

FOREWORD

Growing up the son of a pastor created many wonderful opportunities. Along with hearing many messages, I was able to see the church as a wonderful expression of Jesus Christ. I heard my father teach and was infected by my father's love for God's Word. You cannot hear my father teach without seeing his passion to put the whole story of God's Word together. I was able to see the beginning of the creation story all the way to redemption and then to its final fulfillment in the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ.

As a young child, I was not sure I wanted Jesus to return before I experienced all of life. But in time I realized the return of Christ really means there would be no more hatred or war, no more souls tortured by addiction or battered children, injustice is eliminated, the cruelty of people destroyed, no more cancer, disease or death, ambulances or hospitals, no more poverty, greed or corruption. Everyone is loved and experiences the thrill of being loved by their heavenly Father. It is when the lion and the lamb lie down together. Death is destroyed. All creation is again filled with singing. I want that to happen today. I want heaven to come to earth. The beauty of God's creation restored. The prayer Jesus taught us to pray, *"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven, will be fulfilled."*

In this book, you will see my father's passion for people to know God's Word and to know it well. You will see the hand of God from the beginning of time and where it is headed. When you know where you are going, you know how to live today. My dad is a life-long learner. He has an inquisitive mind, always asking questions. He has passion to know God and His Word. He never stops studying. He has a fascinating, brilliant mind which you will experience in this book. As a result, this is my father's greatest legacy. I love God's Word. It is truth to live by.

Kenton Beshore



“Doc” with Kenton, senior Pastor of Mariners Church

Mariners Church is one of America’s 25 largest churches. It is located in Orange County, California, on a 50 acre campus, and was designated one of the 25 most influential churches in America by Outreach Magazine. The church campus is located at 5001 Newport Coast Dr. in Irvine, California. To contact Mariners Church, call 949.854.7600 or visit the web site – www.marinerschurch.org.

Kenton has been the senior pastor for 25 years. During that time the church has grown from 200 to over 15,000. Mariners Church has many Outreach Ministries that serve those in need both locally and globally. In addition to over 20 different Outreach Ministries, Mariners has sent out over 35 missionaries to make disciples in 10 countries. They also support 5 homes for orphans and abused girls in Mexico and Peru. In addition, Mariners has helped plant 12 sister churches in Southern California

PREFACE

Why write this book? Why is another book on prophecy important? Why should you read this book? Here are some reasons why this book needed to be written, and why it is important for all Christians to read it:

We are rapidly moving toward a **New World Order**. The current economic crisis will pave the way for the creation of a **world economic system** that the **Antichrist** will take control of, and eventually force everyone to take his “**mark**” to be able to buy or sell:

*And it was given unto him to give breath to it, even to the image to the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as should **not worship the image of the beast should be killed**. And **he causeth all**, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, that there **be given them a mark on their right hand, or upon their forehead**; and that no man should be able to **buy or to sell**, save he that hath the **mark**, even the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the **number of the beast**; for it is the number of a man: and his number is **Six hundred and sixty and six**. (Revelation 13.15-18, emphasis added, R.K.)*

We can use the movement to create a “**New World Order**” and the **mark of the beast technology** to alert the unsaved as to the reliability of the Bible, and warn them to **not take the “mark”** if they do not trust Jesus Christ to save them.

When the dramatic prophecies of the **destruction of Russia**; the rebuilding of the **Jewish Temple**; the rebuilding of the ancient **city of Babylon**; and the formation of a **world government, world economic system and world church** are fulfilled, we will have a great opportunity to share the gospel. We should be prepared to share the gospel at all times in a clear and concise manner, today and tomorrow:

But sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear. (1 Peter 3.15)

As we **see prophecies fulfilled**, our confidence that the **Lord will return in our lifetime** will grow stronger:

Even so ye also, when ye see all these things, know ye that he is nigh, even at the doors. (Matthew 24.33)

There is a **special reward** for those who “**look**” for the **Christ’s return**:

*Henceforth there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have **loved his appearing**. (2 Timothy 4.8)*

Watching for the return of our Lord purifies us:

*Beloved, now are we children of God, and it is not yet made manifest what we shall be. We know that, if he shall be manifested, we shall be like him; for we shall see him even as he is. And every one that hath this hope set on him **purifieth himself**, even as he is pure. (1 John 3.2-3)*

We are **commanded to resist evil and expose their evil deeds**, including the coming **New World Order**:

*Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour, whom **withstand steadfast** in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are accomplished in your brethren who are in the world. (1 Peter 5.8-9)*

*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even **reprove them**; for the things which are done by them in secret it is a shame even to speak of. But all things when they are **reproved** are made manifest by the light: for everything that is made manifest is light. (Ephesians 5.11-13)*

*Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to **stand against the wiles of the devil**. (Ephesians 6.11)*

*He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous;
Peoples shall curse him, nations shall abhor him:
But to them that **rebuke** him shall be delight,
And a good blessing shall come upon them. (Proverbs 24.24-25)*

*They that forsake the law praise the wicked;
But such as **keep the law contend** with them. (Proverbs 28.4)*

*For consider him that hath endured such gainsaying of sinners against himself, that ye wax not weary, fainting in your souls. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, **striving against sin**. (Hebrews 12.3-4)*

*As a troubled fountain, and a corrupted spring,
So is a righteous man that **giveth way before the wicked**. (Proverbs 25.26)
(Emphasis mine)*

Remember the Golden Rule of Interpretation as you study the Bible and this book, “When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate content, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicates clearly otherwise.”

INTRODUCTION

All students of Bible prophecy understand that there will be many *warning signs* prior to the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation. Jesus commanded us to “*watch*” for His return (Matthew 24.42-44; 25.13; Mark 13.33-37; Luke 12.40). The only way to do this is to “*watch*” the prophecies (*warning signs*) that will be fulfilled before the Rapture/Tribulation. As we see more prophecies fulfilled before the Tribulation starts (Appendix A) we will know the Rapture is drawing that much nearer.

When Jesus made His startling prophecy that the Temple would be destroyed Peter, James, John and Andrew approached to question Him privately (Mark 13.3-4). They asked the all-important question that every student of Bible prophecy desires to know the answer to, “*And as he sat on the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when these things are all about to be accomplished?*”

They asked three specific questions:

1. When will the Temple be destroyed?
2. What will the *sign* be of its destruction?
3. What will the *sign* be of the return of Jesus and the end of the age?

The disciples asked the **When** and the **What**. The **What** are the *warning signs* of the Tribulation, and the **When** is the start of the Tribulation. Since the Rapture takes place before the Tribulation all prophecies that have been fulfilled alert us to the nearness of the Rapture. Two primary examples are the establishment of the nation of Israel in 1948 and the retaking of Jerusalem in 1967.

Ever since the Disciples asked the Lord that all important question, “*When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*” (Matthew 24.3), Bible students have tried to determine **when** the Lord will return to Rapture His bride. Unfortunately, many have stumbled over the doctrine of *imminence*. In their search for **When** they have spent much time in futility as did Ponce de Leon in his search for the fountain of youth which he discovered did not exist. They, like him, have been led astray by a word that does appear in the Bible or a doctrine that is not taught anywhere in sacred Scripture. As long as they keep looking for that elusive fountain of youth of *imminence* they will never be able to know **When**, because they do not know the answer to **What**. And so, until the answer to **What** is discovered we will never know **When**.

This book answers the **When**, but before one can know the **When**, one must first know the **What** (the *warning signs* of the approaching Tribulation).

Dr. Timothy LaHaye, co-author of the *Left Behind* series, believes that all Christians must be prepared for the greatest opportunity for worldwide evangelism of the last 2000 years. In his book, *The Beginning of the End*, he said the greatest *sign* that will produce a ripe crop of souls for harvesting is the destruction of Russia and its allies when they attack Israel:

If the magnifying and sanctifying of the Lord, as indicated in Ezekiel 38:16, 23 and 39:7, 13, 22 does indeed mean a short period of time when men call upon the Lord as a result of his miraculous preservation of Israel, then we should work diligently to prepare for it. Since we can expect the period to be brief, we should begin now to train ourselves and find positions of service where we can reach a maximum number of people with the gospel (p. 84).

The invasion of Israel by Russia is a *super-sign*. After the Russian-led forces are defeated, the world will see their defeat was a divine judgment. People all over the world will be receptive to the gospel, and we must be prepared to share the gospel in a clear, concise and loving manner. (Christians should always be prepared to share the gospel – 1 Peter 3.15.)

In their 1999 book, *Are We Living in the End Times?*, Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins emphasized the importance of *signs*:

We are surrounded by so **many obvious signs** that one would have to be blind not to see them – yet some fail to recognize them even when they are called to their attention. So **many signs exist today** that you could write a book about them. In fact, I [LaHaye] did, *The Beginning of the End*, first published in 1972 and then again in 1991. Many changes in the twenty-seven years since that book's first publication have only brought further confirmation that we are indeed living in "the **times of the signs**." Never in history have so **many legitimate signs** of Christ's return existed (pp. 26-27, emphasis mine).

There are so many *warning signs* of the approaching Tribulation that we must be living in "the times of the signs." Numerous *warning signs* have already been given to us, with many more to follow. God gave Noah and the people of his day 120 years of warning (Genesis 6.3); Lot and his family were given a warning; the Egyptians were given 10 *warning signs* (Exodus 5.1-12.36); a 40-day warning was given to Nineveh (Jonah 3.4); and Jesus gave the nation of Israel a warning 37 years before her destruction (Matthew 24.1-2).

God warns His people before judgment falls, and saves those who are obedient. He will do this before the start of the Tribulation with specific *signs*, and then save them by snatching them off the planet (the Rapture).

Surely the Lord Jehovah will do nothing, except he reveal his secret unto his servants the prophets. (Amos 3.7)

Jesus also gave a promise to all of His disciples in the disciples' prayer and in the letter to the church of Philadelphia:

And bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one (Matthew 6.13)

Because thou didst keep the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of trial, that hour which is to come upon the whole world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. (Revelation 3.10)

Jesus taught all Christians to pray (Matthew 6.13) that they not be brought into temptation (*peirasmos*). In His revelation He promises to keep His disciples from the hour of trial (*peirasmos*). The "temptation" of the prayer is the "trial" of the

Tribulation (Revelation 3.10). Jesus answered that prayer, “*I will keep thee from the hour of trial.*”

This book is written from a Pre-Tribulation Rapture perspective. We quote men of various denominations who are considered to be knowledgeable in eschatology. While we do not necessarily agree with their eschatology or other doctrines, or necessarily endorse them or their ministries, we quote them to show what some of the most notable prophecy preachers teach.

This book is written for all Christians, but especially for students of prophecy who want to know exactly what the Bible teaches about the Rapture and the Tribulation. Do not accept what we write or what anyone else writes as fact. Instead, examine the Scriptures daily to see whether or not that which is written by prophecy teachers is true:

Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so. (Acts 17:11)

We all need to study Bible prophecy carefully, using the Bible as our map. See for yourself if the claims in this book are based on Scripture. We urge you, as Paul urged Timothy:

Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2.15)

As you study the Bible and this book remember the “Golden Rule of Interpretation”:

When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate content, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.