

# Looking for the Rapture



**END  
TIMES  
BEREAN**  
LAST DAYS HERALD



# Welcome!

- My name is Christian Widener, and if you haven't seen my videos before, I hope you will check out all my other ones.
- I make videos on specific topics, but they are really all part of presenting the body of evidence that we are already in the Tribulation and the return of Jesus is finally almost here.
- In this one, we'll be talking about the Rapture and where we appear to be on the prophetic timeline.
- Only God knows the precise timing of events, but He left us a lot of clues, and a command to watch...

# The Most Neglected Command

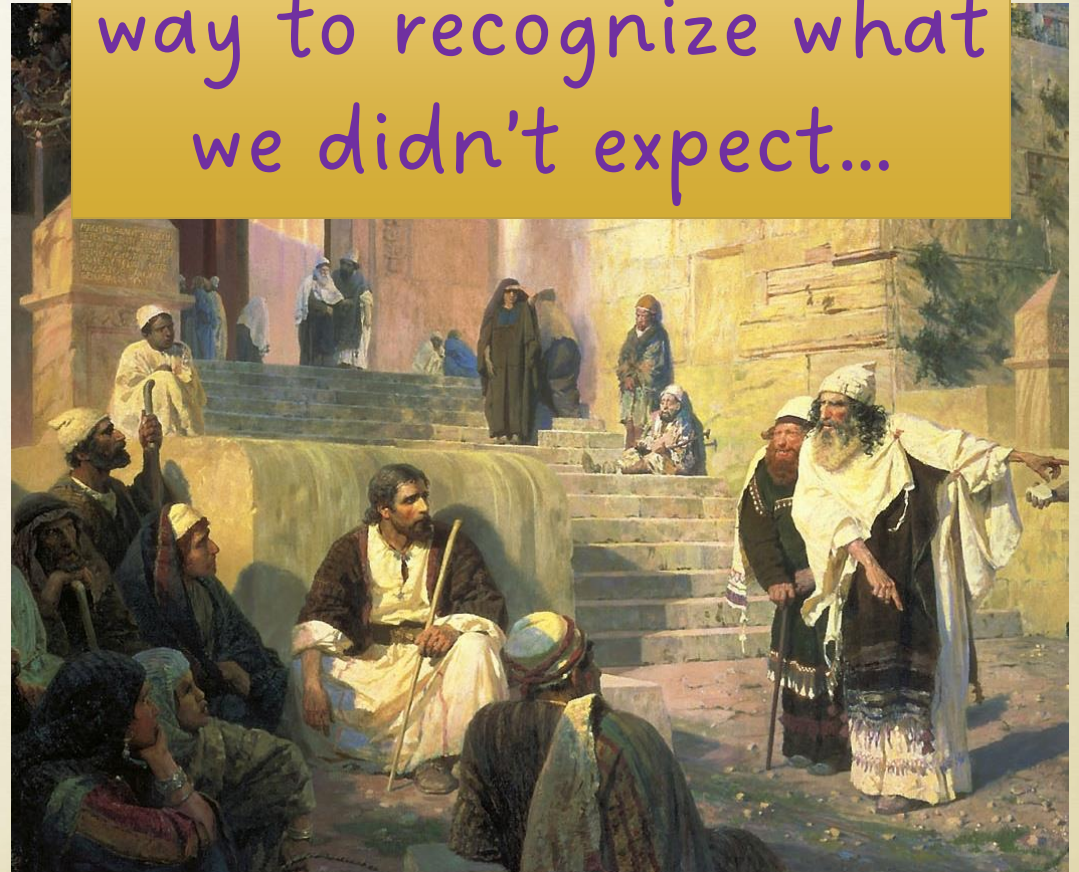
“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” – Matthew 24:42

- We have COMMUNION because of Jesus' command in Luke 22:19
- We BAPTIZE believers and we DISCIPLE THE NATIONS because of Jesus' command in Matthew 28:19.
- But do we KEEP WATCH and consider it as important as those other commands...?

# Watching is Essential

- The Pharisees misunderstood the prophecies and missed the Messiah.
- We can make the same mistake today.
- Based on the diversity of prophetic interpretations within the Church, many undoubtedly will...

Watching with humility is the only way to recognize what we didn't expect...



# Things Not Going As Expected

- Many openly acknowledge that they are surprised by the events they are witnessing.

What can be the answer, then?

- We must rethink our positions based on the events that have already taken place.



# But how can we still be here?

- Many who believe in a pretribulation rapture are already asking that same question!
- To answer that question, we may need to rethink our expectations about the timing of the rapture...

The Return of Jesus may be closer than  
it appears...



# The Tribulation is Here

A new perspective...

**The Decree Everyone Missed**

**2020 - 2027**



**WE MISSED IT!**



**TRIBULATION SIGNS**

**2020 - 2027**



**The LAST Jubilee**

**2027-  
2028**

# Seals = Birth Pains

## Parallel accounts in Matthew 24 & Revelation 6

- 1st Seal – White Horse riding out to conquer -- Deception and Antichrist Deceivers (Matt. 24:5)
- 2nd Seal – Red Horse, war -- Wars and Rumors (Matt. 24:6)
- 3rd Seal – Black Horse, inflation & famine -- Famines & Pestilences (Matt. 24:7) – All these are birth pains (Matt. 24:8)
- 4th Seal – Pale Horse, death from war, famine & pestilence – No one would survive those days (Matt. 24:22) – Death in birth pains
- 5th Seal – Christian martyrs -- Christian persecution (Matt. 24:9)
- 6th Seal – Heavenly Signs -- Signs in the Heavens (Matt. 24:29)



# Talking About the RAPTURE

- IS THERE REALLY A RAPTURE?
- WHAT IS IT? WHEN IS IT?
- WHO WILL GO? WHO WILL STAY?
- DOES ANYTHING NEED TO HAPPEN FIRST?
- WILL THERE BE MORE THAN ONE RAPTURE?
- As we ask and think about these questions, keep in mind that while some may be quite certain they know the answers, my point in discussing them is to reveal the reasons we need to keep an open mind...

We'll also cover some recent events that continue to give me confidence that the timeline I have presented is still viable.

# The Rapture in the Bible

- The English word, **rapture**, comes from Latin translation (*rapturo*) of the Greek word, **harpazo** (Strong's G726).
- **Harpazo** is used 14 times in the NT, but the idea of it meaning a "**rapture**" comes from 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

*Then we who are alive, who are left, will be suddenly **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.*



# The Gathering of the Elect

- The idea of a **rapture** should be understood as referring to sudden transformation of believers and their gathering to meet Jesus in the clouds...  
*whenever that happens.*

Listen, I tell you a mystery: **We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

– 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

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. 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. – Matthew 24:30-31

*According to the Lord's word... For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. – 1 Thessalonians 4:15a, 16-17*

# The Events of the Rapture

1. The sounding of a great trumpet / sounded or called by an angel
2. Suddenly caught up in the air / Gathered by angels
3. Meeting the Lord in the clouds, who has come down from Heaven
4. Suddenly changed

Matthew 24 & 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 MATCH.  
They DO NOT MATCH Jesus' Revelation 19 return...



I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. – Revelation 19:11-15

# Events of the Second Coming

1. Jesus returns with the armies of heaven riding on a white horse.
2. The armies are also on horses and wear fine linen, white and clean. (Both angels (Rev. 15:6) and saints (Rev. 19:8) are said to be dressed in fine linen.)
3. When He returns, the nations are struck down and judged in the winepress of God's wrath.
4. The nations are ruled with an iron scepter, which also includes the Church (Rev. 2:27).

# When Could We See the Rapture?

1. At the Sixth Seal
2. At the Seventh Trumpet
3. Somewhere between those two
4. During the Seven Bowls? – Seems highly unlikely

Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. – Revelation 15:7-8

# Gathering the Elect before the End

- That the elect must be gathered before Christ executes His full judgement is also seen in the words of Paul to the Corinthians...

But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; **then, when he comes, those who belong to him.** Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. – 1 Corinthians 15:23-24

- But there is still a lot of possible nuance there...

# The Doctrine of Imminence

- Is there really anything that needs to happen BEFORE the rapture?
- Some would say NO, citing "imminence" -- we should live as though the Lord could return at any moment, but...
- Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him...Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed... so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. – 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

# First Trumpet After the Rapture?

<sup>26</sup> And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so will it also be in the days of the Son of Man: <sup>27</sup> people were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, and they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, and they were building; <sup>29</sup> but on the day that Lot left Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. – Luke 17:26-30

The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. – Revelation 8:7

# A Seventh Trumpet Rapture?

- The phrase “at the last trump” could easily mean the seventh.
- It could even be the harvest of Revelation 14:14-16

I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

# A Post-Mid-Trib Rapture

- Hence, because there is more than one possible time that Jesus could gather the elect, I prefer not to try and pick the one I like the best, or which makes the most sense to me.
- Post-Mid-Trib means that the rapture must come in the second half of the tribulation, but I don't know exactly when.
- Furthermore, we must see the lawless one, some prominent horn, somehow set himself up against God, in God's temple, and declare himself to be God.

# More than one Rapture?

- Well... Israel had **THREE** harvest times.
  1. The feast of first fruits –  
The Barley Harvest
  2. The feast of weeks –  
The Wheat Harvest
  3. The feast of trumpets –  
The Fall Fruits Harvest  
(includes olives & grapes)



# Three Harvests

1. Feast of First Fruits – Barley – Fulfilled by Jesus

But each in his own order: **Christ the first fruits**, after that those who are Christ's at His coming. – 1 Corinthians 15:23

2. Feast of Weeks – Wheat – Main Rapture?
3. Feast of Trumpets – Fall Fruits Harvest – included Grapes and Olives. **Both fruits were crushed.** This **may only indicate wrath** (Rev. 14:19-20, 19:15, Luke 20:18) or as shown in Rev. 14:14-20, there may be a third and final harvest. *One for salvation (olive oil) and the other for wrath (grape juice/wine/blood)...?*

# Wedding Based Objections

- Jesus would not beat his bride before the wedding.
- Ans: This is a highly flawed argument that plays on emotion. How many martyrs were “beaten” and tortured to death prior to their reunion with their Lord in Heaven?
- The Jewish wedding tradition is seven days, that means we must be raptured seven years before the Second Coming.
- Ans: This is a poor assumption. It could just as easily mean that we will be raptured seven days or seven months before the Second Coming. It is just a tradition. It is not something revealed in Scripture.

# But didn't Noah enter the Ark seven days Before the Flood?

- Ans: This is a misreading of Scripture. Noah was told to get ready to enter the ark seven days beforehand, but they entered for good on the last day.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on this day all the fountains of the great deep split open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. Then the rain came upon the earth for forty days and forty nights. On this very day Noah and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark. –  
Genesis 7:11-13

# The Church of Philadelphia is kept from the hour of testing

- To the church of Philadelphia...

“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.” – Revelation 3:10-11

- This could mean many things. It gives us hope, but we are commanded to persevere until Jesus comes. The “hour of trial” is just as likely to refer to the time of the trumpets or bowls.

# All such objections are circumstantial and assumptive

- There really are many more arguments that could be listed here but they could all be answered by showing that none of them are truly definitive by themselves.
- Most pre-tribulation cases are built on presenting a stack of circumstantial evidence, none of which conclusively points to a single possible interpretation, and therefore cannot be used as conclusive proof.
- Consequently, it must be admitted to be just a theory, and if it is a position to held at all, it must be held loosely.



**Are we there yet?**

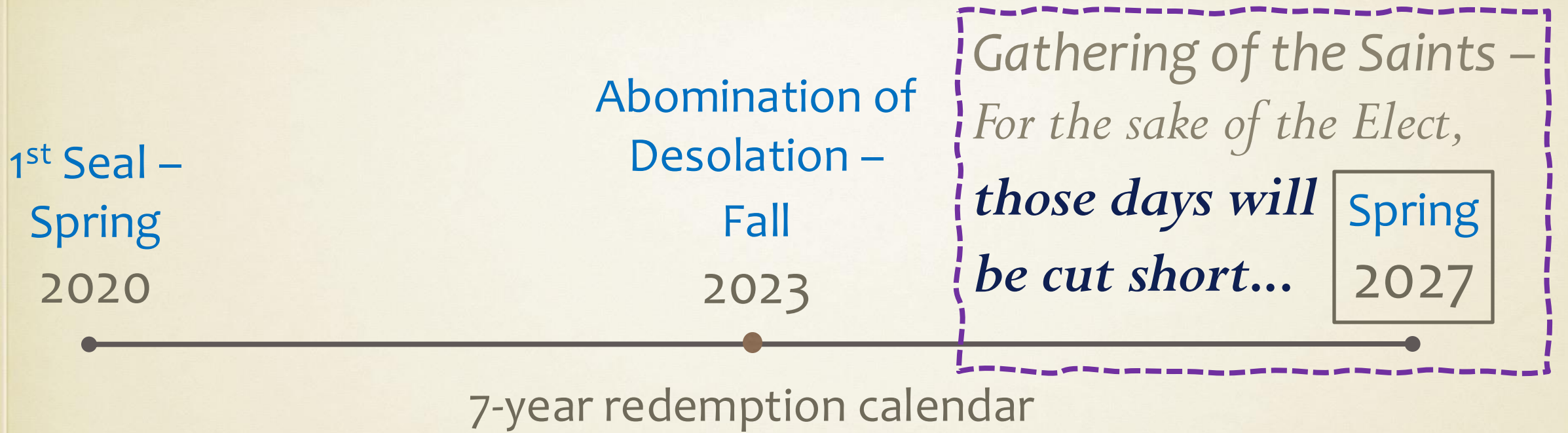
# How close could we be right now?

- Listen to the evidence that the last world empire is here and has begun to take power and that the final 42 months is already underway.



# Cutting the Days Short

- Another mystery is how could God have a defined timeline for the last days and yet also cut them short?
- The answer is found in the double timeline that I presented previously.





# The Ezekiel 38 War Has Begun

- Ezekiel 38 lists around ten nations that will attack Israel along with Gog in the Last Days: Magog, (Rosh), Meshek, Tubal, Persia, Put, Cush, Gomer, Beth Togarmah, and the uttermost parts of the north.
- The modern countries connected to those names that are right now showing themselves to be in opposition to Israel are: Turkey, Iran, Russia, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, and Yemen. (*China may also be included in "uttermost parts."*)
- Specifically opposing the invasion are The Merchants of Tarshish and Sheba and Dedan (The U.S. and Saudi Arabia?)

# Ezekiel 38 Coalition Surrounding Israel



# Being Drawn in with a Hook

- With Israel defeating their proxies, Iran, Russia, & Turkey are being drawn in.
- Bereft of Hamas & Hezbollah, the only option will be to invade Israel themselves.

I will turn you around, **put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army**—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. – Ezekiel 38:4




# 6000 years and Gog & Magog...

- Jewish tradition also affirms the end of the world will come at 6000 years.

**“The Talmud (Tractate Avodah Zarah 9a) states that the world will last 6,000 years. The Messiah must come at the end of the 6,000 years, even if mankind has not prepared itself. The current (2023/2024) Hebrew year is 5785.”**


- But Jewish scholars know their calendar is off by over 200 years...*(nor is the article's assertion sensible that Gog Magog will begin & end in a day.)*

 ISRAEL365NEWS


**Major Israeli Rabbi: Gog and Magog War Will Begin (and end) Wednesday Morning**

“O mortal, turn your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. Prophecy against him

EZEKIEL 38:2 (THE ISRAEL BIBLE)

 ADAM ELIYAHU BERKOWITZ BIBLICAL NEWS OCTOBER 22, 2024 | 5 MIN READ

Home » Major Israeli Rabbi: Gog and Magog War Will Begin (and end) Wednesday Morning



(Credit: Breaking Israel News)

# War Against the Saints

- If these are the last days, then we are also entering the time when the Beast will turn from Israel and wage war against Christians who hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.  
– Revelation 12:17



# Don't Forget to Resist the Dragon

- But what can I do?

1. **PRAY** – We need to remember that this is mostly a spiritual battle, and we must have God's help to fight it.
2. **Be in Fellowship with Other Believers** – We will need each other.
3. **VOTE** – Choose the candidate that best supports Godly principles, even if they aren't perfect (*none of them are*).
4. **Participate in Local Government and Talk to Your Governing Officials** – Your best influence is right at home where you live.
5. **BE WISE, BE PREPARED** – The beast system will be against you.

# A Great Harvest Before the End?

- Numerous passages prophesy a great harvest at the end of the age.

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. – Luke 10:2

In the last days, God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy." – Acts 2:17-18

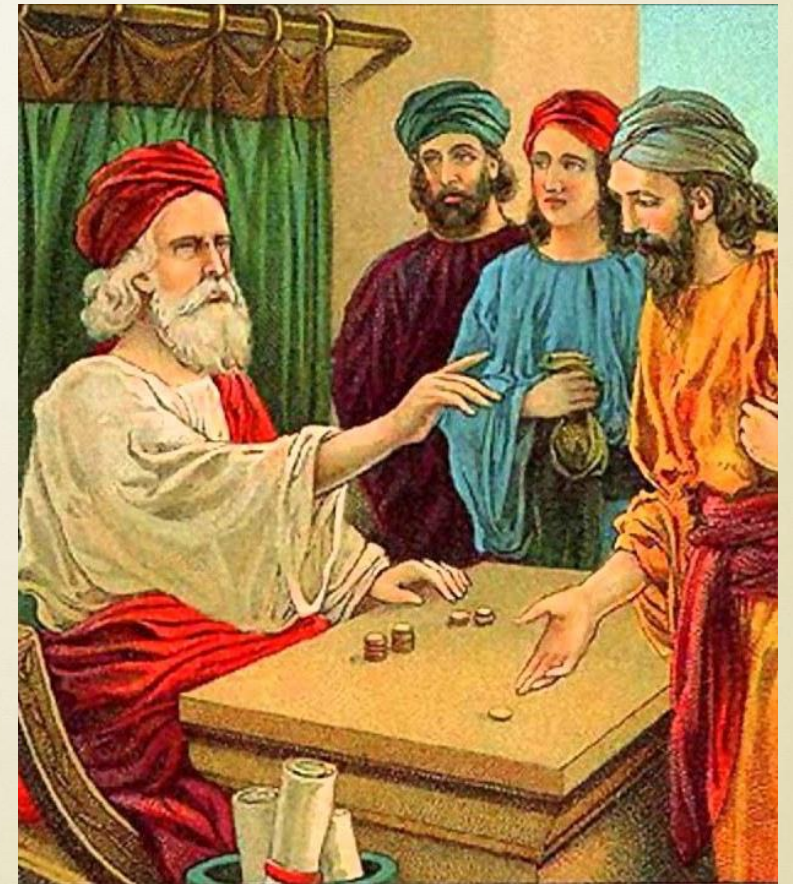
# Servants Hired at the Last Hour

- The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)
- Workers are hired first thing in the morning and all throughout the day. The last ones hired worked only one hour.
- When night comes and the work is complete, they are all paid one denarius.

So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' – Matthew 20:10-12

# God Will Complete the Work, but we have work to do, too...

- Parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30). Three servants with three levels of gifting: 5, 2, and 1 talent.
- The servants with 5 and 2 talents used them to make more talents, but the servant with 1 talent buries it in the ground.
- When the master returns, the 1-talent man gives it back to him.



Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' – Matthew 25:24-30

# Not Using Our Talents is connected with the Harvest...

- We see both God's election and our responsibility
- God will surely reap (save people) where no seed was sown (places missionaries did not reach).
- But God has given each of us work to do and a part to play in that harvest.
- We don't have to be perfect, but we must do SOMETHING.
- The wicked and lazy servant completely ignored his duty.

# Glorifying God in the West

- Isaiah 24 – Context: Judgment in the Last Days

They raise their voices, they shout for joy; **from the west they acclaim the LORD's majesty.** Therefore in the east give glory to the LORD; **exalt the name of the LORD, the God of Israel, in the islands of the sea.** From the ends of the earth we hear singing: "Glory to the Righteous One." – Isaiah 24:14-16

# Importance of Supporting Israel

- Pray that your nation acknowledges God and protects Israel...

Pour out your wrath on the nations that do not acknowledge you, on the peoples who do not call on your name. For they have devoured Jacob; they have devoured him completely and destroyed his homeland. – Jeremiah 10:25

# Left Behind or Post-Trib Rapture?

- Another important concept to remember: **Saints will be present during the Tribulation** (Revelation 9:4, 13:7-10, 14:12, 17:6, 20:4).

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. **And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

– Revelation 20:4

- **Who are they?** No matter the answer, they are brothers and sisters in Christ, and ultimately a part of the Church. **This tells us that even in the tribulation there is hope.**

# Separating Sheep from Goats

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. – Matthew 25:31-33

- This is the collection of the survivors from the Great Tribulation, and they will be separated into two camps.



# Two Groups – Eternal Consequences

- Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' – Matthew 25:34-36
- Then, to the other group on his left who did NONE of those things, he will say, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.' (*The full account is found in Matthew 25:41-46*)

# Who Are the Sheep?

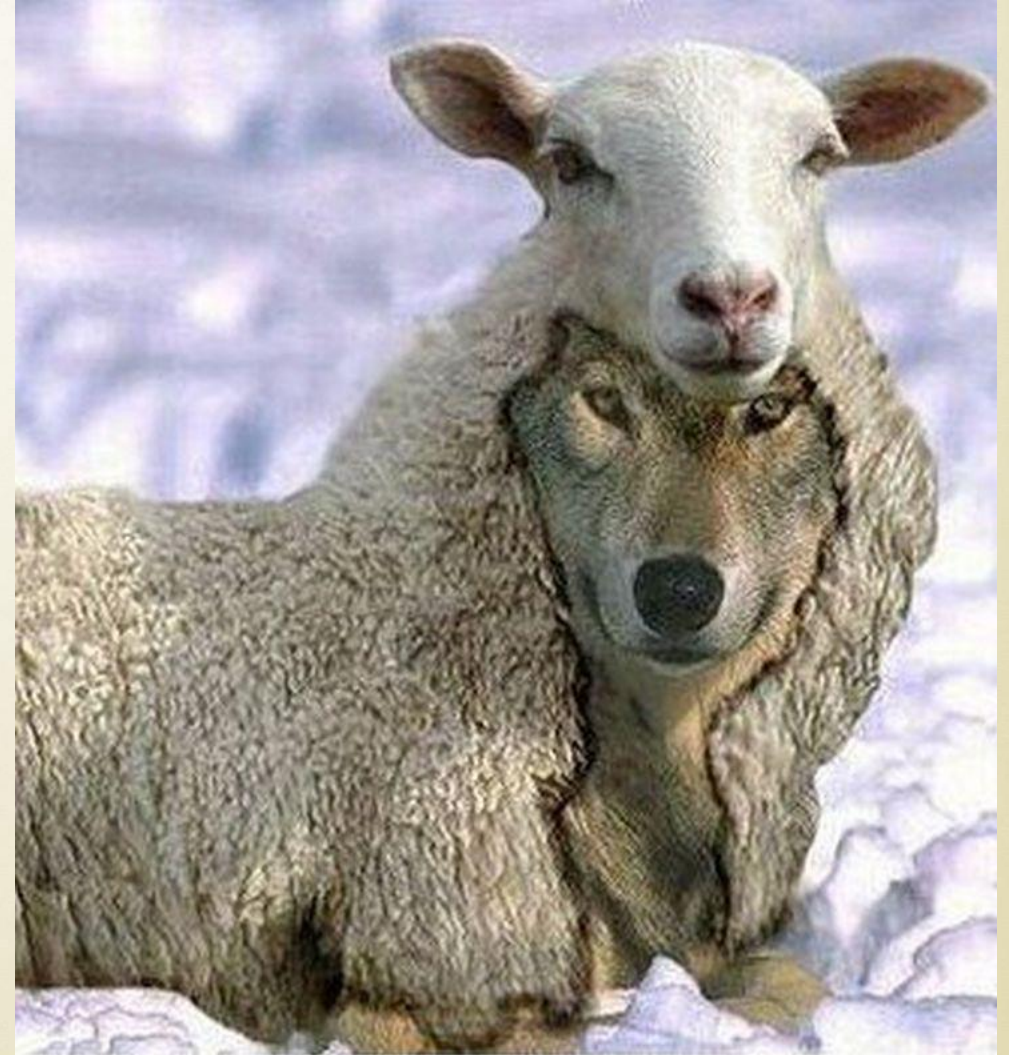
- Seems illogical to assign them as followers of Jesus.
- They are people who lived through the Tribulation, who refused the mark of the beast, and showed some care for Jesus' people (presumably, Jews and followers of Jesus) and afterwards they will live in the Millennium.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" – Matthew 25:40

"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me...And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward." – Matthew 10:40,42

# Who Are the Goats?

- People who lived through the Tribulation but neglected Jesus' people (i.e., Jews and followers of Jesus) during that time.
- Survived the Tribulation but still deserve God's wrath and punishment.
- Its unclear if they refused the mark of the beast or not.
- But they will not enter the Millennial kingdom of Christ.



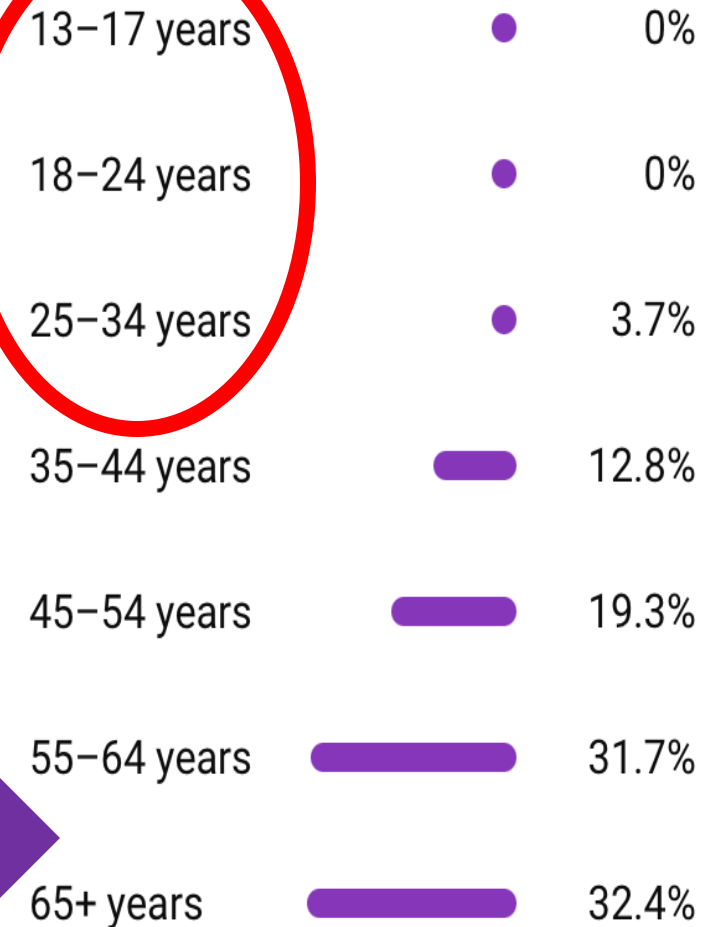
# Don't Be a Goat

1. Neglected Jesus' people—ones that really needed help
2. Gave NOTHING to eat to those who were hungry
3. Gave NOTHING to drink to those who were thirsty
4. Did not invite in strangers for shelter & comfort
5. Did not clothe the needy
6. Did not care for the sick
7. Did not visit those in prison

It's a good list for believers in Jesus to think about, too.

# A Generational Problem?

- Of all the wise virgins who seem to be ready and watching for the Bridegroom, with their wicks trimmed and extra oil for their lamps, most are over 55 years old.
- 83.4% of my viewers are over 45 years old.



# Reaching those under 30

- No easy answers here, but the need is great...
- Called Gen Z – Those born after 1996 (*the year I graduated from college*) and before 2013.
- They are our children and grandchildren (for 83% of those watching).
- Pray the Lord will help us get them ready (Luke 1:17).

It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, **TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN**, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as **to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**

# A Message of Hope

- We need to remind young and old alike that we aren't excited about destruction and judgement. We are looking forward to the remodeling of the Earth and change of global government.
- Our present age has stage 4 terminal cancer and the only cure is Jesus. We are living in a condemned building.
- We aren't losing anything—we are gaining everything.
- We have the blessing to see how broken things really were before God ordained this time to finally make things right.



Are we mourning the loss  
of this present age?



Maybe that's because we are mainly thinking about this part of God's remodeling project for the world...

Shouldn't we be thinking  
about it like this?

Our Present World



The World That is Coming




# Jesus is coming soon

- Watch my video about getting ready for Jesus, our bridegroom...

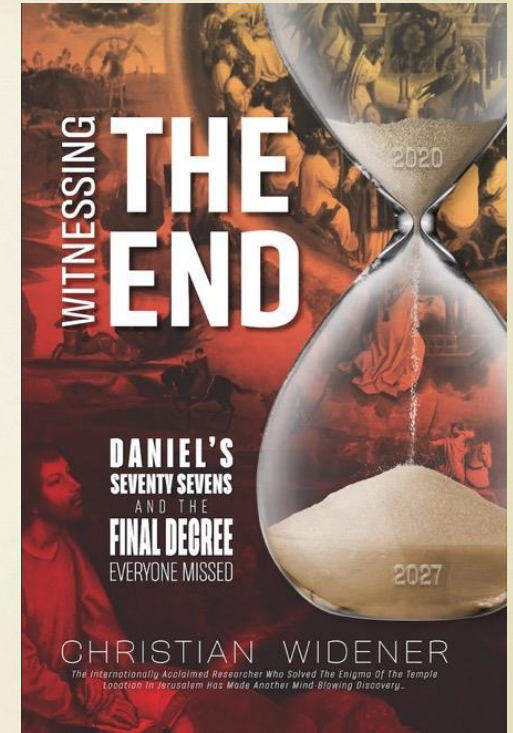
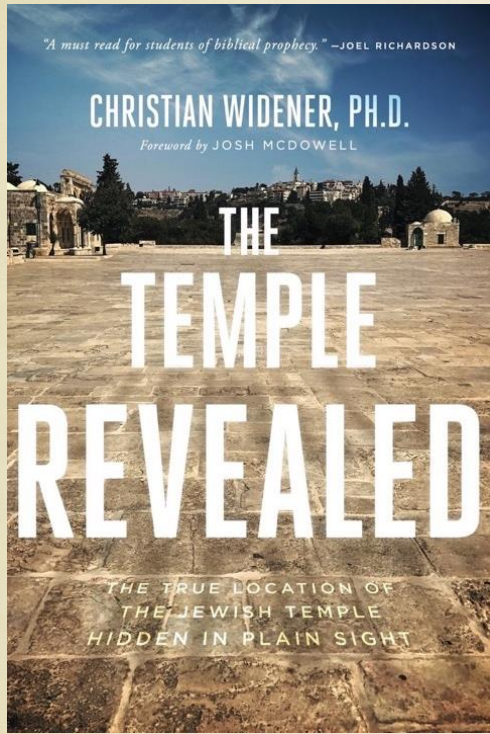
## ARE YOU READY FOR JESUS?



**YouTube and Rumble:** End Times Berean Channel:  
Coming Soon! Are You Ready for Jesus to Return?



**May We Be Found Ready  
When He comes  
– Luke 12:38)**



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