



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting **every man** perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28 Volume 38
Issue 948-950

Things I Misunderstood

Part 5

7 Things I Misunderstood about Prophecy

An Exposé of Evangelical Prophetic Interpretation

Personal Reflections by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

**What about the end times?
What about the end of the world?**

**What about the last days?
What about the rapture?**

Are any of these near?

Appendix

A Brief Survey of Evangelical Prophetic Prognosticators of the Last Half of the 20th Century

“All time predictions in this Administration of the Secret have proven futile and false in the past, and will continue to be so in the future. Let us beware of them!” — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), *Unsearchable Riches*, volume 45, number 5 (September 1954)

As an adolescent and young teenager, I was greatly enamored and influenced by the sensational, Evangelical prophetic prognosticators. Every respected teacher from my youth taught Christ's *soon* coming. Seemingly everywhere I turned in my “Christian world” I heard that Christ was “at the door” and that the “Rapture” was imminent. The repeated phrase, “Perhaps Today!” was even a popular lapel pin worn on men's suits and ties.

These teachers connected elaborate dating systems, Jewish feast days, and current world events to warn of “end times.” They had quite a captivating impact on me. Perhaps none more so than Jack Van Impe.

Jack Van Impe (1931-2020)

Jack Van Impe was a graduate of Detroit Bible Institute (1952), a student at Bob Jones University, and an ordained Independent Baptist minister.

Termed the “Walking Bible,” for (continued on page 8003)



Popular “Perhaps Today” Lapel Pin

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unpropheesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection and ascended seated position among the celestials (Romans 6; Ephesians 2:6);
- adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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having memorized about two-thirds of the Bible,¹ he was widely known as host of the weekly, national television show *Jack Van Impe Presents*, a current events and prophecy commentary.

He began his ministry holding evangelistic crusades, first with Billy Graham and Youth for Christ, and then independently, for 12 years conducting 260 city-wide crusades and 800 week-long church crusades.²

In the early 1970s he conducted a citywide crusade at the Peninsula War Memorial Stadium in Hampton, Virginia. Our family attended every session.

I was quite mesmerized by his sensationalism and bold prophetic predictions. At his crusade, my parents bought me several of his sermons on LPs (long play albums). These messages contained numerous doomsday predictions. In his LP entitled *Marked for Death*, released in 1969, he predicted that in 1976 the Communist flag would fly atop Independence Hall in Philadelphia.



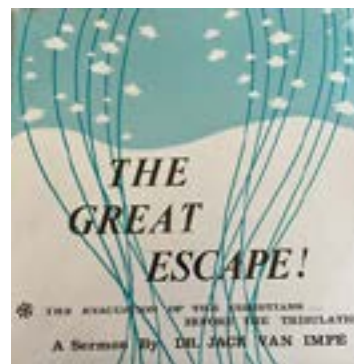
Marked for Death: Can America Survive? (1969)
by Jack Van Impe (LP)

His message of hope for all of the coming calamities was what he called “The Great Escape!” (i.e., the “rapture”). This was the name of his 1969 LP, and then later of his 1999 book.

The subtitle of his book tells the story of Evangelical prophetic understanding: “*Preparing for the Rapture, the Next Event on God’s Prophetic Clock.*” Not only was “the Rapture” supposed to be the “next event,” but it needed to be prepared for in 1969 (when his LP was released) – and three decades later – in 1999 (when his book was issued).

1. Roger Campbell, *They Call Him the Walking Bible*, Action Press (1977).

2. Obituary published in *The Detroit News*, January 27, 2020.

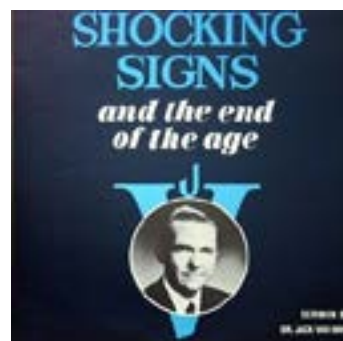


The Great Escape: The Evacuation of the Christians Before the Tribulation (1969)



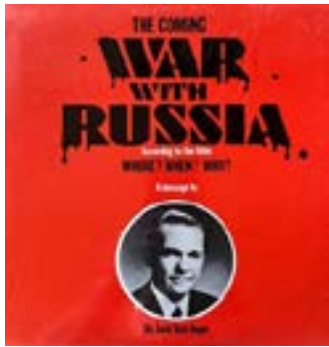
The Great Escape (1999)
by Jack Van Impe (Thomas Nelson)

Other LPs that I obtained at his crusade were: *Shocking Signs and the End of the Age*, *The Coming War with Russia*, *Signs of the Times*, *Ten Middle East Prophecies and Christ’s Return*, and *America in Prophecy*.



Shocking Signs and the End of the Age (1970)
by Jack Van Impe (LP)

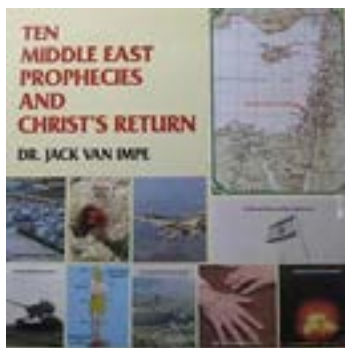
“Shocking Signs” is the sensational marquee of Evangelical prophetic theatrics. These supposed “signs” of the “end of the age” are now over a half-century old. All of this is simply *much ado about nothing*. What a shameful distraction to that which is important during the present Secret Administration.



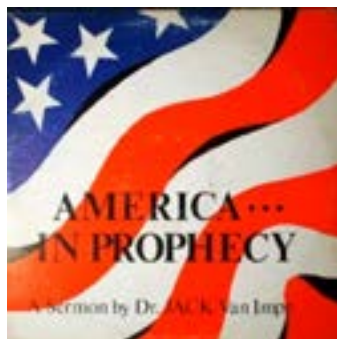
The Coming War with Russia (1970)
by Jack Van Impe (LP)



Signs of the Times (1972)
by Jack Van Impe (LP)



Ten Middle East Prophecies and Christ's Return (1973)
by Jack Van Impe (LP)



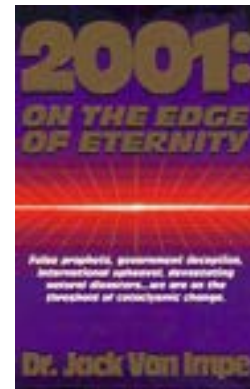
America in Prophecy (1973)
by Jack Van Impe (LP)

God's Word is beginning to unfold before our eyes. Judgment is about to fall for all of the "rottenness" that runs rampant in our beloved land. If it does not commence in 1976, I have no doubt that unbelievable calamities will occur before 1980. It could easily be the predicted Tribulation hour (p. 37).



What in the World Is Happening? (1976)
by Jack Van Impe

Later "in the 1990s, Van Impe predicted that Jesus would return to Earth between 2001 and 2012, according to the evangelical magazine *Christianity Today*."³



2001: On the Edge of Eternity (1996)
by Jack Van Impe (Word Publishing)



Jack Van Impe Prophecy Bible (1999)

Then, in his 1976 book *What in the World Is Happening?* He wrote,

3. Elizabeth Dias, *New York Times*, Obituary, January 22, 2020.

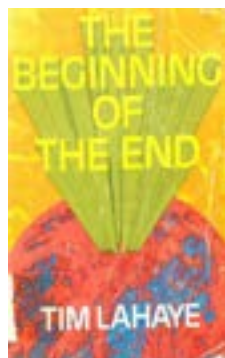
Tim LaHaye (1926-2016)

One of the most commercially successful prophetic marketers was Tim LaHaye. So much so that he became a multimillion-dollar benefactor of Jerry Falwell's Liberty University.⁴

Tim LaHaye held degrees from Bob Jones University (B.A.), Western Seminary (D.Min.), and Liberty University (D.Litt). He pastored Baptist churches in SC, MN and CA, and founded many institutions, including the American Coalition for Traditional Values, the Coalition for Religious Freedom, the Pre-Tribulation Research Center, the LaHaye School of Prophecy at Liberty University, and Christian Heritage College, now known as San Diego Christian College.

He assisted Henry M. Morris in establishing the Institute for Creation Research, and served on the board of directors of Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority. He was co-host of the prophecy television program *The King Is Coming*.

He was named one of *Time Magazine's* 25 most influential evangelicals in America,⁵ and in 2001 he was named the *Evangelical Studies Bulletin's* most influential Christian leader of the preceding quarter century.⁶



The Beginning of the End (1972)
by Tim LaHaye (Tyndale Publishers)

LaHaye began in earnest his written prophetic prognostication in 1972 with his book *The Beginning of the End*. He declared that the “generation” who heard

4. “Tim LaHaye Makes School Donation” (4.5 million), *Associated Press*, May 18, 2001; *Liberty Journal*, Winter/Spring 2018.
5. *Time Magazine*, Thomas Alleman, February 3, 2005.
6. “Who is Tim LaHaye?” Tom Sine, *Sojourners*, September–October 2001.

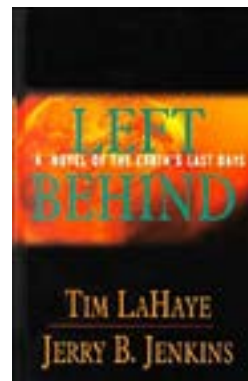
the Austrian Declaration of World War I in 1914 would not pass away before Christ's Second Coming.

Citing Matthew 24:7 – “*kingdom against kingdom ... famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes,*” he wrote,

I believe there is one event that fulfills all four parts of this prophecy. That terrible event has been labeled by historians as World War I ... (pages 35-36).

The Austrian declaration of war in July 1914 began to fulfill THE SIGN of the end of the age as given by our Lord. ... I am convinced that the events of 1914-1918 fulfill the beginning of Jesus' prophecy. World War I was unique among conflicts, not only in size and extent, but in the way it started ... it is reasonable to conclude that 1914 ushered in the beginning of the end (pages 38-39).

We now recognize this strategic generation. It is the generation ... who saw the First World War ... I believe it is that generation which our Lord said “*will not pass away till all those things be fulfilled.*” ... Just one person who comprehended the four parts of 1914-1918 sign could represent the “*generation*” (pages 165, 168).

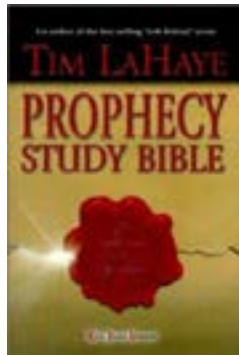


Left Behind (1995)
by Tim LaHaye (Tyndale Publishers)

“Left behind” terminology is taken from a serious misinterpretation of Matthew 24:39-42 and Luke 17:34-37, where Christ spoke of “*one shall be taken, and the other left.*” While this may make great rhetoric, it distorts the intended teaching of the passage.

In the context the ones “taken” are taken in judgment, just like the example of Noah's day that our Lord pro-

vided, when “the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:39). The hope here is to be *left behind*! For when Jesus was asked where the ones taken “away” were going to be taken to, He answered, “*wherever the body is, there the vultures also will be assembled*” (Luke 17:37, CV). So, the ones taken away, are taken to be a feast for vultures.



Tim LaHaye Prophecy Bible (1999)
(AMG Publishers)

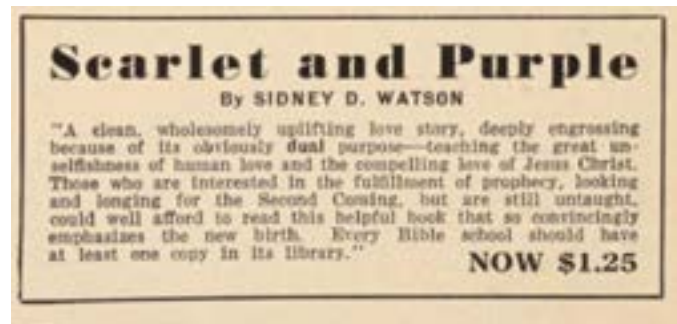
The Washington Post called LaHaye “a veteran evangelical doomsayer.”⁷ He was best known for his multimedia *Left Behind* franchise, which includes adult and children’s novels, comic books, full-length movies, audio dramas, musical CD soundtracks, and PC games.⁸

By the time of his death, the *Left Behind* books series alone had sold over 65 million copies.⁹ Seven titles reached number 1 on the bestseller list of *The New York Times*. Concerning the first book of the series, Jerry Falwell stated,

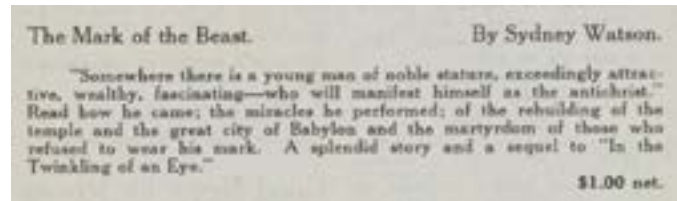
In terms of its impact on Christianity, it’s probably greater than that of any other book in modern times, outside the Bible.¹⁰

Of course, “left behind” prophetic novels were nothing new, having been around for over 100 years.¹¹ Some earlier examples are:

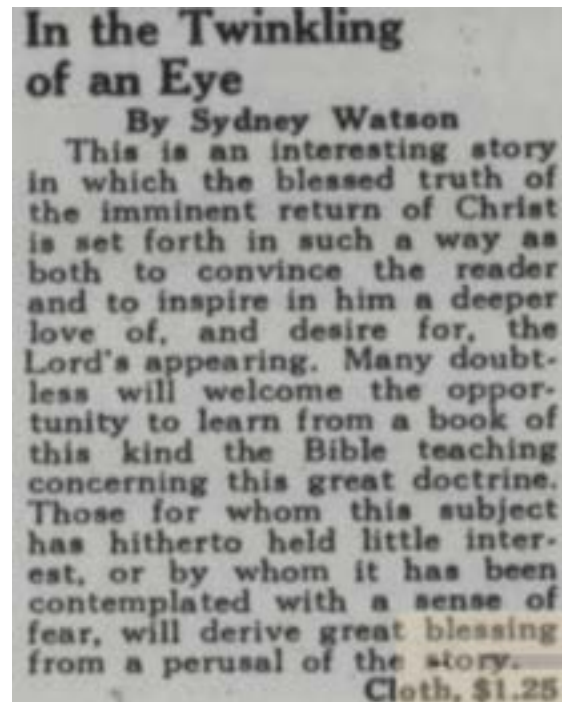
7. “Left Behind,” Douglas E. Winter, *the Washington Post*, September 12, 1999.
8. *Left Behind* book series (16 titles), *Left Behind: The Kids* book series (40 titles), *Left Behind* comic book series (2 titles), *Left Behind* movie series (4 films), *Prequel* book series (3 titles), *Babylon Rising* book series (4 titles), *The End* book series (4 titles).
9. *The New York Times*, Robert McFadden, July 25, 2016.
10. *Time Magazine*, Thomas Alleman, February 3, 2005.
11. *Rapture Culture: Left Behind in Evangelical America*, Amy Johnson Frykholm, Oxford, NY: Oxford University Press, 2004, 205–207.



Scarlet and Purple
by Sydney Watson
(W. Nicholson and Sons, 1910;
Bible Institute of Los Angeles, 1921)¹²



The Mark of the Beast
by Sydney Watson
W. Nicholson & Sons (1911); Bible Institute of Los Angeles
(1918); Fleming H. Revell (1933)¹³

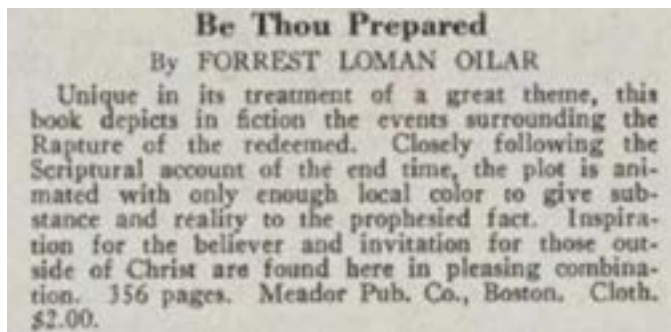


In the Twinkling of an Eye
by Sydney Watson
Fleming H. Revell (1916); Bible Institute of Los Angeles
(1918)¹⁴

12. Ad taken from *The King's Business*, The Bible Institute of Los Angeles, December 1934, page 43.
13. Ad taken from *The King's Business*, The Bible Institute of Los Angeles, April 1919, page 99.
14. Ad taken from *The King's Business*, The Bible Institute of Los Angeles, December 1934, page 43.



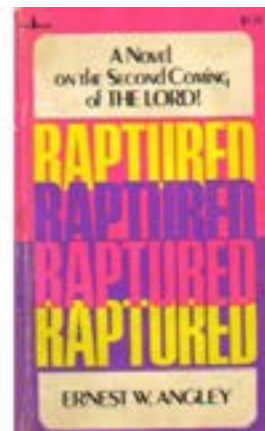
Sydney Watson's 3-book trilogy advertisement¹⁵



Be Thou Prepared
 by Forrest Loman Oilar
 Meador Publishing (1937)¹⁶



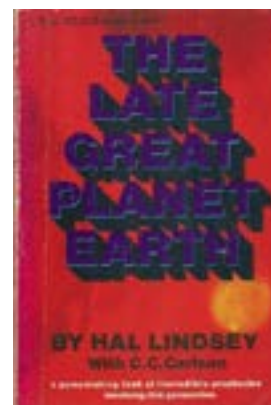
They That Remain
 by Dayton A. Manker
 Zondervan (1941); Sunshine Book and Bible House (1946)



Raptured: A Novel on the Second Coming
 by Ernest Angley
 Winston Press (1950)



666
 by Salem Kirban
 Tyndale House (1970)



The Late Great Planet Earth (1970)
 by Hal Lindsey (Zondervan)

Hal Lindsey (1929-)

Long before LaHaye's *Left Behind* series, Hal Lindsey's *The Late Great Planet Earth* (1970) was the best-

geles, November 1926, page 64.
 15. Ad taken from *The King's Business*, The Bible Institute of Los Angeles, December 1934, page 2.
 16. Ad taken from *The King's Business*, The Bible Institute of Los Angeles, July 1937, page 274.

selling nonfiction book of the 1970s,¹⁷ and sold an estimated 35 million by 1999, being translated into more than 50 languages.¹⁸ A 1977 movie version, narrated by Orson Welles, ran in theaters nationwide and was later broadcast on HBO.¹⁹ One critic cited Lindsey as “the most widely read interpreter of prophecy in history.”²⁰ Lindsey admitted that, “the future’ is big business.”²¹

Lindsey, a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary (MTh) and California Graduate School of Theology (DTh), hosted the television broadcasts *International Intelligence Briefing* and *The Hal Lindsey Report*, emphasizing prophecy and current events. On the back cover of his 1995 book, *The Final Battle* he is described as “The Father of the Modern-Day Bible Prophecy Movement.”²²

Hal Lindsey had at least 17 prophecy titles published before the turn of the century, with multiple editions and printings.²³ Most were rewrites, modified to fit changing world affairs.²⁴

In *The Late Great Planet Earth* Lindsey claimed that current events were fulfilling prophecy and that the

Rapture was imminent, with the End Times wrapping up by 1988 “or so.”

This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled ... What generation? ... the generation that would see the signs – chief among them the rebirth of Israel. A generation in the Bible is something like forty years. If this is a correct deduction, then within forty years or so of 1948, all these things could take place (page 53).

With the Jewish nation reborn in the land of Palestine, ancient Jerusalem once again under total Jewish control for the first time in 2600 years, and talk of rebuilding the great Temple, the most important sign of Jesus Christ’s soon coming is before us ... For all those who trust in Jesus Christ, it is a time of electrifying excitement (pages 57-58).

We should be living like persons who don’t expect to be around much longer (page 145).

It is clear that the Bible can’t be talking about any other time in history but today. ... [T]here can be little doubt that this is the generation. It could start tomorrow. We are on the brink of some startling prophetic development. Never before has the world stage been set for the climax of history as it is today. ... The “times of the Gentiles” are rapidly drawing to a close (page 151).

Folks, the footsteps of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, can already be heard as He approaches the doors of heaven to return (page 306).

In his “Afterword,” writing about planned celebrations for the New Year’s Eve 1999, he wrote:

[L]ooking at the state of the world today, I wouldn’t make any long-term earthly plans. We may be caught up to meet Christ in the clouds, between now and then ... But never before in the history of the planet have events and conditions so coincided as to set the stage for this history-stopping event ... I want to spend the final pages of this book discussing what I expect to see happen in the hours and minutes we have left. (Page 306).

17. Crawford Gribben, *Writing the Rapture: Prophecy Fiction in Evangelical America*, Oxford University Press (2009), page 8.

18. Professor Erin A. Smith, *Humanities Magazine* (National Endowment for the Humanities), Winter 2017, Volume 38, Number 1.

19. *Ibid.*

20. Timothy Weber, *Living in the Shadow of the Second Coming*, p. 21.

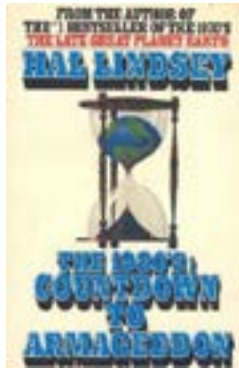
21. Hal Lindsey, *The Late Great Planet Earth* (1970), p. 16.

22. Hal Lindsey, *The Final Battle*, Western Front, 1995.

23. *The Late Great Planet Earth*, Lakeland (1970);
Satan is Alive and Well on Planet Earth, Lakeland (1973);
There’s A New World Coming, A Prophetic Odyssey, Vision House (1973);
The Liberation of Planet Earth, Lakeland (1974);
The World’s Final Hour: Evacuation or Extinction?, Zondervan (1976);
The 1980’s: Countdown to Armageddon, Bantam (1981);
The Promise, Harvest House (1982);
The Rapture: Truth or Consequences, Bantam (1983);
The Terminal Generation, Bantam (1983);
A Prophetic Walk Through the Holy Land, Harvest House (1983);
Israel and the Last Days, Harvest House (1983);
The Road to Holocaust, Bantam (1989);
Planet Earth - 2000 A.D., Western Front (1994);
The Final Battle, Western Front (1995);
Blood Moon, Western Front (1996);
The Apocalypse Code, Western Front (1997);
Planet Earth: The Final Chapter, Western Front (1998).

24. For a comparison of these rewrites, see Stephen R. Sizer’s *Hal Lindsey – The Father of Apocalyptic Christian Zionism* (1999).

Amazingly, the final chapter of this book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, is entitled, "Polishing the Crystal Ball," and a paragraph heading in *There's a New World Coming*, describing the Book of Revelation, is entitled, "John's Chain of ESP" (page 12).



The 1980's: Countdown to Armageddon (1981)
by Hal Lindsey (Bantam)

Then on the back cover of his book *The 1980s: Countdown to Armageddon*, he stated,

We are the generation the prophets were talking about! We have witnessed Biblical prophecies come true. ... We are the generation that will see the end times ... and the return of Jesus (back cover).

The decade of the 1980s could very well be the last decade of history as we know it (page 8).

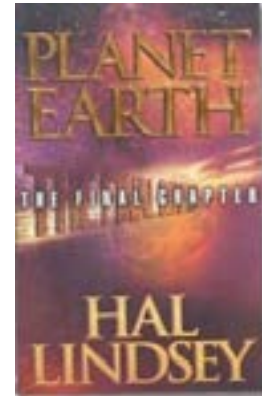
I believe this man [the Antichrist] is alive today – alive and waiting to come forth (page 15).



The Final Battle (1995)
by Hal Lindsey (Western Front)

In the introduction to his book *The Final Battle* we find this statement:

This book describes in more detail and explicitness than any other just what will happen to humanity and to the Earth, not a thousand years from now, but in our lifetime – indeed in this very generation.²⁵



Planet Earth: The Final Chapter (1998)
by Hal Lindsey (Western Front)

On the back cover of his book *Planet Earth: The Final Chapter*, we read,

Hal will be your guide on a chilling tour of the world's future battlefields as the Great Tribulation, foretold more than two thousand years ago by Old and New Testament prophets, begins to unfold. You'll meet the world leaders who will bring man to the very edge of extinction and examine the causes of the current global situation – what it all means, **what will shortly come to pass**, and how it will all turn out [*emphasis mine*].

A few days after the attacks of 9/11 he declared,

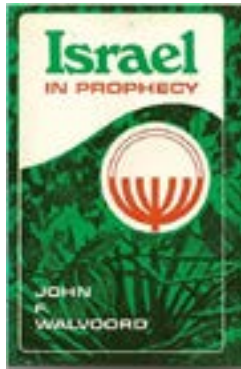
Tuesday, September 11, 2001, the end began. ... The events, even of this week, show us that we're very near the end. The whole predicted scenario is fulfilled right before our eyes. All the pieces of that predicted puzzle that would indicate Christ's coming was just around the corner are in place. ... I believe that, right now, we need to focus on the great hope that we have that Jesus Christ is soon coming and [is] going to translate [rapture] us from mortal to immortal."²⁶

25. Page xiii.

26. Hal Lindsey, *International Intelligence Briefing Report*, Trinity Broadcasting Network, September 16, 2001.

John Walvoord (1910–2002)

Walvoord was a graduate of Wheaton College, Texas Christian University, Dallas Theological Seminary, and Liberty Baptist Seminary, and wrote many books on prophetic themes.²⁷



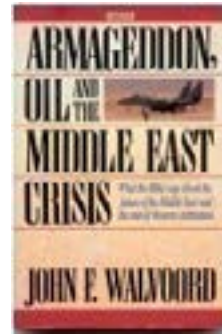
Israel in Prophecy (1962)
by John Walvoord, Zondervan

While Hal Lindsey was at Dallas Theological Seminary, he was a student of professor Walvoord. In Walvoord's early book on prophecy we can see the type of statements that doubtless had a profound influence on Lindsey.

In the present world scene there are many indications pointing to the conclusion that the end of the age may soon be upon us ... In this generation. ... Never before in the history of the world has there been a confluence of major evidences of preparation for the end.²⁸

27. *Israel in Prophecy*, Zondervan (1962);
The Revelation of Jesus Christ, Moody (1966);
Daniel: The Key to Prophetic Revelation, Moody (1971);
Armageddon, Oil and the Middle East Crisis, Zondervan (1974);
The Blessed Hope and the Tribulation, Zondervan (1976);
The Nations in Prophecy, Zondervan (1977);
The Rapture Question, Zondervan (1979);
The Millennial Kingdom, Zondervan (1983);
The Final Drama: Fourteen Keys to Understanding the Prophetic Scriptures, Kregel (1998);
Every Prophecy of the Bible, Cook (1999)
The Church in Prophecy: Exploring God's Purpose for the Present Age, Kregel (1999);
The Road to Armageddon, Word (1999);
Prophecy Survival Guide, Doughten (2000);
Blessed Hope, (Autobiography with Mal Couch), AMG (2001);
Prophecy in the New Millennium, Kregel (2001).

28. John Walvoord, *Israel in Prophecy*, Zondervan (1962) page 129.



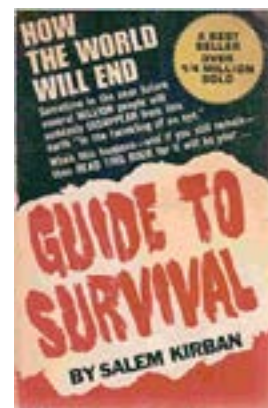
Armageddon, Oil and the Middle East Crisis (1990)
by John F. Walvoord (Zondervan)

Decades later, in his book *Armageddon, Oil and the Middle East Crisis*, Walvoord would write,

The prophetic play is about to begin. ... Our present world is well prepared for the beginning of the prophetic drama that will lead to Armageddon. Since the stage is set for this dramatic climax of the age, it must mean that Christ's coming for his own is very near.²⁹

Salem Kirban (1925–2010)

Another player with significant influence in the Evangelical prophetic scene was Salem Kirban from Lancaster, PA. A graduate of Girard College and Temple University, he authored over 50 books on Bible prophecy, including the famed novel "666" published by Tyndale House in 1970. He taught prophecy in over 400 churches nationwide, and founded Second Coming Ministries.

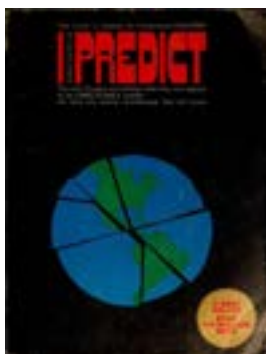


*Guide to Survival:
How the World Will End* (1968)
by Salem Kirban (Tyndale Publishers)

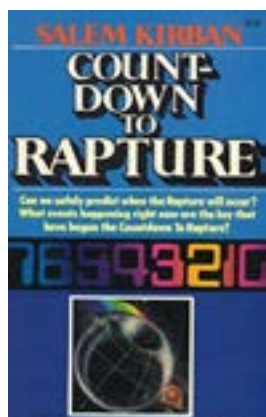
29. John Walvoord, *Armageddon, Oil and the Middle East Crisis*, Zondervan (1990) page 228.



20 Reasons Why this Present Earth May Not Last Another 20 Years (1973)
by Salem Kirban (Riverside)



I Predict (1975)
by Salem Kirban



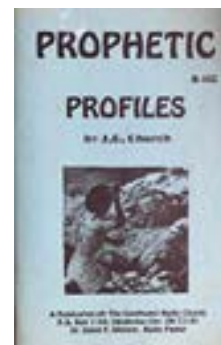
Countdown to Rapture (1977)
by Salem Kirban

Kirban based his “end times” timetable on the 7-Millennium theory. In his book *Guide to Survival* he explained,

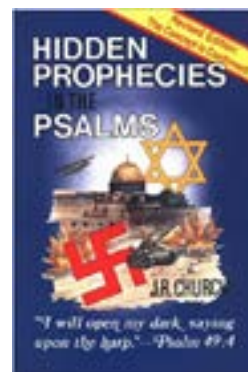
[T]he Old Testament seems to show that from Adam to Christ, [is] about 4000 years of recorded Biblical history or 4 days ... The 5th day ended with the advent of the dark ages in 1000 A.D. ... the 6th day then would end in the year 2000 ... If the assumption be correct, and the Rapture must

take place at least seven years before the Millennium, this would put the Rapture or the vanishing of the saints to meet Christ at approximately 1989 (page 126).

J.R. Church (1938-2011)



Prophetic Profiles (1981)
by J.R. Church (Southwest Radio Church)



Hidden Prophecies in the Psalms (1986)
by J.R. Church (Prophecy Publications)

J.R. Church, best known for his *Prophecy in the News* magazine and television broadcast, attended Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, TN, and early on served as the pastor of Western Hills Baptist Church in Lubbock, TX. In his book *Hidden Prophecies in the Psalms* (1986) he purported a chronological code in the Psalms that identified a supposed prophetic significance of the year 1988.

Psalms 88-94 seem to describe the future seven years of Jacob's Trouble in chronological order. This is not to say that the Tribulation Period will begin in 1988 (page 246).

David R. Reagan helps us understand this theory.

A popular theory in the late 20th Century theo-

rized that the Psalms contained a chronological code. This theory was spelled out in detail by J.R. Church in his book, *Hidden Prophecies in the Psalms* (1986). The thesis was that since the book of Psalms is the 19th book of the Old Testament, it represents the 1900s, and thus Psalm 1 is prophetic of 1901, Psalm 2 of 1902, and so on. Psalms 88-94 were viewed in this interpretation as a picture of the Tribulation Period, corresponding to the years 1988-1994.³⁰

Southwest Radio Church

J.R. Church was associated with *The Southwest Radio Church*, which in 1981 published his book *Prophetic Profiles*. When I was young, I would listen to *The Southwest Radio Church* broadcasts, hosted by David Webber and Noah Hutchings. In 1979 the prominent Evangelical publisher, Thomas Nelson, published their book, *Is This the Last Century?*



Is This the Last Century? (1979)

by David Webber and Noah Hutchings (Thomas Nelson)

In this book they stated,

Every indication is that we are living in the last century of man's history. ... The signs of our time indicate that we are living in the last century. The age is winding down. ... Let the reader understand that we in no way state without qualification that the Tribulation period will begin in 1981, that Jesus Christ will return in 1988, or that the millennial kingdom will be established by 2001 (pages 48-50, 141-142).

Dr. David F. Webber (1931-2004)

Webber, the son of Dr. E.F. Webber (1893-1959), founder of the Southwest Radio Church, joined his father in ministry in 1951, and was president of SRC from 1959 until 1989. He wrote several books on prophetic themes, which included:

Prophecy in Stone, Harvest House (1974);

Countdown for Israel: What Lies Ahead?, Southwest Radio Church (1976);

Countdown for Antichrist, Southwest Radio Church (1976);

God's Timetable for the 1980's, Southwest Radio Church (1978);

666 - The Mark Is Ready! Midnight Call (1980);

Computers and the Beast of Revelation, Huntington House (1986);

Toward the Seventh Millennium, Midnight Call (1998).

Noah Webster Hutchings (1922-2015)

Hutchings, president of Southwest Radio Church (1988-2015), for six decades was the host of their nationally syndicated radio show *Your Watchman on The Wall*, which is broadcast daily on stations across the USA. The broadcast focused on biblical prophecy and end times theories. He also contributed to the ministry's two monthly publications, *Bible in the News* magazine and *Prophetic Observer* newsletter. Among his many prophetic books were:

Apocalyptic Signs in the Heavens, Southwest Radio Church (1979);

God's Timetable for the Last Days, Southwest Radio Church (1978);

As It Is in the Days of Noah, Hearthstone Publishing (1989);

Why I Believe These Are the Last Days, Hearthstone Publishing (1990);

30. "Prophecy in the Psalms: A Major Repository of Messianic Prophecies," *Lamplighter*, July 2014.

Daniel the Prophet, Hearthstone Publishing (1998);

25 Messianic Signs in Israel Today, Hearthstone Publishing (1999);

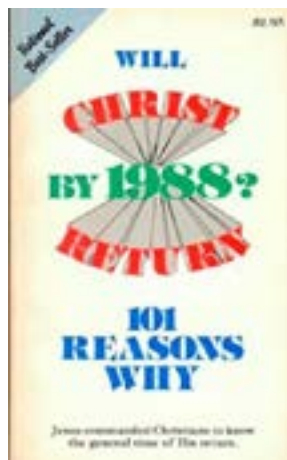
U.S. in Prophecy, Hearthstone Publishing (2000);

40 Irrefutable Signs of the Last Generation, Bible Belt Publications (2010);

Is the Antichrist in the World Today? Bible Belt Publications (2012).

Colin Deal

“National Best-Selling Author” Colin Deal, an Evangelical North Carolina prophecy teacher with an end-time monthly newsletter, set dates for the return of Christ for 1982 or 1983, 1988, 1989, and then in a March 17, 1989 radio broadcast, “about eleven years away.”³¹

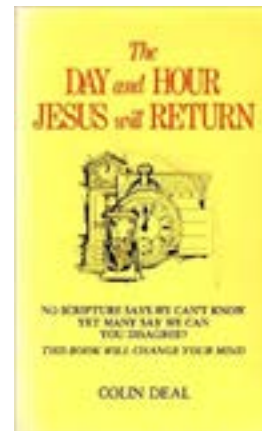


*Will Christ Return by 1988?
101 Reasons Why* (1979)
by Colin Deal

31. Cf., *Soothsayers of the Second Advent*, William M. Alnor, Fleming H. Revell, 1989, page 38; *Why All Church-Age Endtime Prophets are False*, Ray Waugh (1994).

Prophecy is a revelation, not an invitation to a guessing contest. ... It is a fact of history that not one, not even one, single event in the series of Hebrew prophecy has been fulfilled in the last 1900 years.

— Cecil J. Blay (1906-1976)
Treasures of Truth (1972)



The Day and Hour Jesus Will Return (1981)
by Colin Deal



Revelation of the Beast (1995)
by Colin Deal

In his book, *Will Christ Return by 1988? 101 Reasons Why* (1979), he states:

[T]he signs of the heavens are declaring for the first time in 2,000 years that God's Son is about to be revealed! (page 124).

Allowing for a small, recognized calendar error, and figuring a 7-year pre-tribulation rapture, I do strongly feel that Christ will return bodily to the earth or in the air for the church by 1988. ... Need I say more; we are that generation! (pages 158-163)

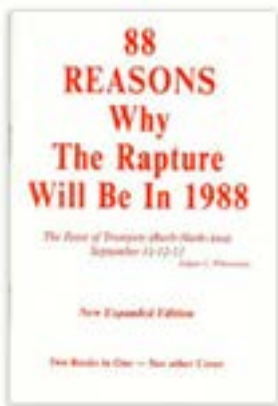
The Kings of Prophetic Prognostication

Of all the prophetic prognosticators of the later half of the last century, perhaps none were more specific and detailed than Edgar C. Whisenant in the 1980s, and Harold E. Camping in the 1990s and 2000s,

Edgar C. Whisenant (1932–2001)

Whisenant, a former NASA engineer, predicted that the rapture would occur in 1988. 300,000 copies of his book *88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988* were mailed free of charge to churches across America, and 4.5 million copies were sold in bookstores and elsewhere. He once famously stated, “Only if the Bible is in error am I wrong.”³²

I was one of the recipients when this book was mailed out. It was filled with an elaborate system of dates from 1988 through 1995 (and beyond!). It gave very specific dates for numerous prophetic fulfillments. Its detail would be hard to imagine unless you actually saw it for yourself.³³



88 reasons Why The Rapture Will Be in 1988 (1988)
by Edgar C. Whisenant
(Word Bible Society)

32. Kayla Webley, Late Great Planet Earth and Other Prophecy Books, Time Magazine, May 20, 2011

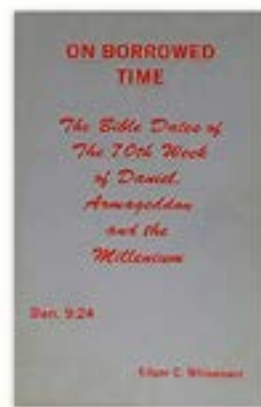
33. At the time of this writing a PDF of the book is available online: <https://ia801303.us.archive.org/19/items/ReasonsWhyTheRaptureWillBeIn1988PDF/14080011-88-Reasons-Why-The-Rapture-Will-Be-in-1988.pdf>

The folly of interpreters has been to foretell times and things by ... prophecy, as if God designed to make them prophets. By this rashness they have not only exposed themselves, but brought the prophecy also into contempt.

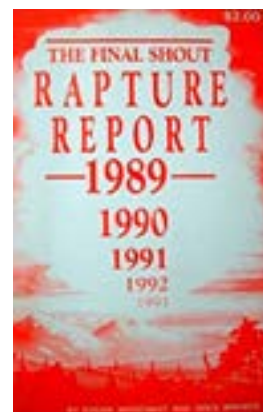
— Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727)
Observations on Daniel and the Apocalypse

Present Truth for today was revealed only by Paul and was not the subject of any prophecy. ... The truth of the Mystery is not associated with the Second Coming of Christ – the Parousia – but looks for the glorious Appearing of Christ (Colossians 3).

— Tom L. Ballinger
Present Truth Was Never the Subject of Prophecy



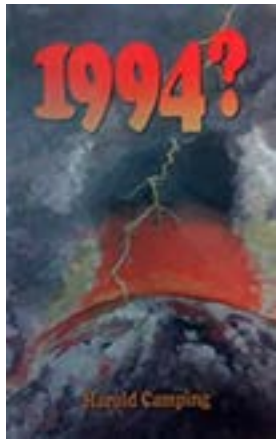
On Borrowed Time: The Bible Dates of the 70th week of Daniel, Armageddon (1988)
by Edgar C. Whisenant
(World Bible Society)



The Final Shout: Rapture Report 1989 (1989)
by Edgar C. Whisenant
(World Bible Society)

Harold E. Camping (1921-2013)

The next master date-setter was Harold Camping. He was the president of the Family Radio network, that at its peak covered more than 150 U.S. markets. Yet, his greatest notoriety was for making a succession of sensational, yet failed predictions concerning “end times” prophecies.



1994? (1992)
by Harold Camping



*Are You Ready? Much More Evidence that 1994
Could be the End of the World* (1993)
by Harold Camping

He first predicted the Second Coming of Christ for September 6, 1994. After it came and went, he moved the date to September 29, and after Christ didn't come then, he changed it to October 2.

Then in 2005, he predicted his most infamous date of May 21, 2011, for Christ's Second Coming. In preparation for the day, in addition to radio coverage, the internet and news outlet coverage, according to their website at the time, "presently there are over 2000 billboards."³⁴ These billboards boldly declared, "Judgment Day May 21, 2011," along with a "seal" on the top lefthand corner, certifying, "The Bible Guarantees It!"

34. FamilyRadio.com is available at the Internet Archive (archive.org).

In the religious world, date setting has been the favorite occupation of many.

— Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992)



Family Radio's "Judgment Day May 21, 2011" Billboard

Affiliate ministries also had their own website, We-CanKnow.com, and put up their own "Save the Date" billboards.



On May 19th, two days before the predicted date, a dramatic countdown of "2 Days Left" can be seen on the Family Radio website, along with the statement, "The Bible Guarantees It!"³⁵



Family Radio website 2 days before.

35. Snapshot taken from the Internet Archive (archive.org).

We also find the following statements from the Family Radio website, just days before May 21, 2011.

The end of the world is almost here! ... We learn from the Bible that Holy God plans to rescue about 200 million people (that is about 3% of today's population). On the first day of the Day of Judgment (May 21, 2011) they will be caught up (raptured) into Heaven because God had great mercy for them. ...

Judgment Day on May 21, 2011 will occur because the bible declares it. ...

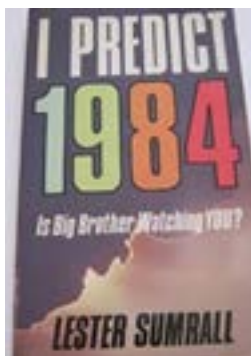
May 21, 2011 is God's date. All other predictions are man's attempt to predict the end.

Their affiliate website, WeCanKnow.com, declared:

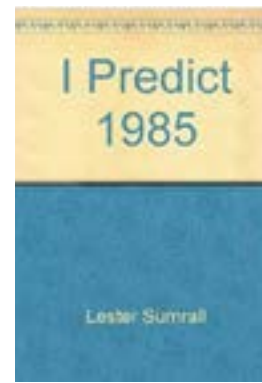
WE CAN KNOW from the Bible alone that the date of the rapture of believers will take place on May 21, 2011 and that God will destroy this world on October 21, 2011.³⁶

Lester Sumrall (1913-1996)

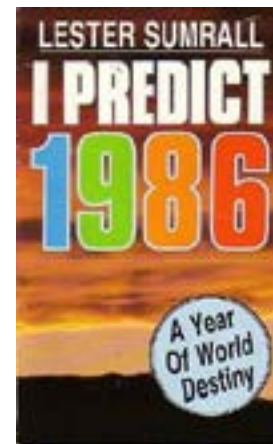
Sumrall, an Assembly of God pastor and evangelist, was founder of World Harvest Radio International (a shortwave radio station), and president of World Harvest Bible College (formerly known as Indiana Bible Institute, Indiana Bible College, and Indiana Christian University). He made a series of attempts at dating the rapture and end time.



I Predict 1984 (1983)
by Lester Sumrall



I Predict 1985: Who Will Survive in 85? (1984)
by Lester Sumrall



I Predict 1986 (1985)
by Lester Sumrall



I Predict 2000 (1987)
by Lester Sumrall

W.V. Grant (1913-1983)

Grant, father of televangelist W.V. Grant, Jr., was also an Assembly of God minister, travelling evangelist, and publisher of *The Voice of Deliverance* magazine (which at its height had a circulation of two million), director of the International Deliverance Churches,

³⁶. WeCanKnow.com is available at the Internet Archive (archive.org).

and pastor of Soul's Harbor Church in Dallas, TX, which at the time of his death had 2500 members.

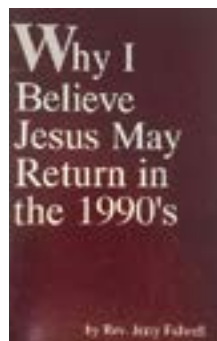


Will Jesus Come ... This Year? (1958)
Positive Proof that the End is Near
W.V. Grant

Dr. Jerry Falwell (1933-2007)

Falwell was an Independent Baptist pastor (Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, VA), televangelist (Old-Time Gospel Hour, 1956-2007), co-founder of the Moral Majority, and founder of Liberty University.

In 1990 he widely distributed a manifesto *Why I Believe Jesus May Return in the 1990's*. Then after Christ did not return in that decade, he said that he believed Jesus would return within the next decade.³⁷



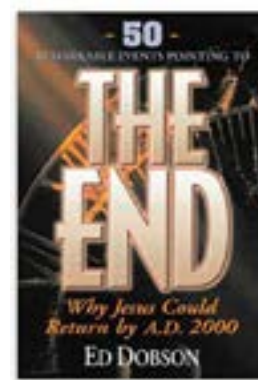
Why I Believe Jesus May Return in the 1990's (1990)
by Jerry Falwell (Old Time Gospel Hour)

Ed Dobson (1949-2015)

Dobson, a nationally known author, speaker and pastor (Calvary Church in Grand Rapids, MI, 1987-2005), was a graduate of Bob Jones University and the University of Virginia. In his early ministry he

served as associate pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church, Dean of Men and vice president for student life at Liberty University, an executive for the Moral Majority, and served first as senior editor (1982-1985) and then editor-in-chief of the *Fundamentalist Journal* (1985-1988).

Dobson took his turn at the end-time predictions, when he released his 1997 book, *Why Jesus Could Return by A.D. 2000*.



The End: Why Jesus Could Return by A. D. 2000 (1997)
by Ed Dobson (Zondervan)

We have kept our brief survey to the last half of the last century, as well as narrowed to the more prominent prognosticators that I was aware of during that time. Certainly, there were many more, in many other circles of influence, especially those with less notoriety.

To move this brief survey forward in this current century would be beyond our field of experience, since in the mid-1990s we left the church-culture altogether. We have surely heard word of many others who have continued with these futile attempts at dating. These efforts are all fruitless, because future prophetic events are something that are not presently a part of God's purpose. So, we no longer give these prognosticators our attention because consideration of such undispensational religious sensationalism is undeserved.

As amply demonstrated by these brief examples from the previous century, not understanding the true nature of Israel's prophecy has led to the Scriptures being used as a handbook for prognostication.³⁸ The

³⁸ For more information on the nature of prophecy and the Secret Administration, see:

– [Prophetic Obsession in an Unprophesied Administration: A Col-](#)

³⁷ *The Jewish News*, January 22, 1999.



Fifteen Bombs that Sank My Theological Ship

by — V.E. Jacobson (1900-1985)

Leaflet

(See [order form](#) under “Tracts & Leaflets.”)

One minister’s powerful personal testimony to the salvation of all mankind.

they belong to an entirely different era, and that Israel’s prophetic passages are misunderstood, misinterpreted, and thus abused by prognosticators.

TOPICS:

Major: “Left Behind” Terminology; Luke 17:34-37; Matthew 24:39-42; Prognosticators

Minor: Van Impe, Jack; LaHaye, Tim; Lindsey, Hal; Kirban, Salem; Walvoord, John; Church, J.R.; Deal, Colin; Whisenant, Edgar; Camping, Harold; Sumrall, Lester; Grant, W.V.; Falwell, Jerry; Dobson, Ed

Related material:

- “The Mistakes of Date-Setting,” A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #439](#);
- “Signs and Dates,” by A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #748](#);
- Examples of Prophetic Prognostications, [Bible Student’s Notebook #488](#);
- “It Ain’t Over ’til It’s Over,” Clyde Pilkington & André Sneider, [Bible Student’s Notebook #817](#).

old adage “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again” comes appropriately to mind.

Of course, we do not deny any prophetic passage of Scriptures as being true. We merely recognize that

[lection of Works Concerning the Nature of Unfulfilled Prophecy](#) (see [order form](#) under “Compilations”).



The Administration of the Secret

A Comprehensive Compilation

308 pages

See [order form](#) under “Compilations.”

The Secret Administration, revealed through Ephesians and Colossians, is characterized and empowered by the dispensing of transcendent grace (Ephesians 1:7; 2:7; 3:2). Now, believing Gentiles are “*no longer guests and sojourners*,” as they were in the Pentecostal and Readjustment Administrations, but are “*fellow-citizens of the saints and members of God’s family*” (Ephesians 2:19). This outstanding work includes 45 chapters, by 17 authors, spanning nearly 200 years. Author’s include: Oscar M. Baker, Tom L. Ballinger, J. R. Caldwell, E. H. Clayton, J.J.B. Coles, John Essex, J.H. Evans, H.W. Fry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, William B. Hallman, Richard Holden, John H. Kessler, A.E. Knoch, Adlai Loudy, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., and Charles H. Welch.



69 pages

The Seven Administrations:

The Basic Dispensations of Scripture

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Throughout Scripture we are presented with various administrations. These administrations, sometimes called “dispensations,” or “economies,” are divine managements, stewardships or households. They are the organization and implementation of a specific divine purpose.

See [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington.”

This is an introductory look at the seven basic administrations in Scripture. Grasping the overall scope of these will greatly assist us in understanding the Scriptures. Such an awareness of our place in the Divine plan can save us from much confusion, heartache and despair. Extensive endnotes. Overview chart.

The Reign of Death

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Humanity is currently under the reign of death.

... by the offense of the one, death reigns through the one ... (Romans 5:17, CV).

So, as long as death reigns, it cannot be usurped, and all of Adam's descendants will die.

... so death passed upon all men ... (Romans 5:12).

Thus, as long as death reigns, all men die at least once,

... It is appointed unto men once to die ... (Hebrews 9:27).

Yet, one day death's reign will be destroyed.

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death (I Corinthians 15:26).

After "the end" of death (I Corinthians 15:24; "the consummation,"¹ CV), no one can die, and thus all will be vivified – because they will be alive beyond the reach of death. No one can possibly die once death has been destroyed – i.e., "is swallowed up in victory" (I Corinthians 15:54).

No one but Christ (and His Body, after their resurrection and manifestation with Him in Glory) are beyond the reach of death (vivified) until "the consummation" of death. However, the righteous, who are not a part of the One Body of Ephesians, will be given the "patch" of "eonian life," to hold them over to "the consummation" of I Corinthians 15:24.

1. We have made the word "consummation" (translated "end" in other versions) in I Corinthians 15:24 into an event unto itself, when in fact there are a lot of "consummations" or "ends" of various things found in Scriptures.

In I Corinthians 15, just like anywhere else the word "consummation" or "end" is used, we must simply ask ourselves "the consummation of what?" or "the end of what?" In the death-and-resurrection chapter, would not *this* consummation, based on the context, be *the end of death*?



As for humanity's appointment with death, it is valid only so long as death reigns. Let me illustrate this if I may.

If I have an appointment with Dr. Smith, a sole medical proprietor, and if he dies before my appointment, then I cannot keep my appointment.

Paul, during his priestly ministry, dealing with Israel's kingdom truths, revealed a mystery related to "the consummation" of death at the "last trump"² – not all would die ("sleep")³

2. There are many prophetic trumpets in Scripture, none of which belong to the "One Body" and the Secret Administration. The "last trump" will be the final of these "trumpets," at "the consummation" of death, when God is "All in all." Our hope is not to be found at "the last trump." Our hope is long beforehand.
3. While I Corinthians 15:51 is a passage that seems to contradict the Scripture-wide teaching of death, this is merely a misunderstanding due to a misapplication of the verse.

Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed (:51).

First, it is important to realize that, even though this passage discusses a "mystery," this secret is not associated with Paul's latter Secret Administration.

There are many "secrets" in Scripture, such as those that pertain to Israel's program. This particular "secret" is not a revelation concerning the present Secret Administration found in Ephesians and Colossians. We will note the context of this "secret" momentarily.

Second, it is important to know that this passage does not challenge any fundamental Scripture truths of death and resurrection – it only introduces a related "secret." That this does not deny death is emphasized by the fact that it is revealed in the resurrection chapter of the Bible.

Sadly, I Corinthians 15:51 has been forced into the "rapture" teaching, attempting to tie it in with I Thessalonians 4 and the return of Christ, whereas, all the while, the context of this "secret" clearly is that of "the consummation."

Look carefully at the passage with an emphasis on two key words:

Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, **WHEN** this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, **THEN** shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory" (I Corinthians 15:51-54).

Paul is explaining a "mystery" related to death being "swallowed up in victory." Ultimately, nothing short of "the consummation" will swallow death in victory.

Behold, I shew you a secret; we^a shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory" (I Corinthians 15:51-54).

Until Paul's "secret" concerning "the consummation" of death was revealed, the testimony of Scripture was that death is "reigning," resulting in all humanity having a divine appointment with death.

All go to one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again (Ecclesiastes 3:20; cf. 3:2; 12:7).

The living know they will die (Ecclesiastes 9:5).

In Adam all die (I Corinthians 15:22).

Also notice two foundational phrases a few verses earlier:

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death (:26).

... that God may be All in all (:28).

This passage deals with "the last trump" of God (:52) – His "consummation" of death (:24, CV), when "the last enemy ... shall be destroyed" (:26) and "swallowed up in victory" (:54), "that God may be All in all" (:28).

All humanity dies – without exception – **UNTIL** that day when "death is swallowed up in victory" (i.e., its consummation) – **UNTIL** "the last enemy ... shall be destroyed."

Paul here revealed a "mystery" – something that had not been previously made known. This "secret" concerns the transformation (i.e., "change") of those who will be alive at the time of death's consummation. He revealed that, whether dead or alive, all will be "changed" (i.e., made "immortal").

4. "We" – i.e., humanity. Not all humanity will die, but all humanity will be transformed. Not all will die, because at "the consummation" of death, death itself will be "destroyed," or "abolished" (I Corinthians 15:26, CV).

It is appointed unto men once to die ... (Hebrews 9:27).

However, what the testimony of Scripture did not know is that there would be an end to the reign of death. This was a "secret" that was revealed to Paul during his priestly ministry:

Behold, I shew you a mystery; we [humanity] shall not all sleep (I Corinthians 15:51).

So, although all Adam's descendants indeed had a divine "appointment" with death, the "secret" of its "consummation" revealed that death's reign would end before all appointments were due.

It is not so much that the appointment will be canceled, but that for which the appointment was made ("death") will be "destroyed" (or "abolished" – I Corinthians 15:26, CV), and will thus no longer exist. Thus, the appointment is thereby nullified, or invalidated. This may seem like a minor distinction, but it is nonetheless significant.

Although all of humanity has an appointment with "Dr. Death," it has been revealed that he himself will one day die. When he does, "Dr. Vivification" will take over all of his unfulfilled appointments!

When death is abolished (I Corinthians 15:26), then death must relinquish its victims. – Dr. Howard N. Bunce (1879-1954)

For more on this theme, see the author's work, "[Will We Escape Death?](#)" (see [order form](#) under "Pilkington").

TOPICS:

Major: Consummation, The; Death; Vivification

Minor: Eonian Life; Paul;



A time of study and fellowship in the Birmingham, Alabama area.

Saturday, January 14, 2023 Sunday, January 15, 2023

Speakers:

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.; Mark Vogt

Host: Will Marshall

*Space for the currently planned meeting place is limited, so please **RSVP your plans to attend.***

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Reader's Question Box #70

Does God Do Evil?

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Q: I have ZERO problem with the following verse that the Lord CREATED EVIL.

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things (Isaiah 45:7).

But, what I do have a problem with is this:

Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it? (Amos 3:6).

Amos said the Lord has “done it.” That is, the Lord not only CREATED EVIL, but according to Amos, the Lord “DID IT.”

Question: What's your thinking, or reasoning, as to the Lord CREATING EVIL compared to Amos saying the Lord DOES EVIL? – G.B.

A: Of course, God “creates” AND “does” evil. After all, “out of Him, and through Him, and to Him is all” (Romans 11:36, BSV).

A reading through the entire Scriptures will verify that they are replete with examples where God is clearly said to do all sorts of “evil.” In fact, even today we recognize horrific natural events as “acts of God.”

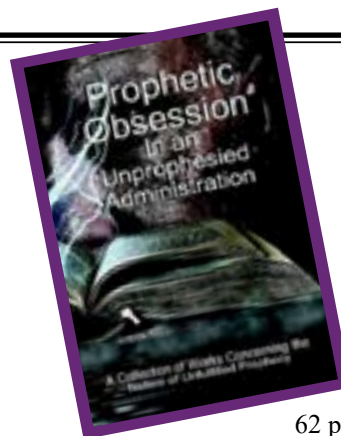
God is the Source of *all* action in His Universe, regardless of the created instrument that He uses to carry out that action. Thus, God is the First Cause, and the only real responsible Agent as well.

One obstacle in grasping this is our misunderstanding of “evil.” It is often seen as a synonym of “sin.” “Evil” is merely the contrast of “good” – i.e., “good and evil.” So, anything that can't be identified as “good” is, by contrast, “evil.” God is the creator of light and dark, good and evil.

Yet, “sin” is simply a “missing of the mark,” or target. We learn this from the illustration found in Judges 20:16, where one of the Hebrew words used to translate “sin” – שָׁטָא *châtâ'* – Strong's H2398) – is actually translated simply as “miss” (KJV).

Then we are told in I Kings 16:19 that Zimri “sinned in doing evil.” By this statement we can easily conclude that “evil” is not necessarily “sin,” or a “missing.” Such, of course, is the case with God – for He can't “sin,” or “miss” the mark for which He aims. He always accomplishes His goal, and therefore never “sins.”

While, for mankind, the act of “evil” may be that of “sin,” this is NOT so with God. ALL of His acts are PERFECT. He never “misses His mark.” Even His “evil” acts are righteous acts – being “right on target!” Thus, unlike man, He NEVER sins when He does



Prophetic Obsession in an Unprophesied Administration

(A Collection of Works Concerning the Nature of Unfulfilled Prophecy)

List of authors contained in this work are: Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918), Cecil J. Blay (1906-1976), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), J. Vernon McGee (1904-1988), Andrew Miller (1810-1883), Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992) and C.R. Stam (1909-2003).

62 pages

See [order form](#) under “Compilations.”

“evil.” For His “evil” acts, relatively seen in contrast to “good,” are but Him absolutely “*working all together for good*” (Romans 8:28, BSV).

Man, on the other hand, being mortal, is incapable of “*doing evil, that good may come*” (Romans 3:8). But, of course, this is not so with God! While man may be sinful in his acts of “evil,” God gloriously remains righteous in His.

*The LORD is righteous in **all** His ways, and holy in **all** His works* (Psalm 145:17).

Calvary is the greatest example of this. The evil that took place there was God’s doing, and therefore resulted in good. That day was history’s greatest “evil,” resulting in history’s greatest “good.” What a glorious God!

Concerning this theme John H. Essex (1907-1991) writes,

God does not always do good, as so many people think: He sometimes does evil, as He did when He destroyed Sodom. There are quite a number of references in Scripture to God doing evil, particularly in

the book of Jeremiah. The greatest evil that God ever did was to put His own Son on a cross! Yet, good or evil, God always does right: He is never unjust, and when He does evil, it is always that good may be the eventual outcome, and far outweigh the evil.

— *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 61 (1970).

Thus, A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), in his *Studies in Genesis*¹ writes,

Our great Alchemist is well able to transmute evil into good, and metamorphose sin into success. So will *He* be justified in all His works (chapter 29, page 376).

For more on this important theme, see the invaluable books:

- [The Problem of Evil](#), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965). See [order form](#) under “Knoch,” or visit [Study Shelf](#);
- [The Creation of Evil, Sin and Satan](#). See [order form](#) under “Compilations,” or visit [Study Shelf](#).

TOPICS:

Major: Evil; God; Sovereignty

Minor: Absolute and Relative

1. See the [order form](#) under “Knoch,” or visit the Study Shelf website [Knoch page](#).



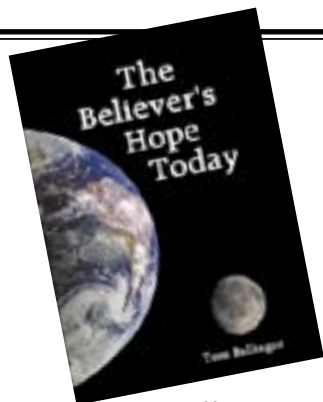
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The Believer’s Hope Today

by — Tom L. Ballinger

This is a look at the believer’s “*blessed hope*” at Christ’s appearing as contrasted with “*the hope of Israel*” in the Acts period. It will show that the hope about which Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15 is found not only in the Old Testament Scriptures, but was taught by Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry in Matthew 24 and other places. It also reveals our hope for today as found in Paul’s latter epistles.

60 pages

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Tidbits of Truth #49

“Tidbits” is a column dedicated to short comments, thoughts, studies and excerpts.

Wickedness in the Heavenly Places

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

[*Edited excerpt:*] Wickedness in the heavenlies? “That cannot be,” some will say. Some translators [as in the KJV above] hardly dare to translate this thus, and so they changed it [“heavenlies”] to read “high places,” thinking maybe it could mean like Moscow or New York, etc., but this is the same “heavenly places” which they have translated in other places. They could hardly get themselves to believe that there is wickedness among the celestials in the heavenlies, because in their minds the heavenlies should be pure, no sin – everything perfect.

No, there is sin in the “heavenly places” – the heavenlies, the celestials. In fact, “*the Heavens are not clean in His sight*” (Job 15:15). They are going to be someday but now they are not. In the heavenlies there are spiritual forces of wickedness. We are someday going to get into their territory. We are someday going to be literally in the celestials. God’s universe is vast. GOD is always busy. We are going to be working in the celestials, and as the celestials are what it says here, there

is a lot of work to be done there. But it all is going to be done in, through and with Christ (Ephesians 3:21).

— Ray Van Dyke (1908-1997)
Faith Fellowship Magazine (Vol. 57, No. 2)

Not Until the End of the Acts Era

[*Excerpt:*] It was not until the end of the Acts era that the salvation of God is sent directly to the nations (Acts 28:29). The latter half of the second chapter of Ephesians (:11-22) is an elaborate statement showing that, in the present administration of God’s grace, the nations are no longer in the inferior position accorded them in Paul’s earlier ministry.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
Concordant Commentary on the New Testament
(page 33)

Some Dispensational Differences

[*Edited excerpt:*] If we omit the present dispensation, we have a continuing development in the history of Israel. God’s people Israel are always in the foreground of Scripture.

What expectation the Hebrew Scriptures led to,



624 pages

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“Compilations.”

Paul the Apostle: His Acts and Post-Acts Ministries

(A Comprehensive Compilation)

This ultimate dispensational collection of 97 works by 28 authors spans over 130 years. It is an extensive reference work that is essential for every library. Authors include: Sir Robert Anderson, Oscar Baker, A.E. Bishop, Robert C. Brock, E.W. Bullinger, J.J.B. Coles, E.H. Clayton, Vladimir Gelesnoff, Stephen Hill, Richard Holden, M. Jaegle, Win Johnson, A.E. Knoch, Adlai Loudy, William Mealand, D.L. McCroskey, William R. Newell, Alan Reid, Danny Russino, John D. LaVier, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank Neil Pohorlak, A.A. Sandoz, R.B. Shiflet and Charles H. Welch.

through the mouth of the prophets, begins to be fulfilled in the Greek Scriptures. The latter is not about a new religion founded by Christ.

The long-awaited Messiah came, and Paul says that He became a servant of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers (Romans 15:8).

The Gentiles also had part in these blessings. as the Apostle also adds “*and that the nations should glorify God because of mercy*” (Romans 15:9).

During the period of the book of Acts, as well as during Israel’s coming Kingdom, Israel is God’s People, faithfully following the forms of the law, and therefore also necessarily have a temple.

After the cross, believing Israelites still follow those forms, and the Kingdom is announced by the Apostles and disciples, and this is accompanied by the “*powers of the age to come*” (Hebrews 6:5), *i.e.*, of the Kingdom.

We can further see the proximity of this kingdom at that time from the intervention of angels, the communion in goods, the special spiritual gifts, the immediate judgment (for those who sinned like Ananias, Sapphira, Herod and Elymas).

We also find water baptism and the invitation of Israel to repent toward God. Both during the Acts period and during the Kingdom, the Twelve Apostles have their roles to fulfill in regard to Israel.

This very brief overview clearly shows what sharp contrast there is between those times and the present.

Everything that was there *then* is not there *now*. Israel is *not* God’s people and *not* in their land, there is no temple, no powers, no intercession of angels, no community of goods, no visible unity of the believers, no immediate judgment, no fulfillment of prophecy, etc.

The boundaries of our dispensation are sharply drawn; it does not begin at Pentecost, but after Acts. Now we are in the Dispensation of the Mystery, which has been hidden from ages and generations (Colossians 1:26).

A distinction is made between the three spheres of calling, testimony, walk and blessing: the earthly, the heavenly, and the super-heavenly.

— Stanislas Van Mierlo (1888-1962)
The Battle

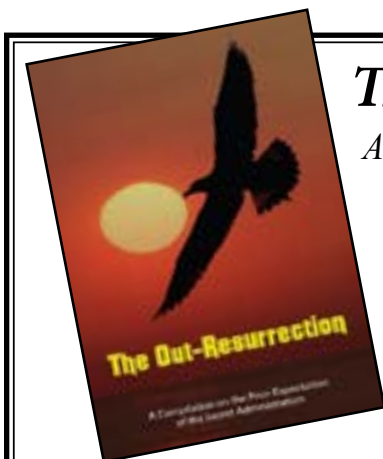
Stanislas Van Mierlo (1888-1962), born in Antwerp, Belgium was a student of E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), an associate of A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) and Charles H. Welch (1880-1967), and co-editor along with G.J. Pauptit (1889-1962) of the Dutch monthly periodical *Uit de Schriften* (*Out of the Scriptures*, 1920-1960), as well the author of several books, including *The Divine Plan and its Realization*, and co-author of *About the Mystery: Some Brief Explanations of the Great Mystery Revealed to the Apostle Paul*.

Material available by Van Mierlo from previous *Bible Student’s Notebooks*:

- *The Present Dispensation*, [BSN 840](#);
- *John’s Gospel and Paul’s Gospel*, [BSN 842](#);
- *The Expectation of the Present Dispensation*, [BSN 922](#);
- *Did Christ Die in Our Place?* [BSN 938](#);
- *Characteristics of the Church of the Mystery (and those Believers Outside of the Church of the Mystery)* [BSN 947](#).

TOPICS:

Major: [*Wickedness in the Heavenly Places*.] Celestials; Evil
[*Not Until the End of the Acts Era*.] Acts 28; Acts, the Book of
[*Some Dispensational Differences*.] Acts 28



57 pages

The Out-Resurrection

A Compilation on the Prior-Expectation of the Secret Administration

Ours is a prior, pre-expectant resurrection, not revealed before the Secret Administration. When Christ, Who is our life, is manifested on His throne (Colossians 3:4) at the right hand of God (Ephesians 1:20) in Glory, far above all Heavens (Ephesians 4:10; 1:21, *i.e.*, in the Super-Heavens), then we, too, will be manifested (appear) with Him there. This work includes four authors: Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., G.J. Pauptit (1889-1962), Tom L. Ballinger, Stanislas Van Mierlo (1888-1962).

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