Introduction

Is there really a secret rapture with a second chance of salvation? Regardless of the topic when it is associated with salvation, Satan has deceptions in every area in an attempt to steal as many people as possible from God's kingdom. It is a grave error to underestimate the enemy. It does not matter how many people believe a lie, it will never make it truth. Mark Twain once said, "*A lie can travel halfway around the world, while truth puts on its shoes.*" The only way to avoid the enemy's deception and find truth is to study the scriptures diligently. Multitudes of people have been exposed to this "dispensationalist" or "futurist" interpretation of prophecy and have been utterly confused. So what is the real truth?

What is the Secret Rapture theory?

According to those teaching this theory, the coming of Jesus will be in two separate stages. The first will be a secret rapture of the Church at the beginning of a supposed seven year tribulation period followed by a glorious, triumphant return of Christ to the Earth accompanied by the Church at the end of the seven year period. They believe that during this seven year period the antichrist is going to come into power and God will select and seal 144,000 literal Jews who will take the Gospel to the whole world converting immeasurable souls to Christ. They also believe the great battle of Armageddon is a literal national war against literal Israel, which occurs near the end of the seven years and is brought to a halt by Christ's return with His Church. Then literal Israel accepts the Lord as the Messiah and enters with Him as His covenant people into the 1,000 year (millennial) reign on earth known as the Kingdom Age. Christ will rule directly over the earth from the throne of David in Jerusalem, where the typical temple services function again. Those who ultimately reject Christ's rule are eventually judged and destroyed at the end of the Millennium. The new believers will then receive immortality and eternity will begin.

However, the Bible nowhere speaks of these two separate comings and the word "rapture" is also an invention of theologians and occurs nowhere in the Bible. The deception does not stop there, Christians also debate whether we will be taken before the tribulation or in the middle of the seven years or at the completion of the seven year tribulation. These are called pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation and post tribulation. Now for the most amazing part of these views in regards to the seven year tribulation period; are you ready for this? It was manufactured by a Jesuit Priest who was commissioned to come up with this false interpretation of Bible Prophecy. This raises many questions, such as why was this done and how could so many be drawn into this lie. I hope you will read on as we cover all aspects of this topic and reveal the Bible truth.

Does the Bible teach there is a Secret Rapture?

This is a brief point by point account of the order of events according to Scripture; there is Christ's second coming, the resurrection, the catching up of the saints to meet Jesus in the air which all take place at the same time and at the end of the world. This is why Jesus said in Matthew 28:20 "…***and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world***." Why would Jesus promise to be with the Church until the end of the world if He intended to come seven years before the end to take them out of the world? The promise would then have no meaning.

This false doctrine on the secret rapture is contradictory to the words of Jesus in Matthew 13 when He said the wheat and tares would grow together until the "*end of the world*" and then would be separated. According to this dual coming rapture theory, both groups would not grow together until the end of the world. The righteous would be separated from the wicked seven years before the end. And what about the promise of the resurrection? Christ said, concerning the righteous, John 6:40 "*…and I will raise him up at the* ***last day***." No one denies that this means the *last day* of the world. Paul declares the saints are caught up to meet the Lord at the "same time" the dead in Christ are raised. He says, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 ***"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."*** Did you note that Jesus called this resurrection the "*last day?*" But how could it be the "*last day*" if this gathering of the saints takes place seven years before the end of the world? And how could the ***"last trump***" (see 1 Corinthians 15:52 below) sound if it really wasn't the very last moment of time? Imagine the graves opening and the righteous rising and no one knowing that it had occurred? Consider also the added testimony from God's Word;

Matthew 24:27 "*For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*"

Matthew 24:30 "*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.*"

Matthew 24:31 "*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.*" (This is clearly the time when Christ comes to gather His saints.)

1 Corinthians 15:52 "*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*"

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

Revelation 6:16-17 "*And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*"

There is no understood scripture that says the second coming of Christ to gather His saints will be a secret rapture. All these verses show it will be a very loud and very visible event that every eye shall see. There is nothing secret about any aspect of His coming. Those believing this false doctrine sometimes quote Matthew 24:40-41 out of context. The entire passage reads;

Matthew 24:37-**41 "*But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until***

the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left."

Jesus is demonstrating the parallels between the days of Noah and the second coming of Christ. The eight that entered Noah's Ark were saved and those that scoffed perished as the flood "*took them all away.*" Many have been taught that the ones taken are the ones saved but note it is actually the ones taken that are destroyed. There was no second chance. Jesus said and "***so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."*** The last verse of this chapter tells us what will happen to those who are taken to destruction. Matthew 24:51 "***And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth***."

Those believing in the secret rapture also quote Jesus in saying He will come as a thief in the night, meaning it will be secret. Jesus said in Matthew 24:43-44 "***But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."*** Jesus is not talking about coming secretly but coming unexpectedly when we least expect Him and so the wicked will be taken by surprise. This is why Jesus tells us to be ready as we know not the hour of His return. Those who are not right with Christ and living wickedly when Jesus returns we will be taken to destruction as in the days of Noah. See Matthew 24:37-41 above. See also 2 Thessalonians 2:8.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 is also quoted which reads, "*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*" Same message as before be ready for Christ's unexpected return. And what happens after His return? 1 Thessalonians 5:3 "***For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."*** How secret is sudden destruction? Those that are left after Jesus' return encounter ***"sudden destruction***." Again, just like in the days of Noah.

These two "thief texts" are also used to teach a secret rapture. Revelation 3:3 "***Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."*** **Revelation 16:15 "*Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."*** In both these instances just quoted, the secrecy is also in connection with the timing not the nature of the event, and is exactly the same as the other "thief texts." Notice the phrase in chapter 3:3 which says ***"hold fast, and repent"*** **and the last part of verse 15 which says "*lest he walk naked, and they see his shame***."

This is once again a warning to be not caught living in sin, because we know not the hour which Jesus will return. He will come unexpectedly when you least expect it as does a thief. It would be no good for the thief if you knew when he was coming as you would be ready for him and he could not rob you. In the same way we need to be ready and living in righteousness now and not just when we think Jesus is coming or we will be "***caught naked and our shame seen***." Those who love and obey Jesus will be ready for His return. This is the meaning of the phrase "*to come as a thief*" that is used several times in the Bible to warn us so we will not be left behind.

And still one more. 2 Peter 3:10 says "*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.*"

Again, absolutely nothing secret. To the contrary, it could not be more obvious. It states after Jesus comes unexpectedly as does a thief, "*the heavens shall pass away with a* ***great noise***" and "*the elements shall* ***melt with fervent heat****, the earth … shall be* ***burned up***." So when Jesus returns the very next thing is the end i.e. the last day. If coming "*as a thief*" is a secret rapture which takes place seven years before the end of the world, how can the heavens and earth "*pass away*" as Peter describes it? Three of these "thief texts" are all followed by the same unmistakable catastrophic sudden destruction. Coming as a thief is unexpected, NOT a secret!

Will Christ's second coming include a third coming?

Those who believe in a "secret rapture" say that the Greek word "parousia" refers to the secret "coming" of Jesus in His presence and that the Greek word "apokalupsis" refers to the visible glorious "coming" of Jesus in power seven years later. They also teach in middle of this seven year period, (3.5 years) the antichrist will reign. But "parousia" and "apokalupsis" are BOTH used to describe the second coming as we will soon show by its parallel in the "days of Noah."

Paul uses the word "parousia" in the well known so called "rapture chapter" of 1 Thessalonians 4 when speaking of the coming of Christ and our gathering together unto Him. Paul then shows that this "parousia" will destroy the man of sin; the antichrist. Paul says, "*whom the Lord shall...destroy with the brightness of his coming [parousia].*" 2 Thessalonians 2:8. These scriptures unmistakably describe the coming [parousia] of Christ as taking place after the reign of the man of sin, not as a secret rapture before the antichrist's reign begins.

The other Greek word "apokalupsis" [revelation] is used in a way that indicates it is not a separate second coming from the time the believers are gathered up. Peter said in 1 Peter 1:13 to "*… be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation [apokalupsis] of Jesus Christ;*" Why would Christians be exhorted to continue hoping to the end of the world for the grace brought through the revelation of Jesus Christ if their real hope was a secret rapture seven years before the revelation?

These following verses showing Matthew and Luke's account of the same event prove beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the words "parousia" and "apokalupsis" do refer to the same event. In Matthew 24:37 we read, "*But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming [parousia] of the Son of man be.*" And the same account in Luke 17:26, 30; "*As it was in the days of Noah...Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed [apokalupsis].*"

This shows that the coming [parousia] of Christ and the revelation [apokalupsis] of Christ are the same event. There is absolutely no basis for placing seven years in between. This whole counterfeit doctrine is built upon a constant repetition of words and ideas that have been repeated so often that millions have assumed that they must be biblically sound.

Where in the Bible is the Seven Year Tribulation period?

As there is so much secret rapture theology revolving around the seven year period, one would deduce that the Bible must speak frequently of this time period. There is in fact not one single scriptural reference which ties the seven years to the end of the world or the coming of Christ. Most rapture literature mentions the seven year tribulation period without offering any Bible proof or explanation. One woman once asked me if I believed in the seven year tribulation period, which knowing the truth, I promptly replied no. I was then told I was wrong as the Holy Spirit had revealed this to her. I asked her where the scripture was to support this, of which she replied, “it is here in the Bible somewhere.” I am still waiting for her to give me the reference. Absolutely millions of people have assumed that it must be so well documented that no proof is needed. The fact is the absolute opposite is true. There just simply isn’t any evidence to give.

Where did the Secret Rapture and seven year tribulation theory originate?

In early 1830, a 15 year old Scottish Girl called Margaret McDonald claimed to have visions that included a secret rapture of believers before the appearance of a one man antichrist who she also named. Edward Irving (1792-1834) who was her Scottish Presbyterian pastor and forerunner of the Charismatic and Pentecostal movements, attended prophecy conferences that began in Dublin Ireland also in 1830 at Powerscourt Castle where he promoted this rapture doctrine as per her vision.

John Nelson Darby (1800-1882) who was a minister of the Church of Ireland later became a member of the Plymouth Brethren and also promoted the secret rapture after attending the same Powerscourt Bible Prophecy meeting in 1830 where he learned of Margaret McDonald’s supposed vision. Darby modified her views and then taught them under his own name. He developed and organized “futurism” into a system of prophetic teaching called “dispensationalism” with this rapture doctrine at its centre. He visited Margaret McDonald at her home in Port Glasgow, Scotland and then later visited America several times where this false rapture theology starting gaining a large acceptance in the 1850s and 1860s.

John Nelson Darby who was largely responsible for introducing this new teaching on a large scale also greatly influenced Cyrus Ingerson Scofield (1843-1921) who also incorporated this false doctrine into the notes of his Scofield Reference Bible, first published by Oxford University Press in 1909. One million copies were printed by 1930, firmly establishing this Futurist theory into different denominations and Bible schools of the United States in the 20th Century.

Did this antichrist and Secret Rapture theory originate with Margaret McDonald?

Historical evidence actually reveals it originated much earlier. Before and during the Protestant Reformation, the Reformers embraced the true “Historical” interpretation of the Bible where the antichrist was clearly seen as a system of apostasy and persecution rather than a single

individual. John spoke of antichrist that "shall come" but he also added that "*even now are there MANY antichrists*" 1 John 2:18. So we know that there was not just one but many antichrists and that the antichrist system was operating when John was writing about 2000 years ago. The conclusion of those who studied these prophecies during the Reformation was that there was only one system that fits all the characteristics of antichrist which was the Papal system of the Roman Catholic Church. The following are the many identifiable characteristics:

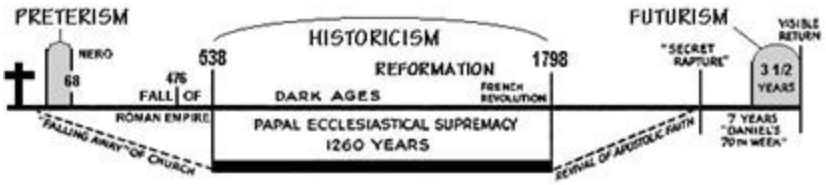
1. It will rise to be a great power after the fall of the pagan Roman Empire (after 476 A.D.)
2. It will be a geographically small nation (a little horn). (Dan 7:8)
3. It will rule over many people, nations, and tongues (it will be universal). (Rev 13:7)
4. It will be headquartered in the city of seven hills, Rome.
5. It will be a religio-political entity - a political city-state ruled by a priest-king.
6. Its priest-king will make great and blasphemous claims. (Rev 13:1, 6)
7. It will claim authority over all kings. (Rev 17:18)
8. It will claim its power to change the holy times and laws of God as its mark of authority. (Dan 7:25)
9. It will be an apostate Church that makes the nations drink her cup of apostate doctrine. (Rev 14:8)
10. It will be a "mother" harlot Church, with apostate daughters coming from her. (Rev 17:5)
11. It will be a persecuting power, killing the faithful saints of Jesus Christ as heretics. (Rev 13:7)
12. It will hold power and authority for 1260 years following the fall of pagan Rome.
13. It will suffer a deadly wound that will end 1260 years of dominance and persecution.
14. It will be revived after the deadly wound, and all the world would wonder at its revival. (Rev 13:3)

No wonder the Roman Catholic Church was so opposed to the Bible being available for everyone to read for themselves. To control what they called heretical doctrine, the Catholic Church called for a special meeting known as the Fifth Lateran Council, (1512-1517) which forbade anyone to publish a book without prior censorship and also prohibited anyone from preaching on the subject of antichrist. The leaders of the Council and the Catholic Church also attempted to ban or burn all Bibles, heretical books, and the heretics that owned or preached from them.

The major characteristic identifying the antichrist power was this 1260 years of persecution of the "saints" which was fulfilled in the Catholic Church's persecution of Christians throughout the dark ages beginning in 538 A.D. after the fall of the pagan Roman empire, and extending to 1798 (1260 years exactly), when the Pope was taken prisoner by Napoleons general Berthier and died. This was the deadly head wound. (Revelation 13:3) In order to divert attention away from the Roman Catholic Church as the antichrist power, a new interpretation would have to be found. This was done by rejecting the true "Historical" interpretation and accepting a false "Futurist" interpretation proposed by a Jesuit doctor of theology, Francisco Ribera (1537-1591).

In his book, entitled "In Sacrum Beati Ioannis Apostoli, & Evangelistiae Apocalypsin Commentarij", he postulated that the 1260 day prophecy were not 1260 years but a literal 3 1/2 years, or 1260 actual days, and therefore none of the book of Revelation had any application to

the Middle Ages or the Papacy. It applied to a future period just prior to the Second Coming of Christ; hence it was called “Futurism” or the “Futurist” interpretation. Manuel De Lacunza (1731-1801), a Jesuit priest from Chile, also advocated futurism in his manuscript entitled “La Venida del Mesias en Gloria y Magestad” (The Coming of the Messiah in Glory and Majesty). Writing under the assumed name of Juan Josafa (Rabbi) Ben-Ezra, Lacunza hoped to obscure the fact that he was a Roman Catholic, in order to give his book better acceptance in Protestantism.



This historicism chart illustrates the three schools of interpretation regarding antichrist. Ribera’s futurism puts the antichrist into a future three and one-half literal years. Alcazar’s preterism identifies the antichrist as Nero. Both put antichrist outside the Middle Ages and the reformation period identified by Protestant Historicists as antichrist’s reign of 1260 prophetic years. The truly amazing part of all this is that the Futurist theory dominates Protestant teaching today. That scenario is directly traceable back to the pen of the Jesuit Francisco Ribera who manufactured this theory for the sole purpose of diverting attention from the Papacy. In what could only be described as a stunning reversal, Protestants have over time actually become the Papacy’s greatest ally by spreading its Jesuit spawned propaganda. What irony that Protestants who originally broke away from what they clearly recognized to be the harlot antichrist led Church of prophecy, now champion the Futurist interpretation from high profile ministries. Futurism has without doubt, been successful beyond the wildest dreams of its Jesuit authors. The same applies to the Preterist interpretation of Luis De Alcazar, although to a much lesser degree. For very detailed information, see the origins of futurism prophecy.

What scripture was manipulated to come up with the seven year tribulation?

Most Bible students are stunned to learn where the seven years came from. In Daniel 9:24-27 God gave a prophecy concerning the probation of Israel. Daniel 9:24 reads, “*Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*”

God was going to allow Daniel’s people seventy weeks to end their rebellion against God and if they failed, Israel would be rejected as a nation. The seventy weeks are prophetic time and each day represents a literal year (Ezekiel 4:6 and Numbers 14:34). So the seventy weeks would actually be a literal 490 years after which the Israelites were no longer God’s people. The seventy prophetic weeks were to begin with the decree to restore and build Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:25 ***“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and***

threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times."

That well known date is 457 B.C., when Artaxerxes sent out the decree. (Ezra 7:13) From that date the Jews would have exactly 490 years to stop their rebellion towards God. The 490 year probation ended in A.D. 34 and the Jews ceased to be God's chosen people. Daniel 9:25 says that the Messiah would be anointed after the total of sixty nine of those prophetic weeks had passed by. That would be 483 years from the decree date of 457 B.C. It takes no mathematician to figure the end of that prediction. It brings us to the year A.D. 27, the very year that Jesus was baptized by John and the Holy Spirit anointed Him for His ministry. Since "Messiah" means "Anointed One," this can only be the fulfilment of Daniel's prophecy that the Messiah would appear in A.D. 27. Seventy weeks were assigned to the Jewish probation but Christ appeared as the Messiah after sixty nine weeks. That leaves the final and seventieth week for Christ to minister before the Jews probation ended. What was to happen in the seventieth week?

Daniel 9:27 tells us, ***"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease."***

The "*midst of the week*" would be three and a half prophetic days (or 3.5 literal years) from His baptism and according to the Bible, the ministry of Jesus lasted for exactly that, three and a half years. In the spring of A.D. 31 Jesus was crucified and the veil of the temple was rent (Matthew 27:51), signifying the end of sacrifices. By His death He caused the "*sacrifice and the oblation to cease.*" Another three and a half years would lead up to the end of the seventy weeks and the end of Jewish probation. During that three and a half years the disciples laboured mainly for the Jews but in A.D. 34 the seventy weeks ended; Stephen was stoned after his immense speech before the council in Acts chapter 7 and the gospel began to go to the Gentiles (Acts 8:4). The Jews had rejected the gospel message and were no longer God's chosen people just as Daniel had predicted. Now they could only be saved as individuals in exactly the same way as the Gentiles.

The seventy weeks or 490 years was the time God gave His chosen nation to end their rebellion where He would then forgive them for their transgressions. Notice how Jesus refers to this prophetic time period here in His conversation with Peter. Seventy times seven is of course 490.

Matthew 18:21 "***Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."***

Now, to make the Jesuit manufactured prophecy fit its new interpretation, Daniel's 70 Weeks prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27 which began in 457 B.C. with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 7:1-27) had to develop a "gap." Arbitrarily the 70th week (7 days = 7 years) of Daniel's prophecy is detached from its context and placed at the end of the age 2000 years later where it logically can no longer be the seventieth week. This "week" will according to its proponents constitute the "seven year tribulation period," prior to which the secret rapture will occur.

This false and illogical "gap" theory states that all fulfilment of this prophecy is suspended until the Christian era is over. Then the last week of the 70 weeks prophecy becomes operative again

constituting the seven year tribulation period. This false Jesuit manufactured theory teaches that the first sixty nine weeks of this seventy week prophecy (490 years) reached from 457 B.C. to the year 27 A.D. when Jesus began His ministry. The true "Historical" view teaches that the 70 weeks prophecy of Daniel 9 began in 457 B.C. and ended when Stephen was stoned to death in 34 A.D. It was at that time that the gospel went to the Gentiles and the Jewish people lost their place as those "Chosen" to spread God's message to the world. They had also rejected Christ by calling for His crucifixion in the "middle of the week," in 31 A.D. and then rejected Christ's followers by stoning Stephen 3.5 years later at the end of the 70th week. (34 A.D.)

So we find this false rapturist theory gets the seven years tribulation by lifting that seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy completely out of its context and shoving it far into the future where it is logically no longer the seventieth week. They claim it will be fulfilled after Christ comes to snatch away the righteous secretly. They agree that the sixty nine weeks of Daniel 9:25 refer to the period before Christ's first advent, but then they insert a 2000 year gap before the seventieth week is fulfilled. They allot 69 weeks plus 2,000 years plus one week, or a total of approximately 2,490 years. By this devious manipulation of God's Word by the Papacy, the rapturist's believe they have extended the Jewish probation and based upon this, they teach that all the Jews will be saved in a great second chance after the "secret rapture" takes place.

The tragedy of this Jesuit spawned rapture theory that was commissioned by the Papacy is that it takes this beautiful messianic prophecy of Daniel 9:24-27, that proves Jesus is the Messiah by predicting His coming, His baptism and crucifixion, and then applying it to the antichrist. They do this by stating that it is antichrist that causes the sacrifice and oblation to cease after three and a half years. But Daniel states that it is Jesus who caused the sacrificial system of the Jews to cease when He died on the cross. A misinterpretation that confuses something Christ has done and applies it to the devil instead, is certainly a tragic and blasphemous occurrence. This is however the only way they could arrive at a seven year tribulation period. How very sad.

When speaking of Christ's second coming, you often hear the question are you pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation or post tribulation. These terms are also the result of the very same Jesuit spawned propaganda. It also comes from the seventieth week of Daniel's 70 week prophecy. Pre-tribulation is taken from the time of Christ's anointing, mid-tribulation comes from the time

Christ was crucified and post tribulation comes from the end of Daniel's 70 week period which was the end of Israel's time to repent of there rebellion and coincided with Stephens stoning.

Who is spreading this false Rapture theory today?

In the 1990s, Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins took the future one-man antichrist idea of Hal Lindsey, Cyrus Scofield, John Darby, Irving, Newman, Todd, Maitland, Bellarmine, and Ribera and turned it into "The most successful Christian-fiction series ever" (Publishers Weekly).

Hal Lindsey's book, "The Late Great Planet Earth," was largely theological, which limited its appeal, while "Left Behind" is a sequence of highly imaginative fictional novels. The television ministries of Jack Van Impe, Peter and Paul Lalonde and Pastor John Hagee have all worked together to produce "LEFT BEHIND: The Movie." This project even caught the attention of the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, resulting in an interview with LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins on Larry King Live. Left Behind is now teaching much of the same Jesuit Futurism as Francisco Ribera, which is hiding the real truth about the antichrist. Through Left Behind, Futurism has taken a very strong hold, unleashing a massive tidal wave of false prophecy which is sweeping over the world. Everyone believes movies and books, right? With all the false teaching already circulating on a secret rapture and seven year tribulation period, even though these books are fictional, many have taken them as being greatly truth. Satan continues to clap his hands in glee over just another one of his great deceptions on the Christian world. And as usual, many Christians and even Pastors will not entertain the idea of this being possible as they will not consider the majority could be wrong and so the lie continues to spread like a disease.

If Christians don't start waking up to the devils many deceptions, a lot of good people are going to perish. Satan's deceptions are strong and convincing, but Christ has given us ample information to help us discern truth from error if we will only diligently study His Word.

Do we go through the great tribulation?

The Bible says that those who refuse the mark of the beast will NOT be affected by the Seven Last Plagues that come over the whole world. (Revelation 16:2) But this does not mean that we will not have to go through the time of trouble, nor that we will not be persecuted.

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

Note again that it is no secret when Jesus comes "*as a thief*" as the angels have just poured out six plagues on the Earth for those who received the mark of the beast or worshipped his image. Hence we are definitely here during the tribulation as these plagues are part of God's judgement which follows. God's faithful ones are of course protected from these plagues.

Revelation 16:12, **15 "*And the sixth angel poured out his vial (sixth plague) upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east***

might be prepared. 15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."

And note that the elect described in Matthew 24:22 below are God's people and there would be no need for God to cut short the great tribulation if His people were already in heaven.

Matthew 24:21-22 ***"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened***."

In Daniel 3:16-28 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace but God was with them through the persecution and in this case took them safely through it. They refused to disobey God and kept His Commandments. Note how Revelation 14:12 below also talks of how those who did not get the mark of the beast also kept God's Commandments. There is obviously a strong link there to obedience to God and who we Worship in regards to the Mark.

The Bible often refers to times of patience with times of suffering. Revelation 13:10 speaks of the "*patient of the saints*" after they endured the 1260 years of persecution from the Roman Catholic Church which is the first Beast. Over 50 million Christians were tortured and murdered. Revelation 14:12 is the verse following the apocalyptic mark of the beast warning, and the "*patience of the saints*" as those who will endure through that time and still keep God's Commandments.

Revelation 13:10 "***He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."***

Revelation 14:12 "*Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."*

The teaching of this false, Jesuit manufactured secret rapture theory and escape from persecution will be a devastating deception for Christians. Persecution and suffering have always been God's means of strengthening His people and producing strong character. Here is God's purpose in times of tribulation. It is to build perseverance, character, trust and hope in Him.

Romans 5:3-4 ***"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope."***

Satan wants to impede and restrain strength and character building in Christians by getting us focused on *escaping trouble* and persecution instead of our preparing to go *through persecution* even to the point of death. Even Jesus "*learned obedience by the things which he suffered.*" (Hebrews 5:8) Jesus guarantees that if we speak His truth boldly, we *will suffer* persecution.

John 15:20 ***"Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also."***

James 5:10-11 *"Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience. 11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."*

When these "soft" Christians are confronted with heavy persecution, they will fall like dominoes and Satan will be ecstatic and yet once again Satan's lies will have been very successful.

Will there be a Second Chance?

I would imagine the answer to this question should be fairly obvious by now but let's look at it anyway. Those who teach a secret rapture claim that during the tribulation those not raptured will be given another chance to be saved. Let it be categorically stated that absolutely nowhere does Scripture speak of any second chance, nor does the Bible anywhere speak of people being saved after Jesus comes. This is just another manmade doctrine that is indeed pleasing to the carnal heart of man and the devils intention to have those who would wait perish with Christ's coming. The Bible in fact actually teaches the opposite. Notice these clear Scriptures;

2 Corinthians 6:2 "*(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*"

Revelation 22:11-12 "*He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*"

When Jesus comes the second time, He carries "*in his hand a sharp sickle.*" Revelation 14:14. This is the reaping time after sixty centuries of the sowing of the seeds of sin. This is the harvest time, and "*the harvest is the end of the world.*" Matthew 13:39. "*And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.*" Revelation 14:16.

Jeremiah 8:20 truly says, "*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*" There can be no saving after the reaping of earth's harvest at the coming of Christ. When Jesus and His Holy angels appear, then "*before him shall be gathered all nations.*" Matthew 25:32. There will only be two classes in that great company. The destiny of each has been set by what he did before the coming of Christ. Let us stand firm on the Word of God alone and reject these manmade, Satan driven, pleasing ideas that form the bulk of the whole secret rapture theory.

The attitude of so many Christians seems to be that you should live a Holy life now so you don't have to go through the Great Tribulation, but even if you don't you will get another chance after this so-called secret rapture. But as we have seen in scripture and by this manufactured doctrine, when judgment comes there is no second chance. When people die in their sins they are lost forever, there is no second chance. Why should the Second Coming be any different?

Can Christ's return be at any moment?

All too frequently coupled with this false doctrine is the equally misguided concept that Christ can come back at any moment, even tonight, as we so often hear well meaning Pastors and Evangelists proclaim. While we do not doubt the Lord's ability, we do believe that God is not the author of confusion but of a great plan for those who trust and obey Him. Although we are well aware that no man knows the exact day and hour of Christ's return, it is equally certain that there are various prophecies that await their complete fulfilment and that not until we witness these things come to pass, can we expect the Lord at any moment. It was this very doctrine which had come into the Church at Thessalonica and made it necessary for Paul to write:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 "*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 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.*"

Those who believe in a secret rapture and that Christ can come at any moment say He will gather the believers before antichrist appears yet this Scripture says the absolute opposite. This verse refers to the Papacy and the pope seated (sitteth) in a position of power in the Church. We are the temple of God on Earth now. For Paul to call a rebuilt temple the temple of God would be to deny what Christ did on the cross. When the temple curtain was ripped from top to bottom this signified the end to the sacrificial system. Paul would never call it God's temple.

Secret Rapture Summary

It is our sincere and earnest prayer that this document will reveal to you the total unscriptural nature of this secret rapture doctrine. Instead of preparing God's people to face the increasingly difficult days ahead, as tribulation intensifies, this Jesuit manufactured doctrine has deluded millions of Christians into a false notion of escapism. Instead of obeying the Lord's command to resist evil and occupy until He comes, they have become so "rapture" minded that they no longer even resist the evil, believing that they will not defeat it, but instead be rescued from it.

Sometime soon, Satan will attempt to personate Jesus and counterfeit His return to Earth. But God's people need not be deceived. When the disciples asked Jesus for the sign of His coming and the end of the world, the very first thing He told them was to be on guard against impostors. In Matthew 24:4-5 "*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.*"

The devil has been sharpening his deception skills for 6,000 years and his last masquerade will be his masterpiece. Jesus warns that he will do such a convincing job that, if it were possible, even the very elect would be deceived. Satan has introduced the strong delusion of a secret rapture to the Christian world that has been almost universally accepted in mainline Churches. Jesus warned in Matthew 24:23-24 "*Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24 For there shall arise false Christ's, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*"

As we have noticed, the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ will come the second time in glorious majesty to take His redeemed home with Him. It will be a personal, visible, and earth shaking event that everyone alive will know about. The righteous will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17), whereas the wicked will be slain by the brightness of His coming (2 Thessalonians 2:8). Let us carefully and diligently study our Bibles so we will not be deceived concerning this most important and wonderful hope, the second coming of Jesus.

Christ's Second Coming will be seen and heard by all

The Bible is unmistakably clear that when Jesus comes back, His feet never touch the ground. It says the righteous will be caught up to meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). This is why Jesus emphatically warns us in Matthew 24:26-27, "*Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. 27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*"

His Second Coming is Not a Secret

Matthew 24:27-31 "*For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together. 29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 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.*"

Acts 1:9-11 "*And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 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 into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*"

1 Corinthians 15:52 "*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*"

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 “*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.*”

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

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

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

His Second Coming Will Be Audible

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His Second Coming Will Be Visible

Matthew 24:27 “*For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*”

Matthew 24:30 “*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.*”

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

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

His Second Coming Will Destroy the Earth

Isaiah 24:19-20 "*The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. 20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.*"

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

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

Revelation 16:18-20 "*And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. 19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*"

1 Corinthians 15, 1 Thessalonians 4 and Matthew 24 are the same event

To make it easier to see that the Bible is speaking of only one second coming, and not a second and a third coming or a secret rapture and a second coming, the following tables have been put together to help illustrate that the glorious second coming of Christ in all cases is not speaking of a secret rapture. By comparing point by point in a table format we can easily observe that the following two chapters are definitely referring to the same event. Observe the parallels below.

1 Corinthians 15	1 Thessalonians 4
15:23 - are Christ's at His coming	4:16 - the Lord Himself shall come
15:51 - sleep	4:14 - sleep
15:52 - the trumpet shall sound	4:16 - shout, voice, trump
15:52 - dead shall be raised	4:16 - dead in Christ shall rise first

Now let's compare Matthew 24 with the above events using 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 and 5 since some say that Matthew 24 is talking about the glorious second coming of Christ which they say is a different event to the above chapters which they believe is secret. Clearly it is not!

Matthew 24	1 Thessalonians 4 and 5

24:27 - coming (Parousia)	4:15 - coming (Parousia)
24:30 - clouds	4:17 - clouds
24:31 - sound of a trumpet	4:16 - shout, voice trump
24:31 - gather together	4:17 - caught up together
24:36 - day or hour	5:1 - times and seasons
24:43 - a thief	5:2 - a thief
24:39 - took them all away	5:3 - sudden destruction
24:42 - watch	5:6 - watch

There is no doubt these are the same event as they not only parallel each other but are even in the same order. There are not different aspects of the coming of Jesus. There is only one second coming and the theory of a secret rapture with a second chance is a deception of the enemy.

1 Corinthians 15	1 Thessalonians 4	Matthew 24
At His coming	Jesus coming	Jesus coming
Last trump	Trumpet	Trumpet
Dead saints raised	Dead saints raised	Angels gather saints
Living saints changed	Living saints caught up	Angels gather saints
	Coming in the clouds	Coming in the clouds