

2nd Thessalonians 5-15-22

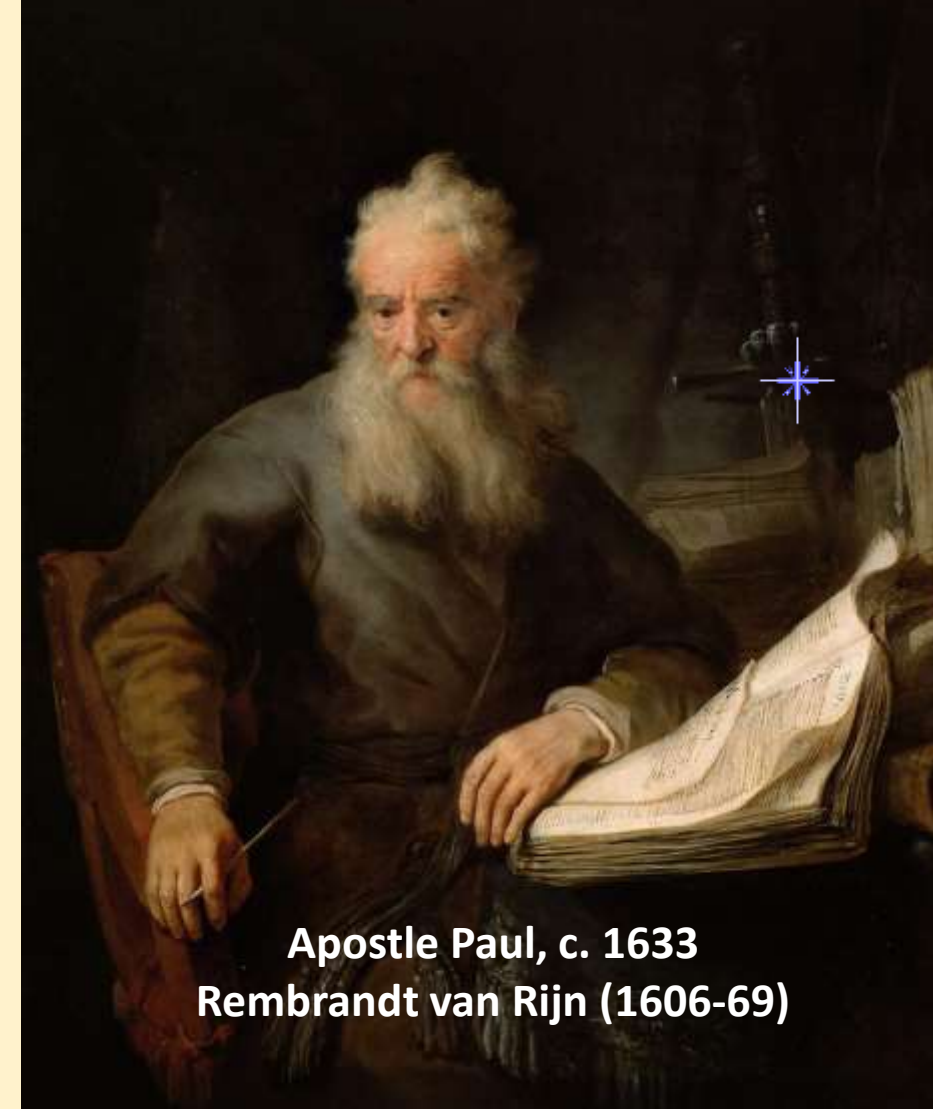
2:3 Day of the Lord ... ³ Let no one deceive you in any way, for it will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness—the son of destruction—is revealed.

2 Thess 1:1-12 Vengeance & Hellfire

✦ 2 Thess 2:1-12 Man of Lawlessness

2 Thess 2:1-3:16 Lord Be with You

Rev. 21-22 Heaven—Our Everlasting Rest



Apostle Paul, c. 1633
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
PreciousHeart.net/SS
... Click Here

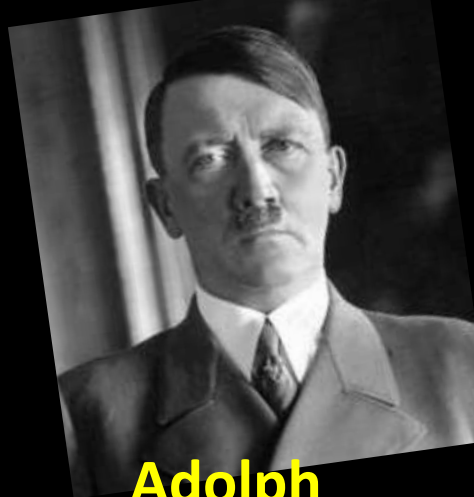


Alternate Title

Man

of

Lawlessness



Adolph



Joseph



Charles



Pol Pot



Ted




Vlad



Vladimir

You ain't seen nothin' yet





From **HELL** to 2 Thessalonians 2 and **Lawless One**

I have no doubt when in 1:8-10 that Paul talked about

⁸ vengeance with flaming fire on those who don't know God and on those who don't obey the gospel ...

⁹ They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction ...

¹⁰ on that Day when he Comes to be glorified

He **ALSO** had this **Lawless One** in mind too ... **Satan's Agent**

Also means to me that the **LAW** Paul is talking about **MOST**

GOD's LAW ... not just Government LAW

2 Thess 2 is a tough passage ... pivotal to ALL End Time views

How the Thessalonians READ this helps us apply it TODAY

From **HELL** to 2nd Thessalonians 2 and **Lawless One**

¹ Now concerning **THE Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him:**

We ask you, brothers and sisters, ² not to be easily upset or troubled, either by a prophecy or by a message or by a **LETTER** supposedly from us, alleging that the

Day of the Lord has come.

After 1 Thess and now 2x in 2nd Thess ...

Coming of Christ – **LINKED** – Day of the Lord

HERE ... Paul links the two in **CORRECTING** Lying Turkeys

Some Joker sayin' **The DAY** has **ALREADY COME!**



From **HELL** to 2 Thessalonians 2 and **Lawless One**

Paul now calls them out and gives them **PROOF**

3 Don't let anyone deceive you in ANY WAY.

For that Day will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the Man of Lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

4 He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits in God's temple, proclaiming that he himself is God.

5 Don't you remember that when I was still with you I used to tell you about this?

These verses have been a MOUTHFUL for Two Millennia



First note vv 1–2 = **The Day** of the Lord had NOT COME yet

2:3 **That Day will not come unless the apostasy comes first**

Many reference Antiochus Epiphanes that placed the image of Zeus in the Jerusalem Temple c. 167 B.C.

If Hitler had not betrayed Stalin & tried to take Russia ...

Whatever ... the **MAN of Lawlessness** has not YET Come

EVIL ... Wickedness ... God-claiming ... more to come

Somehow, Paul will tell us shortly ... spirit of lawlessness

Already at WORK in A.D. 50

WHEN he does come ... Beware the TRIBULATION

Worst is yet to come – You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet!



Christian Standard Bible, NIV, NASB

Man of Lawlessness, Man Doomed to Destruction

KJV, ASV, Douay-Rheims, Weymouth

Man of Sin, Son of Perdition

ESV, Berean Man of Lawlessness, Son of Destruction

AntiChrist - ἀντίχριστος only appears 5x in N.T. ... 1 & 2 John

1 John 2:18, 2:22, 2 John 1:7 ... 1x plural 1 John 2:18

1x as a “spirit” of AntiChrist in 1 John 4:3

Rev. 13 **Beast** from Greek word “beast” ... dangerous animal

Description in 2 Thess, 1 & 2 John, & Rev. 13 – no doubt ...

Man of Lawlessness, AntiChrist, Beast = Same

What do YOU think the Thessalonians saw?

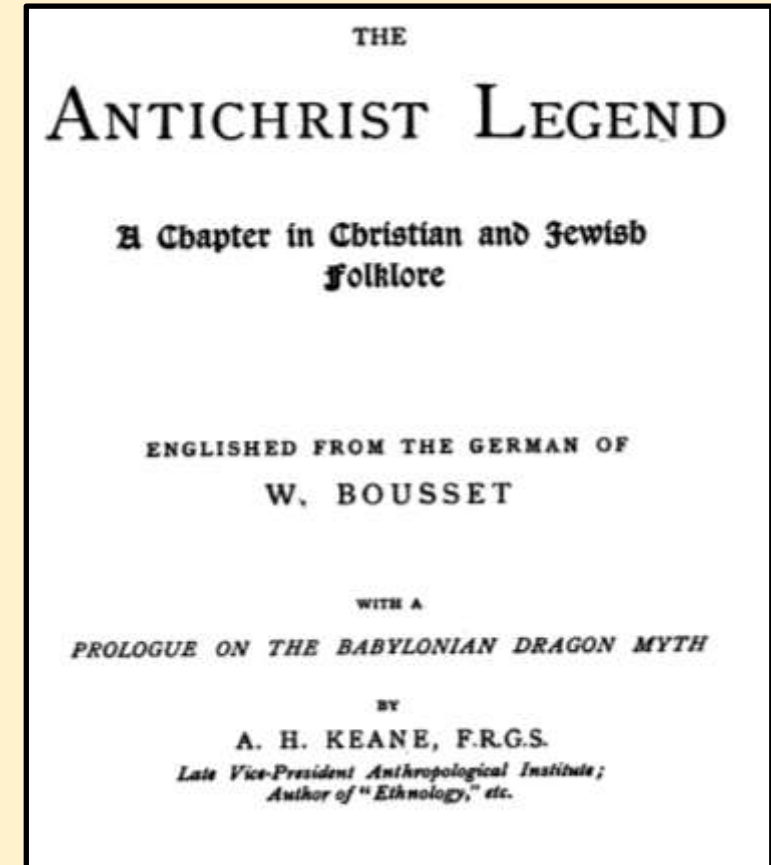
Man of Lawlessness / AntiChrist / Beast

Interesting book by Wilhelm Bousset,
The Antichrist Legend:
Chapter in Christian and Jewish Folklore

Documented the Jewish lore on the
AntiChrist before & during N.T. era

F. F. Bruce in Thess Comm. said Bousset

**“concluded ... that the Christian
expectation was adapted from an
existing Jewish expectation.”**



Wilhelm Bousset, *The Antichrist Legend: A Chapter in Christian and Jewish Folklore* trans. by A.H. Keane (London: Hutchinson, 1896; 307 pp.), www.Google.com/books/edition/The_Antichrist_Legend/4inXAAAAMAAJ



**Prof. F. F. Bruce gave a section on the AntiChrist
Tracing its history in Church Fathers**

**He quoted the solemn words of Origen (185–253),
who was an early Church Father in Alexandria:**

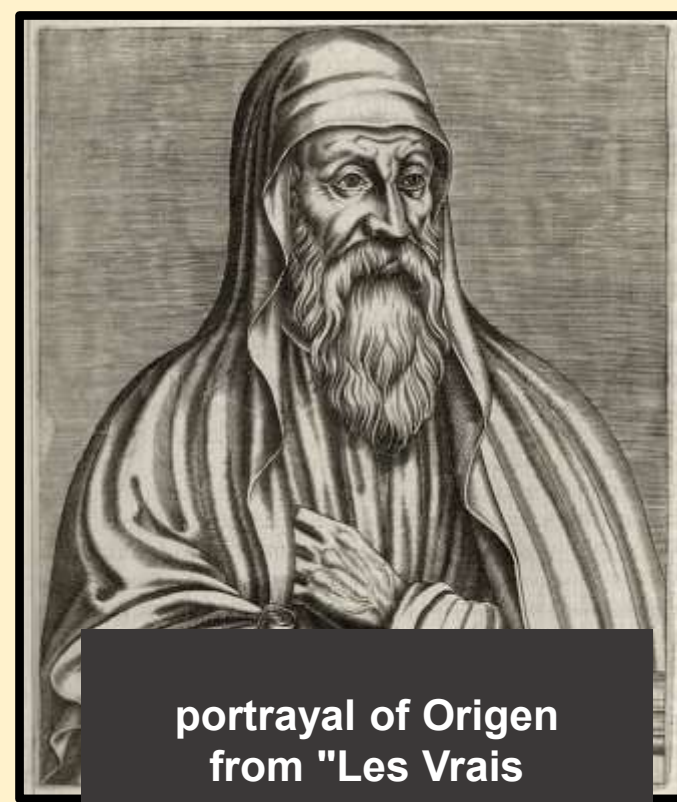
**"Because perhaps amongst the Jews were some
persons professing to know about the Last Things
either from Holy Writ or from hidden sources,
therefore he [Paul] writes warning his disciples to
believe no one making such professions"**

There have ALWAYS been imposters ...

Paul was PERSECUTED and had to FLEE Thessalonica

He had to be careful ... WANTS Thessalonians to be

Very Careful



portrayal of Origen
from "Les Vrais
Portraits Et Vies Des
Hommes Illustres"
by André Thévet
(1516- 1590)

From **HELL** to 2 Thessalonians 2 and **Lawless One**
Many divide v. 1 “gathering together” as **THE** Rapture
from v. 2 “Day of the Lord” as **THE** 2nd Coming ...
That is too hard for me to grapple with or see ...
Arguing for the Post-Tribulation 2nd Coming

Alexander Reese, 1932 & 1975

Approaching Advent of Christ

(London: Marshall, Morgan, Scott, 1932, new preface 1937)

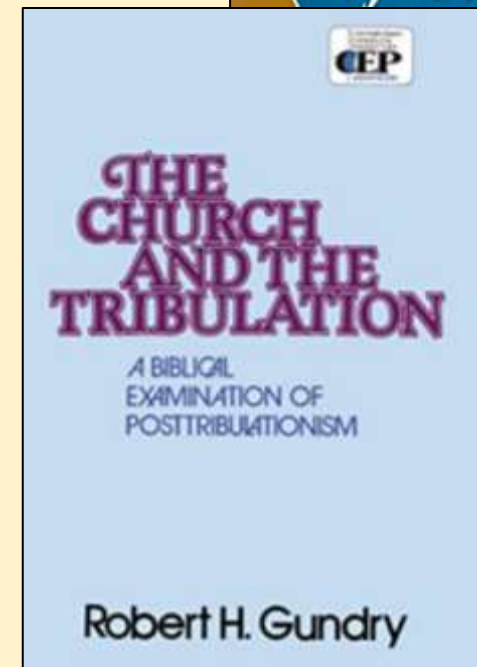
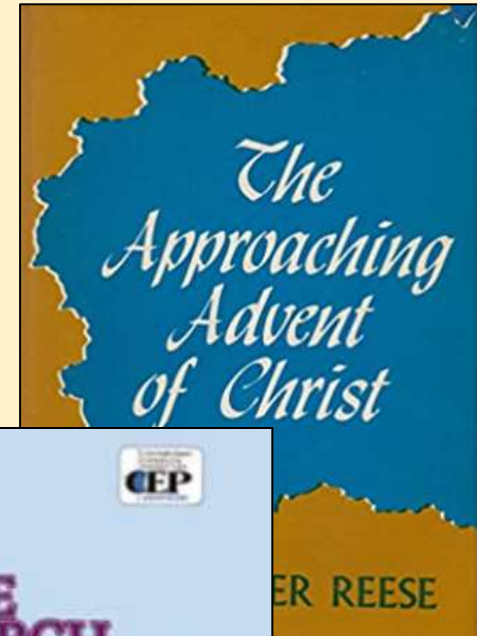
<https://theologue.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/theapproachingadventofchrist-alexanderreese.pdf>

Robert H. Gundry, 1973

Church and the Tribulation

(Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1973)

Rapture AFTER Tribulation as 2nd Coming



Pre-Tribulation View ...

John F. Walvoord, 1979

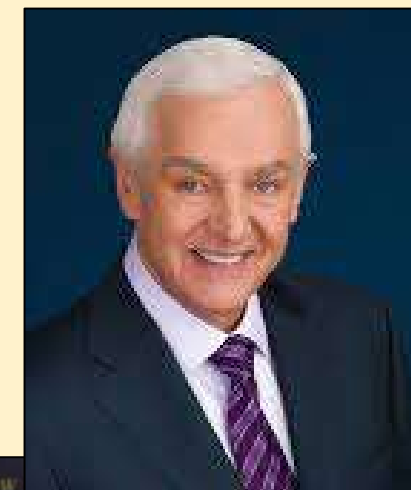
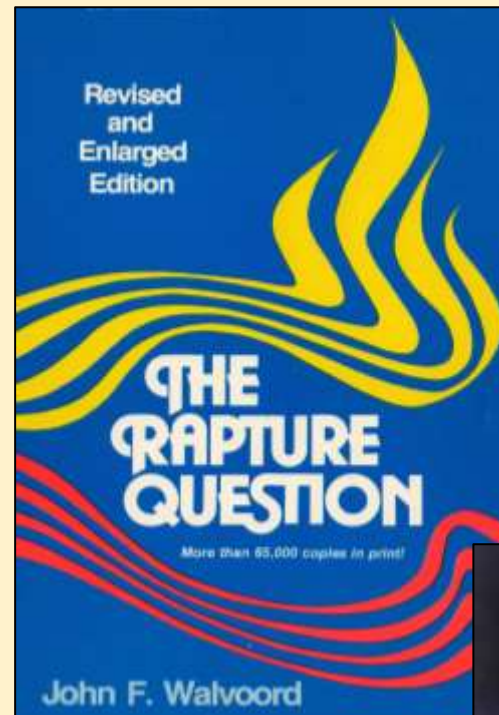
The Rapture Question - 1979

(Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979; 304 pp.)

David Jeremiah, 2022

After the Rapture

(Nashville: W Publishing, imprint of Thomas Nelson, 2022; 217 pp.)



Best Pre-Tribulation Pre-Millennial books

Along with the **100 MILLION-plus** who followed Hal Lindsey's *Late Great Planet Earth* and Tim LaHaye's super-popular *Left Behind*

I HOPE Walvoord & Jeremiah are RIGHT

I do NOT LIKE my view ... hope I am WRONG

Pre-Tribulation View ... Walvoord or Jeremiah
Church is raptured BEFORE Tribulation
> then Christ comes, then 1,000 years, then heaven

Post-Tribulation View ... Reese or Gundry
Church goes THROUGH the Tribulation ...
> Christ comes takes us up to heaven (*1,000 years symbolic*)

Tribulation is the **WORST MISERY** yet for humanity

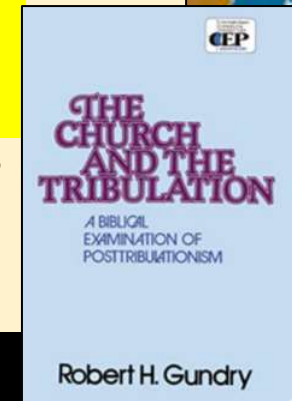
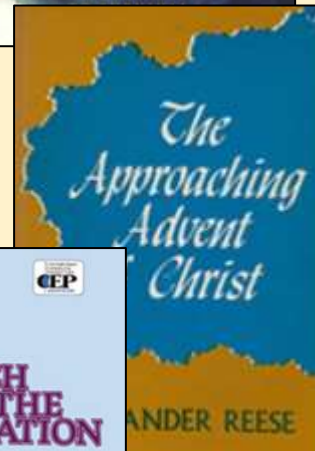
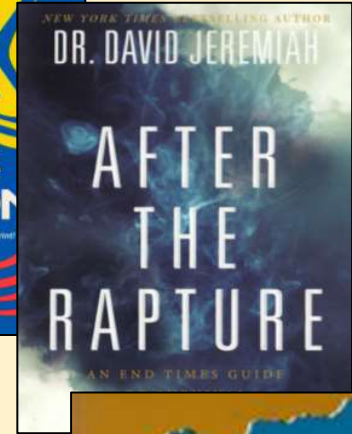
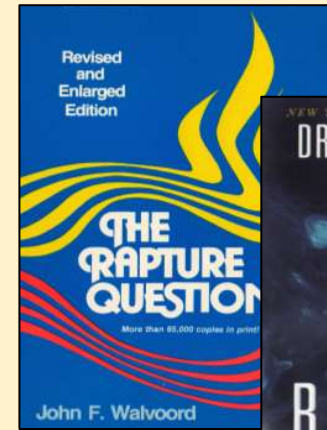
I do NOT LIKE my view ... hope THEY'RE Right

Have you been persecuted? Hurt for doing Right?

MUCH misery for believers for 2,000 years ...

But the Tribulation ... worst misery is coming

Whatever has been... You AIN'T Seen Nothin' YET!





In other words
Post-Trib View

Rapture **IS** 2nd Coming ...
after the Tribulation
Revelation Symbolic

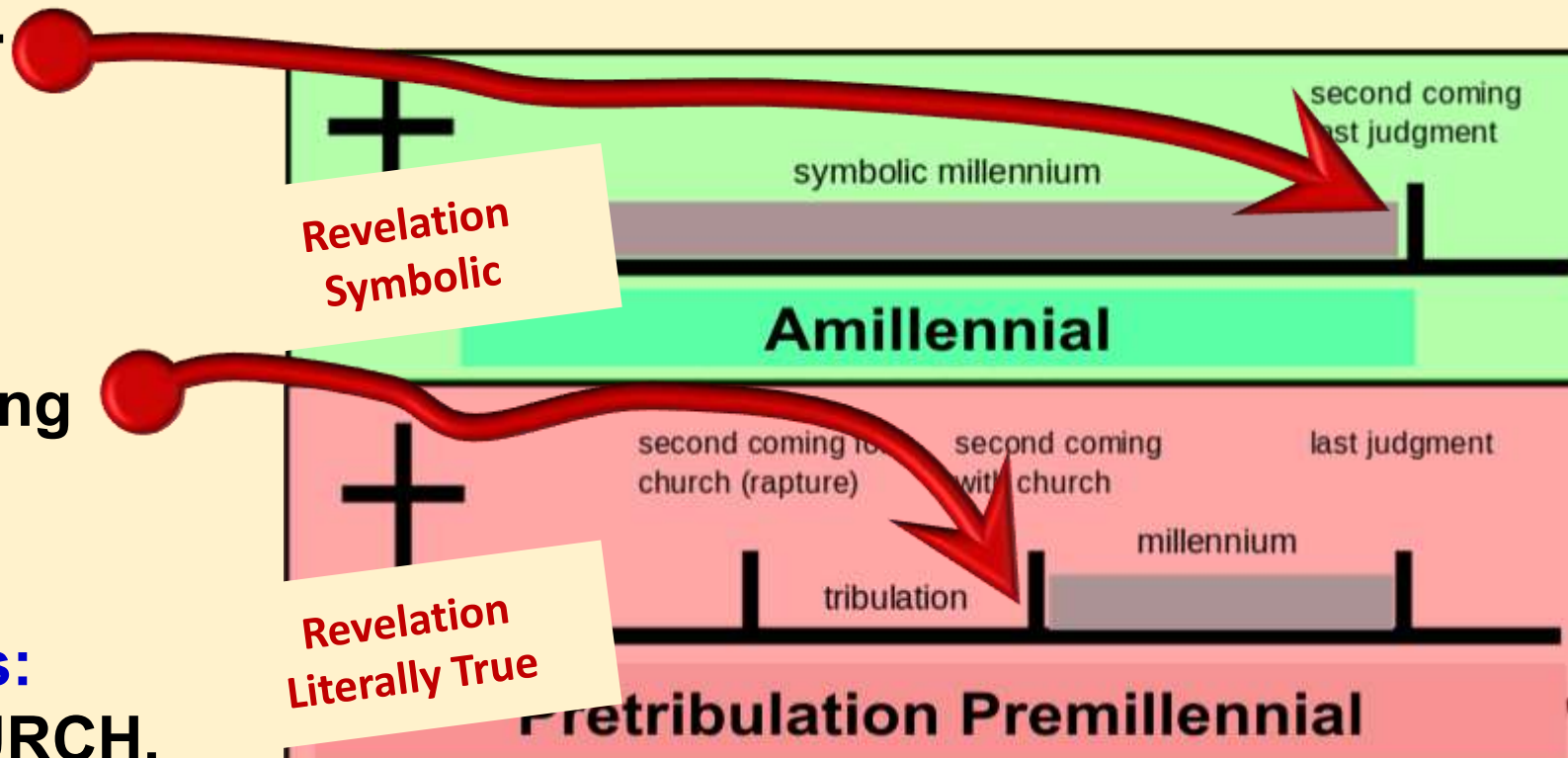
Pre-Trib View

Rapture is **NOT** 2nd Coming
2nd Coming comes
AFTER Tribulation

OR – **TWO 2nd Comings:**
1st 2nd Coming for CHURCH,
2nd 2nd Coming est Kingdom
TWO 2nd Comings!

I hope they are RIGHT

Key difference between these
HOW symbolic you want to take parts
1. Wholly Symbolic 2. Partly Symbolic



these very fine Pre-Trib folks just cannot say a "3rd Coming" which I cannot see – Let's look Closer

From HELL to 2nd Thessalonians 2 and Lawless One

1 Now concerning **THE Coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being **gathered to him**: We ask you, brothers,

2 not to be easily upset or troubled, either by a prophesy or by a message or by a **LETTER** supposedly from us,

alleging that the **Day of the Lord** has come.

3 Don't let anyone deceive you in **ANY WAY**.

For that Day will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the **Man of Lawlessness** is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

4 He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he sits in God's temple, proclaiming that he himself is God.

Walvoord and an innumerable **HOST** of others work hard to **DIVIDE**

YOU'RE in **GOOD** Company if **YOU** do too! – Protestant Majority

Rapture
1st 2nd Coming

2nd 2nd Coming

I see single 2nd Coming ... Rapture at Rev. 19

- 11 I saw heaven standing open ... white horse,
whose rider is called Faithful and True....**
- 12 ... on his head are many crowns....**
- 14 Armies of heaven followed him....
riding on white horses and dressed
in fine linen, white and clean**
- 15 Treads the winepress of the fury of the Wrath of God Almighty.**
- 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:**
- King of Kings and Lord of Lords.**
- 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice
to all the birds flying in midair,**

“Come, gather together for the great supper of God,



I HOPE I am wrong ... I do NOT want Tribulation

I HOPE these fine men are **RIGHT** ...

John F. Walvoord, “Man of Sin ... covenant with Israel seven years before the Coming of Christ.”

David Jeremiah, “When the Lord returns to earth at the end of the Tribulation.”

To them & 100s more great scholars ...

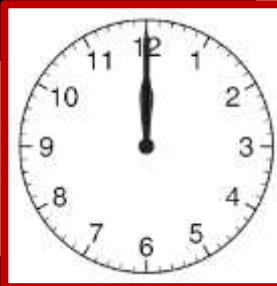
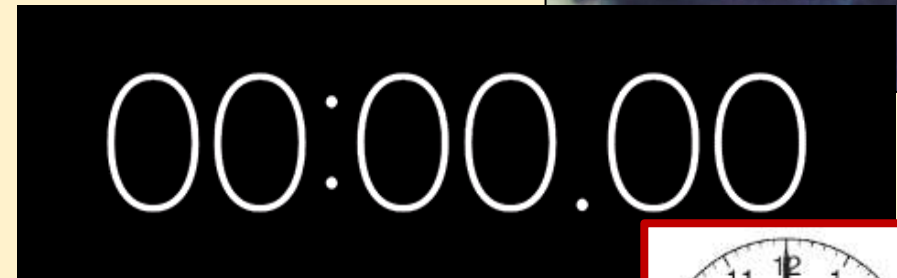
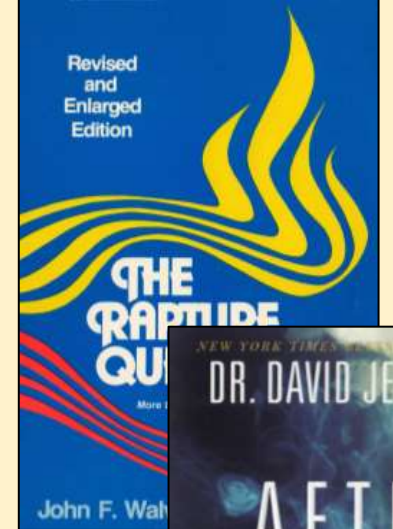
Rapture takes place @ Rev. 4

Notice one glaringly obvious problem.

Pre-Trib – those **Left Behind** **KNOW** exactly **WHEN**

EXACTLY the **WHEN** of Christ’s 2nd Coming:

7 years after Rapture—Start the Clock @ the Rapture!



1 & 2 Thessalonians ... Praises **PERSEVERENCE** in **LOVE**

Nero comes on the scene in A.D. 54 to 68 ...

Nero **BURNS** Christians **ALIVE** to light his garden



See Matthew 24 – Christ on the Mt. of Olives



30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. **31** And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will **GATHER** his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”

36 “But about that day or hour **NO ONE** knows, **NOT** even the angels in heaven, **NOR** the Son, but **ONLY** the Father.

YET those Left Behind in the Tribulation, **THEY DO KNOW?**



Paul tells the Thessalonians in 2nd Thess 2

- 1 Now concerning **THE Coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being **gathered to him**: ...² not to be easily upset ...
- 3 Don't let anyone deceive you in **ANY WAY**. For **that Day will not come** unless the apostasy comes first and the Man of Lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

Paul explains MORE about time before THAT DAY ... listen up

- 6 And you know what currently restrains him, so that he—Man of Lawlessness—will be revealed in his time,
- 7 For the **Mystery of Lawlessness** is already at work, but the one now restraining will do so until he is out of the way,
 - 8 and then the Lawless One will be revealed.



“what now restraining” ? ? ? ?

“WHAT” Greek is a definite article, not a personal pronoun

NIV, ISV, New Living, “WHAT is holding him back”

KJV, Douay-Rheims, “WHAT withholdeth”

ESV, NASB, Berean, ASV, CSB, “WHAT is restraining him”

Great question then is ... WHAT is “WHAT”?

Many believe WHAT is God or the Holy Spirit is restraining

Why didn't Paul say that? Paul said “they knew” too ...

To Rapture-first people WHAT is the work of God in believers

Others WHAT is the Roman Empire, because of persecution,

Paul chose NOT to say “Rome” in a LETTER.



“WHAT is now restraining” ? ? ? ?

I am not sure **WHAT** is **“WHAT”** there ...

What is clear is that the Thessalonians **KNEW** ... from Paul’s three-week stay with them ... all being persecuted

I lean lightly to **WHAT** being the **Roman Empire** ...

In a post-Trib view ... **WHAT** becomes **LESS to 2nd Coming**

WHAT restrains is **REMOVED** ... then Man of Perdition **RISES**

⁹ Coming of the lawless one is based on Satan’s working,

with every kind of miracle,
both signs and wonders serving the lie

< What is THIS?

Have you seen the sophistication of Magicians TODAY?



WHAT restrains is **REMOVED** ... then Man of Perdition **RISES**

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is based on Satan's working, with every kind of miracle, both signs and wonders serving the lie,

¹⁰ and with every wicked deception among those who are perishing. They perish because they did not accept the love of the **TRUTH** and so be saved.

This is the Tribulation Era—Satan-possessed Evil **LOOUSED**

Against **TRUTH** ... Against God ... Against Christ ...

... EVERY DECEPTION ...

Every Deception **PLUS** the evil of 666 in Revelation

Then Paul adds a very strange verse ...



**11 For this reason God sends them a strong delusion
so that they will believe the lie,**

12 so that ALL WILL BE CONDEMNED —

**those who did not believe the TRUTH
but delighted in unrighteousness.**

TOUGH to normal ears ... If “GOD sends” where’s Justice?

I trust GOD knows what HE is doing here

Perhaps there’s a point of Rebellion where GOD TURNS AWAY

Similar to the Unforgivable Sin in Luke 12:10

**10 anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit
will not be forgiven.**

Hitler, Pol Pot, Stalin ... Charles Manson ..

Of all people—these DESERVE HELL



Most of all Son of Perdition, Man of Lawlessness, Anti-Christ

What did the Thessalonians SEE?

Whatever – whether the Church DOES or Does NOT

Go Through the Tribulation

Thessalonians were GOING through a KIND of Tribulation

Nero, Diocletian ... Hitler, Stalin ... brought More Misery

Whatever ... THE Day of the Lord Had NOT yet Come

The Anti-Christ MUST Come First



When Christ Comes, We Shall Be with Him FOREVER