the 3389 testimony which they have, are Christians 3390 (Revelation 6:9). Those Christians are told in verse 3391 11 to wait until the number of their fellow 3392 servants and brethren is completed. That is 3393 evidence that there are still more Christians on 3394 Earth, besides those which are already in Heaven 3395 pleading for justice. If there are Christians on Earth, 3396 there have to be churches, even if the word 3397 "church" is not mentioned as neither is the word 3398 "Christian" mentioned. 3399

If those martyrs are not Christians, and if
those Christians are not part of Christ's Church,
then someone will have to redefine what we
consider to be Christian, what we consider
Christ's Church to be, and also someone will
have to say who forms a part of it and who are
we going to exclude.

Would you exclude from Christ's Church those martyrs who were killed for the word of God and the testimony of Christ? Well, the doctrine of the Rapture excludes them specifically from Christ's Church.

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"9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I 3413 saw under the altar the souls of them that 3414 were slain for the word of God, and for the 3415 testimony which they held. 10 And they cried 3416 with a loud voice, saying: How long, O Lord, 3417 holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge 3418 our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 3419 And white robes were given unto every one of 3420 them; and it was said unto them, that they 3421 should rest yet for a little season, until their 3422 fellow servants also and their brethren, that 3423 should be killed as they were, should be 3424 fulfilled." (Rev 6:9-11) 3425

Those that were killed for the word of God 3427 must belong to Christ's Church. And those which 3428 are still on Earth must be Christians, since they are 3429 called fellow servants and brethren of those that 3430 were already in Heaven. Besides, it is said of them 3431 that they would complete the number of martyrs, 3432 this is a sure sign that they are Christians that still 3433 live on the Earth. If they "fulfill the number" it is 3434 because they formed part of that group. 3435

The fact that the word "church" is not mentioned, does not remove the Christian title from those that allow themselves to be beheaded rather than deny the Lord. If people like that are not Christian, then I don't know who would be. And if Christians of such high quality are not part of "the Church", then I would not know either, what is "the Church".

Would you dare deny a place in Christ's Church to these martyred brethren? However, the doctrine of the Rapture flatly denies them that. Let's read now Revelation 7:14.

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These brethren 'made white' their robes in the 3448 blood of Christ and serve God before His throne, 3449 and they don't deserve to belong to Christ's 3450 **Church?** 3451 The tangled doctrine of the Rapture asserts that 3452 during the Great Tribulation, Christ's Church is no 3453 longer on the Earth. We see, however, that in 3454 Revelation 7:14-15 an enormous group of people, 3455 belonging to all races and nations, are in Heaven, 3456 coming from the Great Tribulation. When we read 3457 these verses we see that these are martyrs that 3458 have made their robes white in the blood of the 3459 **Lamb.** Can it be said that these brethren that have 3460 made their robes white in the blood of the Lord, do 3461 not belong to Christ's Church? 3462 3463 "14 And I said unto him: Sir, thou knowest. 3464 And he said to me: These are they which 3465 came out of great tribulation, and have 3466 washed their robes, and made them white in 3467 the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore are they 3468 before the throne of God, and serve him day 3469 and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on 3470 the throne shall dwell among them." 3471 (Rev 7:14-15) 3472 3473 This brethren which suffered and were killed 3474 during the Great Tribulation, are considered 3475 worthy of standing before the throne of God and 3476 of serving Him day and night. But the doctrine of 3477 the Rapture does not consider them worthy of 3478 belonging to Christ's Church. Does the heretical 3479 attitude of this doctrine have any logic at all? No! 3480 Let's read Revelation 8:3-4. 3481 3482

3485	If their prayers rise from the Earth, it is because
3486	there are Christians there
3487	In the following verses that we are going to read,
3488	we see again that after chapter 4, there are still
3489	saints on Earth. Saints who offer their prayers to
3490	God. If there are saints on the Earth, it is because
3491	there are churches, because when the saints
3492	assemble, they form the Church. Hence, until
3493	chapter 8, the Church has not been raptured from
3494	the Earth.
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3496	"3 And another angel came and stood at the
3497	altar, having a golden censer; and there was
3498	given unto him much incense, that he should
3499	offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the
3500	golden altar which was before the throne. 4
3501	And the smoke of the incense, which came
3502	with the prayers of the saints, ascended up
3503	before God out of the angel's hand."
3504	(Rev 8:3-4)
3505	
3506	Once again in verses like these we can see that,
3507	the fact that the word "church" is not mentioned,
3508	does not mean there are no churches on Earth.
3509	Because if there are saints, that means there are
3510	churches. If incense is yet to be added to the prayers
3511	of the saints, that means there are saints on Earth.
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The doctrine of the Rapture does not consider 3519 those who have the seal of God on their 3520 foreheads worthy of belonging to Christ's 3521 **Church either** 3522 Upon reading Revelation 9:4 we see that there are 3523 also servants of God on Earth, because the locusts 3524 are told to attack only those that **did not** have the 3525 seal of God on their foreheads. From this, it can be 3526 deduced that there were others that did have the 3527 seal of God on their foreheads. If there were 3528 persons with God's seal on their foreheads it's 3529 because there are Christians and if there are 3530

Christians there have to be churches. Would you exclude from Christ's Church, those 3532 that have the seal of God on their foreheads? Well, 3533 the Rapture doctrine does exclude them. It does not 3534 consider them part of Christ's Church. 3535

"And it was commanded them that they 3537 should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither 3538 any green thing, neither any tree; but only 3539 those men which have not the seal of God in 3540 their foreheads." (Rev 9:4) 3541

It would be good to recall what we have already 3543 proven in chapter six. According to the Rapture 3544 doctrine, Christians cannot remain on the Earth 3545 during the Great Tribulation, because of the type of 3546 plagues that will come, "it is impossible", 3547 according to that doctrine, that the Christians can 3548 escape them. This verse that we have just read 3549 demonstrates the contrary. Christians will be spared 3550 the plagues that will be sent to the **non-**Christians, 3551 without having to be raptured from the planet. 3552

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They that keep the commandments of God, and hold the testimony of Jesus, are also not considered worthy of belonging to Christ's Church

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The doctrine of the Rapture asserts that during the 3560 Great Tribulation Christ's Church will not remain 3561 on Earth. If we read the passage from Revelation 3562 12:14-17 we would see in verse 14 that during the 3563 Great Tribulation, a group of Christians represented 3564 by a woman, were spared from the Great 3565 Tribulation. And when the Dragon saw that he 3566 could do nothing against that group of Christians 3567 (verse 16), he went to make war with the others 3568 who kept the commandments of God and had 3569 the testimony of Jesus (verse 17). If these two 3570 groups are not Christians, and do not form part of 3571 Christ's Church, then we would have to redefine 3572 what is the Church and what is a Christian. 3573

"14 And to the woman were given two wings 3575 of a great eagle, that she might fly into the 3576 wilderness, into her place, where she is 3577 nourished for a time, and times, and half a 3578 time, from the face of the serpent. 15 And the 3579 serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood, 3580 after the woman, that he might cause her to 3581 be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth 3582 helped the woman, and the earth opened her 3583 mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the 3584 Dragon cast out of his mouth. 17 And the 3585 Dragon was wroth with the woman, and went 3586 to make war with the remnant of her seed, 3587 which keep the commandments of God, and 3588 have the testimony of Jesus Christ." 3589 (Rev 12:14-17) 3590

It is good to note that these two groups of 3592 Christians find themselves on Earth during the 3593 Great Tribulation. Consequently the Church could 3594 not have been "raptured", because they would not 3595 leave two groups of Christians behind. However, 3596 the doctrine of the Rapture insists that neither of 3597 these groups are to be called part of Christ's 3598 Church. 3599

The saints and martyrs remain on the Earth during the narrations of chapters 13, 14 & 17

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In the following four verses that we will examine, 3605 we see again that during the Great Tribulation there 3606 are saints on Earth, because in Revelation 13:7 the 3607 beast that rises from the sea makes war against the 3608 saints. Revelation 13:10 mentions the patience and 3609 faith of the saints, who are living and dying on the 3610 Earth. Revelation 14:12 mentions again the patience 3611 of the saints who keep the commandments and 3612 have faith in Jesus. Last of all, in Revelation 17:6 it 3613 mentions the martyrs of Jesus again. In other 3614 words, it is quite clear that during the Great 3615 Tribulation there will be Christians on Earth. 3616

All throughout the New Testament the word 3617 "saints" applies to those that belong to Christ's 3618 Church. Why then does the doctrine of the Rapture 3619 twist the significance of the word to exclude them 3620 from Christ's Church? Why deny that the saints 3621 belong to the Church, so as to "prove" that the 3622 Church was already raptured? So then, it is not true 3623 that the Church is absent during these chapters. 3624

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"7 And it was given unto him to make war 3626 with the saints, and to overcome them; and 3627 power was given him over all kindreds, and 3628 tongues, and nations ... 10 He that leadeth into 3629 captivity shall go into captivity, he that killeth 3630 with the sword must be killed with the sword. 3631 Here is the patience and the faith of the 3632 saints." (Rev 13:7-10 abbreviated) 3633 3634 "Here is the patience of the saints; here are 3635 they that keep the commandments of God, 3636 and the faith of Jesus." (Rev 14:12) 3637 3638 "And I saw the woman drunken with the 3639 blood of the saints, and with the blood of the 3640 martyrs of Jesus; and when I saw her, I 3641 wondered with great admiration." 3642 (Rev 17:6) 3643 3644 As we saw in these three sections (encompassing 3645 four verses), the people of whom they are talking 3646 about, are Christians. The war against the saints is a 3647 war against the Christians. The patience and the 3648 faith of the saints, refers to Christians. The blood of 3649 the saints refers to the blood of Christians. Last of 3650 all, the martyrs of Jesus must be Christians that 3651 dwell on the Earth during the Great Tribulation. 3652 There is no doubt that during the Great Tribulation 3653 there will be Christians on the Earth, both Gentiles 3654 and Jews; and therefore there will be churches. 3655 3656 3657 3658

Saint Paul warns the Church, not the Jews, that the Great Tribulation comes before the Ingathering

Remember that the Rapture doctrine is the one 3663 that asserts that during the Great Tribulation 3664 Christ's Church will not be on Earth. According to 3665 the rapture, the now existing Christ's Church is a 3666 "Gentile Church", which is the one to be raptured. 3667 After this imaginary rapture, the Jews will form a 3668 "Jewish Church", which according to this doctrine 3669 is the only one that will suffer the Great Tribulation. 3670 It is to say, that all the martyrs of the Great 3671 Tribulation are only going to be those of the 3672 imaginary "Jewish Church". If Paul truly believed 3673 that the now existing Church was going to be 3674 raptured before the Great Tribulation, why to warn 3675 the Thessalonians, which were Greeks, that Jesus 3676 was not coming before the antiChrist? This advice 3677 he would have given in the book of Hebrews. 3678

Last of all, we see how St. Paul himself, gives witness that there will be Christians and churches on Earth during the Great Tribulation. He warns the Thessalonians about the antiChrist, even though they were Greeks, that is, they were Gentiles, not Jewish.

Paul, in II Thessalonians 2:1-4, considers it 3685 appropriate to warn the Gentiles, members of an 3686 apostolic church, that Jesus would not return 3687 without the antiChrist appearing first with his 3688 Great Tribulation. It is an undeniable sign that we, 3689 the Gentile Christians, members of church founded 3690 by the apostles, will also be on Earth when the 3691 Great Tribulation occurs. Hence, there won't be 3692 such a thing as a "Rapture" of the Gentile Church, 3693 and an abandonment on Earth of the Jewish Church. 3694

If Paul warns the Church of his time, that the 3695 antiChrist would come before the Ingathering, there 3696 is no doubt that Christ's Church goes through the 3697 Great Tribulation. What's more, focus on some 3698 important statements by Paul, when he warns them 3699 not to be deceived. It is evident that thanks to 3700 revealed knowledge, Paul knew that someone 3701 would try to deceive the brethren, making them 3702 believe that the Lord would come before He himself 3703 had prophesied. 3704

"1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the 3706 coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our 3707 gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not 3708 soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither 3709 by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from 3710 us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let 3711 no man deceive you by any means; for that 3712 day shall not come, except there come a 3713 falling away first, and that man of sin be 3714 revealed, the son of perdition; 4 who opposeth 3715 and exalteth himself above all that is called 3716 God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God 3717 sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself 3718 that he is God." (Thes 2:1-4) 3719

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Throughout Revelation's chapters, there may be 3721 no mention of the word "church", but it is 3722 mentioned that Christians are living and suffering 3723 on the Earth during the Great Tribulation. In 3724 addition, there is nothing about a raptured Gentile 3725 Church and another abandoned Jewish Church, 3726 because the Lord Jesus has only one bride, not 3727 two. We never see a division in the Bible between a 3728 Gentile church and a Jewish church. So then, it is 3729 true that there are Christians, and there are 3730

churches on the Earth during the Great Tribulation,
even if the particular word does not appear in those
chapters.

The talk of a Jewish Church and a Gentile Church is a modernist invention to buttress a modern heresy. The apostles never mentioned such a division in Christ's Church. If it was meant for there to be no Gentile Christians during the Great Tribulation, the apostle Paul would not have warned the Thessalonian Christians who were Gentile.

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Christ's Church remains upon the Earth during the Great Tribulation: if not the Philadelphian church, then the Laodicean church

I believe that the seven churches of Revelation are 3747 seven types of churches which will exist towards 3748 the end of the world. Some may have arisen 3749 previous to now, whereas others may arise 3750 afterwards, but all will reach the end. However, I 3751 will not base myself on that opinion as a basis of the 3752 following argument, it is enough for me to say that 3753 many others believe that the seven churches 3754 represent seven chronological periods that Christ's 3755 Church will have throughout the centuries. That is 3756 the concept held by the Rapture doctrine. What I 3757 discuss now is not which of these will 3758 interpretations is the correct one. I will only 3759 demonstrate how the supposed rapture of the church 3760 of Philadelphia is not a logical fit. 3761

The doctrine of the Rapture sustains that Christ's Church is not going to be on the Earth during the Great Tribulation. While I was trying to show a friend that the Church would be on the Earth during this period, I pointed out how the church of Philadelphia would be spared from this
scourge. I reasoned that if it would be spared from
the tribulation, it is because that church would be
here during this period.

It was then that he stated that it was the church of 3771 Philadelphia that would be on Earth at that moment, 3772 and that it would be precisely the one to be 3773 raptured, hence the Church of Jesus Christ would 3774 cease to be here. According to him, at the same time 3775 that I could affirm that the Church would be on 3776 Earth, represented by Philadelphia, he could 3777 interpret that the Church would be raptured. With 3778 that, it was his opinion that, the hypothesis that the 3779 Church would not be on the Earth during the Great 3780 Tribulation could stand. 3781

However, with a little reasoning, we will realize 3782 that even if it were true that the church of 3783 Philadelphia would be removed from the planet, the 3784 church of Laodicea, which according to that 3785 hypothesis comes after Philadelphia, would not 3786 have been raptured. Even with that interpretation, 3787 Christ's Church would find itself on the Earth after 3788 the Rapture, represented instead by the church of 3789 Laodicea. Hence, even with this argument, it is 3790 proven that the Church will undergo the Great 3791 Tribulation. Let's remember that all these churches 3792 are mentioned before the chapter four. 3793

"10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the Earth.
11 Behold, I come quickly; hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."
(Rev 3:10:11)

As we see, even if someone won't admit that the Seven Churches will all be on the Earth, and if neither the presence on Earth of Philadelphia is admitted, at least there is no other recourse than to admit that the Church of Laodicea, one of the seven, will be on the Earth.

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Summary of Chapter 10. The doctrine of the 3812 Rapture denies that the Church is mentioned in 3813 Revelation 4-21, and for this reason "deduce" that it 3814 was raptured. But in reality it is mentioned, under 3815 the names of "saints", "martyrs", "the beheaded", 3816 etc. The synagogue is not mentioned either. Was it 3817 also raptured? Mark, Luke, John, II Timothy, Titus, 3818 Hebrews, II Peter, and I and II of John, do not 3819 mention the word Church, was it raptured back 3820 then? If throughout Revelation, Christ gives 3821 testimony to the Churches, it is because they exist 3822 on Earth. Are the martyrs, the beheaded, and those 3823 who made white their robes in the blood of the 3824 Lamb not part of the Church, even if Jesus is among 3825 them? Are those who are marked for Christ not part 3826 of the Church either? And what to say of 3827 Philadelphia? Can they be called "saints" and yet 3828 not form part of the Church? What about Laodicea? 3829 3830

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Chapter 11

The doctrine of the Rapture says that the believing Jews do not belong to the Church but the believing gentiles do

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To buttress a lie, another lie must be fabricated

Keep in mind that in this book we call "Rapture"
the event which is supposed to occur before the
Great Tribulation, and we call "Ingathering" the
event that will occur during the Second Coming of
Christ.

When someone teaches an error, and another shows him that he is in error, if that person is **not** wise, instead of admitting his mistake, what he does is buttress the first exposed error, by fabricating a second error.

This happens to be the case with the doctrine of 3853 the "secret rapture" before the Great Tribulation. 3854 To buttress that idea, it has to resort to dividing 3855 Christ's Church into two separate bodies. One 3856 composed of the Gentile Church and the other 3857 formed by the Jewish martyrs of the Great 3858 Tribulation. Worse yet, it has to resort to saying that 3859 Christ's Church is solely Gentile, and that the 3860 Jewish converted during the Great Tribulation do 3861 not form part of Christ's Church and that neither do 3862 the Jews converted during the Great Tribulation. 3863

This other deception was fabricated for the benefit 3864 of this doctrine so that it can state that the martyrs, 3865 who are obviously present on the Earth during the 3866 Great Tribulation, do not form part of the Church. 3867 Instead it treats them as a group of Jewish martyrs 3868 who do not belong to Christ's Church. In this 3869 way, this doctrine "proves" that the Church has 3870 been taken out of the planet by the Rapture. 3871

A quote from the apostle Paul negates this heretical idea of dividing the believers in Christ into two different groups. In it, **Paul tells us clearly that Jews and Gentiles belong to the same Church.**

> *"For by one Spirit are we<u>all baptized into</u> one body, whether we be <u>Jews or Gentiles</u>, whether we be bond or free; and have been <u>all made to drink into one Spirit</u>." (I Co 12:13)*

The Lord's Church is not divided in groups like 3884 this divisive doctrine of the Rapture proposes. 3885 Those are anti-Jewish holdovers from the 19th 3886 century, that became introduced into this doctrine. 3887 If we have all drank of the same Spirit, we cannot 3888 form two separate groups. Christ does not have two 3889 brides, one Jewish and one Gentile. The doctrine 3890 that proposes such a heresy should explain with 3891 which of these two brides would Christ celebrate 3892 the Wedding of the Lamb. 3893

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Christ's Church is not divided, and even less for racial motives

This verse we just read is not the only one that shows us that both Jews and Gentiles form a single Church in Christ. It is the same whether we live in these times, or if we live during the Great Tribulation. We are all one Church. Let's see:

3905 "28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is
3906 neither bond nor free, there is neither male
3907 nor female, for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye 3908 Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the 3909 promise." (Ga 3:28-29) 3910 3911 In the portion just read, not only does it say that as 3912 far as Christ's Church is concerned there is no 3913 distinction between Jew or Gentile, and that we are 3914 all one in Christ, but it also adds that if the Gentiles 3915 are of Christ, we are Abraham's seed, just like the 3916 Jews. If according to St. Paul our union in Christ is 3917 so deep that spiritually we become children of 3918 Abraham, and become one in Christ, why then does 3919 this harmful doctrine roll out such a destructive 3920 doubt against the Jews? Let's see now Colossians 3921 3:11. 3922 3923 "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, 3924 circumcision nor incircumcisión, Barbarian, 3925 Scythian, bond nor free; but Christ is all, and 3926 in all." (Col 3:11) 3927 3928 We saw here again, as shown in the previous 3929 portion, that Christ is all and in all. He does not 3930 divide His Church into two groups: a) those that 3931 come to Christ before the Great Tribulation and **b**) 3932 those that come to Christ during this tragedy. 3933 3934 3935 3936 Jesus Himself says that there will only be one 3937 Church 3938 Jesus, while speaking to His disciples, who were 3939 the first fruits of Christ's Church, the Apostolic 3940 Church, tells them that there were other sheep that 3941 were not of this fold. It is logical to assume that He 3942 is referring to the Gentiles. I can't see what other 3943

sheep He could be referring to. Immediately after 3944 saying this, He adds that both groups shall form 3945 only one flock. 3946 I say this because in the end of that portion, He 3947 says "and there shall be one fold and one 3948 shepherd". In other words, that Jews and Gentiles 3949 will form only one fold, not two; and there shall be 3950 only one shepherd, who would logically be Jesus. 3951 3952 "And other sheep I have, which are not of 3953 this fold; them also I must bring, and they 3954 shall hear my voice; and there shall be one 3955 fold, and one shepherd." (Jn 10:16) 3956 3957 After turning to Christ, Jews and Gentiles are the 3958 same. There are not two churches, there are not two 3959 bodies of Christ, there are not two brides. 3960 Something similar is said in John 11:51-52 where 3961 we see that the children of God will unite into one. 3962 3963 "51 And this spake he not of himself; but 3964 being high priest that year, he prophesied 3965 that Jesus should die for that nation; 52 And 3966 not for that nation only, but that also he 3967 should gather together in one the children of 3968 God that were scattered abroad." 3969 (Jn 11:51-52) 3970 3971 Also in this portion we see that a single body of 3972 believers is formed, not two different ones, like 3973 the Rapture hypothesis says would happen before 3974 the Great Tribulation. 3975 * 3976 3977 3978 3979

If the Thessalonian church is not surprised, this means there is no Rapture

The hypothesis of the Rapture asserts that **none** of 3982 those who belong to Christ's Church, shall be 3983 ingathered during His Second Coming after the 3984 Great Tribulation, because this had happened 3985 already seven years before. In addition, this 3986 hypothesis asserts that the Rapture of the Gentile 3987 Church will come like a thief in the night, that is to 3988 say, a surprise, with no previous signs. Let's read 3989 now I Thessalonians 5:4, and analyze what is said 3990 there. Let's remember that Thessalonians is a 3991 Gentile Church. 3992

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"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day <u>should overtake you as a thief</u>." (I Thes 5:4)

Just by reasoning a little, we can see that **this** 3998 exhortation by the apostle is being made to the 3999 Thessalonians, who were Greeks not Jewish. 4000 that is to say, they were Gentiles. If Paul tells the 4001 Gentiles of that Christian Church, that they would 4002 not be surprised by Christ's return, it is because 4003 there is no Rapture, since this fake Rapture is the 4004 only one which is classified as a surprise. 4005

Paul knew that the Ingathering of the believers 4006 was not going to be a surprise, that is, that they 4007 would be able to realize the proximity of such a 4008 great event. If those Gentiles of the Thessalonian 4009 church were **not** going to be surprised like a night 4010 thief would surprise its victims, it is because there is 4011 no such thing as the surprise Rapture that has been 4012 fabricated. The Rapture is the only one formulated 4013 to surprise, according to that heretical doctrine's 4014 own assertions. 4015

What we have analyzed up to here means one of 4016 two things: a) if someone desires to twist this 4017 portion to make it look like it refers to the Rapture, 4018 then we would have to conclude that this verse 4019 would mean that Christians would **not** be surprised 4020 by the Rapture ("But ye, brethren, are not in 4021 darkness, that that day should overtake you as a 4022 thief."); b) if we admit that in these verses he is 4023 speaking of the final Ingathering which will occur 4024 during the Second Coming, then we would have to 4025 admit that at that time there will be Gentile 4026 churches, like the one in Thessalonica, on Earth. 4027 To admit this would be to admit that there was no 4028 such rapture of the Church. 4029

If the Rapture really existed, it would be useless 4030 and illogical, on the part of Paul, to warn an 4031 apostolic Christian Church, formed in this case by 4032 Thessalonian Gentiles, about a danger that they 4033 would not meet, since before that, they would have 4034 been raptured, as this absurd hypothesis says. It 4035 would also be totally illogical to make an 4036 exhortation to people that, supposedly, were not 4037 going to be present at the time of the Second 4038 Coming, because they had already been raptured 4039 seven years before according to this hypothesis. 4040

As Gentiles, we joined Christ's Church, which at that time was composed solely of Jews, how can we now turn and toss them out?

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The hypothesis of the Rapture resorts to distorting everything. Among the items that they are compelled to distort is the idea of dividing Christ's Church in two ethnic groups: one Gentile and another Jewish. **Such a division is not found** anywhere in the Bible, but that doesn't seem to be
an obstacle for this doctrine to continue to affirm it.
The Christian Church is one and indivisible. Let's
see what Paul says:

"11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in 4057 time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called 4058 incircumcisión by that which is called the 4059 Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 4060 that at that time ye were without Christ, 4061 being aliens from the commonwealth of 4062 Israel, and strangers from the covenants of 4063 promise, having no hope, and without God in 4064 the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who 4065 sometimes were far off are made nigh by the 4066 blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who 4067 hath made both one, and hath broken down 4068 the middle wall of partition between us." 4069 (Eph 2:11-14) 4070

In this portion, we see in verse 12, that Paul 4072 considers that previously, the Gentiles were without 4073 Christ, but that now they had Him, as did the Jews. 4074 The same theme is implied in verse 13, where he 4075 says that through the blood of Christ the Gentiles 4076 have been brought near. Near to what? Near to the 4077 Christian Church, which in the beginning was 4078 made up solely of Jews. Further on, in verse 14, he 4079 clearly states that Christ made one out of both 4080 ethnic groups: Jews and Gentiles. Hence there 4081 cannot be two ethnic groups in Christ's Church, 4082 because he says that the groups are now one, 4083 because they were joined by Jesus; and remember, 4084 what God has joined, is not to be separated by man. 4085 Let's read now in Ephesians 2:19-22. 4086

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"19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers 4088 and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the 4089 saints, and of the household of God; 20 And 4090 are built upon the foundation of the apostles 4091 and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the 4092 chief corner stone; 21 in whom all the building 4093 fitly framed together groweth unto an holy 4094 temple in the Lord. 22 In whom ye also are 4095 builded together for an habitation of God 4096 through the Spirit." (Eph 2:19-22) 4097

In verse 19 he goes even further. He tells us that 4099 the Gentiles are no longer strangers, but rather 4100 they are citizens like the Jews. It is clear that 4101 Christ's Church, filled with Jews in the beginning, 4102 joined with the Gentiles, to form only one church. 4103 How can a church composed, in the beginning, 4104 solely by Jews, (the twelve apostles were Jews) now 4105 be considered a Gentile church with the exclusion 4106 of Jews? 4107

In verse 20 we see that the Gentiles are building
on the foundation of the Jews, which is that of the
apostles and prophets, all of which were Jewish. If
there is only one foundation there cannot be two
buildings, two ethnic groups in this case.

In verse 21 he says that this building is being 4113 framed to be only one Temple, not two different 4114 ones. In verse 22 he reaffirms this by saving to the 4115 Gentiles that they too are being built together into 4116 the same building as the Jews. What does all this 4117 mean? Does it mean that there are two separate 4118 ethnic groups, two separate spiritual Temples, one 4119 for the Gentiles and another for the Jews? No; it 4120 means absolutely the opposite; it means that both 4121 Jews and Gentiles are all in the same Church. 4122

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To see more examples that demonstrate that 4124 among the Christians there is only one group 4125 without ethnic divisions, see Appendix "B", on 4126 page 187. 4127 * 4128 4129 4130 Summary of Chapter 11. Christ's Church is not 4131 divided along ethnic lines. Jesus said that there was 4132 only one Church. If the Thessalonians won't be 4133 surprised, it is because there is no Rapture. 4134 According to the Rapture hypothesis, we, who 4135 joined a wholly Jewish Church, have now cast them 4136 out. 4137 4138 *** 4139 4140 4141 4142 4143 Chapter 12 4144 According to the Rapture doctrine, the 4145 Holy Spirit will be removed from the 4146 planet 4147 4148 The Holy Spirit's role in the conversion of the 4149 Christian. 4150 The work of the Holy Spirit throughout all the 4151 history of the faith, has been evident. Just as much 4152 in the Old Testament as in the New Testament the 4153 Holy Spirit has guided, consoled and worked with 4154 the believers. 4155 As I see it, the main function of the Holy Spirit 4156 is to convict the World regarding sin and to 4157 guide Christ's Church. If He convicts the World 4158

regarding sin, it is evident that for the sinner to 4159 admit his sins and come to Christ, His work is 4160 required. Hence, if during the Great Tribulation 4161 the martyrs remain firm, and many others come 4162 to Christ, it is because the Holy Spirit has not 4163 abandoned the planet, and continues to work. 4164 4165 "And when he is come, he will reprove the 4166 world of sin, and of righteousness, and of 4167 judgment." (Jn 16:8) 4168 4169 According to St. Paul, ever since we accept 4170 Christ, Christians are sealed with the Holy Spirit. 4171 From here it can be concluded that the presence of 4172 the Holy Spirit is needed during the conversion 4173 process. This is true also during the Great 4174 Tribulation. 4175 4176 "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard 4177 the word of truth, the gospel of your 4178 salvation; in whom also after that ye 4179 believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit 4180 of promise" (Eph 1:13) 4181 4182 4183 It is more reasonable to think that if there are any faithful people during the Great Tribulation, it is 4184 because they were sealed with the Holy Spirit. And 4185 as a result, it is because He has not been removed 4186

⁴¹⁸⁰ as a result, it is because fre has not been removed
⁴¹⁸⁷ from the planet, like the Rapture doctrine affirms. Is
⁴¹⁸⁸ it possible that there can be Christians who lack
⁴¹⁸⁹ the Holy Spirit? Can you believe that during the
⁴¹⁹⁰ Great Tribulation many people will convert to
⁴¹⁹¹ Christ without the work of the Holy Spirit?

Likewise the Rapture doctrine "firmly" states that what prevents the appearance of the antiChrist upon the Earth is the presence of the Holy Spirit on the Earth. In what part of the Bible does it say such a
thing? Would we have to believe it because our
protestant "Popes" tells us to?

From what it says in the next verse, at the moment
of the conversion, Christ gives the Holy Spirit to the
believer. It does not have to be the manifestation
that occurred during Pentecost, but it is the Holy
Spirit in the believer, because he is baptized with
the Holy Spirit.

"And I knew him not, but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me: Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." (Jn 1:33)

If during the believer's conversion, Christ is the 4212 one that baptizes with the Holy Spirit, it is logical to 4213 believe that all who believe in Christ would be 4214 baptized with the Holy Spirit. If this is so, then it is 4215 reasonable that for conversions to occur, the Holy 4216 Spirit must be present. Hence, during the 4217 conversions of the Great Tribulation, the Holy Spirit 4218 must be present on the Earth. 4219

There are many scripture portions where we are directly told, or from which we can deduce, that the Holy Spirit is essential for the conversion and spiritual life of the Christian, and for the congregation of the faithful. If you desire to view several more verses on this subject go to Appendix "C" on page 207.

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4231	The Holy Spirit did not make His first
4232	appearance in the New Testament
4233	The apostle Peter tells us that the prophets from
4234	antiquity, the believers previous to Pentecost, had
4235	the Holy Spirit. Precisely, the Holy Spirit always
4236	had his special function, and would carry it on,
4237	according to Peter's testimony. It was not a massive
4238	anointing as it was in Pentecost, but the Holy Spirit
4239	would guide, console, instruct and work with the
4240	faithful people previous to Pentecost, just like He
4241	does today, in spite of the fact that today we don't
4242	have massive manifestations either.
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4244	"For the prophecy came not in old time by
4245	the will of man, but holy men of God spake as
4246	they were moved by the Holy Ghost."
4247	(II P 1:21)
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4249	There are many occasions in the Old
4250	Testament, in which we see the presence of the
4250 4251	Testament, in which we see the presence of the Holy Spirit upon believers. We see this in the case
4250 4251 4252	Testament, in which we see the presence of the Holy Spirit upon believers. We see this in the case of several judges, including Samson, we see it in the
4250 4251 4252 4253	Testament, in which we see the presence of the Holy Spirit upon believers. We see this in the case of several judges, including Samson, we see it in the cases of Samuel and Saul and also with the
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4250 4251 4252 4253 4254 4255 4255 4255 4257 4258	Testament, in which we see the presence of the Holy Spirit upon believers. We see this in the case of several judges, including Samson, we see it in the cases of Samuel and Saul and also with the inspirations of David. <i>"And the Spirit of the LORD came upon</i> <i>him, and he judged Israel, and went out to</i> <i>war; and the LORD delivered Chushan-</i>
4250 4251 4252 4253 4254 4255 4255 4255 4257 4258 4259	Testament, in which we see the presence of the Holy Spirit upon believers. We see this in the case of several judges, including Samson, we see it in the cases of Samuel and Saul and also with the inspirations of David. <i>"And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war; and the LORD delivered Chushan- rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his</i>
4250 4251 4252 4253 4254 4255 4255 4256 4257 4258 4259 4260	Testament, in which we see the presence of the Holy Spirit upon believers. We see this in the case of several judges, including Samson, we see it in the cases of Samuel and Saul and also with the inspirations of David. <i>"And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war; and the LORD delivered Chushan- rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against</i>
4250 4251 4252 4253 4254 4255 4256 4257 4258 4259 4260 4261	Testament, in which we see the presence of the Holy Spirit upon believers. We see this in the case of several judges, including Samson, we see it in the cases of Samuel and Saul and also with the inspirations of David. <i>"And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war; and the LORD delivered Chushan- rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his</i>
4250 4251 4252 4253 4254 4255 4255 4256 4257 4258 4259 4260 4261 4262	Testament, in which we see the presence of the Holy Spirit upon believers. We see this in the case of several judges, including Samson, we see it in the cases of Samuel and Saul and also with the inspirations of David. "And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war; and the LORD delivered Chushan- rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim." (Judg 3:10)
4250 4251 4252 4253 4254 4255 4255 4256 4257 4258 4259 4260 4261 4262 4263	Testament, in which we see the presence of the Holy Spirit upon believers. We see this in the case of several judges, including Samson, we see it in the cases of Samuel and Saul and also with the inspirations of David. "And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war; and the LORD delivered Chushan- rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim." (Judg 3:10) "But the Spirit of the LORD came upon
4250 4251 4252 4253 4254 4255 4256 4257 4258 4259 4260 4261 4262 4263 4264	Testament, in which we see the presence of the Holy Spirit upon believers. We see this in the case of several judges, including Samson, we see it in the cases of Samuel and Saul and also with the inspirations of David. "And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war; and the LORD delivered Chushan- rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim." (Judg 3:10) "But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer
4250 4251 4252 4253 4254 4255 4255 4256 4257 4258 4259 4260 4261 4262 4263	Testament, in which we see the presence of the Holy Spirit upon believers. We see this in the case of several judges, including Samson, we see it in the cases of Samuel and Saul and also with the inspirations of David. "And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war; and the LORD delivered Chushan- rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim." (Judg 3:10) "But the Spirit of the LORD came upon

"Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon 4267 Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and 4268 Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, 4269 and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over 4270 unto the children of Ammon." 4271 (Judg 11:29) 4272 4273 "And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily 4274 upon him, and he rent him as he would have 4275 rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand; 4276 but he told not his father or his mother what 4277 he had done." (Judg 14:6) 4278 4279 "9 And it was so, that when he had turned his 4280 back to go from Samuel, God gave him 4281 another heart; and all those signs came to 4282 pass that day. 10 And when they came thither 4283 to the hill, behold, a company of prophets 4284 met him; and the Spirit of God came upon 4285 him, and he prophesied among them." 4286 (I Sam 10:9-10) 4287 4288 "1 Now these be the last words of David. 4289 David the son of Jesse said, and the man who 4290 was raised up on high, the anointed of the 4291 God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of 4292 Israel, said: 2 The Spirit of the LORD spake 4293 by me, and his word was in my tongue." 4294 (II Sam 23:1-2) 4295 4296 There were massive manifestations of the Holy 4297 Spirit too, like the two episodes of King Saul and 4298 the company of prophets, but they were not of the 4299 range and quality of Pentecost. 4300 I could present many more verses, but it seems to 4301 me that these should be enough to demonstrate that 4302

the presence of the Holy Spirit was not 4303 something that began in the New Testament, but 4304 rather that it has always happened. The only 4305 difference is that in the New Testament there was a 4306 massive outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the 4307 disciples of Christ, as much on those who were 4308 apostles as on those who were not, as much in 4309 Jerusalem as in other parts of the Roman world. 4310

What I strive to leave perfectly clear, so that the
brethren may not be confused, is that the Holy
Spirit has always been at work with the believers
on the Earth, and with those that can be convicted
of sin leading to salvation.

Since I consider the work of the Holy Spirit as 4316 vital for Christians regardless of what time they live 4317 in, I can't conceive, like the doctrine of the Rapture 4318 says, that the Holy Spirit will be removed from the 4319 planet when the supposed Rapture of the Church 4320 occurs. I can't conceive it because, I see that during 4321 the Great Tribulation there are Christians on the 4322 Earth, and to me, it doesn't make sense that there 4323 would be Christians without the Holy Spirit, nor 4324 that there would be a Christianity without the 4325 guidance of the Spirit. 4326

The doctrine of the Rapture firmly states, but without biblical basis, that the Holy Spirit would be removed from the planet. Where in the Bible does it say such a thing? This is false. It does not say it anywhere. They also affirm that the Holy Spirit was not on the Earth until Pentecost. That too is false as We have already seen.

4334 Consequently, the affirmation of the Rapture
4335 doctrine as to the removal of the Holy Spirit from
4336 the planet before the Great Tribulation, is a blunder.
4337 Without the Holy Spirit there is no conversion,
4338 no faith, no endurance, and the martyrs of the

4339	Great Tribulation are seen to have plenty of all
4340	that.
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4344	Summary of Chapter 12. The Holy Spirit is the
4345	one that converts the unbeliever to Christ, if He
4346	were removed from the planet, as affirmed by the
4347	Rapture, who would convert people during the
4348	Great Tribulation, who would console them, who
4349	would guide them? The Holy Spirit did not appear
4350	for the first time in the New Testament, He was at
4351	work throughout all the previous millennia.
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4358	Chapter 13
4359	The "third coming" disguised as phase
4360	"A" and phase "B"
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4362	Let's compare it to a horse race, and distorting
4363	the meaning of words
4364	Suppose that you would be assigned to a jury in a
4365	trial where, with all seriousness and official
4366	demeanor, a man whose horse finished in third
4367	place in a horse race, is claiming the million dollar
4368	prize that belongs to the first place finisher of the
4369	
	race.
4370	race. The legal argument of the shrewd plaintiff is that
4370 4371	
	The legal argument of the shrewd plaintiff is that
4371	The legal argument of the shrewd plaintiff is that his horse finished in first place phase "C".

first place phase "B", and his own horse arrived in
first place phase "C". For this reason he demands
the prize for the horse that arrives in first place.
Would you rule in his favor? Or would you punish
him for attempting to swindle everyone instead? Or
would you send him to an insane asylum to be
helped with his mental problem?

This is not a joke, it is quite serious. Actually, it is quite tragic. Because the doctrine of the Rapture bases itself on a similar absurdity to deceive the brethren. This kind of thing happens in real life, in spite of the fact that it may seem to you that it is something out of a satirical comedy.

Since the Rapture doctrine cannot change the 4387 words written in the Bible, it appeals to changing 4388 the meaning of words and phrases that are 4389 inconvenient. This is what we were speaking about 4390 in the second section of Chapter 3 under the title 4391 "Malicious scheme of altering the meaning of 4392 words: 3+2=10". If you had learned that 3+2=5, but 4393 someone comes and tells you that the Greek word 4394 for "two" really means "seven", and you believe 4395 that con, from there on, from your point of view, 4396 three plus two is equal to ten. 4397

This is precisely what is happening with the 4398 Rapture's treatment of the Second Coming of our 4399 Lord Jesus Christ. From the moment that they 4400 fabricated a third coming of the Lord, the 4401 Rapture doctrine had to change the meaning of 4402 the phrase "Second Coming", in order to include 4403 within it a third coming, but without having to call 4404 it a third coming. That is why now, according to this 4405 deceitful doctrine, the Rapture is the Second 4406 Coming, phase "A", and the final return of the Lord 4407 is the Second Coming phase "B". Like in the story, 4408 this doctrine is claiming the prize for its horse 4409

which arrived in first place phase "C", and hopingall think that two plus three can be equal to ten.

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The clouds are on planet Earth

If you would see a flying saucer crossing through 4416 the clouds and it starts to make maneuvers around 4417 them, and later it returns to its galaxy, you would 4418 say with full authority, that a flying saucer had 4419 visited the Earth. If several years later you would 4420 see again the same flying saucer maneuvering 4421 through the clouds, you would say, again with full 4422 authority, that this flying saucer had visited the 4423 Earth for a second time. If seven years later you 4424 would witness the same display, you would 4425 correctly say that this was the third visit of the 4426 same flying saucer. 4427

We all know that the clouds are part of this 4428 planet. Our Lord Jesus came to this planet a first 4429 time, when He was crucified. The second time that 4430 He comes, according to this erroneous hypothesis, it 4431 will be during the Rapture, at that time the Lord 4432 waits for us in the clouds of this planet. Hence, 4433 during the Rapture, according to this hypothesis, 4434 Jesus would be present in the planet, a second 4435 time. But at that time only in the clouds, without 4436 presenting himself before humanity, a belief also 4437 shared by the Russellists (Jehovah's Witnesses). 4438

In proper English this would be His Second
Coming. We must not appeal to euphemisms, the
twisting of the words of our language, demands
such as that made by the owner of the losing horse,
or calculations such as those that say that two plus
three is equal to ten.

Since there still remains another return, we have 4445 no other recourse, if we are honest, but to call it 4446 the Third Coming, which would be the one to 4447 occur after the Great Tribulation. That is, of course, 4448 if all this mental acrobatics of the Rapture were 4449 true. 4450 There is no third coming, nor is there another 4451 intermediate coming between the first and second 4452 coming. Neither is there a 1¹/₂ coming. Nor one 4453 called second coming phase "A", with another 4454 called second coming phase "B". Neither is there 4455 any reality in the word juggling that false 4456 doctrines have to appeal to. You will never find 4457 things like that in the Bible, they are satanic 4458 inventions. 4459 * 4460 4461 4462 Summary of Chapter 13. Trying to convince us 4463 that the Rapture is the Second Coming phase "A" 4464 and the Ingathering is the Second Coming phase 4465 "B", is like trying to get the first prize for the horse 4466 that came in third place. It is appealing to word 4467 juggling, because the Earth's clouds are in Earth, 4468 and whoever came to the clouds, or anywhere on 4469 the air of the planet, has come to Earth. 4470 4471 *** 4472 4473 4474 4475 4476 4477

Chapter 14

For the "First Resurrection" this doctrine uses more rhetorical acrobatics

For the hypothesis of the Rapture, the "First Resurrection" is like another horse race

The Rapture doctrine bases its survival in changing the meaning of the words and phrases that are not convenient, just as they do with the following: "first", "final", "in the twinkling of an eye", "saints", "second", "church", "coming", etc., as we have seen throughout this book.

In this section, we will see more of the same. In 4490 this case this doctrine calls the "first resurrection", 4491 the one which occurs at the instant of this imaginary 4492 Rapture, (supposedly before the Great Tribulation), 4493 as well as to that which occurs (according to the 4494 rapture hypothesis) seven years later, after the end 4495 of the Great Tribulation. All of this is affirmed 4496 without so much as a blush of embarrassment from 4497 them. For this doctrine, both resurrections are the 4498 first; and this is in spite of the seven year 4499 separation. That is, of course, if in fact there were a 4500 Rapture. Not only would that be enough, they also 4501 call first resurrection those which occurred 4502 twenty centuries before. How much lying is 4503 required to sustain the very first lie! 4504

This reminds me of the story of the horse racer 4505 which having arrived in third place, would still 4506 claim the million dollar prize, by claiming that he 4507 had arrived in first place phase "C". It also reminds 4508 me that some 60 years ago, in a war which was 4509 being fought at the time, the propagandists of one of 4510 the warring factions, not wanting to admit that their 4511 soldiers were fleeing, would modify the news story 4512

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to say that their soldiers were advancing
backwards. The euphemism is the refuge of those
which have no basis, and have to appeal to changing
the name of things or the meaning of words, so that
the facts "coincide" with their views.

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Now it turns out that the First Resurrection began 20 centuries ago

If this doctrine would admit the truth about the first resurrection, it would have to accept that the Rapture does not exist. Hence, for the sake of its survival it has to defend it with nails, teeth and lies, claiming that what we know as the "First Resurrection" is not the first resurrection, but rather several other resurrections.

Among the arguments erected to "prove" that 4530 there are several first resurrections, is to say that the 4531 first resurrection began when several of the dead 4532 rose after the crucifixion of Christ. This is false, 4533 because those that resurrected at that time are 4534 not alive today; they died again, just like what 4535 happened with Lazarus. When the Bible speaks of 4536 the first resurrection, it speaks of the resurrection to 4537 eternal life, not the resurrections of the daughter of 4538 Jairus. neither that of Dorcas. nor those 4539 accomplished by Elisha the prophet. 4540

If we were to "reason" this way, this doctrine 4541 would have to admit that the Rapture has already 4542 occurred, since both Enoch and Elijah were 4543 raptured. Likewise, they would have to come to the 4544 conclusion that the future Great Tribulation would 4545 be the Great Tribulation Phase "C", since the one 4546 that occurred during the Roman Empire would be 4547 the Great Tribulation Phase "A", and the one during 4548

the Roman Catholic Inquisition, would be the Great 4549 Tribulation Phase "B". Irrational, ridiculous, 4550 fallacious, antiCristian! 4551 * 4552 4553 4554 To clearly understand a biblical truth, all it takes 4555 is a child, to twist it, darken it and complicate it, 4556 it takes a theologian 4557 20:4-5 clearly Revelation says that the 4558 resurrection of those murdered during the Great 4559 Tribulation is the first. If that one is the first, there 4560 couldn't have been a previous one, a child would 4561 know that. If there couldn't have been a 4562 resurrection previous to this one, it is evident that 4563 the Rapture is not true. Remember that this doctrine 4564 affirm, that during the fake Rapture, there is a 4565 resurrection. 4566 4567 "4And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, 4568 and judgment was given unto them; and I saw 4569 the souls of them that were beheaded for the 4570 witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, 4571 and which had not worshipped the beast, 4572 neither his image, neither had received his 4573 mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; 4574 and they lived and reigned with Christ a 4575 thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead 4576 lived not again until the thousand years were 4577 finished. This is the first resurrection." 4578 (Rev 20:4-5) 4579 4580 This is so clear that even a child can understand it, 4581 but, how can we get a theologian to understand it? 4582 4583 4584

According to this tangled doctrine those transformed in the Rapture would precede the resurrected from the Great Tribulation

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The hypothesis of the Rapture says that during the rapture previous the GT, occurs the resurrection of the Christians killed in all past centuries, and the transformation of the living Christians, misusing what Saint Paul tells us in I Thes 4:13-18.

"13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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. 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. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (I Thes 4:13-18)

It is easy to conclude, from what Paul says, that at
the moment of the resurrection, the Christians that
are dead rise first, then, the living Christians are
transformed, and both will be gathered to the Lord.
It is quite clear, so much so that a child can
understand it, that the living will not be transformed

before the dead have risen. Let's repeat: the 4621 transformed will not precede the resurrected. 4622 If the Rapture were true, then, seven years after it, 4623 the other resurrection would occur. In this latter 4624 one, the dead of the Great Tribulation would rise. 4625 and the Christians that would still be alive after the 4626 Great Tribulation would be transformed. But then, 4627 what Saint Paul says in verse 15 couldn't happen, 4628 would happen. Because the transformed during the 4629 Rapture would precede the resurrected after the 4630 Great Tribulation. That is to say, another blunder, 4631 another puzzlement in which the doctrine of the 4632 Rapture is based. All this would be enough, but 4633 there is more. 4634 * 4635 4636 4637 According to this doctrine, all this would occur 4638 in the twinkling of an eye which would last more 4639 than seven years 4640 We learn from what was spoken by Saint Paul in 4641 First Corinthians 15:51-52, that the resurrection of 4642 the Christians that are already dead and the 4643 transformation of those alive, will occur in the 4644 twinkling of an eye. 4645 4646 "51 Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall 4647 not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 4648 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at 4649 the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound, 4650 and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, 4651 and we shall be changed." (I Co 15:51-52) 4652 4653 Since this incoherent doctrine categorically 4654 asserts that the first resurrection extends from 4655 this imaginary rapture until the coming of Christ 4656

(after the Great Tribulation), and since St. Paul
teaches us that the resurrection and the
transformation will occur in the twinkling of an
eye, we would have to come to the conclusion that
according to that doctrine the twinkling of an eye
lasts more than seven years, if we believe to their
own chronological calculations.

This incomprehensible doctrine does not have a logical path, it has to resort to dogmatism and the refusal to discuss the subject before others.

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4669 Summary of Chapter 14. To obfuscate and water 4670 down the transparent concept of the "First 4671 Resurrection", this doctrine appeals to the idea that 4672 the First Resurrection began 20 centuries ago and 4673 will last until the Second Coming, instead of 4674 accepting that it will last for the twinkling of an eye. 4675 That way, with another gobbledygook, it tries to 4676 avoid the appearance that their theological founders 4677 were insane. In Revelation 20:4-5, when it says that 4678 the First Resurrection is what is being described, (a 4679 resurrection that includes those killed during the 4680 GT) it lets us know that before that one, there had 4681 been no other resurrection. Subsequently this 4682 hypothesis appeals again to rhetorical juggling: 4683 saying that those that are transformed during that 4684 alleged Rapture, will indeed come ahead of those 4685 that died during the Great Tribulation, assertion that 4686 Paul denies. Must we believe this new "pope" and 4687 his new dogma of faith? 4688

Chapter 15 The Trumpets

For the passage of the trumpets, the Rapture appeals also to another rhetorical labyrinth

As with all its false affirmations, the hypothesis of 4700 the Rapture appeals to a verbal jig-saw puzzle with 4701 which it tries to brainwash the mind to believe that 4702 what is green is really red and what is yellow is 4703 actually blue. It is the same case that we have 4704 already explained, in which it tries to make it seem 4705 that the "Greek word" for "two", really means 4706 seven, hence 3+2=10. 4707

What this doctrine tries to make us believe, 4708 regarding the trumpets, is that a "final" trumpet 4709 does not have trumpets before it. Just like it calls 4710 two distinct events the "first resurrection", which 4711 according to this hypothesis, span seven years, 4712 likewise it calls two different trumpets that 4713 according to this hypothesis span seven years, the 4714 "last trumpet". 4715

The technique that it uses this time is that it 4716 tries to make us think that the word "final" does not 4717 mean "final", because there is another trumpet 4718 "more final" than the "final" one. This reminds me 4719 of Orwell's "Animal Farm", where all the animals 4720 were equal, but there were some that were "more 4721 equal" than others, and for this reason they could 4722 obtain better food. 4723 *

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4727The illogical final trumpet that does not have a
first trumpet4728first trumpet

If someone should tell you that today is the last 4729 day that the museum will be open, automatically 4730 you would realize that the museum has been open 4731 before today. If someone were to tell you that today 4732 they will transmit the final episode of a sitcom, it 4733 would lead you to believe that this sitcom had 4734 previous episodes. If someone talks about the last 4735 verse in a chapter, you would know that before that 4736 verse there are others. 4737

It would not be logical, nor would you consider it
correct, that someone should refer to the final
chapter of Obadiah, or the final chapter of
Philemon, or of the final chapter of the Epistle of
Jude, knowing that all three of these books have
only one chapter.

When the doctrine of the Rapture interprets First 4744 Corinthians 15:51-52 it tells us that the final 4745 trumpet mentioned there is not the same as the last 4746 trumpet of Revelation. It must state this falsehood, 4747 because if it were to admit that both trumpets are 4748 the same, that would demonstrate that there is no 4749 Rapture before the Great Tribulation, because 4750 the sounding of the seventh and last trumpet of 4751 Revelation, occurs after the Great Tribulation. 4752

To defend the Rapture with teeth and nails, this doctrine appeals to the falsehood that the "final trumpet" mentioned by Saint Paul in this portion, is not the final trumpet of Revelation. How do they "prove" this? They do not prove it, they simply state it dogmatically, and apply the attitude of ...believe it because I say it, like in Romanism.

There cannot be two last trumpets, because
then one of those would not be the last, but
rather the next to the last.

As we have seen previously, everything that 4763 finalizes has to have a beginning. Any final phase 4764 has its initial phase. Hence, every final trumpet 4765 has to have its initial trumpet. Well then, I can 4766 show the trumpets previous to the seventh and last 4767 trumpet of Revelation. Can the Rapture doctrine 4768 show the group of trumpets to which that final 4769 trumpet of First Corinthians 15:51-52 belongs, 4770 which it says is not the seventh trumpet of 4771 Revelation? No, it cannot; it is simply a dogmatic 4772 assertion. Can that doctrine point to the first 4773 trumpet of that group? No, it cannot, because there 4774 is no such "other group". That final trumpet is the 4775 same as the one of Revelation. 4776 4777

4778 "51 Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall
4779 not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in
4780 a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at <u>the</u>
4781 <u>last trump</u>, for the trumpet shall sound, and
4782 the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we
4783 shall be changed." (I Co 15:51-52)

4785 "And the seventh angel sounded; and there
4786 were great voices in heaven, saying: The
4787 kingdoms of this world are become the
4788 kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and
4789 he shall reign for ever and ever."

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4790 4791 (Rev 11:15)

Before this final trumpet of Revelation you can
see the preceding six, by simply reading the
following verses: Revelation 8:7; 8:8; 8:10; 8:12;
9:1 y 9:13. If the final trumpet spoken of in First
Corinthians 15:52 is not the one in Revelation, why
does the doctrine of the Rapture not show the verses

4798 mentioning the trumpets previous to the final4799 trumpet of Corinthians?

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A twinkling of an eye is what the transformation will last, not the duration of the period of the seventh trumpet of Revelation

4806 Once, while chatting with a friend, when I
explained the logic that the seventh trumpet and the
final trumpet are the same, he defended the
hypothesis of the Rapture saying that they could not
be the same, because the one of First Corinthians 15
lasts for the twinkling of an eye, and the one in
Revelation lasts for much longer.

That is false. What lasts for a twinkling of an eye
is not the period of the final trumpet, but rather the
transformation of the living, which is simultaneous
to the resurrection, as we can verify from the
following quote.

⁴⁸¹⁹ "51 Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but <u>we shall all be changed, 52 in</u> <u>a moment, in the twinkling of an eye</u>, at the last trump, for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (I Co 15:51-52)

When I countered this weak argument, he brought 4826 out another; he said that the trumpets of First 4827 Corinthians 15:52 and the one of First 4828 Thessalonians 4:16, which he considered heralds of 4829 the Rapture, were trumpets of joy, whereas the 4830 seventh trumpet of Revelation represented the third 4831 "woe" of Revelation, there was no joy in it. This is 4832 not true either. The seventh trumpet is a "woe" 4833

4834 <u>for the non-believers</u>, not for the Christians. We
4835 rejoice in knowing that at the seventh trumpet
4836 our Lord Jesus Christ will return. What's more,
4837 their joy extends to the creatures of Heaven. Let's
4838 See.

"14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the 4840 third woe cometh quickly. 15 And the seventh 4841 angel sounded; and there were great voices 4842 in heaven, saying: The kingdoms of this 4843 world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, 4844 and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever 4845 and ever. 16 And the four and twenty elders, 4846 which sat before God on their seats, fell upon 4847 their faces, and worshipped God, 17 Saying: 4848 We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, 4849 which art, and wast, and art to come; 4850 because thou hast taken to thee thy great 4851 power, and hast reigned." 4852

(Rev 11:14-17)

"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. 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." (Thes 4:16-17)

It is verified again that the doctrine of the Rapture
teaches lies to those brethren that fall under its evil
influence.

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Summary of Chapter 15. This doctrine asserts 4870 that the final trumpet of First Corinthians 15, is not 4871 the same as the seventh trumpet of Revelation, 4872 because it belongs to another group, but it cannot 4873 demonstrate to what new group it belongs. What 4874 lasts a "twinkling of an eye" is the transformation 4875 of the bodies of the living Christians, not the period 4876 of the seventh trumpet of Revelation. The seventh 4877 trumpet of Revelation is a woe for nonbelievers, but 4878 for Christians it is a joyous event, because it means 4879 Jesus is coming. 4880

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4901 4902 **Chapter 16** Confusing the Great Tribulation with the Seven Bowls of God's wrath

Our Lord returns at the sounding of the seventh trumpet, but the plagues occur afterwards

Jesus opens the seals of the book given to him,
one by one. At the opening of the seventh seal the
trumpets begin to be sounded.

"1And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets." (Rev 8:1-2)

These angels begin to consecutively sound the 4903 trumpets, and when they get to the seventh, Jesus 4904 comes for a second time to Earth to rescue us. 4905 4906 "And the seventh angel sounded; and there 4907 were great voices in heaven, saying: The 4908 kingdoms of this world are become the 4909 kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and 4910 he shall reign for ever and ever." 4911 (Rev 11:15) 4912 4913 After this, several other issues are explained and 4914 some chapters are included as a sort of parentheses 4915 within the subject. When we arrive at Revelation 4916 15:1 we see for the first time the angels that have 4917 the seven last plagues, in which the wrath of God is 4918 accomplished. But remember that the Second 4919 Coming already took place, when the seventh 4920 trumpet is sounded, as we saw in Revelation 11:15, 4921 and hence these plagues that will now be initiated 4922 do not affect the Christians, because we are 4923 already with the Lord. 4924 4925 "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and 4926 marvellous, seven angels having the seven 4927 last plagues; for in them is filled up the 4928 wrath of God." (Rev 15:1) 4929 4930 "15:6 And the seven angels came out of the 4931 temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in 4932 pure and white linen, and having their breasts 4933 girded with golden girdles. 7 And one of the 4934 four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven 4935 golden vials full of the wrath of God, who 4936 liveth for ever and ever. 8 And the temple was 4937 filled with smoke from the glory of God, and

4939from his power; and no man was able to enter4940into the temple, till the seven plagues of the4941seven angels were fulfilled. 16:1 And I heard a4942great voice out of the temple saying to the4943seven angels: Go your ways, and pour out4944the vials of the wrath of God upon the4945Earth."

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Synopsis: Our Lord Jesus Christ returns at the 4947 sounding of the seventh trumpet, hence, when the 4948 seven bowls of God's wrath are poured, all 4949 Christians will be with the Lord. In other words, 4950 Christians shall pass through the Great Tribulation 4951 caused by men against us, but not through the 4952 plagues that God sends for punishment of God's 4953 enemies. 4954

⁴⁹⁵⁵ Due to the erroneous interpretation of this, some
⁴⁹⁵⁶ brethren misinterpret the last plagues, and use them
⁴⁹⁵⁷ erroneously as an argument to defend the heretical
⁴⁹⁵⁸ doctrine of the Rapture.

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The period of the seventh seal includes the seven trumpets, and the period of the seventh trumpet includes the seven bowls

It is not easy to explain this in words, but I will 4965 try. Nevertheless, I will present a chart which makes 4966 the concept easier to understand. Before trying to 4967 explain this issue, it is useful to point out that even 4968 though the beginning of the seals, the trumpets and 4969 the bowls occur in strict sequence, the duration of 4970 their after-effects may reach beyond the beginning 4971 of the next one. 4972

If we analyze all this, we will see that the seven
periods of each series, are the detailed

breakdown of the seventh period of the previous 4975 series. In other words, the seventh period of each 4976 series, contains the seven periods of the following 4977 series. It is as if we had looked at the seventh period 4978 of the first series with a magnifying glass, and we 4979 discover that it is divided into seven sections, which 4980 happen to be the seven periods of the second series. 4981 Likewise, when we look at the seventh period of the 4982 second series with a magnifying glass, we discover 4983 that it also contains another seven sections, which 4984 are the seven periods of the third series. 4985

Upon examining them, we observe that these sections show us the events of this seventh section which contains them in more detail. It is logical that it should happen this way, because as we get closer to the end, we will need to know the events in greater detail.

I shall give a numerical example so that the way 4992 the seals, trumpets and bowls are represented is 4993 better understood. As I have said before, the first, 4994 second and third series are not simultaneous, but 4995 rather successive, because the seventh period of 4996 each series contains the seven periods of the 4997 following one. Thus, in the period covered by the 4998 seventh seal, the seven trumpets are sounded; and in 4999 the period covered by the seventh trumpet, the 5000 seven bowls are poured. 5001

It is as if the seven trumpets are a detailed
accounting of the events during the period of the
seventh seal, and as if the bowls were a detailed
accounting of the events during the period of the
seventh trumpet.

5007 The time periods may be of different duration,
5008 but to better explain them, let's suppose that the
5009 periods corresponding to each group (seal,
5010 trumpet, bowl) are of the same duration. After

this supposition let's go to a numerical example. 5011 Let's imagine that the seven seals would last 49 5012 days each, just to illustrate it in a way that would be 5013 easy to explain, not because I believe that is their 5014 actual duration. Let's imagine also, that each of 5015 the trumpets last seven days, and that each of the 5016 bowls last one day. In total, all the seals, trumpets 5017 and bowls would last 343 days. Having accepted 5018 that supposition let's see what days would be 5019 covered by each period. 5020 5021 the first seal would span days 1 to 49 5022 the second seal would span days 50 to 98 5023 the third seal would span days 99 to 147 5024 the fourth seal would span days 148 to 196 5025 the fifth seal would span days 197 to 245 5026 the sixth seal would span days 246 to 294 5027 the seventh seal would span days 295 to 343 5028 5029 Well then, after the seventh seal is opened, during 5030 the period covered by it, the period of the sounding 5031 of the trumpets begins. Hence, continuing with this 5032 hypothetical numerical example, let's see what days 5033 span the sounding of each trumpet. 5034 5035 the first trumpet would span days 297 to 301 5036 the second trumpet would span days 302 to 308 5037 the third trumpet would span days 309 to 315 5038 the fourth trumpet would span days 316 to 322 5039 the fifth trumpet would span days 323 to 329 5040 the sixth trumpet would span days 330 to 336 5041 the seventh trumpet would span days 337 to 343 5042 5043 On purpose, I began the period of the first 5044 trumpet, on day 297 rather than on 295, because I 5045 would like to highlight that the first trumpet 5046

does not necessarily have to be sounded 5047 immediately after the opening of the seventh 5048 seal, but rather at any time after its opening. 5049 Proceeding with this hypothetical example of the 5050 days and their numbers, we would find that the first 5051 bowl would be poured at some point on day 337, 5052 after the sounding of the seventh trumpet, and in my 5053 point of view, in very rapid succession. But in order 5054 to keep by this example, the bowls would be poured 5055 on the following days: 5056 5057 the first bowl on day 337 5058 the second bowl on day 338 5059 the third bowl on day 339 5060 the fourth bowl on day 340 5061 the fifth bowl on day 341 5062 the sixth bowl on day 342 5063 the seventh bowl on day 343 5064 5065 I would like to note again that I am not saying 5066 that those periods will last as in the example, let 5067 there be no one who after reading what I'm saying 5068 here, should go affirming that "I said" that each seal 5069 will last 49 days, etc.. The third trumpet, for 5070 example, may last longer than the fifth seal, just to 5071 speculate; this is only an example. What is true is 5072 that each of the seven periods of each type, is found 5073 included in the seventh period of the previous type. 5074 5075 5076 5077 Let's see a graph. 5078 I would like to include a graph, so that what I am 5079 trying to say can be better visualized. In it, the 5080 length that I may have given to the span of each 5081 trumpet or bowl, does not represent, seal. 5082

5084	Refer to page 140.		
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5105	In this graph the letter "S" means "seal"; the letter "T" means "trumpet" and the letter "B" means "bowl". When "S-3" is shown it means the third seal. Likewise T-5 would mean the fifth trumpet; and "B-2 would be the second bowl.		
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	In this graph the letter "S" means "se means "bowl". When "S-3" is shown it me trumpet; and "B-2 would be the second bowl.	$\begin{split} \langle S-1 \rangle \langle S-2 \rangle \langle S-3 \rangle \langle S-4 \rangle \langle S-5 \rangle \langle S-6 \rangle \langle \cdots \\ SEAL \rangle & \qquad \qquad$	
	tru	3→ SE	
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necessarily, an equivalency with its true duration. Refer to page 146.

The seals are not part of the "wrath of God", but 5119 part of the Great Tribulation 5120

At the point of the opening of the fifth seal, the 5121 divine punishments, or wrath of God, have not 5122 fallen upon the Earth, since the martyrs of the Great 5123 Tribulation are asking for justice. 5124

If all that has happened before this fifth seal were 5125 part of God's plagues, that is to say the punishment 5126 of God, the martyrs would not be asking for justice, 5127 since they would already have received it. It is 5128 evident that the seals are **not** part of the wrath of 5129 God, but rather part of the Great Tribulation. Not 5130 only that, but also, in verse 11 they are told that 5131 here were yet other brethren that had yet to be killed 5132 as they had been. From all these we can see that 5133 seals are about the Great Tribulation, and in no way 5134

are about the "Wrath of God".

5136 ", And when he had opened the fifth seal, I 5137 saw under the altar the souls of them that 5138 were slain for the word of God, and for the 5139 testimony which they held; 10 and they cried 5140 with a loud voice, saying: How long, O Lord, 5141 holy and true, dost thou not judge and 5142 avenge our blood on them that dwell on the 5143 Earth? 11 And white robes were given unto 5144 every one of them; and it was said unto them, 5145 that they should rest yet for a little season, 5146 until their fellow servants also and their 5147 brethren, that should be killed as they were, 5148 should be fulfilled." (Rev 6:9-11) 5149

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Summary of Chapter 16. Our Lord returns at the 5153 sounding of the seventh trumpet, but the plagues occur afterwards. The period of the seventh seal
includes the seven trumpets, and the period of the
seventh trumpet includes the seven bowls. The seals
unleash the Great Tribulation, not the Wrath of
God.

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Chapter 17 The Seals

If during the opening of the seals Jesus is in Heaven, why does the Bible not mention the Rapture in the portions before the seals?

The doctrine of the Rapture recognizes that the first horseman of Revelation, the one with the white horse, is the antiChrist, and that the horsemen that follow it are part of the Great Tribulation. That would mean that while Jesus is opening the seals, the antiChrist and the Great Tribulation are already operating on the Earth.

Since the doctrine of the Rapture puts forth the 5179 false dogma, that the Christians will be raptured 5180 before the arrival of the antiChrist and the GT, it 5181 would be necessary to arrive at the wrong 5182 conclusion that, before opening the seals, Christ 5183 descended to the Earth, raptured the Church 5184 and then returned to Heaven to open the seven 5185 seals. 5186

5187 If according to this doctrine, Jesus accomplished
5188 the Rapture before opening the first seal, why does
5189 Revelation not mention it anywhere, especially, in

the verses previous to the opening of the seven 5190 seals? The answer is evident, it does not mention 5191 it because the Rapture does not exist. 5192

Since the word "church" does not exist in 5193 chapters 4 to 21 of Revelation, the rapture doctrine 5194 dogmatizes that the Church is not on the Earth. Why 5195 then, do they not apply the same method of 5196 "reasoning" when they see that "rapture" has not 5197 been mentioned in Revelation before the first seal? 5198 It would be good at this point, to repeat what 5199 Saint Paul said, that the antiChrist would arrive 5200 before the Lord gathered us. Let us see.

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5202 "1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the 5203 coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our 5204 gathering together unto him, 2 that ve be not 5205 soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither 5206 by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from 5207 us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let 5208 no man deceive you by any means, for that 5209 day shall not come, except there come a 5210 falling away first, and that man of sin be 5211 revealed, the son of perdition; 4 who opposeth 5212 and exalteth himself above all that is called 5213 god, or that is worshipped; so that he as God 5214 sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself 5215 that he is God." (II Thes 2:1-4) 5216

As we see in verse 1, Paul speaks to us regarding 5218 our being gathered with Jesus, that is to sav. the 5219 **Ingathering.** In reference to this he says in verse 3 5220 not to let us be deceived, in the sense that Christ 5221 will come to get us before the antiChrist. This 5222 shows us that by revelation, Paul knew that when 5223 the return of the Lord was near, there would be 5224 attempts to deceive us. Precisely, that is what the 5225

doctrine of the Rapture is doing, deceiving
Christians, making them think the opposite of
what the Holy Spirit, who inspired Paul, said.
Making them think that Christ would come to
gather us before the Great Tribulation.

However, Paul says clearly, to the church in 5231 Thessalonica, which was part of Christ's Church, 5232 which was an apostolic church, and which was 5233 formed by gentiles, that Christ would not return 5234 before the arrival of the son of perdition. In other 5235 words, that there would be no Rapture. The son of 5236 perdition being, the antiChrist, who opposes all that 5237 is called God or is worshipped. Can what is spoken 5238 by Paul be any clearer? Why if it is so clear, do 5239 Christians continue believing the Rapture? Because, 5240 either they don't read the Bible, or they allow 5241 themselves to be influenced by teachers who at the 5242 same time are deceived by those that are deceived 5243 by the great deceiver. This is similar to the idolatry 5244 of Romanism. In spite of it being so clear that we 5245 are not to worship images, hundreds of millions 5246 continue to do so. 5247

I want to repeat that this warning is made by Paul 5248 to a gentile church, to a Christian church, an 5249 Apostolic Church. Hence, the doctrine of the 5250 Rapture should not say that this warning refers only 5251 to the Jews, who according to this heretical 5252 doctrine, are the only ones that will go through the 5253 Great Tribulation. If the Apostolic Church were not 5254 to go through the Great Tribulation, why would the 5255 Holy Spirit warn them that Jesus will not return 5256 before the antiChrist? 5257

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Summary of Chapter 17. During the opening of 5261 the seals Jesus is still in Heaven. At the opening of 5262 the first seal the Great Tribulation begins. Hence, it 5263 is not logical that there was a Rapture before that. 5264 But if there would have been one, it would be 5265 mentioned in the verses previous to the opening of 5266 the seals. Paul is warning a Gentile church, 5267 therefore he didn't believe that only the Jews were 5268 to be on the Earth during the Great Tribulation. 5269

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Chapter 18

According to this doctrine, Christians do not go to the Father's House until after the Rapture

Would Peter and Paul still be waiting to go to the Father's House?

In the biblical "proofs" that this hypothesis presents regarding the Rapture, it asserts dogmas, without the mediation of any type of reasoning. It is just that sort of thing, "believe it, because I say it".

The portion John 14:1-3 is presented by this 5287 doctrine like one of those principal bases that 5288 "demonstrate" the existence of a Rapture before the 5289 Great Tribulation. This doctrine interprets that what 5290 is spoken of by Jesus here: "I will come again and 5291 receive you unto myself", is a "clear", "explicit" 5292 and "specific" annunciation of such Rapture. That 5293 would mean that until the Rapture occurs we will 5294 not be able to go to the Father's House. Let's read. 5295

"1 Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, <u>I will come again</u>, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (Jn 14:1-3)

It is not reasonable to think that "I will come 5306 again" would refer to the Rapture. If that were true, 5307 then we would have to believe that neither Paul, 5308 nor Matthew, nor Peter, nor any of the other 5309 Christians, including our believing relatives, 5310 would be able to go to the dwellings mentioned 5311 there. And neither would they be with Christ, 5312 because the Rapture would not have yet occurred. If 5313 that mistaken assumption were true, where are the 5314 Christians that have died in Jesus? Absurd! 5315

Not only that, which by itself is enough, if in this
chapter of John the Rapture was being discussed,
then we would have to suppose that God the Father
would also come at the time of the Rapture,
accompanied by Jesus, according to verse 23.

"Jesus answered and said unto him: If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (Jn 14:23)

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If in verses 1-3, the phrase "<u>I will come again</u>, and receive you unto myself" means what this absurd hypothesis says, that Jesus comes in the Rapture, then the phrase "<u>we will come</u> to him, and

make our abode with him" would mean that God 5332 the Father would also come in the Rapture next to 5333 Jesus, which is absurd. 5334 In contradiction to this hypothesis, which affirms 5335 that to go to the Father's House we have to wait for 5336 the day of this supposed rapture, we have II 5337 Corinthians 5:8 and Philemon 1:23. In those verses. 5338 Paul was expecting that as soon as he died, he 5339 would go to be with Christ. This shows us that he 5340 did not think he would have to wait for the Rapture 5341 to get there. Hence, those words of Jesus, in John 5342 14:1-3, do not refer to the Rapture. 5343 5344 "We are confident, I say, and willing rather 5345 to be absent from the body, and to be present 5346 with the Lord." (II Co 5:8) 5347 5348 "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a 5349 desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which 5350 is far better." (Phil 1:23) 5351 5352 In addition, it is evident that when the Lord 5353 returns, He will bring with Him those which slept in 5354 Jesus, from which we can deduce that they were 5355 with Him, in the Father's House. 5356 5357 "13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, 5358 brethren, concerning them which are asleep, 5359 that ye sorrow not, even as others which have 5360 no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died 5361 and rose again, even so them also which 5362 sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." 5363 (I Thes 4:13-14) 5364 * 5365 5366 5367

Summary of Chapter 18. To think that John 14:3 is the promise of the Rapture, is to believe the error that all Christians, both our believing relatives as well as the apostles, are not yet in the Father's House. Besides we would have to believe that at the time of the Rapture God the Father would come down with Christ to rapture us.

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Chapter 19

The antiChrist, several facts about him

The apostasy should not be confused with the antiChrist

The apostasy is a serious deviation from the true 5386 doctrine, which still tries to call itself Christian, or 5387 pretend that it still is; whereas the antiChrist is 5388 someone that breaks with all religious doctrine, 5389 because he shall raise himself against everything 5390 that is worshipped; that is to say, he will not allow 5391 any religion, neither true nor false, neither apostate 5392 nor orthodox. The antiChrist forces all to worship 5393 him. Let's see. 5394

⁵³⁹⁶ "1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the
⁵³⁹⁷ coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our
⁵³⁹⁸ gathering together unto him, 2 that ye be not
⁵³⁹⁹ soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither
⁵⁴⁰⁰ by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from
⁵⁴⁰¹ us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let
⁵⁴⁰² no man deceive you by any means, for that

day shall not come, except there come a 5403 falling away first, and that man of sin be 5404 revealed, the son of perdition; 4 who 5405 opposeth and exalteth himself above all that 5406 is called God, or that is worshipped; so that 5407 he as God sitteth in the temple of God, 5408 shewing himself that he is God." 5409 (II Thes 2:1-4) 5410 5411 The description that is made of the apostasy in I 5412 Tim 4:1-3, does not agree with the one of the 5413 antiChrist, hence, we should not confuse him with 5414 the apostasy. They may be related, but they are not 5415 the same thing, they are not the same event. 5416 Here it says that some will depart from the faith, 5417

prohibiting marriage and requiring abstention from 5418 foods. This is not easily attributable, without doubt, 5419 anyone in particular. Roman Catholicism to 5420 prohibits marriage for their priests and forbids them 5421 to eat meat on Fridays. Seventh Day Adventists 5422 advise not eating meat, but do not prohibit it 5423 completely. What they do prohibit is eating the 5424 meats already banned by the law, but this was not 5425 news for Paul. 5426

"1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know 5436 the truth." (I Tim 4:1-3)

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To my knowledge, this description does not apply hundred per cent to any of the many heretical sects that arose during the beginning of Christianity. Most probably it refers to the future. What is evident is that the antiChrist and the apostasy are different things.

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5460 5461 Satan will not incarnate

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There are those who believe erroneously that the antiChrist will be an incarnation of Satan. That is not anywhere in the Bible, but it does say other things which deny such incarnation. Let's see.

"s And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and <u>lying</u> wonders." (II Tes 2:8-9)

Here Paul tells us that in His Second Coming the Lord shall kill the antiChrist. Since we know that Satan gets placed in prison, but is freed at the end of the Millennium, we would have to come to the conclusion that the antiChrist is a different being than Satan, because he dies and Satan remains alive, until he is cast into the Lake of Fire.

Additionally, it speaks of "that wicked" whose
arrival is a work of Satan. Hence, Satan who is
doing the work, and the wicked who is the result of
that work, are different beings.

If we recall chapter 13 of Revelation, we will
realize that the antiChrist and the False Prophet are

the ones that impose the mark of the 666. If now we 5475 read Revelation 19:20, we would see that the Beast 5476 and the False Prophet, are cast into the Lake of Fire. 5477 After this, we are told in Revelation 20:10 that 5478 Satan also was cast into the Lake of Fire, where the 5479 Beast and the False Prophet already were. That tells 5480 us that all three are different, and that none of those 5481 two are an incarnation of Satan. It is logical to think 5482 that both are led by the Devil, but neither was a 5483 simple body for the Devil to live in. Jesus 5484 incarnated; the Devil will not incarnate. 5485

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." (Rev 19:20)

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"And <u>the Devil</u> that deceived them <u>was cast</u> into the lake of fire and brimstone, <u>where</u> the beast and the false prophet <u>are</u>, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." (Rev 20:10)

Many believe that the antiChrist will dominate the whole planet

The antiChrist will not dominate the whole planet. That is seen in various portions, like when the woman of chapter 12 of Revelation is freed from his influence. Or when the Church of Philadelphia is spared. If the antiChrist dominated the whole planet, there would be no escape in any direction. 5511 "Because thou hast kept the word of my 5512 patience, I will keep thee from the hour of 5513 temptation, which shall come upon all the 5514 world, to try them that dwell upon the Earth." 5515 (Rev 3:10) 5516 5517 "And the woman fled into the wilderness, 5518 where she hath a place prepared of God, that 5519 they should feed her there a thousand two 5520 hundred and threescore days." 5521 (Rev 12:6) 5522 5523 "And to the woman were given two wings of 5524 a great eagle, that she might fly into the 5525 wilderness, into her place, where she is 5526 nourished for a time, and times, and half a 5527 time, from the face of the serpent." 5528 (Rev 12:14) 5529 5530 The idea that he dominates the whole planet may 5531 come from verses where, when speaking of the 5532 antiChrist the "whole earth" is mentioned, like in 5533 Revelation 13:8, 12 and 14. 5534 To what "earth" does it refer: the planet, Israel, 5535 the Middle East, to Eurasia-Africa, or to what? 5536 The word "earth" has several meanings or 5537 nuances in the Bible: 5538 5539 a) the substance earth, as in Leviticus Lv 15:12; 5540 5541 "And the vessel of earth, that he toucheth 5542 which hath the issue, shall be broken, and 5543 every vessel of wood shall be rinsed in 5544 water." (Lv 15:12) 5545 5546

b) the ground of	or floor as in I Samuel 28:20;
	l fell straightway all along on the
,	was sore afraid, because of the
v	muel, and there was no strength in
-	had eaten no bread all the day,
nor all the n	<i>night.</i> " (I Sam 28:20)
c) the planet w	hich seems to be the way it is used in
Gn 1:1; Ex 9	:14; Ro 9:17;
"In the be	ginning God created the heaven
and the Ear	8 8
	at this time send all my plagues
*	heart, and upon thy servants, and
	cople; that thou mayest know that
there is non	e like me in all the Earth."
	(Ex 9:14)
"For the so	cripture saith unto Pharaoh: Even
for this san	ne purpose have I raised thee up,
that I might	t shew my power in thee, and that
my name mi	ght be declared throughout all the
Earth."	(Ro 9:17)
d) any part wi	hich is not the sea, which is what we
see in Gn 1:10	
	,
"And God	called the dry land Earth; and the
gathering t	ogether of the waters called he
Seas; and G	od saw that it was good."
-	(Gn 1:10)
	s as the waters of Noah unto me,
for as I hav	ve sworn that the waters of Noah

should no more go over the earth; so have I 5583 sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, 5584 nor rebuke thee." (Isa 54:9) 5585 5586 e) the nation of Israel like in Dt 4:40 y Jer 14:4; 5587 5588 "Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and 5589 his commandments, which I command thee 5590 this day, that it may go well with thee, and 5591 with thy children after thee, and that thou 5592 mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, 5593 which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for 5594 ever." (Dt 4:40) 5595 5596 "Because the ground is chapt, for there was 5597 no rain in the earth, the plowmen were 5598 ashamed, they covered their heads." 5599 (Jer 14:4) 5600 5601 f) the current state of the living, which is what is 5602 perceived in Ex 9:15. There may be more nuances, 5603 but I have only noticed these. 5604 5605 "For now I will stretch out my hand, that I 5606 may smite thee and thy people with 5607 pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the 5608 earth." (Ex 9:15) 5609 5610 Let us see some examples of portions in which 5611 the phrase "the whole earth" does not mean the 5612 whole planet. We must guide ourselves by the 5613 context and by reasoning, in order to understand 5614 which of all the possible meanings is the one which 5615 applies to the portion of Scripture that we are 5616 reading. 5617 Sometimes the expression used refers to a 5618

region, not just a single country. That is to say, a
group of countries, or the area surrounding a
country, as is the case that I follow with below.

⁵⁶²³ "And all countries came into Egypt to
⁵⁶²⁴ Joseph for to buy corn; because that the
⁵⁶²⁵ famine was so sore in all lands." (Gn 41:57)

If we analyze the use of the phrase "all countries" and "all lands" in this verse, we would realize that it does **not** refer to the whole Earth, that is to say, it does not refer to the whole planet, but rather the whole land near Egypt, the region of Canaan and its surroundings.

It is evident that the inhabitants of the 5633 American continent did not go to Egypt to obtain 5634 their food from Joseph, it would have been 5635 impossible to do it; and the same can be said of 5636 places as remote as Japan, China, India, 5637 Australia or the British Isles. Most likely in those 5638 places they did not have the famine that was 5639 afflicting that region at that time. 5640

It is the context, and more than anything else, the
integral reading of the whole Bible, that will show
us the meaning of these phrases and words.

In Ezekiel 32:4 we see the phrase "the whole 5644 earth" used in a metaphorical and hyperbolic way, 5645 in a symbol. Comparing Egypt with a whale, he 5646 says that it will be pulled out of the ocean and onto 5647 the earth and would be abandoned for the beasts of 5648 the whole earth to feed on its flesh. It is evident 5649 that there is no way for the beasts of the whole 5650 planet to go to Egypt; at best, the ones from the 5651 surroundings would go. 5652

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"Then will I leave thee upon the land, I will cast thee forth upon the open field, and will cause all the fowls of the heaven to remain upon thee, and I will fill the beasts of the whole earth with thee." (Ezk 32:4)

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Guided by all these examples in which the phrase "the whole earth" does not mean "the whole planet", we should be careful not to necessarily conclude that, the antiChrist will govern the whole planet. Especially if we remember that the Church of Philadelphia in Rev 3:10, and the woman of Rev 12:6 & 14 are spared from the antichrist.

The miracles of the antiChrist are false, they are crafty tricks

There is no way the created beings can perform 5672 miracles by themselves, they have to be empowered 5673 by God. God does not support sin, hence God does 5674 not give power to the antiChrist to perform 5675 miracles. As it clearly says in verse 10 of II 5676 Thessalonians 2, those are deceptive miracles, 5677 similar to those made by a magician in a theatre, 5678 except much more convincing and scientific. In 5679 other words, they will be very well crafted tricks, 5680 perhaps even impossible to uncover, because they 5681 are based on future secret scientific knowledge, but 5682 tricks and deception nevertheless. 5683

It would be something like presenting television or cinematographic images to a primitive person, or a voice from the radio, or an ultrasonic alarm that detects their presence; things that someone completely ignorant of this technology, could only attribute to supernatural powers. In no way can we

deduce from here, that the antiChrist shall make, 5690 real, true miracles. This abominable being will 5691 make false miracles, but will be able to deceive 5692 only the false Christians with them. 5693 5694 "9 Even him, whose coming is after the 5695 working of Satan with all power and signs 5696 and lying wonders, 10 And with all 5697 deceivableness of unrighteousness in them 5698 that perish; because they received not the love 5699 of the truth, that they might be saved." 5700 (II Thes 2:9-10) 5701 5702 5703 5704 The antiChrist is a person, not an institution 5705 The antichrist is a person, not an institution, even 5706 though, of course, he may represent, also, an 5707 institution. 5708 Another item that can be derived from the 5709 description made of him by St. Paul in verse 4 is 5710 that this character will say that he is God, and not 5711 only that, but also he will sit in the temple of God, 5712 making himself seem to be God on Earth. 5713 5714 "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above 5715 all that is called God, or that is worshipped; 5716 so that he as God sitteth in the temple of 5717 God, shewing himself that he is God." 5718 (II Thes 2:4) 5719 5720 To this day there have been tyrants and religious 5721 leaders that have demanded from their followers 5722 submissive worshiping, but none of the famous 5723 ones of history has pretended to replace the 5724 **Creator.** What is more frequent is people that have 5725

made themselves look as God's representatives, or
may have acted to be one of the many gods in
which their subjects believed, but I have never
heard of any that have tried to pass as the Creator.
The antichrist will.

Another item that is deduced from this verse 4 is 5731 that a third temple will be constructed in 5732 Jerusalem. This temple, to give it a name, shall be 5733 called the temple of God, but in reality it is not His, 5734 because God has not ordained its construction, as 5735 He did with the two previous ones. In reality it will 5736 be a spurious "temple of God", false, of human 5737 origin, with no sanctification, like the other two 5738 had. In this counterfeit temple the Son of Perdition 5739 shall sit. The beginning of its construction will be 5740 the beginning of the end time generation. 5741

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Summary of Chapter 19. The apostasy must not 5745 be confused with the antiChrist. The apostasy is a 5746 deviation from the correct doctrines which is 5747 suffered by the Church; however the antiChrist is in 5748 opposition to any religion which is not worshipping 5749 the antiChrist as if he were God. This abominable 5750 character is not an incarnation of Satan, but directed 5751 by him instead. Satan does not incarnate in a human 5752 body at any time. The antiChrist will not rule the 5753 whole planet, even if his influence be felt in 5754 everything. His so called "miracles" are not real, 5755 but crafty deception, possibly scientific trickery. 5756 The antiChrist is not an institution, but a human 5757 being, even if he may be the ruler of an institution. 5758 5759

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Chapter 20

Let's see some verses used erroneously in support of the Rapture

Erroneous use of I Thes 1:10 to "demonstrate" the existence of the Rapture.

This verse has been used at times by brethren that speak with me, to "prove" that there is a Rapture of the Church previous to the Great Tribulation. They have told me that in this verse lies the promise that God will spare the **whole** of Christianity from the persecutions of the Great Tribulation.

Here Paul **is not** speaking of liberation from human originated afflictions against the Church, during the Great Tribulation, but rather of being spared from the divine wrath that will fall during the Final Judgment upon those that despised the salvation in Christ.

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⁵⁷⁸¹ "9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols, to serve the living and true God; 10 and to wait for his Son from Heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come." (I Thes 1:9-10)

There is nothing here about the Rapture. From the 5789 context we can tell that Paul says that thanks to 5790 the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ we have 5791 been liberated of the wrath that is to come when 5792 the unrepentant humanity is punished. There is 5793 nothing in this portion that leads us to believe that 5794 all of Christianity is going to be spared the 5795 sufferings that rebellious humans will unleash 5796

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against Christians during the kingdom of the antiChrist.

I am not saying that God will not provide a refuge
or hiding place for us, but there will be many
Christians that will be persecuted and murdered
during the Great Tribulation, or else it would not be
a Great Tribulation.

Besides, after having said what Paul affirmed 5804 here, both, himself and other Christians, 5805 suffered terribly in the hands of the Roman Empire. 5806 Centuries later also at the hands of the Roman 5807 Catholic Inquisition. Hence the apostle is not 5808 promising Christians here, that God will spare them 5809 from every tribulation that may come. Christ said 5810 that in the world we would have tribulation. What 5811 does the speed of a car have to do with bacon? 5812 Nothing; absolutely nothing. So what do these 5813 verses have to do with the Rapture? Nothing! Of all 5814 that Paul has said here, there is nothing that relates 5815 to the Rapture. 5816

Paul is referring here to salvation in Christ, 5817 which is what spares us of God's wrath at the Final 5818 Judgment, not from the wrath of rebellious men. In 5819 the world we will have affliction, like the Lord said. 5820 If Paul, when mentioning "the wrath to come" 5821 would have been referring to the wrath of the 5822 antiChrist against the Christians during the 5823 Great Tribulation, he would not need to have 5824 mentioned the sacrifice of the Lord as the reason 5825 for this liberation, since that sacrifice has not 5826 spared Christianity from human afflictions. 5827 If Paul would have wanted to mention the reason

If Paul would have wanted to mention the reason
for being spared the Great Tribulation he would
have mentioned God's mercy, or the fact that
Christians had not strayed, or a similar thing, as in
the case of the Church of Philadelphia in Revelation

3:10, but not Christ's sacrifice, which has not 5833 spared us from the afflictions of this world. 5834 Many are the verses where the expression "He 5835 has saved us from the wrath to come", or something 5836 similar, is mentioned in the context of eternal 5837 salvation and in no way in relation to the Rapture. 5838 Why then, are we forced to believe that this same 5839 expression, in this quote from Thessalonians, is 5840 referring to the imaginary Rapture fabricated by this 5841 doctrine? 5842 Let us examine some verses that use this 5843 expression, and that in no way can we say refer to 5844 the Rapture. But it is evident instead that they refer 5845 to eternal salvation. 5846 5847 "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and 5848 Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto 5849 them: O generation of vipers, who hath 5850 warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" 5851 (Mt 3:7) 5852 5853 "Then said he to the multitude that came 5854 forth to be baptized of him: O generation of 5855 vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the 5856 wrath to come" (Lk 3:7) 5857 5858 "He that believeth on the Son hath 5859 everlasting life; and he that believeth not the 5860 Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God 5861 abideth on him." (Jn 3:36) 5862 5863 "5 But after thy hardness and impenitent 5864 heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against 5865 the day of wrath and revelation of the 5866 5867

5868	righteous judgment of God; 6 who will render
5869	to every man according to his deeds."
5870	(Ro 2 : 5-6)
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5872	"9 Much more then, being now justified by
5873	his blood, we shall be <u>saved from wrath</u>
5874	through him. 10 For if, when we were
5875	enemies, we were reconciled to God by the
5876	death of his Son, much more, being
5877	reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."
5878	(Ro 5 : 9-10)
5879	
5880	"9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath,
5881	but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus
5882	Christ, 10 who died for us, that, whether we
5883	wake or sleep, we should live together with
5884	<i>him.</i> " (I Thes 5:9-10)
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5886	As we have just read, in these six portions,
5887	expressions are used which are equivalent to that
5888	found in I Thessalonians 1:9-10; but in all these,
5889	they refer to the salvation of the soul, in Jesus
5890	Christ, thanks to which we will not have to face the
5891	wrath of God. In none of these cases can we say
5892	that they are referring to the Rapture. Why then
5893	does this false doctrine indoctrinate those that fall
5894	under its wicked spell, that in the case of I
5895	Thessalonians 1:9-10 it is about the Rapture?
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5899	Why warn those who will already be with Christ
5900	of an impending deception? Who can deceive
5901	them in Heaven?
5902	As the Bible makes evident, and it cannot be
5903	denied, there will be Christians murdered during

the Great Tribulation. Since the doctrine of the 5904 Rapture assures us that the Christians will be 5905 removed before that, it has left this hypothesis no 5906 other recourse than to fabricate a Rapture for the 5907 Gentiles and another one for the Jews. According to 5908 it, the only ones that remain here to be martyred by 5909 the antiChrist, are the Jews that convert to Christ 5910 after the Rapture, because the Gentiles have already 5911 left in the Rapture. 5912

If we read these verses, we see that **Saint Paul** directs his words to the Christians, since in the first verse he says "... we beseech you brethren...". It is also seen that he refers to the moment or occasion in which we will be gathered to be with Christ, that is, the Ingathering. Also, we see that the Christians that Paul is addressing are Gentiles.

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"1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the 5921 coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our 5922 gathering together unto him, 2 that ye be not 5923 soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither 5924 by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from 5925 us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let 5926 no man deceive you by any means, for that 5927 day shall not come, except there come a 5928 falling away first, and that man of sin be 5929 revealed, the son of perdition; 4 who opposeth 5930 and exalteth himself above all that is called 5931 God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God 5932 sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself 5933 that he is God." (II Thes 2:1-4) 5934

Referring to those brethren of Christ's
Church, an Apostolic Church, a Gentile Church,
and to that moment of the gathering of the
Christians, Paul says that Christ will not come

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before the Son of Perdition is revealed, opposing
and raising himself against anything that is called
God or is worshipped, and seating himself in the
Temple of God pretending to be God.

5945 These verses tell us three things clearly:

The gathering with Christ of the Gentile
 brethren of Christ's Church, as the Thessalonians
 were, occurs after the appearance of the Son of
 Perdition, that is after the Great Tribulation.

2) Paul is making this warning to Gentile
Christians, since the Thessalonians were Greek and
belonged to Christ's Church, the Church of the
Apostles.

- 3) Paul warns these Christians to not allow
 themselves to be deceived regarding the sequence
 of events, so that they do not expect an imminent
 Second Coming, nor to expect it before the
 antiChrist.
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From number 3 above we can deduce two things:

a) Paul expected that someone will indeed try to
deceive the Christians in the Churches of the end
times, making them think that the Ingathering is
previous to the appearance of the Son of Perdition,
and...

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b) From the moment that Paul asks the
Thessalonian Christians to not be deceived, it is
because in that future time the Christian Gentiles,
the Christians of what we now call the Apostolic

⁵⁹⁷⁶ Church, would still be on Earth, because if they
⁵⁹⁷⁷ were raptured and were in Heaven, no one could
⁵⁹⁷⁸ deceive them there.

This means that there is no such thing as a Rapture of the Church, previous to the Great Tribulation. The Thessalonians, who belonged without dispute to what we call "Church" today, were warned by Paul so that they would not be deceived with respect that the Church would be raptured before the Great Tribulation.

Precisely, the warning Paul gives to the Gentiles, 5986 because he expected there will be Gentile 5987 Christians on Earth in the moment when there 5988 would be confusion regarding Jesus coming before 5989 or after the antiChrist. This warning is made to the 5990 "brethren", as stated in verse one. Hence, he 5991 expected that the Gentile brethren, of what we call 5992 Church today, were going to be on Earth during the 5993 appearance of the Son of Perdition. 5994

It would be illogical that Paul would give them a
sign that he knew they would never see nor need,
due to finding themselves in Heaven because of a
previous Rapture.

This radically and absolutely denies the absurd 5999 hypothesis of the Rapture, which asserts that this 6000 will happen secretly and with stealth, without any 6001 previous signs, and that at that moment the 6002 Christians will be taken up. It cannot be a secret and 6003 sudden rapture, because according to Paul, they will 6004 see the antichrist before Jesus' coming and 6005 Christians rapture. 6006

In addition, it is pretty clear that **Paul calls the "Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ", to that event in which the Gentile Christians are gathered**, and referring to both events together, he says that they would not happen until the coming of the antiChrist.

That is to say that neither the Second Coming 6012 nor the Ingathering would occur before the 6013 revealing of the antiChrist. 6014 It is logical to think that Saint Paul knew what the 6015 following verse from the Gospel of Mark says, 6016 which is, that the Second Temple, where they would 6017 worship, was going to be destroyed. 6018 6019 "And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest 6020 thou these great buildings? there shall not be 6021 left one stone upon another, that shall not be 6022 thrown down." (Mk 13:2) 6023 6024 Hence, when Paul wrote what is said in II 6025 Thessalonians 2:4, he knew that it would not be in 6026 that Second Temple where they worshipped, 6027 where the Son of Perdition will sit. From this, we 6028 can deduce that a third temple will be constructed 6029 in Jerusalem; and that it will be in this third 6030 temple where the antiChrist shall sit. 6031 6032 "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above 6033 all that is called God, or that is worshipped; 6034 so that he as God sitteth in the temple of 6035 God, shewing himself that he is God." 6036 (II Thes 2:4) 6037 * 6038 6039 6040 The "blessed hope" and the "glorious 6041 appearing" 6042 This intricate hypothesis dogmatizes that because 6043 in Titus 2:13 Paul speaks of the "blessed hope" and 6044 of the "glorious appearing" this has to mean that he 6045 is speaking of the Rapture (blessed hope) and the 6046 Second Coming (glorious appearing). There are no 6047

other verses in Scripture in which someone can base
themselves to say that "blessed hope" means the
Rapture. It is only in this verse where this meaning
is imposed.

"Blessed hope" is the hope of salvation, the hope 6052 to be with Christ, or maybe any other hope. It is not 6053 necessarily the Rapture. Nevertheless, the Rapture 6054 hypothesis not only insists categorically that the 6055 phrase "blessed hope" means the Rapture, but going 6056 beyond logic, it sustains dogmatically, that if in a 6057 portion in which it speaks of the return of Christ, 6058 but without using the phrase "glorious appearing", 6059 then those verses do not refer to the Second 6060 Coming, but to the Rapture. This is the way in 6061 which this doctrine fabricates "proofs". 6062

"¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth 6064 salvation hath appeared to all men. 12 6065 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and 6066 worldly lusts, we should live soberly, 6067 righteously, and godly, in this present world; 6068 13 looking for that **blessed hope**, and the 6069 glorious appearing of the great God and our 6070 Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 who gave himself for 6071 us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, 6072 and purify unto himself a peculiar people, 6073 zealous of good works." (Tit 2:11-14) 6074

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⁶⁰⁷⁶ Christians, even if they are being persecuted and
⁶⁰⁷⁷ even murdered as in the case of Stephen, have the
⁶⁰⁷⁸ blessed hope of going with the Lord. This martyr,
⁶⁰⁷⁹ directing himself to Christ said: "Lord Jesus,
⁶⁰⁸⁰ receive my spirit". It is obviously a blessed hope
⁶⁰⁸¹ that Stephen had, it was not necessary for him to
⁶⁰⁸² wait for the Rapture.

It is not logical that because in this passage, the
phrase "glorious appearing" refers to the Second
Coming, just because of that, any place in Scripture
that speaks of Christ's return, but the phrase
"glorious appearing" is not used, this would
"imply" that it is not speaking of the Second
Coming, but of the Rapture.

The only place where this phrase is used in the whole Bible is in Titus 2:13, so to say such a blunder is to dogmatize that nowhere else the Second Coming is being mentioned, it is always the Rapture. That is illogical!

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Nowhere in Scripture it speaks of the Rapture but of the Second Coming

Once I told one of my friends that the Bible does
not speak of the Rapture, to what he responded that
it did. I asked him to give just one verse that would
demonstrate that we were going to be raptured
before the Great Tribulation, and he showed me
Revelation 4:1-2. Let's see.

"1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me, which said: **Come up hither**, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately **I was in the spirit**; and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne." (Rev 4:1-2)

⁶¹¹⁶ After I read the verses he showed me, again, the exclamation "what does the speed of a car have to do with bacon?" burst out of me. **Nothing;** the

speed of a car has nothing to do with bacon. In the 6119 same way, this verse has nothing to do with the 6120 theme being discussed. In this case, what is the 6121 relationship between the fact that John was called 6122 up to Heaven, with the existence of a Rapture 6123 before the Great Tribulation? This vision speaks 6124 nothing of the Rapture. When the Second Coming is 6125 mentioned, however, everything is said very clearly. 6126 To begin with, John was not "raptured", he was 6127 told to come up. They called him to show him 6128 other revelations, not to take part in the Wedding of 6129 the Lamb, which is according to this doctrine, what 6130

the raptured are going to enjoy. Besides, John went
in spirit, not in the body.
Not only is there no connection between these

⁶¹³³ Not only is there no connection between these
⁶¹³⁴ verses and the Rapture, but in addition it is obvious
⁶¹³⁵ that John was not raptured nor did he enjoy
⁶¹³⁶ what the alleged raptured will enjoy.

Besides, if because John was called to Heaven,
that means that the Rapture exists, then the one that
was taken to the Third Heaven, participated of the
Rapture in his time, and we would have to think the
same of Enoch and Elijah.

⁶¹⁴² Not having a single portion that speaks of the
⁶¹⁴³ Rapture, this doctrine has to be snatching at
⁶¹⁴⁴ anything to "demonstrate" that the Rapture exists.

The Rapture doctrine affirms we are raptured 6145 before the Great Tribulation starts, which they say 6146 lasts for seven years. According to this doctrine 6147 during these seven years we are at the Wedding of 6148 the Lamb. The Great Tribulation starts with the 6149 opening of the first seal and keeps going all through 6150 the opening of the other seals. Knowing that Jesus is 6151 the one who open the seals, how it is that he also is 6152 6153

at the Wedding of the Lamb? This is another Rapture blunder we have to accept dogmatically.

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Another alleged "overwhelming proof" that the Rapture exists is that John could not recognize those in the multitude of martyrs

Wanting to show a friend that the Gentiles will be 6162 part of the Church that is martyred during the Great 6163 Tribulation, as well as the Jewish believers, I 6164 showed him the verses of Revelation 7:9-14, which 6165 we have already discussed in chapter 10 of this 6166 book. To my amazement he told me that those 6167 martyred were Jews and could not form part of 6168 the Church, and the "proof" was that in verse 14, 6169 John did not recognize them; if they would be from 6170 the Church, my friend said, John would have 6171 recognized them. 6172

If you can "reason" that John did not recognize 6173 them because they were not of the Church, likewise 6174 anyone can "reason" that John, who was Jewish, 6175 did not recognize them because they were not 6176 Jewish. Besides, these brethren were martyred 2000 6177 years after the people that John had known, just as 6178 much from the Church as from the Jews. He had no 6179 reason to recognize them. It is ridiculous to use this 6180 type of argument. It is obvious that this doctrine 6181 does not have any better ones. 6182

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⁶¹⁸⁴ "9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great
⁶¹⁸⁵ multitude, which no man could number, of all
⁶¹⁸⁶ nations, and kindreds, and people, and
⁶¹⁸⁷ tongues, stood before the throne, and before
⁶¹⁸⁸ the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and
⁶¹⁸⁹ palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud

voice, saying, Salvation to our God which 6190 sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb 11 And all the angels stood round about the 6192 throne, and about the elders and the four 6193 beasts, and fell before the throne on their 6194 faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying: Amen. 6195 Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and 6196 thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and 6197 might, be unto our God for ever and ever. 6198 Amen. 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me: What are these which are 6200 arrayed in white robes? And whence came 6201 they? 14 And I said unto him: Sir, thou 6202 knowest. And he said to me: These are they 6203 which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them 6205 white in the blood of the Lamb." 6206

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(Rev 7:9-14)

Some claim that since during the Second Coming, Jesus brings with Him those that slept, that it is implying that there was a previous Rapture

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Of the brethren that believe in the existence of 6215 this alleged "Rapture" before the Second Coming, 6216 there are some that have told me that since the Lord, 6217 in His Second Coming, brings with Him those that 6218 slept, that means that they were previously raptured. 6219 That is not true, what that means is that they "slept" 6220 previously, that is, they died prior to the Second 6221 Coming. The souls of these brethren which died 6222 are the ones which come with Jesus to regain 6223 their bodies at his Second Coming. 6224

They likewise claim that given that the Lord 6225

establishes his Kingdom during his Second Coming,
this means that He is returning with human beings
previously resurrected during the alleged Rapture.
This presentation of the Millennial Kingdom is not
true either.

It is true that after his Second Coming the Lord 6231 will establish his Millennial Kingdom. But this does 6232 not mean that He will establish it 15 seconds after 6233 the Second Coming. We must remember that 6234 after the Seventh Trumpet, which is when the 6235 Second Coming occurs, the Seven Bowls of 6236 God's wrath are poured out on the World. Hence 6237 Millennial Kingdom has not yet been the 6238 established. We have to wait, at least, until the 6239 Seven Bowls are poured out. This takes some time, 6240 as we can verify, if we read Chapter 16 of 6241 Revelation. 6242

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Summary of Chapter 20. To try to make it seem 6246 like the phrase "the wrath to come" or the "wrath of 6247 God" (that appears in I Thes 1:10) refers to the 6248 Great Tribulation, is to twist the Bible to adapt it to 6249 the Rapture hypothesis. This is because it is not 6250 used anywhere else in the Bible with that meaning. 6251 If Paul thought that the Church would be raptured 6252 before the Great Tribulation, he would not have 6253 bothered warning the Church of the Thessalonians 6254 not to be deceived. If they would be in Heaven 6255 already, who could deceive them in Heaven? Why 6256 warn them that the antiChrist would come first, if 6257 they were going to be raptured before? The 6258 "blessed hope" and the "glorious appearing" are 6259 phrases referring to the Second Coming, there is no 6260 reason to attribute one to the Rapture and the other 6261

to the Second Coming. John was not "raptured" in 6262 Revelation, he was told to come up. They called 6263 him to show him other revelations, not to take part 6264 in the Wedding of the Lamb, which is according to 6265 this doctrine, what the raptured are going to enjoy. 6266 John did not recognize the people from the Great 6267 Tribulation simply because the time elapsed from 6268 the epoch in which he knew Jews and Gentiles of 6269 the Church to the Great Tribulation, was twenty 6270 centuries. When Jesus comes with the Christians it 6271 does not mean that there was a rapture before, he 6272 comes with the souls of all God's servants that have 6273 died since the beginning of the world, whose bodies 6274 are going to be resurrected. Remember that 6275 nowhere in the Bible is the Rapture mentioned, it 6276 has to be assumed, by twisting everything. 6277

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Chapter 21 Conclusion

Are the foundations of this doctrine valid?

You have seen the foundations on which the Rapture doctrine bases its beliefs, and those which it utilizes to "prove" that the Rapture exists. However, none of these bases supports such doctrine. I have already listed them in chapter 4, but let's review them to see if any truly supports it.

1-Where are the verses in which, speaking about theLord's return, the Rapture is mentioned? None.

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      2-This doctrine makes it seem that in order for God
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      to be able to protect the Church from the antiChrist
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      and from the Great Tribulation, He has to remove it
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      from the planet. We have shown that this is false.
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      3-The Rapture dogmatize that God and Christ will
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      not permit that Christians suffer during the Great
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      Tribulation, hence, the Church must be removed
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      from the planet. Tribulations have always occurred,
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      God has always protected his children, and He
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      never had to take them out of the planet to do so.
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      4-According to the Rapture, during the seven years
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      they say the Great Tribulation lasts, the Wedding of
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      the Lamb, is celebrated in Heaven. False,
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      grotesque, cruel and elitist.
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      5-This doctrine insists that if we remove the
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      "imminence" of the Rapture from the brethren,
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      Christians will not try to sanctify themselves.
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      Deception is not a help for sanctification. Lies
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      have satanic origin.
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      6-This doctrine creates confusion by saying that the
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      word "Church" does not appear in Revelation from
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      chapter 4 to 21. It does appear with equivalent
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      words, but Rapture believers do not want to
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      admit it.
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      7-The Rapture hypothesis says that Jews and the
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      Gentiles form two distinct and separate Churches.
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      Paul teaches otherwise.
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      8-The Rapture hypothesis says that the Holy Spirit
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      will be removed from the planet. If this is true,
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who is left with the responsibility to convert and
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      guide those that remain?
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      9-The doctrine of the Rapture views three comings
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      of Christ to Earth. The Bible speaks only of two.
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      10-The Rapture stretches the first resurrection and
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      the transformation of the living Christians, during
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      the seven years of the Great Tribulation. Both
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      occur in the twinkling of an eye.
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      11-The Rapture doctrine denies that the trumpet that
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      Paul refers to in I Corinthians 15:52, is the seventh
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      trumpet of Revelation. But this doctrine cannot
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      show the new set of trumpets.
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      12-This doctrine states that Great Tribulation and
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      the plagues of the Seven Last Bowls are the same
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      thing. False, they are different.
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      13-It puts forth the dogma that the Rapture comes
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      before the antiChrist. Paul clearly says otherwise.
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      14-This doctrine affirms that after the Rapture we
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      will be able to be at last, in the Father's house.
6357
      From the moment we die we will go there.
6358
6359
      15-In relation to the antiChrist there are several
6360
      errors that have been believed by many. True, I
6361
      have described it already.
6362
6363
      16-The Scripture portions that this doctrine uses as
6364
      a foundation do not support it.
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6366
6367
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Is it worth it to bear the guilt of the blood of the 6370 brethren for the sake of not admitting an error? 6371 If we have reviewed the 16 bases on which the 6372 heretical Rapture doctrine supports its existence, 6373 and none of them remains firm, why would we 6374 continue to believe in such a doctrine? Worse yet, 6375 why would we bear with the very serious 6376 responsibility of teaching others a false doctrine that 6377 puts them to sleep, and makes them victims of the 6378 antiChrist? Would we sustain such an absurd 6379 doctrine, which is so contrary to the spirit and letter 6380 of the Scripture, just because we do not want to 6381 admit our mistake? 6382

If any brother considers that I am the one that 6383 is mistaken, show me where I am at error in my 6384 chain of reasoning, or on which false assumption I 6385 have based my error. If my error cannot be pointed 6386 out, do not continue teaching this tragic doctrine of 6387 the "Rapture before the Great Tribulation", because 6388 it is false, and it can cause unnecessary suffering 6389 and deaths. Even if in spite of this, you want to 6390 fantasize and teach others these fantasies, that 6391 would be your guilt. I am clean of the blood and 6392 pain that due to this doctrine, the brethren will 6393 suffer. This blood will be upon the heads of those 6394 that continue to teach it, just because they could not 6395 admit that they are mistaken. 6396

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Summary of Chapter 21. Let's remember that all
idle word that we speak on Earth we will have to
give account in Heaven, before God (Mt 12:36).
How more so if because of those words we are
guilty of the blood of our brethren, who waiting for

the Rapture, they allowed themselves to be captured
rather than fleeing at the right time. Before God no
one will be able to pretend that they have good
motives to continue teaching what is false. **Remember to read Appendix "D" in page 208 "How to better understand the prophetic**sermon".

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Appendix "A"

These are other 31 quotes that mention "saints", referring to them as members of Christ's Church.

"And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to <u>the saints</u> which dwelt at Lydda." (Acts 9:32)

"And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called **the saints** and widows, presented her alive."

(Acts 9:41)

"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh **intercession for** <u>the saints</u> according to the will of God." (Ro 8:27)

"25 But now I go unto Jerusalem to **minister unto** <u>the saints</u>. For it hath pleased them of

6440	Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain
6441	contribution for the poor saints which are at
6442	<i>Jerusalem.</i> " (Ro 15:25-26)
6443	
6444	"That I may be delivered from them that do
6445	not believe in Judaea; and that my service
6446	which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted
6447	of the saints." (Ro 15:31)
6448	
6449	"That ye receive her in the Lord, as
6450	becometh saints, and that ye assist her in
6451	whatsoever business she hath need of you; for
6452	she hath been a succourer of many, and of
6453	myself also." (Ro 16:2)
6454	
6455	"Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and
6456	his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints
6457	which are with them." (Ro 16:15)
6458	
6459	"1 Dare any of you, having a matter against
6460	another, go to law before the unjust, and not
6461	before the saints? 2 Do ye not know that the
6462	saints shall judge the world? And if the world
6463	shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to
6464	judge the smallest matters?"
6465	(I Co 6 : 1-2)
6466	
6467	"For God is not the author of confusion, but
6468	of peace, as in all churches of <u>the saints</u> ."
6469	(I Co 14 : 33)
6470	
6471	"Now concerning the collection for the
6472	saints, as I have given order to the churches
6473	of Galatia, even so do ye." (I Co 16:1)
6474	

6475	"I beseech you, brethren, ye know the house
6476	of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of
6477	Achaia, and that they have addicted
6478	themselves to the ministry of the saints."
6479	(I Co 16:15)
6480	
6481	"Praying us with much intreaty that we
6482	would receive the gift, and take upon us the
6483	fellowship of the ministering to <u>the saints</u> ."
6484	(II Co 8 : 4)
6485	
6486	"For as touching the ministering to <u>the</u>
6487	<u>saints</u> , it is superfluous for me to write to
6488	<i>you.</i> " (II Co 9:1)
6489	
6490	"For the administration of this service not
6491	only supplieth the want of <u>the saints</u>, but is
6492	abundant also by many thanksgivings unto
6493	<i>God.</i> " (II Co 9:12)
6494	
6495	"All <u>the saints</u> salute you."
6496	(II Co 13:13)
6497	
6498	"Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith
6499	in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the
6500	<u>saints</u> ," (Eph 1:15)
6501	
6502	"The eyes of your understanding being
6503	enlightened; that ye may know what is the
6504	hope of his calling, and what the riches of the
6505	glory of his inheritance in <u>the saints</u>"
6506	(Eph 1:18)
6507	
6508	"Unto me, who am less than the least of <u>all</u>
6509	saints, is this grace given, that I should

6510	preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable			
6511	riches of Christ." (Eph 3:8)			
6512				
6513	"May be able to comprehend with all <u>saints</u>			
6514	what is the breadth, and length, and depth,			
6515	and height." (Eph 3:18)			
6516				
6517	"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or			
6518	covetousness, let it not be once named among			
6519	you, as becometh <u>saints</u> ." (Eph 5:3)			
6520				
6521	"Praying always with all prayer and			
6522	supplication in the Spirit, and watching			
6523	thereunto with all perseverance and			
6524	supplication for <u>all saints</u> ." (Eph 6:18)			
6525				
6526	"21 Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The			
6527	brethren which are with me greet you. 22 All			
6528	the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of			
6529	<i>Caesar's household.</i> " (Phil 4:21-22)			
6530				
6531	"Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus,			
6532	and of the love which ye have to all the			
6533	<u>saints</u> ." (Col 1:4)			
6534				
6535	"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath			
6536	made us meet to be partakers of the			
6537	inheritance of the saints in light."			
6538	(Col 1:12)			
6539	<i>"</i>			
6540	"Even the mystery which hath been hid from			
6541	ages and from generations, but now is made			
6542	manifest to <u>his saints</u> ." (Col 1:26)			
6543				
6544	"Well reported of for good works; if she have			
6545	brought up children, if she have lodged			

6546	strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet,
6547	if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have
6548	diligently followed every good work."
6549	(I Tim 5:10)
6550	
6551	"Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou
6552	hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all
6553	<u>saints</u> ." (Phlm 1:5)
6554	
6555	"For we have great joy and consolation in
6556	thy love, because the bowels of <u>the saints</u> are
6557	refreshed by thee, brother."
6558	(Phlm 1:7)
6559	
6560	"For God is not unrighteous to forget your
6561	work and labour of love, which ye have
6562	shewed toward his name, in that ye have
6563	ministered to the saints, and do minister."
6564	(Heb 6:10)
6565	
6566	"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write
6567	unto you of the common salvation, it was
6568	needful for me to write unto you, and exhort
6569	you that ye should earnestly contend for the
6570	faith which was once delivered unto the
6571	<u>saints</u> ." (Jd 1:3)
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Appendix "B"

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The Rapture affirms that the Jews who became Christians don't belong to the Church, but Gentiles do.

During the fifth trumpet there are Christians on Earth, hence the Rapture is false

In Revelation 9, in the first verse, we see the 6585 sounding of the fifth trumpet. In verses 2 to 6 we 6586 see that it is the period of the Great Tribulation. In 6587 verse 4 we see that during this time of Great 6588 Tribulation there are still servants of God on the 6589 Earth, because it says that the locust will hurt those 6590 that do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 6591 We can deduce that there are others who do have 6592 the seal of God on their foreheads. Hence, the 6593 "secret rapture" has not yet occurred, because there 6594 are Christians on Earth. 6595

"1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a 6597 star fall from heaven unto the earth, and to 6598 him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 6599 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there 6600 arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a 6601 great furnace; and the sun and the air were 6602 darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 6603 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon 6604 the earth; and unto them was given power, as 6605 the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it 6606 was commanded them that they should not 6607 hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green 6608 thing, neither any tree, but only those men 6609 which have not the seal of God in their 6610 foreheads. 5 And to them it was given that they 6611 should not kill them, but that they should be 6612

6613tormented five months; and their torment was6614as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh6615a man. 6 And in those days shall men seek6616death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to6617die, and death shall flee from them."6618(Rev 9:1-6)6620According to this erroneous hypothesis, the

Rapture is assumed to precede the Great Tribulation. If in spite of being in the midst of the Great Tribulation the "secret rapture" has not occurred, it is because the Rapture does not really exist.

Nevertheless, this false doctrine alleges that
these servants of God that find themselves on the
Earth during the Great Tribulation, and which
are martyred, are only Jews, because the
Christian Gentiles have been raptured.

This doctrine cannot show a single passage that 6631 says that the martyrs of the Great Tribulation 6632 are only Jews; but I can show that among those 6633 martyrs there is a numerous number of Christian 6634 Gentiles; and if there are Christian Gentiles, it is 6635 because these were not "raptured". To demonstrate 6636 what I am saying, let us read the following section 6637 titled "There is a multitude of Gentile martyrs 6638 during the Great Tribulation." 6639

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There is a multitude of Gentile martyrs during the Great Tribulation, therefore, there was not a rapture of the non existent "Gentile Church"

According to the brethren that have spoken with
me defending the theme of the Rapture, Christ's
Church is made up solely from those that believed

before the Rapture, and because of that it can be
called the Church of the Gentiles. According to
these brethren that is the Church that will be
raptured before the Great Tribulation, hence,
according to them, God will cease to work with the
Gentiles, and will focus his work solely with the
Jews.

So, during the Great Tribulation, according to
this doctrine, the only ones that come to Christ
would be the Jews, and the only martyrs shall be
Jews, because there would be no more conversions
among the Gentiles. Not only does this doctrine not
show a single verse to prove what it claims, but the
opposite can be proven.

None of these claims it makes are true; during
the Great Tribulation there are both Gentile and
Jewish Christians, because there was no "secret
rapture" of the so called Gentile Church. The
following portion disproves this heretical doctrine
of the rapture of the Gentile Church.

From the way one of the 24 elders speaks when
he refers to the great multitude of those which are
clothed with white robes with palms in their hands
(verse 14), one can tell that these people are
Gentiles that had come from the Great
Tribulation, during which they were murdered.

"9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great 6676 multitude, which no man could number, of 6677 all nations, and kindreds, and people, and 6678 tongues, stood before the throne, and before 6679 the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and 6680 palms in their hands; 10 and cried with a loud 6681 voice, saving: Salvation to our God which 6682 sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb 11 6683 And all the angels stood round about the 6684

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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."

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6699 6700 (Rev 7:9-14)

The fact that one of the elders says "These are 6701 they which came out of great tribulation ... " clearly 6702 shows us that he is referring to what we call the 6703 "Great Tribulation". Given that those clothed here 6704 in white robes came from the Great Tribulation, it is 6705 undeniable that during the Great Tribulation, 6706 Christians from all nations, kindreds, peoples 6707 and tongues, were murdered as stated in verse 9, 6708 and not just Israeli believers. In other words, 6709 Heaven was full of Christian Gentiles murdered 6710 during the Great Tribulation. Hence, God will still 6711 be working with the Gentiles, these will continue to 6712 turn to Christ, as well as the Jews, which means 6713 there was no rapture of the erroneously named 6714 Gentile Church. It is evident then that the 6715 Rapture hypothesis is also erroneous about this 6716 point. 6717

⁶⁷¹⁸ Nevertheless, there are some obstinate ones which
⁶⁷¹⁹ allege that the words "nations, <u>kindreds</u>, peoples
⁶⁷²⁰ and tongues" does not mean that they are Gentiles,

but rather that it refers to Jews from all corners of
the World. This is false. Logically, the phrase "all
peoples", cannot refer only to Jews. Specifically the
phrase "<u>all kindred</u>", cannot refer only to Jews,
because they all belong to the same family, same
ancestors, same kindred; and "all nations", cannot
refer only to Jews.

To prove this, all that is needed to be done is to read <u>the other fourteen passages</u> where the same words are used to denote peoples, nations and kindred which <u>are not Jewish</u>. Let's see.

In the book of the prophet Daniel 3:4-7, 29; 4:1; 5:19; 6:25 and 7:14, the phrase "people, nations and languages" is used to indicate all the ethnic groups and peoples in those kingdoms, and does not refer to Jews.

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- "4 Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is 6738 nations, 0 people, commanded, and 6739 languages 5 that at what time ye hear the 6740 sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, 6741 psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye 6742 fall down and worship the golden image that 6743 Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up. 6 And 6744 whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall 6745 the same hour be cast into the midst of a 6746 burning fiery furnace. 7 Therefore at that time, 6747 when all the people heard the sound of the 6748 cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all 6749 kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, 6750 and the languages, fell down and worshipped 6751 the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the 6752 king had set up." (Dn 3:4-7) 6753 6754
 - "Therefore I make a decree, that every people, nation, and language, which speak

any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, 6757 Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in 6758 pieces, and their houses shall be made a 6759 dunghill: because there is no other God that 6760 can deliver after this sort." 6761 (Dn 3:29) 6762 6763 "Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, 6764 nations, and languages, that dwell in all the 6765 earth: Peace be multiplied unto you." 6766 (Dn 4:1) 6767 6768 "And for the majesty that he gave him, all 6769 people, nations, and languages, trembled 6770 and feared before him. Whom he would he 6771 slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and 6772 whom he would he set up; and whom he 6773 would he put down." (Dn 5:19) 6774 6775 "Then king Darius wrote unto all people, 6776 nations, and languages, that dwell in all the 6777 earth: Peace be multiplied unto you." 6778 (Dn 6:25) 6779 6780 "And there was given him dominion, and 6781 glory, and a kingdom, that all people, 6782 nations, and languages, should serve him; 6783 his dominion is an everlasting dominion, 6784 which shall not pass away, and his kingdom 6785 that which shall not be destroyed." 6786 (Dn 7:14) 6787 6788 In the previous portions we see that these 6789 words refer to all the ethnic groups and nations 6790 that compose the empires of Nebuchadnezzar or 6791 Darius. These words could not refer only to Jews. 6792

Additionally in Daniel 7:14 we see that **speaking** 6793 prophetically about the kingdom of Christ, he 6794 says that all the peoples, nations and languages 6795 should serve Him. It is evident to full satisfaction 6796 that this phrase refers to all races and nations of the 6797 World, and not just to Jews. Daniel and Revelation 6798 are two very similar books. If in the book of Daniel 6799 the phrase "peoples, nations and languages" means 6800 all the races and nationalities, there is no logical 6801 reason to interpret it to mean only Jews in the book 6802 of Revelation. 6803

In the book of the prophet Zechariah we have
a similar example. In this verse in addition to using
the phrase "out of all languages" we see that a full
and clear distinction is made between Jews and
Gentiles, because it says that ten men from out of
all languages will take hold a Jew, so "all
languages" refers to non-Jewish people.

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts: In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of **all languages** of the nations, even **shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew**, saying: We will go with you; for we have heard that God is with you."

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(Zch 8:23)

There are also seven good examples in 6820 **Revelation** to demonstrate that the phrase in 6821 question refers to the Gentiles, and in no way to the 6822 Jews. Keep in mind that since these examples are 6823 from the very book of Revelation, it would not be 6824 logical nor honest to assume that in seven portions 6825 of the book a particular phrase means "Gentiles", 6826 and then, in a single portion of the same book, the 6827 same phrase means "Jews". In Revelation 1:7 we 6828

see that the phrase "all kindreds" refers, without 6829 mistake, to all races and nationalities. 6830 6831 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every 6832 eye shall see him, and they also which pierced 6833 him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail 6834 because of him. Even so, Amen" 6835 (Rev 1:7) 6836 6837 In Revelation 5:9 we see that the phrase "kindred 6838 and tongue and people and nation" refers to all 6839 humans, not just to Jews, since it speaks of those 6840 that Jesus Christ redeemed. It is obvious that the 6841 stated phrase is not referring only to Jews. 6842 6843 "And they sung a new song, saying: Thou art 6844 worthy to take the book, and to open the seals 6845 thereof, for thou wast slain, and hast 6846 redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every 6847 and tongue, and people, and kindred. 6848 nation." (Rev 5:9) 6849 6850 Something similar can be deduced from 6851 Revelation 10:11, where when it notifies John that 6852 once again he will have to prophesy to the whole 6853 World it uses the phrase "peoples and nations and 6854 tongues...". Not only from the context, we realize 6855 that it is referring to the Gentiles, but also when it 6856 uses the word "kings", in plural, it reveals that it 6857 cannot be referring to the nation of Israel 6858 exclusively, since the mention of several kings 6859 implies several nations. 6860 6861 "And he said unto me: Thou must prophesy 6862 again before many peoples, and nations, and 6863 tongues, and kings." (Rev 10:11) 6864

The same can be deduced from Revelation 11:9, where speaking that the whole World will enjoy gazing on the dead bodies of the two witnesses, it again uses the words "people", "<u>kindreds</u>", "tongues" and "nations".

> "And they of the <u>people</u> and <u>kindreds</u> and <u>tongues</u> and <u>nations</u> shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves." (Rev 11:9)

In Revelation 13:7 speaking of the power that the 6878 First Beast shall have, it uses the words "kindreds", 6879 "tongues" and "nations". The same happens when 6880 in Revelation 14:6 saying that the Gospel will be 6881 preached in the whole World, as was prophesied, it 6882 uses again the phrase "nation, kindred, tongue and 6883 people". Also in Revelation 17:15 we can see that 6884 referring to those nations and races over which the 6885 whore sits, it mentions the words under discussion. 6886 Let's see. 6887

"And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all <u>kindreds</u>, and <u>tongues</u>, and <u>nations</u>." (Rev 13:7)

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every <u>nation</u>, and <u>kindred</u>, and <u>tongue</u>, and people." (Rev 14:6)

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900	"And he saith unto me: The wa	ters which
901	thou sawest, where the whore s	sitteth, are
902	<u>peoples</u> , and <u>multitudes</u> , and <u>na</u>	<u>tions</u> , and
903	tongues." (Rev 17)	:15)

In these 14 passages that we have read, we saw
that those words and phrases <u>always</u> indicate all
types of races, all types of peoples, and it <u>never</u>
refers only to Jews. Hence, that meaning must be
the same in Revelation 7:9-14 which is the passage
that we are analyzing.

Having demonstrated that in the passage under
study, the words in question mean Gentiles, then,
the Christian Gentiles, as well as the Christian Jews,
will go through the Great Tribulation.

This proven fact flatly denies the assertion of the "Rapture" hypothesis, regarding that the Gentile Christians will be "raptured", and that during the Great Tribulation only Jews shall become believers, and only Jews shall be martyred.

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According to the Rapture, the Christians will not possess the kingdom nor shall we inherit the promises

Given that according to the Rapture hypothesis,
the members of Christ's Church will not be on
Earth during the Great Tribulation, and given that
the Jews will be the only believers to remain here,
when we read the book of Daniel we would have to
think that the Christians will be excluded from the
Kingdom of God, which is unreasonable.

Let's read the passage of Daniel 7:21-27 and let's reason about it. When in verse 7:21 we see that the small horn which represents the antiChrist **wages**

war against the saints and prevailed against 6936 them, and when in verse 7:25 it says that he will 6937 wear out the saints of the most High, we would 6938 have to arrive to the logical conclusion that at that 6939 time the Church is still on Earth, since there are 6940 Christians still there. Let us read this passage which 6941 refutes what the Rapture sustains, and when we 6942 have finished, we will examine how the doctrine of 6943 the Rapture tries to untangle this knot. 6944

"21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22 until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

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23 Thus he said: The fourth beast shall be the 6952 fourth kingdom upon Earth, which shall be 6953 diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour 6954 the whole Earth, and shall tread it down, and 6955 break it in pieces. 24 And the ten horns out of 6956 this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise, 6957 and another shall rise after them; and he 6958 shall be diverse from the first, and he shall 6959 subdue three kings. 25 And he shall speak 6960 great words against the Most High, and shall 6961 wear out the saints of the Most High, and 6962 think to change times and laws; and they shall 6963 be given into his hand until a time and times 6964 and the dividing of time. 6965

696626 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall6967take away his dominion, to consume and to6968destroy it unto the end. 27 And the kingdom6969and dominion, and the greatness of the6970kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be6971given to the people of the saints of the Most

High, whose	kingdom	is	an	everlasting
kingdom, and	all domini	ons	sha	ll serve and
obey him."		(Dı	n 7 : 2	21-27)

At this point we must remember that this 6976 erroneous hypothesis of the Rapture asserts that the 6977 believers that are on Earth during the Great 6978 Tribulation, do not belong to Christ's Church. 6979 However, in chapters 4 to 21 of Revelation, the 6980 martyrdom of the "saints" is mentioned numerous 6981 times. To explain this difficulty, the hypothesis of 6982 the pre-Tribulation rapture says that those "saints" 6983 do not represent the Church, because the word 6984 "saints" refer only to the Jews, which shall be 6985 those that convert to Christ during the Great 6986 Tribulation; and those Jews, according to that 6987 doctrine, do not form part of Christ's Church. 6988

Let us examine now the contradictions that exist 6989 in this erroneous hypothesis. In verse 22 of the 6990 passage of Daniel read above, the same word 6991 "saints" is used, (who according to this hypothesis 6992 means only Jews), to say that "the saints possessed 6993 the kingdom". If it were true that the word "saints" 6994 refers only to Jews, then we would have to come to 6995 the erroneous conclusion that the Jews will be 6996 the only ones to possess the kingdom, and not the 6997 **<u>Christians</u>**. This is the first blunder. 6998

Something similar can be said about what verse 6999 27 says "... the kingdom and dominion, and the 7000 greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, 7001 shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most 7002 *High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom ...*" 7003 That is to say, to judge by the arbitrary meaning that 7004 this heretical doctrine gives the word "saints", that 7005 those who are going to receive the kingdom and 7006

eternal dominion would be the Jews, not theChristians. This is another blunder.

If we were to accept the meaning alleged by 7009 this doctrine, it would mean that when Paul. 7010 speaking of the saints, says that they shall reign, he 7011 is actually referring to the Jews. This is according to 7012 the Rapture doctrine, of course. Likewise with the 7013 rest of all the promises announced by Paul and the 7014 other apostles to the saints. Let's see I Corinthians 7015 6:2. Another blunder. 7016

"Do ye not know that <u>the saints</u> shall judge the world? and **if the world shall be judged by you,** are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?" (I Co 6:2)

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Consequently, when Saint Paul says that "the saints shall judge the world", he would be referring solely to the Jews, <u>according to the Rapture</u>
<u>doctrine</u>. This is inadmissible in light of what is said in the rest of the Bible.

In order to sustain itself the doctrine of the
Rapture has to give capricious meanings to
words. A correct doctrine does not have interpretations or theories which counter the rest of the Bible,
but much less should it contradict the same portion
being interpreted, as in this case.

It is clear and evident that the martyrs of the
GT do belong to Christ's church and hence, the
Rapture does not occur before the GT.

In summary, in order to make it seem that the
Jews that convert after the imaginary Rapture do not
belong to Christ's church, this doctrine has to make
it seem that the Christians shall not reign with Jesus,

but rather that this is only for the Jews. In order to 7042 buttress one lie it had to fabricate another one. 7043 7044 7045 7046 If Abraham, Isaac and Jacob participate in 7047 the Kingdom of God, there cannot be a 7048 division between Christ's church and the 7049 Jews. 7050 As I said before, in order to sustain its previous 7051 mistakes, the doctrine of the Rapture has to buttress 7052 them with new falsehoods. The falsehood that we 7053 are focusing on in this chapter is the heretical 7054 division that it has created between Christ's church 7055 and the Jews, something which the Scriptures reject. 7056 7057 "And I say unto you that many shall come 7058 from the east and west, and shall sit down 7059 with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the 7060 kingdom of heaven." (Mt 8:11) 7061 7062 "But I say unto you, I will not drink 7063 henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that 7064 day when I drink it new with you in my 7065 Father's kingdom." (Mt 26:29) 7066 7067 "28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of 7068 teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, 7069 and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the 7070 Kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. 7071 29 And they shall come from the east, and from the 7072 west, and from the north, and from the south, 7073 and shall sit down in the kingdom of God." 7074 (Lk 13:28-29) 7075 7076

As we saw in these last three portions read, people 7077 from the east, from the west, from the north, and 7078 from the south, that is to say, gentile believers, 7079 members of Christ's church, the apostolic church, 7080 will seat with the Hebrew Patriarchs in the 7081 Kingdom of God. Not only that, which is enough in 7082 itself, in the passage from Luke we see that the Lord 7083 Jesus Christ promises the church, represented at that 7084 moment by the apostles, that He would be together 7085 with them at that banquet in the Kingdom of God. It 7086 is clearly expressed that at that same banquet would 7087 be the gentile believers from the north, south, east 7088 and west, the Hebrew Patriarchs, the members of 7089 Christ's church and the Lord Jesus himself. How 7090 then, can we believe that the Jews and Christ's 7091 church are going to be two separate groups, as the 7092 doctrine of the Rapture misleads? 7093 7094 7095 7096 In the Epistle to Romans, Saint Paul teaches 7097 clearly that there are no differences between 7098 Jews and gentiles. 7099 Let us read the next three portions of the Epistle to 7100 Romans. 7101 7102 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of 7103 Christ, for it is the power of God unto 7104 salvation to every one that believeth; to the 7105 Jew first, and also to the Greek." 7106 (Ro 1:16) 7107 7108 "29 Is he the God of the Jews only? Is he not 7109 also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also; 7110 30 seeing it is one God, which shall justify the 7111

circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision 7112 through faith." (Ro 3:29-30) 7113 7114 "For there is no difference between the Jew 7115 and the Greek; for the same Lord over all is 7116 rich unto all that call upon him." (Ro 10:12) 7117 7118 If Saint Paul clearly says that there is no 7119 differences between Jews and gentiles, as far as 7120 Christ's church is concerned, then why does this 7121 harmful doctrine fabricate it? Only in order to 7122 maintain the erroneous hypothesis of the Rapture. 7123 7124 7125 7126 The Galatians also received the teaching of the 7127 unity between Jews and gentiles 7128 Now let us read another three portions, this time 7129 from the Epistle to Galatians. In the first one we can 7130 see that spiritually speaking, those of the Church are 7131 sons of Abraham. In the second one, we see that the 7132 blessings of Abraham are extended to the gentiles. 7133 In the third it says that the Christians are seed of 7134 Abraham. If we are children of Abraham, we are his 7135 seed, and his blessing is upon us, how can we be in 7136 different groups? 7137 7138 "So then they which be of faith are blessed 7139 with faithful Abraham." (Ga 3:9) 7140 7141 "That the blessing of Abraham might come 7142 on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we 7143 might receive the promise of the Spirit 7144 through faith." (Ga 3:14) 7145 7146

"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's 7147 seed, and heirs according to the promise." 7148 (Ga 3:29) 7149 7150 7151 7152 Having broken the middle wall of partition, 7153 we have become fellow heirs and partakers 7154 These two portions from Paul's epistle to 7155 Ephesians tell us that there used to be a wall of 7156 partition between Gentiles and Jews (the ritual 7157 laws), which Christ demolished making us 7158 fellow heirs, incorporated into the body and 7159 partakers of the promise. After having been 7160 incorporated into the body and made partakers, it 7161 is not logical that the hypothesis of the Rapture 7162 should make us believe that we are two separate 7163 groups. 7164 7165 "13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes 7166 were far off are made nigh by the blood of 7167 Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made 7168 both one, and hath broken down the middle 7169 wall of partition between us." 7170 (Eph 2:13-14) 7171 7172 "5 Which in other ages was not made known 7173 unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed 7174 unto his holy apostles and prophets by the 7175 Spirit; 6 that the Gentiles should be 7176 fellowheirs, and of the same body, and 7177 partakers of his promise in Christ by the 7178 gospel." (Eph 3:5-6) 7179 * 7180 7181 7182

Both Jews and gentiles are promised the priesthood

The doctrine of the Rapture wants to make us think 7186 that the first three chapters of Revelation speak of 7187 Christ's Church, but that in the following chapters, 7188 up to 21, it is not mentioned or referred to. Well 7189 then, we see in the first chapter of Revelation that 7190 members of Christ's Church are promised that they 7191 shall be kings and priests. Later we see in 7192 Revelation 5:10 and 20:6, that the same promise is 7193 made to those that are being mentioned in these 7194 chapters, whom according to this doctrine refers 7195 only to believing Jews. 7196

From this we would have to deduce one of two 7197 things: a) either in the three first chapters the same 7198 people are being addressed as in the remaining 7199 chapters (which is the case); or **b**) both Jews as 7200 well as gentiles shall have the same priesthood, and 7201 hence, they will form one same group. 7202

In other words, that no matter how the hypothesis 7203 of the Rapture wants to interpret these three 7204 portions, they oppose that doctrine. 7205

"5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, 7208 and the prince of the kings of the Earth. Unto 7209 him that loved us, and washed us from our 7210 sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to 7212 him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. 7213 Amen" (Rev 1:5-6) 7214 7215 "And hast made us unto our God kings and 7216 priests, and we shall reign on the earth." 7217

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(Rev 5:10)

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"4And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, 7220 and judgment was given unto them; and I saw 7221 the souls of them that were beheaded for the 7222 witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, 7223 and which had not worshipped the beast, 7224 neither his image, neither had received his 7225 mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; 7226 and they lived and reigned with Christ a 7227 thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived 7228 not again until the thousand years were 7229 finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 7230 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the 7231 first resurrection, on such, the second death 7232 hath no power, but they shall be priests of 7233 God and of Christ, and shall reign with him 7234 a thousand years." (Rev 20:4-6) 7235

According to the Rapture there are three types of persons

In its toil to try to make it seem that those 7241 mentioned in the chapters 4 to 21 of Revelation, do 7242 not belong to Christ's Church, the doctrine of the 7243 Rapture claims that there are three types of persons 7244 in the world: the Jews, the Gentiles, and Christ's 7245 Church. When a brother expressing this argument 7246 said this, I asked him from what part of the Bible he 7247 had derived such an idea. He told me it was from I 7248 Corinthians 10:32. When I went to read that 7249 passage, I realized he had made a terrible error. But 7250 in order that you understand it completely, it is 7251 necessary to begin reading from verse 25. Let's do 7252 it then. 7253

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"25 Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that 7255 eat, asking no question for conscience sake, 26 7256 for the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness 7257 thereof. 27 If any of them that believe not bid 7258 you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go; 7259 whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no 7260 question for conscience sake. 28 But if any man 7261 say unto you: This is offered in sacrifice unto 7262 idols, eat not for his sake that shewed it, and 7263 for conscience sake, for the earth is the 7264 Lord's, and the fulness thereof. 29 Conscience, 7265 I say, not thine own, but of the other, for why 7266 is my liberty judged of another man's 7267 conscience? 30 For if I by grace be a partaker, 7268 why am I evil spoken of for that for which I 7269 give thanks? 31 Whether therefore ye eat, or 7270 drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory 7271 of God. 32 Give none offence, neither to the 7272 Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church 7273 of God. 33 Even as I please all men in all 7274 things, not seeking mine own profit, but the 7275 profit of many, that they may be saved." 7276 (I Co 10:25-33) 7277 7278

If we read the whole portion, we realize that what 7279 is said there is that we should be careful not to 7280 offend with what we eat, neither the Jews, nor the 7281 Gentiles, nor the Church of God, since they are 7282 three groups that have different opinions about diet. 7283 In no way is Paul teaching us that to interpret the 7284 prophecies correctly, we have to divide the world 7285 into those three groups. 7286 This is the way that the sinister Rapture 7287 doctrine attempts to "prove" its affirmations. 7288

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7291 7292 7293 7294 **Appendix "C"** 7295 Will the Holy Spirit be taken out of the 7296 planet? 7297 7298 The main role of the Holy Spirit is to convert the 7299 unbelievers, how then is he going to be taken out 7300 of the planet? 7301 There are many verses from which we can deduce 7302 that the Holy Spirit has a primary role in the 7303 conversion of the sinner and in the guidance of 7304 Christians; and therefore is not logical to be driven 7305 out from the planet. Here are a few more: 7306 7307 "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, 7308 whereby ye are sealed unto the day of 7309 (Eph 4:30) redemption." 7310 7311 "Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world 7312 cannot receive, because it seeth him not, 7313 neither knoweth him, but ye know him; for he 7314 dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." 7315 (Jn 14:17) 7316 7317 "What? Know ye not that your body is the 7318 temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, 7319 which ye have of God, and ye are not your 7320 own?" (I Co 6:19) 7321 7322 "Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in 7323 every city, saying that bonds and afflictions 7324 abide me." (Acts 20:23) 7325

7326 "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our 7327 infirmities; for we know not what we should 7328 pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself 7329 maketh intercession for us with groanings 7330 which cannot be uttered." (Ro 8:26) 7331 7332 "21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in 7333 Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 who 7334 hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of 7335 the Spirit in our hearts." (II Co 1:21-22) 7336 7337 From reading the whole Bible we find out that 7338 the presence of the Holy Spirit in our spiritual life is 7339 indispensable. As a result, there cannot be Christian 7340 life in a planet that the Holy Spirit has abandoned. 7341 That is one of the wicked teachings of the Rapture 7342 doctrine. 7343 7344 *** 7345 7346 7347 7348 7349 Appendix "D" 7350 The prophetic sermon 7351 7352 How to better understand the prophetic sermon 7353 With some analysis of the $2\overline{4}^{th}$ chapter of 7354 Matthew we will notice that it consists of six 7355 sections: 7356 First section, verses 1-2, in which the destruction 7357 of the Temple is specifically and exclusively 7358 treated. 7359

7360 Second section, verse 3, in which the disciples
7361 ask Jesus three questions which he goes on to
7362 answer in the same order.

Third section, verses 4-6 in which Jesus answers
the first question, the one referring to the
destruction of the Temple. In addition he gives a
brief prediction of what would occur in the era of
the apostles.

Fourth section, verses 7-14, in which he
responds to the second and third questions, making
a brief and concise outline of the events that will
occur in the period near the end of the World, from
the World wars until the Second Coming.

Fifth section, verses 15-34, in which he details
the period between the emergence of the
Abomination of Desolation and the Second
Coming.

7377 Sixth section, verses 35-51, in which he describes
7378 how certain events would transpire during the
7379 Second Coming, and gives similes and admonitions
r380 about how to carry oneself at that time, and how it
r381 would be like. Let's analyze the different sections.

The first section (Mt 24:1-2) evidently refers
to what for us is already the past, since it speaks
of the destruction of the Temple, which occurred on
70 A.D. In other passages, as in Luke 19:43-44,
Jesus also mentions the destruction of the Temple,
at that time it was still in the future.

It should be noted, however, that in the episode
narrated in the previously mentioned portion of
Luke, Jesus is not speaking to the disciples in the
Temple nor in the Mount of Olives, but rather it is a
separate occasion from that of the Prophetic
Sermon. It is during the entrance to Jerusalem
during what is commonly called Palm Sunday.

Regardless of this, the prophecy regarding the
Temple is the same one, but in this one, in addition,
he gives the reason that the destruction occurred,
that is to say: that they did not know the time of
their visitation.

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7409 7410 "43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, 44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; <u>because thou knewest not the time</u> of thy visitation." (Lk 19:43-44)

As we see, Jesus links in this portion of Luke, the 7411 destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple with the 7412 perverse behavior of that generation. Hence, it is 7413 logical to think that the destruction announced 7414 at that moment would occur during that 7415 generation, in that apostolic era. In other words, it 7416 is an event of the past, not of the present or of the 7417 future. 7418

For a third person which was not privy to a 7419 conversation, to fully understand the answer given 7420 by someone to another person asking the question, 7421 it is necessary that they first listen to what the 7422 question was to begin with. And if it is in any way 7423 possible, figure out the physical to and 7424 psychological environment, without arriving at 7425 ridiculous exaggerations that always lead to error. 7426 Let us proceed this way with this 24th chapter and 7427 this conversation. 7428

After Jesus had finished rebuking the Scribes and
Pharisees, to their own face, their hypocrisies,
wickedness, etc., (chapter 23), he was withdrawing

from the Temple, at the same time that **his** 7432 disciples, apparently commenting about the 7433 majesty of its architecture, were pointing out the 7434 Temple buildings to him (Matthew 24:1). I am 7435 saying that the disciples were speaking full of 7436 admiration for that architecture, because that is seen 7437 more clearly in Mark 13:1 where one of his 7438 disciples mentions the same saying: "Teacher, see 7439 what stones, and what buildings." 7440

Responding to these words from the disciples in 7441 Matthew, Jesus, referring obviously to the 7442 buildings that were being praised, said that a 7443 stone would not remain upon a stone, thus 7444 predicting in a general and brief way, the total 7445 destruction of that Temple (verse 2). It was this 7446 Temple which the Jews believed constituted an 7447 insurance policy against divine retribution, given 7448 that God would not permit (or so they believed) that 7449 His Temple would be destroyed, as we can see in 7450 Jeremiah 7:3-4. 7451

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⁷⁴⁵³ "1 And Jesus went out, and departed from the
⁷⁴⁵⁴ Temple, and his disciples came to him for to
⁷⁴⁵⁵ shew him the buildings of the Temple. 2 And
⁷⁴⁵⁶ Jesus said unto them: See ye not all these
⁷⁴⁵⁷ things? Verily I say unto you: There shall not
⁷⁴⁵⁸ be left here one stone upon another, that shall
⁷⁴⁵⁹ not be thrown down."

(First Section, Mt 24:1-2)

"3 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place. 4 Trust ye not in lying words, saying: The Temple of the LORD, the Temple of the

LORD, the Temple of the LORD, are these." (Jer 7:3-4)

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After letting them know of the future 7470 destruction of the Temple, Jesus continued to 7471 walk, and when he got to the Mount of Olives he sat 7472 down; then four of his disciples, taking him aside, 7473 asked him three questions: a) When would these 7474 things happen? By saying "these things" they were 7475 referring without a doubt to what Jesus had just 7476 spoken about, namely the destruction of the 7477 Temple. Afterwards they make two questions about 7478 events that Jesus had not mentioned, but which 7479 were of interest to them, and are the following: b) 7480 What sign will there be of your Second Coming?; 7481 and c) What sign would there be of the end of the 7482 World? The answers to these three questions, and in 7483 the same order, is what we would expect from 7484 Jesus. 7485

Now then, notice that the prophetic sermon was
not given in public, but rather was told to Peter,
James, John and Andrew as we see in Mark 13:3.
"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over

"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the Temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him <u>privately</u>." (Mk 13:3)

In summary: the first section encompasses only
what Jesus said about the destruction of the Temple,
and what had triggered the three questions we spoke
about.

The second section (Matthew 24:3) limits itself
 to mentioning the three questions that the disciples
 made to Jesus, it does not require any explanation,

except to keep them in mind in order to understand 7503 the answers. 7504

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"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the 7506 disciples came unto him privately, saying: Tell us, when shall these things be? And 7508 what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of 7509 the end of the world.?" 7510 (Second Section, Mt 24:3) 7511

Let us analyze the third and fourth sections 7513 together in order to facilitate the study. 7514

The third section (Matthew 24:4-6) and The fourth section (Matthew 24:7-14)

The third section refers to the apostolic age; and 7517 the one following it, the fourth, refers to the current 7518 age and the future. We will now demonstrate that 7519 these two periods, those corresponding to the third 7520 and fourth sections, are different; and we will 7521 realize that there is a jump of several centuries 7522 between verse 6 and 7. I base myself on five 7523 arguments, to conclude that it is referring to two 7524 separate periods. 7525

First argument about the 3rd and 4th sections. 7526 Having spoken in verse six about wars, it is not 7527 logical that in verse seven he speaks again of the 7528 same wars he had already mentioned. 7529

Second argument about the 3rd and 4th sections. 7530 This third section that we are analyzing ends with 7531 verse six. In that verse Jesus speaks of wars and 7532 rumors of wars, telling the disciples not to be 7533 troubled by that, given that it would not yet be the 7534 end. If it still is not the end it is because this 7535 period of wars of which verse six speaks, will not 7536 last until the Second Coming. However, when we 7537 read the next one, verse seven, which is the 7538

beginning of the fourth section, we can see that the 7539 events narrated there follow each other continuously 7540 until the end. In other words, that the period that 7541 begins with the wars narrated in verse seven 7542 (fourth section) do reach the end; but the event 7543 begun in verse four and ending in verse six (third 7544 section) do not go on to the end. It is clear that the 7545 two periods are different. Let us see. 7546

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7555 7556 "4 And Jesus answered and said unto them: Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying: I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars; see that ye be not troubled, for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."

(Third Section, Mt 24:4-6)

"7 For nation shall rise against nation, and 7557 kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be 7558 famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, 7559 in divers places. 8 All these are the beginning 7560 of sorrows. 9 Then shall they deliver you up to 7561 be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be 7562 hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 7563 And then shall many be offended, and shall 7564 betray one another, and shall hate one 7565 another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, 7566 and shall deceive many. 12 And because 7567 iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall 7568 wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the 7569 end, the same shall be saved. 14 And this 7570 gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in 7571 all the world for a witness unto all nations: 7572 and then shall the end come." 7573 (Fourth Section, Mt 24:7-14) 7574

Third argument about the 3rd and 4th sections. 7576 In verse 6 a type of local war is being narrated, 7577 more like seditions and uprisings; but when we 7578 move to verse 7, a different type of war is 7579 mentioned; one in which nation will rise against 7580 nation and kingdom against kingdom. This is 7581 registered in history only in modern times with 7582 the two World Wars. Hence, it is obvious that 7583 verse 7 refers to the current time, whereas verse 6 7584 refers to the apostolic age. 7585

At that time the Roman Empire dominated all the
nations of the known world, and there couldn't be a
war that would have nation rise against nation and
kingdom against kingdom, because there was only
one kingdom, the Roman Empire.

Remember the phrase "pax romana", which 7591 was famous in those days and even today. This 7592 famous phrase indicates to us the tranquility 7593 imposed by the empire on all the nations of those 7594 days. There could not be during the era of the "pax 7595 romana" something similar to that described as 7596 "nation against nation and kingdom against 7597 kingdom". 7598

Hence the wars described in verse 6 are different 7599 than those described in verse 7. Those of verse 6 7600 can be applied to the Roman era; those of verse 7 7601 cannot. Besides, from history we know that at 7602 that time there were no wars of that type where 7603 nations would arise against nation and kingdom 7604 against kingdom. It is logical then to think that 7605 what is described in verse seven does not pertain to 7606 those times, but rather to the present. 7607

Everything said previously is also confirmed by
the description given by Luke about the same period
of the prophecy. We can see that in Luke 21:7-11

where the narration gives a better description of the
events in Judea in the period immediately after the
resurrection to the destruction of Jerusalem and the
Temple. There it speaks of seditions, which is
what characterized the Jewish history of that
period, according to Josephus's chronicle.

"7 And they asked him, saying: Master, but 7618 when shall these things be? And what sign 7619 will there be when these things shall come to 7620 pass? 8 And he said: Take heed that ye be not 7621 deceived, for many shall come in my name, 7622 saying: I am Christ; and the time draweth 7623 near; go ye not therefore after them. 9 But 7624 when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, 7625 be not terrified, for these things must first 7626 come to pass; but the end is not by and by. 10 7627 Then said he unto them: Nation shall rise 7628 against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 7629 11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers 7630 places, and famines, and pestilences; and 7631 fearful sights and great signs shall there be 7632 from heaven." (Lk 21:7-11) 7633

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Fourth argument about the 3rd and 4th sections. 7635 To be more certain yet that yerses 6 and 7 of 7636 Matthew 24, deal with two different times and quite 7637 distant in time from each other, it would be enough 7638 to realize that the wars mentioned in verse 7 begin 7639 period called "beginning of sorrows". the 7640 that the phenomena Likewise, notice that 7641 accompany the wars of Matthew 24:7, earthquakes 7642 in diverse places, great fears and great signs of 7643 heaven, have never happened in Roman era nor 7644 later. Hence, it is evident that what is said in verse 7 7645 refers to a time after the ones we know from 7646

history. History allows us to assert that in that
apostolic age none of the great fearsome events
and signs of heaven occurred; they are still in the
future.

If we read Mark 13:8 and Luke 21:10-11 & 24-7651 26, we would see that they also announce for the 7652 period immediately following the period 7653 characterized by nation against nation and kingdom 7654 against kingdom, the seismic activity and cosmic 7655 phenomena which did not occur during that 7656 apostolic age. That is to say, great signs in heaven, 7657 fearful sights, earthquakes and in many places, 7658 anguish from fear of something that will occur in 7659 the sea, and men's hearts failing because of fear. 7660 Hence, if these things did not occur then, it is 7661 without doubt that those things will happen at a 7662 future occasion. Therefore, verses 6 and 7 speak 7663 about different times. 7664

"For <u>nation shall rise against nation</u>, and <u>kingdom against kingdom;</u> and there shall be <u>earthquakes</u> in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles; these are the <u>beginnings of sorrows</u>." (Mk 13:8)

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"10 Then said he unto them: Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; 11 and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and <u>fearful sights</u> and <u>great signs shall there</u> <u>be from heaven</u>." (Lk 21:10-11)

"24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the

Gentiles be fulfilled. 25 And there shall be 7683 signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the 7684 stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, 7685 with perplexity; the sea and the waves 7686 roaring; 26 men's hearts failing them for 7687 fear, and for looking after those things 7688 which are coming on the earth, for the 7689 powers of heaven shall be shaken." 7690 (Lk 21:24-26) 7691 7692 Fifth argument about the 3rd and 4th sections. If 7693 we read Matthew 24:13, which is the next to the last 7694 verse of the fourth section, we will see that it says 7695 that those which remain alive at that moment should 7696 endure unto the end. 7697 7698 "But he that shall endure unto the end, the 7699 same shall be saved." (Mt 24:13) 7700 7701 It does not make sense that a Christian of the 7702 apostolic era would be admonished to endure 7703 until the end of the world; the reasonable thing 7704 would be that it is speaking to the Christians of the 7705 times close to the end. Neither would a Christian 7706 close to the time of the Second Coming be 7707 admonished, to endure until the end, if there 7708 remained say, fifty years, still. 7709 For greater comprehension of what I am saying 7710 with respect to the transition from verse six to 7711 seven, we could paraphrase this portion the 7712 following way: 7713 7714 "6 and you shall hear of wars and rumors of 7715 wars, see that you do not become unsettled 7716 over this, because it is necessary that all this 7717 should happen, but it is not yet the end of the 7718

world. 7 Because the end of the world shall be 7719 near when nation rises against nation and 7720 kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be 7721 plagues, famines and earthquakes in many 7722 places, but these things are not the exact end 7723 either, 8 but rather the signs that announce 7724 the beginning of the period called "beginning 7725 of birth pains". 9 It shall be then that you 7726 shall be delivered to be afflicted and you shall 7727 (Paraphrase of Mt 24:6-9) be killed " 7728

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Once we get to this point in time, the only thing
that separates us from the end is to wait for the
Gospel to be preached in the whole world,
according to verse 14 of Matthew 24; which seems
to happen in the miraculous way referred to in
Revelation 14:6.

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to
preach unto them that dwell on the Earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." (Rev 14:6)

Having demonstrated that verses 4 to 6 (third section) and the other one that goes from 7 to 14 (fourth section) deal with different periods of time, we will continue to analyze the chapter.

In summary: Matthew 24:4-6 and Matthew 24: 7747 7-14, narrate two periods with some similarities, but 7748 completely different in time. The first pertains to 7749 the apostolic era and the second one to the current 7750 time and its future. In one it says that it is not the 7751 end, in the other the narration reaches to the end. In 7752 the first there could be no world wars, but only 7753 seditions, in the second there are world wars. In the 7754

⁷⁷⁵⁵ first one there were no signs in heaven as he says
⁷⁷⁵⁶ that there will be during the second. In the fourth
⁷⁷⁵⁷ section he advises to hold on until the end, but not
⁷⁷⁵⁸ in the third section.

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Fifth section, (Matthew 24:15-34) This section 7760 is as if we would examine a small section of a map 7761 with a magnifying glass, in order to see more 7762 details; or as if a section of a map had been 7763 enlarged onto a separate inset, to see the details 7764 better. What is being detailed in this section, or 7765 what is being examined with the magnifying glass, 7766 is the span of time between the rise of the 7767 Abomination of Desolation, and the Second 7768 Coming, which was treated already in the fourth 7769 section (verses 7-14), but not in detail. 7770

"15 When ye therefore shall see the 7772 abomination of desolation, spoken of by 7773 Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, 7774 (whoso readeth, let him understand), 16 then 7775 let them which be in Judaea flee into the 7776 mountains; 17 let him which is on the housetop 7777 not come down to take any thing out of his 7778 house; 18 neither let him which is in the field, 7779 return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe 7780 unto them that are with child, and to them 7781 that give suck in those days! 20 But pray ye 7782 that your flight be not in the winter, neither 7783 on the Sabbath day. 21 For then shall be great 7784 tribulation, such as was not since the 7785 beginning of the world to this time, no, nor 7786 ever shall be. 22 And except those days should 7787 be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: 7788 but for the elect's sake those days shall be 7789 shortened. 23 Then if any man shall say unto 7790

you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it 7791 not. 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and 7792 false prophets, and shall shew great signs 7793 and wonders; insomuch that, if it were 7794 possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 25 7795 Behold, I have told you before. 26 Wherefore if 7796 they shall say unto you: Behold, he is in the 7797 desert; go not forth; behold, he is in the secret 7798 chambers; believe it not. 27 For as the 7799 lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth 7800 even unto the west; so shall also the coming 7801 of the Son of man be. 28 For wheresoever the 7802 carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered 7803 together. 29 Immediately after the tribulation 7804 of those days shall the sun be darkened, and 7805 the moon shall not give her light, and the 7806 stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers 7807 of the heavens shall be shaken. 30 And then 7808 shall appear the sign of the Son of man in 7809 heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the 7810 earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of 7811 Man coming in the clouds of heaven with 7812 power and great glory. 31 And he shall send 7813 his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, 7814 and they shall gather together his elect from 7815 the four winds, from one end of heaven to 7816 the other. 32 Now learn a parable of the fig 7817 tree: when his branch is yet tender, and 7818 putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is 7819 nigh. 33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all 7820 these things, know that it is near, even at the 7821 doors 34 Verily I say unto you: This 7822 generation shall not pass, till all these things 7823 be fulfilled." (Mt 24:15-34) 7824 7825

As we saw in the beginning of the study of the 7826 Prophetic Sermon, its fourth section, which 7827 encompasses verses 7-14, was a concise outline of 7828 the events that will occur in the time near the end. 7829 At that moment that Jesus spoke, those things were 7830 all in the future. Nevertheless, for us today, some of 7831 them, like the World Wars, are already in the past, 7832 but others, like the Abomination, are still in the 7833 future. 7834

The Fifth Section of the Prophetic Sermon,
(verses 15-34), <u>details for us</u> what will happen
from the appearance of the Abomination, until the
Second Coming. We shall analyze this section.

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I am going to make now <u>five comments</u> about
this portion, and later on I will provide <u>seven</u>
<u>arguments</u> to demonstrate that this passage must
be referring to the end.

a) This "Abomination of Desolation", mentioned
in verse 15 is still in the future, and hence so is
everything narrated in verses 15 to 34. Let's see.

b) Verse 15 says that the abomination would be 7847 in the holy place; it does not say that it would 7848 destroy the holy place, which is what the Romans 7849 did. Hence it is logical to think that it is referring to 7850 the current time not the apostolic age. Not only does 7851 it refer to the current future, but also by logic, we 7852 see that the warning is being made to Christian Jews 7853 of that current future, since the non-believing Jews 7854 would not read the New Testament, and the 7855 Christian Gentiles do not need to leave Judea, 7856 unless they are tourists or missionaries there. It 7857 refers to the future illegitimate temple that will be 7858 constructed in Jerusalem. 7859

c) By the emphasis that Jesus places on theurgency with which the Christians that find

themselves in Judea must be careful and flee (verses 7862 17 and 18), we can deduce that the events will be 7863 triggered suddenly, without announcements or 7864 previous signs that foretell their imminent 7865 occurrence. It gives the sense that the escape of 7866 the brethren will have to happen within minutes, 7867 because he emphasizes not to lose even the few 7868 minutes that it would take for them to retrieve a 7869 garment. 7870

The assumption that the Christians in Judea will have to react fast before the unfolding events, agrees with the lament regarding the pregnant women and those with small children, who will be impeded by their physical and physiological conditions, in acting with the required urgency and in suffering the scarcities of the situation.

What is mentioned about not seeking the 7878 overcoat, and the fact that in verse 20 he advises to 7879 pray that it would not happen in either the winter or 7880 Saturday, makes me think that it is on a Saturday 7881 of the winter season, when the rebellious 7882 spiritual powers will attempt to bring about their 7883 **plan.** It would not be foolish then, on the part of the 7884 Christians of that future time which find themselves 7885 in Judea, that they should leave from the beginning 7886 of any strange event that they observe, and to 7887 maintain themselves alert to any news or rumors 7888 during those days, especially all the winter 7889 Saturdays or close to the winter. Better yet, move 7890 from there as soon as it is possible, especially 7891 before the winter begins. 7892

Also the admonishment to not look for an
overcoat may have another motive, like not raising
suspicion that one is leaving for good, but rather
to look as if one is leaving the city to return later.
Whoever leaves without bags, with their usual

clothing, will not awake suspicion that they are
leaving for good, which would alert authorities, or
the mob which supports tyrannies, in the sense that
those that leave are dissidents of the regime of the
antiChrist.

Perhaps, thanks to the prayers of Christians, the 7903 plans designed by the wicked to be carried out on a 7904 winter Saturday, would have to be postponed or 7905 precipitated due to the presence of unpredictable 7906 circumstances for them, with which perhaps the 7907 events may not occur in winter, but on Saturday, or 7908 perhaps not on a Saturday, but in winter; or perhaps 7909 on neither Saturday nor winter, though not very far 7910 from them. We must then pray for this important 7911 issue, that God may upset the plans of the 7912 wicked that day, and the brethren of Israel may 7913 be spared. 7914

7915This warning cannot be referring to Christians7916throughout the world, because the winter7917Saturdays in Judea, are summer Saturdays in Brazil,7918Argentina, Africa, Australia and the whole southern7919hemisphere. Besides, evidently, verse 16 refers to7920those in Judea.

d) After this flight of the Christians that find 7921 themselves in Jerusalem and all of Judea, the 7922 greatest tribulation to ever exist will begin. That is, 7923 the Great Tribulation, according to verses 21-22, 7924 and it will give rise to the period of false christs and 7925 false prophets which will give great signs and 7926 wonders capable of deceiving even certain 7927 Christians, as verses 23-28 warn. 7928

e) When the Great Tribulation is nearing its
end or has already ended, that is, "After the
affliction of those days", as it says in verse 29, the
sun and the moon shall darken, and the stars shall
fall from heaven and the powers of heaven shall be

shaken. It will be then that according to verse 30, 7934 the sign of Christ shall appear in the heavens 7935 (perhaps the cross) and Jesus will be seen in his 7936 Second Coming, this time in the clouds, from where 7937 he will order the gathering of his chosen (31) from 7938 throughout the world. That is how this passage of 7939 the fifth section ends, and which lets us see in more 7940 detail, the sequence of events from the time of the 7941 abomination to the gathering of the Christians. 7942

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Having wrapped up the five comments, we will 7944 speak of the seven arguments. I shall analyze 7945 some details of this portion (15-34) in order to 7946 reaffirm the idea that this fifth section refers to 7947 the end. For that reason, I base myself on seven 7948 arguments: First: The Great Tribulation spoken of 7949 in this portion has not happened yet. Second: The 7950 antiChrist has not appeared yet. Third: No flesh 7951 would be saved if the tribulation should last longer. 7952 Fourth: The miracles of the false Christs and 7953 prophets have not happened yet. Fifth: Neither the 7954 sun or moon darkened nor the stars fell during the 7955 apostolic era. Sixth: This was not "at the door" 7956 during the apostolic era, since twenty centuries 7957 have passed. Seventh: That generation of the 7958 apostolic era passed and all these things did not 7959 happen. 7960

First argument of the 5th section: The Great Tribulation has not come yet. Verse 21 says that during these events described in verses from 15 to 20, there would be an affliction so great like there has not been since the beginning of the world nor would happen again; and the one that says this is the one with the most authority to know this: Jesus.

"For then shall be great tribula	tion, such as
was not since the beginning of	the world to
this time, <u>no, nor ever shall be</u> ."	(Mt 24:21)

If anyone should think that the events and 7974 tribulation mentioned by Jesus, belong to those that 7975 already happened during the apostolic period, 7976 during the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, 7977 we would have to suppose that the future affliction 7978 to come upon the world, the one called Great 7979 Tribulation, is going to be less than the one during 7980 Roman times. To hold this second hypothesis would 7981 be equivalent to supposing that the affliction caused 7982 by the antiChrist, the most perverse and cruel of the 7983 persecutors of Christianity, would be lighter and 7984 less cruel than those caused by the Roman Empire, 7985 which seems absurd to me. Hence, seeing that the 7986 prophecy of the Great Tribulation remains to be 7987 fulfilled, we have to come to the conclusion that the 7988 passage under study refers to the end of the world. 7989

Second argument of the 5th section: The 7991 antiChrist has not come yet. Neither can it be 7992 asserted that the Roman Empire, or one of the 7993 emperors, had been the antiChrist, because none of 7994 them sat in the Temple of God, like God, making 7995 himself to look like God, which is what Saint Paul 7996 predicted in Second Thessalonians that the 7997 antiChrist would do. 7998

*Who opposeth and exalteth himself above
all that is called God, or that is worshipped;
so that he as God sitteth in the temple of
God, shewing himself that he is God."
(II Tes 2:4)

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Third argument of the 5th section: Afflictions
of the apostolic era were sporadic and regional.
Verse 22 says that if this affliction should continue
any longer, no flesh would be saved; perhaps
because they would desert the faith because they
could not withstand the pressures, sufferings and
cruelties.

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8037 8038 "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." (Mt 24:22)

It seems to me that these words cannot refer to the 8019 afflictions of the apostolic age. I do not believe that 8020 this could apply to those times, because in spite of 8021 the fact that their afflictions were great and cruel, 8022 reaching martyrdom, they were not continuous, 8023 chronologically, nor total speaking speaking 8024 geographically. Those afflictions were sporadic in 8025 the first case, and regional in the second, as is 8026 shown in Acts 9:31. There were regions, as much 8027 barbarian as roman, which did not suffer the anti-8028 Christian persecution and, hence, the Christians of 8029 those places, or that sought refuge there, would not 8030 have deserted from the faith. 8031

> "Then had the churches rest throughout all <u>Judaea</u> and <u>Galilee</u> and <u>Samaria</u>, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied." (Acts 9:31)

⁸⁰³⁹ It is more logical to conclude that these
⁸⁰⁴⁰ predictions refer to modern times; times which are
⁸⁰⁴¹ still in the future. **Times** in which an inflexible

worldwide and totalitarian organization, with 8042 adequate scientific and technical resources to do it, 8043 extends its merciless persecution to the most remote 8044 corners of its empire. Due to this, it will cause a 8045 huge affliction to every Christian that exists within 8046 those regions dominated by the antiChrist, which if 8047 they were to be prolonged, the brethren living there 8048 would desert from the faith because they were not 8049 able to either bear it or escape. Therefore, in Mt 8050 24:15-34 the Lord is not referring to the apostolic 8051 age. 8052

Fourth argument of the 5th section: The false *Christs" of the apostolic era never did signs and wonders. If we analyze verse 24 we would see that **after the period of tribulation** described in this passage, the **false Christs and false prophets would arise, who would do great signs and wonders.**

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8066 8067 *"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."* (Mt 24:24)

In the apostolic era even though there were 8068 false prophets and false "Christs", there were 8069 none that could do signs and wonders, neither 8070 great nor small; and much less signs of such a 8071 level that they could deceive even the chosen. 8072 Hence, if the false "Christs" and false prophets of 8073 such great power did not arise during the 8074 apostolic age, it is logical to think that Christ is 8075 referring in this verse, and in the whole passage, to 8076 the end of the world, and not to the apostolic age. 8077

Fifth argument of the 5th section: After the 8079 tribulation of the apostolic era the sun didn't 8080 darken, nor the moon, nor the stars fell. Just the 8081 opposite can be said of Matthew 24:29, where it 8082 says that after the affliction described as unique, 8083 without parallel or repetition, that is, after the 8084 Great Tribulation, the sun would darken as well 8085 as the moon, and the stars would fall. 8086

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"Immediately <u>after the tribulation</u> 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."

(Mt 24:29)

It is more than evident that after the afflictions 8095 of the apostolic age, the sun did not darken, 8096 neither did the moon, and much less did the stars 8097 fall. Hence, I say again, Jesus was not referring here 8098 to the apostolic age, but rather to the future 8099 immediately before the Second Coming, that is the 8100 current future. That is to say, this whole passage is 8101 speaking of a period still in the future. 8102

Sixth argument of the 5th section: In the 8104 apostolic era the Second Coming was not at the 8105 doors. In verse 33 he says that when "these things" 8106 begin to happen, everything is at the doors. So 8107 neither can Jesus be referring here to the period of 8108 the apostles or to the immediately subsequent 8109 periods either. This is because here it says that at 8110 the very moment of which he was relating 8111 occurs, everything else, including his Second 8112 Coming was at the door. Almost twenty centuries 8113

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have passed and a ton of generations and the end 8114 has not come; which indicates to us that the events 8115 of the first and following centuries, were not the 8116 ones that Jesus was announcing as being at the door. 8117 8118 "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these 8119 things, know that it is near, even at the 8120 doors. (Mt 24:33) 8121 8122 Seventh argument of the 5th section. The 8123

apostolic generation passed and the rest of the
signs never manifested. Also verse 34 indicates
that nothing in this section refers to the apostolic
period, because it says here that when one of those
signs should occur, the living generation would
see the rest of the signs, and that did not happen in
the apostolic age.

"Verily I say unto you: This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." (Mt 24:34)

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From reading the whole passage under study 8136 (verses 15-34) it is easy to understand that the 8137 generation that will see the abomination, will 8138 also see the fall of the stars, the darkening of the 8139 sun and moon and the Second Coming of the 8140 Lord. Hence, no one can claim that part of the 8141 events happened back then and part will happen in 8142 the future. 8143

In summary: the fifth section, which 8144 encompasses Matthew 24:15-34, is a detailed 8145 magnification, of the span encompassed between 8146 the emergence of the Abomination of Desolation, 8147 and the Second Coming. That is why the events 8148 narrated in it have not happened yet, like the Great 8149

Tribulation, the antiChrist, the wonders of the false
Christs and prophets, the darkening of the sun and
moon, nor have the stars fallen during the apostolic
age. This proves to us that this section is in the
future.

- The sixth section (Matthew 24:35-51) I do not
 believe it is necessary to analyze this section, they
 are sufficiently clear admonitions that do not need
 explanation. This section only speaks of the certain
 fulfillment of this prophecy and of the secret which
 surrounds the day and hour of its occurrence.
- Summarizing: chapter 24 of Matthew begins 8163 by prophesying the destruction of the Temple in 8164 A.D. 70 (1 and 2); later he gives a brief outline of 8165 what is going to happen during the apostolic age 8166 (verses 4-6); later he makes another brief outline of 8167 what would happen from the World Wars until the 8168 Second Coming (verses 7-14); then he expands a 8169 part of the previous passage, detailing the period 8170 that spans from the "Abomination" until "the 8171 Second Coming" (verses 15-34); and in the rest of 8172 the chapter he exhorts Christians about this 8173 important issue (verses 35-51). 8174
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Let us now comment about some passages that can create confusion.

Matthew speaks of two times in which false 8178 Christs arise. In Matthew 24:5 Christians are 8179 warned about false Christs that would come during 8180 that apostolic age. This prophecy of the false 8181 Christs is repeated in Matthew 24:24, but this time 8182 it refers to the times close to the Second Coming. 8183 This would be understood more clearly if we realize 8184 that verse 5 belongs to the third section which deals 8185

with the apostolic age, whereas verse 24 belongs to
the fifth section, which deals with the end time.
Both of these claims were previously demonstrated,
it should be enough proof if you read both sections
again.

We also see in Luke 21:8, where it discusses the 8191 apostolic age, the false Christs are mentioned as 8192 coming also in that age. It is known that it is 8193 speaking of the apostolic age not only because it is 8194 in the passage which speaks of that era, but also 8195 because when Jesus speaks of the false Christs 8196 there, he adds "...and the time is near". If he told 8197 the apostles that the time was near, it is because 8198 those false Christs and false prophets were going to 8199 arise during that era also. 8200

The fact that in Luke 21:8 the sentence "the time 8201 is near", begins with capital letters by the modern 8202 Bibles, (indicating that it deals with one of the two 8203 phrases spoken by the false Christs) does not go 8204 unnoticed by me. According to this way of 8205 presenting these issues by those that edit these 8206 modern Bibles, the false Christs would say two 8207 phrases: 1) "I Am" and, 2) "The time is near". 8208 But this is a doctrinally prejudiced interpretation on 8209 the part of the one that edits this Bible. 8210

In order to realize that it is incorrect to begin 8211 that sentence with a capital letter, it would be 8212 enough to read Luke 21:8 in the King James 8213 edition. In that edition, the sentence "the time is 8214 near" is found with lower case, because they did not 8215 consider it a new phrase, but rather a comment by 8216 Jesus with respect to the closeness of such false 8217 Christs. 8218

But in addition, it is logical to think that the false Christs would not be saying that the time of Jesus' return was near, **because they wanted to**

make others think that they were "Jesus" who 8222 had already returned. If they would say that the 8223 time is near, then they could not say that they were 8224 Christ, because they would be admitting that his 8225 Second Coming had not arrived with them. Hence 8226 we see that the same period of the prophecy, 8227 mentioned in Luke, agrees with the fact that 8228 Matthew 24:5 refers to false Christs of the apostolic 8229 age, whereas Matthew 24:24 refers to the false 8230 Christs which will come in the period close to the 8231 end. 8232 8233 *** 8234 ** 8235 * 8236