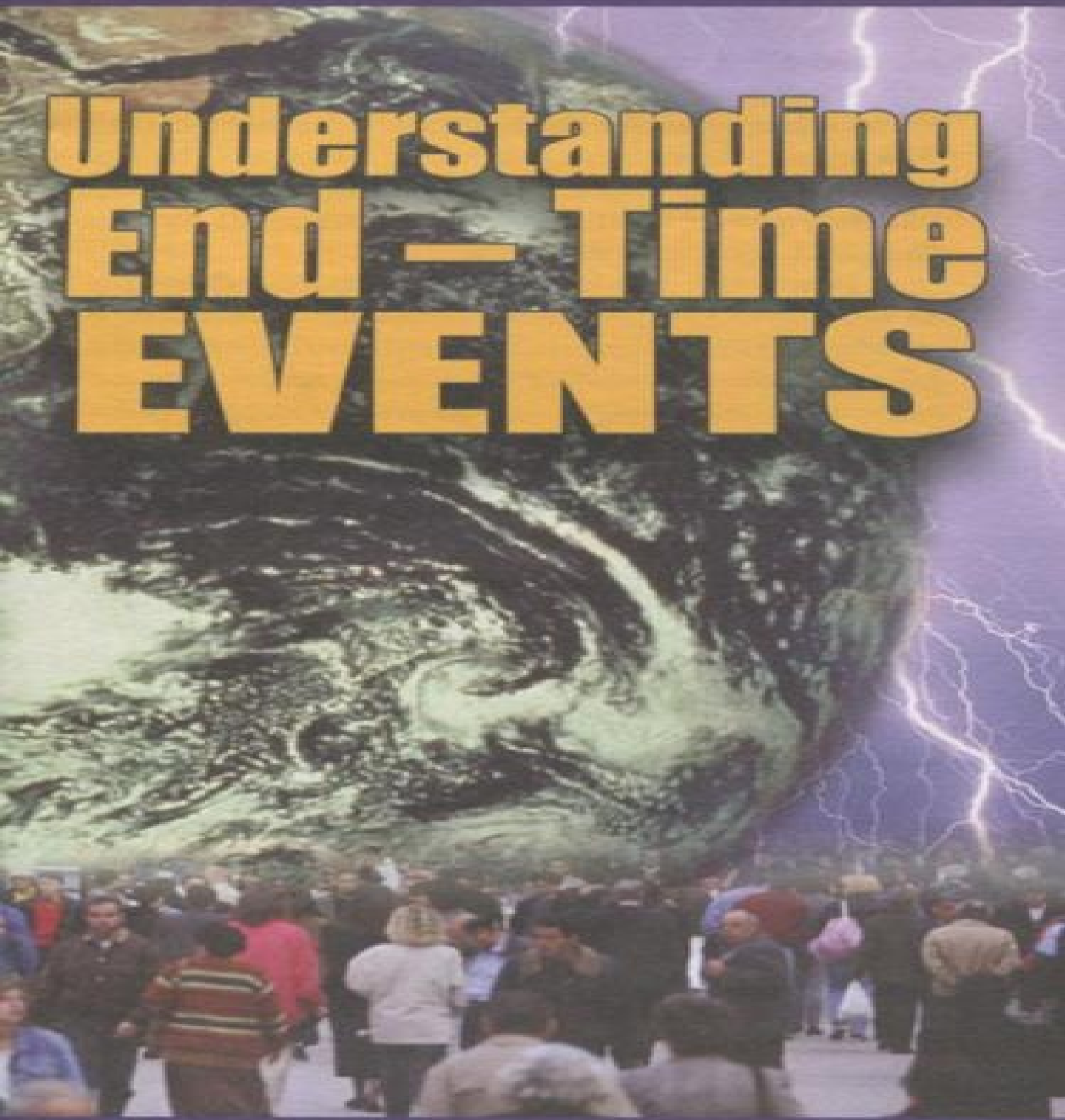
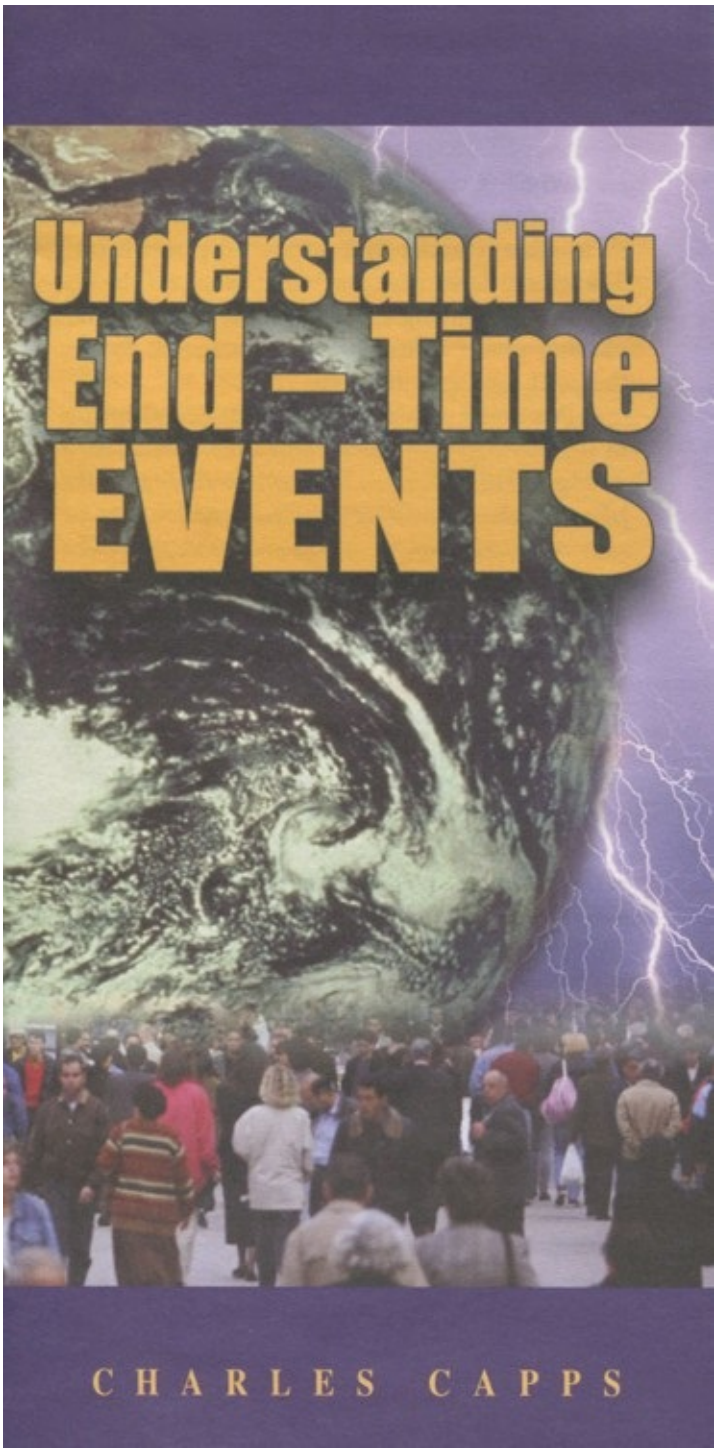
Understanding End-Time EVENTS



CHARLES CAPPS



UNDERSTANDING END-TIME

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EVENTS

When it comes to events that will end this age, there are many people who don't have a clue as to what is about to transpire on planet earth. Therefore, those who teach that there will be no Rapture are having a field day so to speak and causing much confusion concerning the events that will soon end this Age.

Peter tells us why he wrote his second epistle in II Peter 3:1-4:

This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior: Knowing this first, that there shall

come in the last days scoffers,

walking after their own lusts, and

saying, Where is the promise of his

coming? For since the fathers fell

asleep, all things continue as they

were from the beginning of the

creation.

Then the Apostle John gives us one of the major reasons why it is so important that the Church understands the sequence and timing of end-time events.

Beloved, now are we the sons

of God, and it doth not yet appear

what we shall be: but we know

that, when he shall appear, we

shall be like him: for we shall see

him as he is. And every man that

hath this hope in him purifieth

himself even as he is pure. (I John 3:2-3)

In these verses, John is referring to the "Blessed Hope"—concerning the Rapture of the Church—which Paul referred to in Titus 2:11-13:

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 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 savior Jesus Christ.

Remember John said, *"...every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself..."* (I John 3:3) In other words,

they are quick to repent when they make a mistake. They keep their life cleaned up and stay ready for the coming Rapture.

Yet, in the churches today there are many who don't believe in the catching away of the Church before the tribulation, as Paul taught in I Thessalonians 4:15-17 and II Thessalonians 2:1-8. It has become popular in some circles to scoff and make fun of the Rapture, calling it "The great escape," "The pie in the sky," or "The great snatch." Yet, it is the way of escape that God has prepared for the righteous, much the same as He did in Noah's day.

I am concerned at the number of professing Christians who believe that they will go through the seven years of tribulation. Some of them will almost

fight you for the right to tribulate. I believe some of it stems from the fact

that they have forced the wrong pieces of the prophetic puzzle into the wrong place in the Scriptures. Therefore, they confuse the Second Advent with the Rapture of the Church. One such passage is Matthew 24:29-31, which clearly describes the Second Advent not the Rapture.

Some are confused concerning the elect mentioned in Matthew 24:22. This scripture refers to the elect of Israel and not the Church. But some have forced parts of the prophetic word into places where it does not fit, and this has caused much confusion concerning the sequence and timing of end-time events. These prophetic passages must be kept

in the right perspective so we can understand the approaching events that will end the Church Age.

Hebrews gives us what I call the faith and Rapture connection:

For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great

recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. (Hebrews 10:34-37)

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen... By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God... But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11:1, 5-6)

It is significant that Hebrews 10:34 states that we have in Heaven a better and an enduring substance. Hebrews 11:1 reveals that faith is the substance of things hoped for. Lets look at it this way: If faith is the substance of what you hope for and you have no hope,

then there is nothing for faith to give substance to.

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Understanding End-Time Events

Lets ask ourselves some scriptural questions about this matter. Are there any promises in the New Covenant which you receive just because they are in the Bible? Generally speaking, no. You must first hear the promise. Then, you must make a decision to believe it. And finally, you must act on it in faith to receive it. It is because of these facts that I pose the following question. Will God’s promise of a way to escape the seven years of tribulation be any different?

Then knowing the very principles of faith causes more concern about this matter. And Jesus said unto the centurion,

Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee, (Matthew 8:13)

...Whosoever shall say, believe, and shall not doubt in his heart, but shalt believe that those things which he saith shalt come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. (Mark 11:23)

However, the answer to this whole matter may be found in the fact that,

before it happens, the revelation concerning the Rapture will become clear and irrefutable to everyone whose heart is right before God.

Concerning the tribulation, Daniel said, *"none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."* (Daniel 12:10) The

Church Age will soon come to an end and the Body of Christ will be raptured before the seven years of tribulation begin. Then, the seventh millennium on God's calendar will usher in 1,000 years of peace on earth (read Daniel 12:1-10). I know there are many who say they have been born again and don't believe in the Rapture. But to not believe in the Rapture is like saying, "I don't believe in yesterday; yesterday never happened." But yesterday did happen, and three raptures have already taken place. Enoch and Elijah were caught up alive to Heaven as natural people. (Genesis 5:24; II Kings 2:11) Jesus was also caught up, and the disciples watched as a cloud received Him out of their sight. (Acts 1:9) There are some who call the Rapture an escape theory. But it has been proven in Scripture to be

a supernatural event that transported living people from the earth to Heaven.

A WORD OF CAUTION

Since we don't know for sure whether our calendar is anywhere near accurate, we should never place our faith in man's calendar concerning dates for these end-time events. Our faith should be firmly established in the fact that God has always fulfilled His every promise within His own time frame. The scripture in Daniel 9:24 revealed that God would deal with Israel in a time frame which was referred to as "determined time" of seventy weeks of years (490 years). That time was determined by God Himself.

DETERMINED TIME

To understand "determined time"

we have only but to consider a football game. It is divided into four, fifteen minute quarters. The total determined time being one hour, but there has never been a football game played in one hour of real time. There are time-outs, there are delays of the game in which the time

clock is stopped for an indefinite period of time. Then the time clock is turned on again and the determined time begins to be counted.

We must realize that our calculations of the calendar of time does not fit God's "determined time." Only time itself will reveal the whole truth concerning this matter. But yet we must not take lightly the prophetic profiles in the Word of God which give us a definite determined timeline for God's

dealing with mankind.

In Job chapter fourteen, Job was speaking prophetically. Verse 5 says, *"Seeing his* (mans) *days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass."* These verses allude to the fact that God has determined man's days of dominion on this planet and he cannot pass those bounds determined by God himself. The six days of the creation account by prophetic profile is strong evidence that man's "determined time of dominion" is six thousand years. There is much confusion about calendars, for they have been tampered with and

changed over the centuries but you can rest assured that God is the master time keeper and He is keeping “determined time.”

The apostle Paul in I Thessalonians 4:13 admonished us saying: *“that we should sorrow not as others which have no hope.”* The blessed hope of the Rapture is based not on man made calendar dates, but rather on God’s "determined time.” The apostle Paul states in Ephesians 1:10, *“that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on the earth; even in Him.”*

The key phrase here is *“the dispensation of the fullness of times.”* In other words, when God’s determined time is fulfilled.

An overall view of the prophetic

Word reveals 6,000 years of "determined time" will finish God's dealing with man under the Earth Lease He established in Genesis 1:26-28 (also see Mark 12:1-9). Soon after the Earth Lease expires, the Rapture will take place. Then the seven years of

suspended time (70th week of Daniel) called the tribulation will begin. That seven years will fit between the sixth and seventh millennium on God's calendar. Then there will be one more 1,000 year period in which the righteous of the earth will rule and reign with Christ here on earth before eternity (see Revelation chapters 19 and 20).

Every prophetic time line from Genesis to Revelation points to 6,000 years of "determined time" before the

seven years of tribulation and then 1,000 years of peace before eternity. To use the words written to the Church by the apostle Paul, *"Ye* (Body of Christ) *are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness... For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."* (I Thessalonians 5:5,9)

Concerning the tribulation, Daniel 12:10 says, *"Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly, and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."*

The Body of Christ above all others should have a clear understanding of these matters. Then, we can proclaim

the truth to the unbelieving world that God has provided salvation through His Son Jesus which includes the Rapture as a way to escape the seven years of tribulation destined for planet earth.

MARANATHA!!

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Document Outline

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