



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW

MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT

Issue 2, Volume 19

"For thinking Christians seeking to understand the times."

APRIL 2016

FEATURE REPORT

Anxiety Merchants & False Prophets: Part I

How terrible are the times; how anxious Americans have become! Christians everywhere feel pressured. Countless analysts, preachers and prophecy experts have (and continue to) spread fearsome worries about the future. Their shrill warnings can border on the hysterical. If it is not the false alarms of "blood moons," it is about geopolitics or the economic outlook. Some even claim that they have had "divine inspiration" for their prophecies. Speculations are wide-ranging: The U.S. dollar will crash; surely the world economy will collapse; and others warn about "tribulational" events being just around the corner, for which one should be prepared.

Whom to listen to? What should one do in response? Perhaps, consider advance preparation?

There indeed are plenty of worrisome developments around the world. God-fearing people will discern the long-term trends of moral decay. Wickedness and humanism are increasing in influence, and therefore mankind's economic systems, societies and civil institutions are deteriorating and being corrupted. Instability is the new norm. Mankind's modern idols are teetering and tottering.

However, we again ask, how should one respond?

In answering this question, we encounter two diametrically opposed perspectives. One is Biblically supported, the other is not. And, it is the latter that leads to most of the fear-mongering, false prophecies and profit-making deliverance. We will investigate.

... continued on page 3

Priesthood of Money-Magi, -Magicians & -Alchemists? Central Bankers & Transnational Policymakers at G20 Shindig

Source: <http://www.iyibilgi.com/>

"When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, no one can discover anything about their future."
— Ecclesiastes 7:14

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WORLD MONEY UPDATE

Outlook: Something Borrowed, New and Blue

Monetary matters around the globe are as confusing as ever. Theories are being changed on the fly as desperate policies are being put in place. This trend is broadening in scope. Financial pundits churn out "something new" arguments to help "pump up" and "float" financial markets. In this sense, there is much that is new. Quips a recent economics report in response to the deliberate deficit increases recently announced by the Canadian government: "Red is the New Black." It is true that prudent budget policy is today considered unwise. And so, Canada's intended plunge into federal "red deficits" and debt is being celebrated. It is a "black" wisdom that is being applied in many countries today.

With this "something borrowed" there is also much that is "something new." For one, the past 7 years have witnessed one of the largest debt expansions on the part of governments on record. Not only that, this

... continued on next page

has been a deliberate development — not accidental. Supposed wise sages have endorsed and recommended these disastrous policies (seen over the long-term). For now, these policymakers are still widely feted as the “great saviors” of financial markets post the Global Financial Crisis.

At the same time, well-researched studies (reviewing data going back to the early 1800s) clearly show that no countries have ever recovered from financial bubbles or busts without overall debt levels first declining. The reality today? As mentioned, globally, debt levels continue to rise ... not fall. Within that global phenomenon, there are indeed a few countries that have managed to go counter-trend, reducing debt (the U.S. being included in that small number).

Given the continued plunge into debt, generally inflated financial values, and continuing low economic growth, there are great fears that financial systems will totter and fall. As we have often stated, policymakers have already ventured beyond the point of return. They can no longer correct or reverse their course without triggering new financial calamities. They are confronted with “asymmetric” risks. For the globe to suffer an economic recession given current conditions would probably trigger a global crisis greater than before. Therefore, policymakers are pressured to adopt ever more stimulative heterodox policy measures to keep things going.

We anticipate that policymakers will yet put in place “money finance” policies, otherwise now popularly referred to as “helicopter money.” (We’ll explain.) These kinds of measures would effectively create new money, directly financing governments (and very likely, supporting large tax cuts for households). This technique is also referred to as “Outright Permanent Money Finance” (OPMF).

Why “permanent”? Because it is intended that the central bank’s direct financings will forever sit on its books,

never to be paid back. It is a game of smoke and mirrors and will breed incredibly disastrous consequences for most people. It is simply not possible that mankind can create something out of nothing (ex nihilo). That power belongs only to God.

When will the events we describe occur? We cannot know the exact timing of such events. However, suffice it to suggest that it will first require a high level of fear and more financial tremors before policymakers will in unison resort to such heterodox measures. Another anticipation we have is that once such “money finance” type policies are in place, the world economy will indeed experience a strong growth spurt, but only for a while, before finally suffering “end game” consequences. It is all very deceptive ... and deliberately so.

In the meantime, it has certainly become a consensus view amongst policymakers that the globe is in an era of heightened instability. Says one respected geo-political observer, “Over the last 35 years, Western democracies have seen a rapid rise in political instability.” In recent years, the world has experienced a swing to “extremist” political parties. The general populace in these and other countries are disgruntled and mutinous. Add to that the repeated negative shocks (whether financial, plunging commodity prices and numerous high-profile terrorist attacks).

We are also living in the era of the Central Bank (as already indicated). We have previously documented the rapid rise of the Central Bank this past century. (Only 14 existed in 1900. Today, they number nearer 180 covering countries with 99% of world population.) Largely reflecting similar philosophies, they really represent a new form of priesthood. While on the one hand, their coordinated actions and strategies are creating much that is new, frustrating the models and theories of the past, they also are sure to lead the world to a state of even greater instability. Many observers already consider various financial markets as being “fragile.”

How to make sense out of all these unsettling developments? What to do? Isn’t it obvious that “something borrowed, something new” will surely have consequences of “something blue” (loosely borrowing from the 19th century British rhyme)? With such discernible developments, shouldn’t one be “heading for the hills”?

Not necessarily so. There are tremendous risks to taking extreme actions. We wrote this response to a recent email we received:

“[...] financial and economic crises are the norm, not the exception. If the Lord chooses to tarry, there will be plenty more. Therefore, how should people deal with such an uncertain outlook? Our answer: With prudence and balance, seeking to achieve a measure of peace.

Indeed, everyone is responsible for their own stewardship of God-given resources and therefore can



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Wilfred J. Hahn, Editor

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choose their own actions and viewpoints, whether extreme or conservative. However, I strongly challenge the “extremists” that are so certain of their near-term predictions to show me one example of any financial/economic forecaster that has consistently been correct or that has established a “track record” that can validly claim statistical “significance.” Evidence for reliable “financial prophecy” simply does not exist.

Furthermore, I challenge anyone to reliably predict the shorter-term actions of a humanity that is prone to falsehoods, collusion, fleshly wants, and corruption. Perversions do not remain static. By definition, it is impossible to predict the extent of perversions in the future. As such, those that promote “swing for the fences” types of financial strategies can be prone to great losses (most certainly so in terms of lost opportunity) because they simply do not have the financial nor psychological stamina.

A most important consideration in these matters above all is the attainment of “peace” (if at all possible), balanced diversification and a long-term Biblical perspective.

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Anxiety Merchants & False Prophets: Part I

... From Front Page

Bogus Watchmen on the Wall

The Lord told Jeremiah “If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them” (Jeremiah 15:19).

As it may be, some do appoint themselves as spokesman; however, they do not speak worthy words. Often, their words bend toward popular demands and itching ears.

It follows that “worthy, and not worthless words” could only be those that align with biblical knowledge and truth. Unworthy words lead to error and confusion and therefore cannot be inspired of God. Why?

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints” (1 Corinthians 14:33, KJV).

There is no shortage of people and ministries who like to see themselves as “watchmen on the wall” (Isaiah 62:6). To be called as a watchman can be honorable and edifying, provided of course, that one is speaking worthy words and admonitions. The outcome should be peace “in the churches of the saints.”

A worthy watchman would remind people (and the world) that the Lord’s return is near; that the time for repentance is short; and to look up, “[...] for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28, KJV). After all, on many occasions Jesus urged the disciples to watch. Therefore, watchmen that follow these directions from

Christ will prove to be effective and reliable servants.

For example, these honorable forecasters would implore and call out with warnings of the following nature: “Watch out for false prophets [as] they come to you in sheep’s clothing” (Matthew 7:15); “Watch out that no one deceives you” (Matthew 24:4); “[...] keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come” (Matthew 24:42); “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation” (Matthew 26:41); “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed” (Luke 12:15).

Note that none of these urgings from the Bible requires a physical preparation; they are only spiritual ones affecting the heart. None concerns itself with worldly goods or material possessions. For again, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions” (Luke 12:15). A key distinction found here is that the concerns of these “worthy” watchmen are not about the “abundance of possessions.”

As such, these messages will contrast with the types of announcements that come from more earthly-minded prognosticators, who may even masquerade as Spirit-led forecasters or prophets speaking for God. They focus more exclusively upon temporal and materialistic affairs. Moreover, followers of such spokesmen are likely to encounter wild speculations and suffer angst and confusion.

These so-called watchmen might prognosticate that the world’s monetary system is about to collapse. Or, frighteningly, that the stock markets will crash and that the U.S. dollar is sure to plunge. Apocalyptic scenarios are envisioned in which banks will be shuttered and depositors will be unable to access their money. Possibly, grocery store shelves will be emptied and electrical and municipal water systems will no longer function.

What to do? How to preserve your wealth should these frightful scenarios actually occur? How to protect your own family?

As might be guessed, a lot of confusing answers are on offer. Indeed, terrible things have happened in virtually every country over past centuries. However, that fact does not add any real validity to a forecast. The problem lies in the fact that no one has a sure solution or reliable prediction for something that might apply to the near-term future.

That is to say, there are lots of predictions and offered solutions, but none are sure or likely to be correct. Out of thousands of false prophets, which one is likely to be correct? One cannot know in advance. Dire prophecies that have a very low probability of being correct are therefore useless. Even worse, as mentioned, such prophecies lead to much anxiety and confusion.

None of these perspectives here denies the veracity of

Bible prophecy. All Bible prophecy has and will be fulfilled. But even with the inviolable foreknowledge of prophecy, we are admonished, “[...] Do not go beyond what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6). While prophecy provides a light in a dark place (2 Peter 1:19), it provides no guidance as to short-term events.

Sadly, though teachers and preachers may be well-meaning in their warnings and prophecies about predicted financial events and economic trends, they are misguided. They discredit the pulpit. Secular professionals who may specialize in geopolitics or currency market trends, for example, are also often wrong in their predictions (if not almost always). Then, what advantage does a pastor or ministry leader have with his predictions?

This writer has been active in the global financial industry for nearly four decades. During this time I have witnessed many irresponsible financial predictions from the pulpits of North America. These may have induced their congregations to buy gold, buy the Iraqi dinar, sell the U.S. dollar, and a host of other possible investment schemes. The damage has been great both in monetary terms as well as reputational. Not only are such types of prophecies likely to be unreliable, but they also betray an ignorance of Bible-rooted perspectives.

Battling Confusion

Over the years, I have also received countless inquiries from readers asking me to legitimize the “doom and gloom” (and also profit-making) forecasts of various economists or Bible teachers. These respondents were anguished and concerned. They were in fear. Were they and their households vulnerable to economic calamity? What should they do? They would ask me to read or research the opinions of these commentators.

My response has generally been the same. Indeed, there will be troubles and crisis. In fact, the history of the world is marked by crisis, greater and lesser. There have been crises beyond count. One researcher, Moritz Schularick, counts 71 banking crises having occurred between 1870 and 2009. There have been many other types of crises. Human strife and crises of various types are a normal occurrence.

Furthermore, no one can reliably predict the near-future. The Bible confirms this in no uncertain terms. Said James: “Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.’ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow” (James 4:13-14). The Proverbs writer counsels, “Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring” (Proverbs 27:1).

If we cannot reliably see the future, then what to do about our current worries and anxieties? Jesus directly answers this question. He tells us, “[...] do not worry

about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:34).

We indeed are required to be good stewards with the skills and opportunities that God has given us. We have a responsibility to plan rather than to predict. Christ mentions the situation of the tower builder: “Suppose he starts building and is not able to finish. Then everyone who sees what he has done will laugh at him. They will say, ‘This fellow started to build. But he wasn’t able to finish’” (Luke 14:29-30).

However, we are also told that we should rely upon God to lead us through crises and concerns. For if “God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?” (Matthew 6:30).

Jesus cares for us: “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

Deliverance for Profit

Understandably, we may well empathize with pulpit forecasters in part. Who has not been chastened when it comes to predicting future trends, as they may impact our household or investment decisions? However, there is an even more reprehensible type of opportunist in such matters.

If you have some money, there are plenty of vendors willing to provide their advice and to sell to you their solutions. To no surprise, the business fortunes of these advisors and suppliers are benefited by fear-mongering and exaggeration. Sadly, some otherwise godly ministries may rely on such sales in order to cover their budgets. The greater the fear that can be generated, the more nitrogen-packed food, bomb shelters, and crisis-proof investments that can be sold.

Even more appalling is that Bible prophecy may be used to drive survival supply sales. These vendors (some claiming to be ministries) are outfitting people specifically to be able to survive the coming Tribulation period. Even ministries that take a pre-Tribulation view (i.e. the rapture of the Church occurring before the start of the Tribulation period) can appear nearly indistinguishable from the Tribulation preppers. They also offer to sell survival supplies; perhaps promote the purchase of gold bullion, and may even urge the purchase of personal weapons.

Thoughts to Ponder

Jesus said that “In this world you [Christians] will have trouble” (John 16:33). We can then confirm that we will not be able to avoid some worldly troubles. Yet, none of Christ’s urgings to be on “watch” are concerned with this type of trouble. He is most concerned about our salvation and faith and preserving us from spiritual deceptions.

Would Christ allow that salvation and deliverance from crisis and trouble for the members of his body, the Church, be dependent upon affordability? In other words, can only those Spirit-filled Christians who can afford a large portfolio of gold bullion or a 7-year supply of nitrogen-packed food, be protected from last-day crisis and wickedness? Could it be that poor Christians will have no access to such deliverance?

This could never be true. Christ offers salvation and deliverance to all who would come. As the Spirit of Christ said through Isaiah, “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare” (Isaiah 55:1-2).

In the same way, Christ’s deliverance does not (should not) have any monetary cost. We may indeed suffer monetary loss in a world that is increasingly inhospitable to Christians. However, salvation and deliverance from a wicked world is available to all without a monetary price. While hucksters peddle survival supplies for the future Tribulation period—to only those who can afford them—God has a much more equitable plan, not that we should deserve it. It is the great “snatching away” (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18) ... the Rapture.

[In the next part to this series, we will further examine the commercial hucksterism conducted in the name of Christianity, so that we might not fall.]

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Terrible Times: 10 Challenges Facing Christians in the Last Days—Part III



Modern Evolved Pagan—Part II

For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you” (1 Peter 4:3-4).

Reveling, debauchery, bacchanalian feasts, and wild sensuality were seen as being part of the worship exercises of the pagans. (The Amplified Bible also mentions frivolousness and hilarity.) These aspects of paganism are highly promoted today. Why? It’s good for business ... good for economic growth. Morality is not a relevant issue.

Revelry and frivolousness add to economic growth whatever forms it may take. Those businesses that are on the leading edge of these trends often are the most successful. Entertainment media that seek to capitalize on this trend are another example. Many more could be listed. It’s all part of a sophisticated pagan economic culture. Increasingly, these pagan “lifestyle” activities now may include mindless entertainment, drugs, pornography ... and much, much more. The Modern Pagan Man guiltlessly consumes and indulges.

5. Ultra-Competitiveness

The Bible pictures pagans as being competitive. They are seen vying for the fulfillment of their personal wants. As already reviewed, “they run after” the things that they want (Matthew 6:31). Jesus indirectly points to another competitive behavior of the pagans.

“[...] whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:26-28). Apparently, he said this while in Jericho — the city rebuilt from the ruins of ancient Jericho.

In contrast, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactor” (Luke 22:25). By inference, pagan society is marked by “one-upmanship”, the desire to be the “top-dog” as society would define, and to rule over others. To achieve these goals requires competitive behavior.

Of course, we recognize that competition is one of the most venerated principles on earth today. Yes, there is nothing wrong in trying to strive for improvement if our motivations are healthy and balanced. However, the type of competitive behavior identified here is the jungle rule of “survival of the fittest.”

It is a type of competition that is devoid of charity or love for others. This form of competitiveness is deeply imbedded in pagan society — our society. Even something so simple as buying a security on a stock exchange for the sake of gain embodies the notion that one person's success can likely only come at the price of another person's misfortune. Be that as it may, that's the accepted way of Modern Pagan Man.

Having reviewed just five of the pagan characteristics of ancient mankind we indeed see proof of pagan advanced evolution. Yes, all the basic physical characteristics of mankind remain the same. Yet, we do see that there has evolved a modern, sophisticated pagan. Anyone who truly understands the workings of the great global commercialization that reigns over the world will recognize the true extent of the paganization of today.

Brief as our description has been in this article, the world of Modern Pagan Man sets a stark contrast to the primitive heathen of ancient times. Does the society we see today already witness the Modern Pagan Man that the Bible depicts during the endtimes? And, if so, what does the future hold for the modern pagan?

The Endtime Pagan

The Bible prophesies many things that will happen to the Modern Pagan Man and his endtime world.

“‘Ethnos’ will rise up against ‘ethnos’” (Mark 13:8, Luke 21:10), with the word “ethnos” here being commonly translated as “nation”. In other words, there will be much unrest, warring and competition as pagans will rise up against pagans.

The “ethnos” will be holding Israel in bondage during the latter days and will be judged (Acts 7:7), this being the same period referred to by Jesus as the “time of the Gentiles” (the time of the “ethnos”) (Luke 21:24). The pagans set up vain systems that conspire against God.

“Why do the nations (ethnos) conspire and the peoples plot in vain?” (Acts 4:25, Psalm 2:1). They are going to be angry that God will unleash His wrath upon them and reward the saints. Revelation 11:18 clearly says that it is the “ethnos” that are destroying the earth.

The form of destruction that might be referred to here is not clear. On balance, it seems to be referring to physical destruction. Could this include such phenomena as pollution, environmental damage and other results of overconsumption? It is the pagans who are the ones in alignment with the endtime commercial and political regime portrayed as Babylon the Great found in Revelation 17, 18. It is the “ethnos” that “drink of the wine of the wrath of Babylon the Great's fornication” (Revelation 14:8, KJV).

All pagans are deceived by the sorceries of this global regime of which the “merchants were the great men” (Revelation 18:23).

Thoughts to Ponder

The descriptions of the “ethnos” in the last days already align with what we see unfolding in the world today. Surely, an anthropologist examining the records of the time described in Revelation 17-18 would name that era as the time of the Modern Pagan Man. It is clearly a civilization that is marked by extreme consumption, endless wants, materialistic idolatry and a fixation with wealth. The evolution of this “pagan” is truly advanced.

But this description already fits the description of the human species of our time.

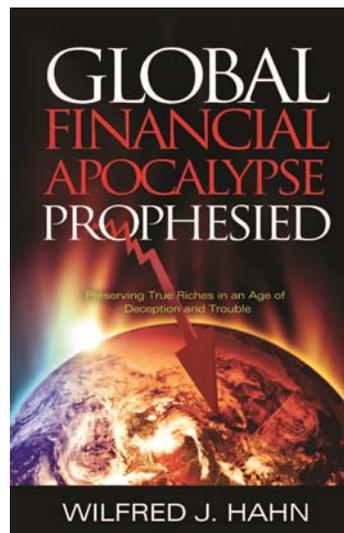
How many of us might find similarities with the modern pagan way of life? It is an important and timely question. It is only the “ethnos” (and also the surviving Jews) that are the ones that in the end — after going through the Great Tribulation — finally come and worship before God. “...for all ‘ethnos’ shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest” (Revelation 15:4 KJV).

After all, “Every knee shall bow” says the Bible (Isaiah 45:23). All the “ethnos” will sing a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth” (Rev. 5:9-10).

[Based on the article: The Evolved Modern Pagan Man, January 2005, Midnight Call Magazine].

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TOPICAL QUOTES

[...] the top 10 publishers — together owning around 60 news sites — account for 47% of total online traffic to news content last year, with the next-biggest 140 publishers accounting for most of the other half, SimilarWeb found. —

www.mediapost.com, January 28, 2016

Outside national elections, most people ignore politics altogether. In 2010 the pollsters YouGov asked US voters, “Suppose that you alone could determine whether a Democrat or a Republican represents your Congressional district by paying a specific dollar amount. How much would you be willing to pay to ensure that a Congressman from your preferred party will win the office?” The response shocked YouGov: “55% of respondents said ZERO.” Swinging an election wasn’t worth \$1 to them. —

Financial Times, December 18, 2015

Men account for more than 90% of those behind bars. But the number of female inmates, most of whom are mothers, has been growing at an even faster rate than the overall prison population. In 1980 there were just over 15,000 women in state prisons. By 2010 there were nearly 113,000. When jail inmates are added in, there are about 206,000 women currently serving time — nearly 1/3 of all female prisoners in the world. — The New York Times, November 30, 2015

Family togetherness isn’t just for Thanksgiving dinner. More young adults are now living with their parents than during the recession, according to U.S. Census data. The share of 18-34-year-olds living with their parents was 31.5% as of March 2015, up from 31.4% last year, according to a report from the Commerce Department [...]. In 2005, just 27% of young adults lived with their parents, a number that has climbed pretty steadily since then. — **www.wsj.com, November 23, 2015**

In two recent experiments, a team of computer scientists at the University of Washington and Microsoft, and a separate group at the University of Illinois, have shown that DNA molecules can be the basis for an archival storage system

potentially capable of storing all of the world’s digital information in roughly 9 liters of solution, about the amount of liquid in a case of wine. — **The New York Times, December 4, 2015**

In 1969, 47% of the UK stock market was directly held by individuals and 30% was held by institutions (unit and investment trusts plus pension funds and insurance companies). By the mid-1990s those numbers were 20% and 60% respectively. The latest numbers from the Office for National Statistics show the percentage held by individuals down to 12%. — **www.ft.com, January 29, 2016**

[...] Google now has the power to flip upwards of 25% of the national elections in the world with no one knowing this is occurring. In fact, we estimate that, with or without deliberate planning on the part of company executives, Google’s search rankings have been impacting elections for years, with growing impact each year. And because search rankings are ephemeral, they leave no paper trail, which gives the company complete deniability. Power on this scale and with this level of invisibility is unprecedented in human history. — **https://aeon.co, February 18, 2016**

A survey of Canadian media consumption by Microsoft concluded that the average attention span had fallen to 8 seconds, down from 12 in the year 2000. We now have a shorter attention span than goldfish, the study found. Attention span was defined as “the amount of concentrated time on a task without becoming distracted.” — **The New York Times, January 22, 2016**

In 1915, the richest 1% of Americans earned roughly 18% of all national income. Their share plummeted in the 1930s and remained below 10% through the 1970s, but by 2007, it had risen to 24%. Looking at household wealth rather than income, the rise of inequality has been even greater, with the share owned by the top 0.1% increasing to 22% from 9% three decades ago. In 2011, the top 1% of U.S. households controlled 40% of the nation’s entire wealth. — **Foreign Affairs, January/February 2016**

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“The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world that he didn’t exist.” — **The Usual Suspects**

“A cheerful heart is good medicine.” — **Proverbs 17:22**

“Errors in religion are dangerous; those in philosophy only ridiculous.” — **David Hume**

“In a closed society where everybody’s guilty, the only crime is getting caught. In a world of thieves, the only final sin is stupidity.” — **Hunter S. Thompson, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas**

“Giving pays the highest interest rate and has the longest term of any investment available.” — **Jeffrey Wilson**

“In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” — **Abraham Lincoln**

“Never spend your money before you have earned it.” — **Thomas Jefferson**

“The thing that differentiates man from animals is money.” — **Gertrude Stein**

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Letters to the Editor

[Editor: In response to our recent article, Why Rapture is No New Delirium, we received an outsized response. Many questioned who would be left to populate the Millennium if all Tribulation Christians were to be slain. Therefore, we have provided a more detailed response to this question. Please see the article entitled Post Rapture: Why All Tribulational Christians Face First Death which starts on the back page of this issue. We reproduce here only a small selection of queries on this topic.]

READER: Dear Brothers in Christ. For a long time I have enjoyed reading the articles and analysis of our brother Wilfred Hahn. I have very often found them intriguing and to the point. On the Rapture Ready page of this week, I have just read the article "Why the Rapture is No New Delirium". I also take the pre-Tribulation Rapture view, however, what bothers me in this article is [...] as far as I understand from Scripture during the Tribulation period (7 years) people will become believers, and yes, it will cost many their lives. However, who will make it into the Kingdom/Millennium if you state all Christians will die? Scripture tells us the earth will be heavily repopulated during the LORD's reign. Nowhere do I read (if I am correct) that only surviving Jews will enter the Kingdom. There must also be gentiles that have become believers. I am looking forward to hearing from you. Maranatha. — E.S.

READER: Wilfred, I have just concluded your latest article [...], "Why the Rapture is no New Delirium". In it, you state that all Christians will be killed during the Tribulation Period?! If this be so, then what fleshly mortals will enter the 1000-year reign? We know from a careful study of the Bible that late in the Tribulation, all Jews will have their eyes opened and get "saved". What of them? Will all of them be killed later on, before the Trib ends? And, what of all those who refuse to take the "mark of the beast"? Will none of them make it through alive? Some people still possessing flesh, blood, and bone bodies will most definitely enter the 1000 year reign; so, I say again, "Who will they be?" Keep up the good works. I look forward to all your articles. Your fellow brother in Christ. — B.C.

READER: In your article [Why the Rapture is No New Delirium] it is confusing for someone to state that they are pre-millennial and then make a statement that all Christians in the Tribulation will be killed. The Millennium follows the Tribulation so, if there were no believers left on the earth, who would people the Millennium in natural bodies as many verses describe (death after long life just one example)? And the kingdom is only for believers as Daniel 7:22 states. So, for the same reason that all believers will not die in the Tribulation, the Rapture cannot take place at the end of Tribulation, (and must be before) which would

change all living believers to have glorified bodies. The Tribulation gives time after the Rapture for people to be saved and for a remnant of believers to survive to the end to go into the Millennium. Matthew 25:32 describes the judgment that will put living believers from the Tribulation into the Millennium. — D.E.

READER: I firmly believe God will remove the Church in the Rapture before the Tribulation starts. Hang tough...there will always be misguided people who try to convince people that there is no Rapture. Delusions are running strong at this time in the world. — S.H.

READER: Greetings Mr. Hahn: God is patient, Grace abounds. Once the door is shut God's anger and wrath will come upon this world. The Bible also tells us that our Lord will save us from the time of wrath. [... I] will look forward to meeting you at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Thanks for your encouragement. — T.S.

READER: Dear Mr. Hahn: [Re: Why the Rapture is No New Delirium] I want to commend you for the above excellent article [...]. It is indeed disconcerting and sometimes depressing when we read or hear of those who attempt to debunk the doctrine of the pre-Tribulation Rapture. I attribute it mainly to the spiritual attacks that are ever growing in these "perilous times" in which we now live. Ironically, however, I believe these attacks should actually give us comfort in knowing that the coming of our Lord is indeed drawing very near. In the meantime, the enemy wants to destroy our hope and our joy. His "hope" is in the harming of our witness and ministry to others. Fortunately, with the faithful witness and ministry of people like you, I think the enemy's hope will be largely disappointed. Sincerely. — J.W.

READER: Re: Why the Rapture is No New Delirium. This is an excellent, excellent write-up. I am just a lay person and born again Christian and although I do believe in the pre-Trib Rapture, this gave me so much more insight and spiritual defence against doubts that may sometimes occur between those of the Christian Faith. The comparison you made between Noah and Lot, and us being saved while we were yet sinners further explains why the righteous will "scarcely" be saved. — J.H.

READER: Dear Wilfred, [Re: Why Final Collapse May Not Be Yet] Thank you for the brilliant article in Rapture Ready. It's a twist on the subject that I've never entertained. I feel I can come out of my doomsday bunker now. It has been exhausting. Thank you for your wisdom showing me how the Lord has this figured out. We won't be here when things break bad! Hopefully! God Bless! — C.S.

READER: I just wanted to say how much I love your work and to say you are truly a gifted writer and theologian. I believe in the pre-Trib Rapture and am pre-Millennial. I wanted to know if you are familiar with Jacob Prasch who is the Director of Moriel Ministries [and] he lives in Great Britain. He wrote a book, Shadows of the Beast, in which he believes in an intra-seal Rapture that happens around the 6th seal. He is a very brilliant scholar and a true man of God, so in no way do I condemn or break fellowship with

him over this issue. I just was wondering if you have heard of it and what are your thoughts regarding an intra-seal Rapture? Again, I am not causing division just a curious mind wants to know because I have not heard of anyone else with the viewpoint. I may add Jacob does not divide over the issue either, he very much believes in the Rapture, it's just I have not heard that viewpoint from another Biblical scholar, or heard anyone talk about the intra-seal Rapture happening around the 6th seal. He has quite a Biblical argument for it as he speaks Hebrew and Greek and understands the Bible like no one I have seen. So thank you for your time and may God bless you and your Ministry! Respectfully. — D.C.B.

EVR: As you mention, these competing perspectives need not be divisive. I am not familiar enough with Mr. Prasch's views to offer a fully considered response. I believe I may understand why an argument for the Rapture around the time of the sixth seal may be appealing. The "great multitude" of Tribulation saints garbed in white robes are first shown in heaven in front of the heavenly throne (Revelation 7) at the time of the sixth seal. They are said to come from out of the Tribulation and the Bible does not mention that they had been slain. That may leave the door open for some to believe that these saints have been raptured. In the previous chapter (Revelation 6), an earlier group of saints are shown (at the time of the fifth seal). These, in contrast, are all shown to be martyrs who had died for their faith. They therefore could not have been raptured. Ergo, the Rapture is argued to occur near the time of the sixth seal being opened. However, this view is not entirely satisfying for a number of reasons. Firstly, what are we to make of the great decision point imposed upon all earth dwellers by the Second Beast to accept the "mark"? At what point does this occur? The Rapture surely could not occur after this point or thereafter. Why? The decision to not receive the mark produces a great number of martyrs. There is no need to rapture anyone once already dead. If the Rapture (and therefore the 6th seal) occurs before this great decision point then we again have some potential contradictions to deal with. Why would a Rapture take place before the "full number" of Christians have been martyred? For example, Revelation 6:11 says that a full number of their fellow servants (Christians), their brothers and sisters, is yet expected. These were to be killed just as they had been. Therefore, this full number of saints that then later is shown at the time of the 6th seal as having come out of the Tribulation period could not have been those that were raptured. I believe there are a large number of errors in the mid-Trib Rapture theory; however, as mentioned, I am not sufficiently informed of Mr. Prasch's views to make any definitive statements.

READER: Pre-Trib Rapture or Fulfilled Eschatology? I've been reading your reports for several years now and I've found a number of things you've written to be helpful and informative. Though I don't see eye-to-eye with your ministry when it comes to eschatology, I continue to appreciate this resource and your regular newsletters. I grew up believing as a Dispensationalist and believing in a

pre-Trib Rapture. One key factor that led me away from that belief is the multitude of time statements in Scripture pointing to a fulfillment of "end times" events in the lifetime of Jesus' apostles. I could cite so many, but here are a few: Peter stated that "the end of all things" was at hand in his own day (I Peter 4:7). John stated that it was "the last hour" in his own day (I John 2:18), and then affirmed that the book of Revelation concerned things that would soon take place because the time was near (Revelation 1:1-3; 22:6,10,20). Jesus said that the great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21; cf. Rev. 7:14) would take place in His own generation ("this generation") and before the temple would fall (Matthew 24:34, Mark 13:30, Luke 21:32). He also said that judgment would come upon Jerusalem and the religious leaders of Israel in that generation because they were responsible for the bloodshed of saints and prophets (Matthew 23:29-38); then in Revelation 16:4-6, 17:1-6, and 18:20-24 the great city, Babylon (earlier identified as Jerusalem - Rev. 11:8) is judged for being full of the blood of saints, prophets, and apostles. I submit that Jesus and the apostles were speaking of "the end" of the old covenant age and not, allegedly, the end of the world. I believe that the great Tribulation took place between February 67 AD (when Nero declared war on Israel) and August 70 AD when Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by fire, along with the old covenant system. I realize this is a far different perspective than even mid-Trib and post-Trib arguments you've encountered. My question, though, is what do you do with these and similar time statements that at least seemed to refer to a near fulfillment when they were spoken? For further reference, my articles on the Olivet Discourse, the book of Revelation, and more can be seen at www.kloposmasm.com. Thank you and God bless you all. — A.M.

EVR: Thank you for your note. As will be surmised from our writings, I have never found the Preterist perspective satisfying. It indeed is a perspective that has been held by many committed Christians for centuries. That saints might have thought that the fulfillment of various prophecies were near and likely to be fulfilled in their "generation" has applied to every era since the NT times. This is still the case today. That a much longer period of time may apply to the Church Age or any other than may seem plausible or possible to us is not a sufficient argument to disprove the dispensationalist view. Apostle Peter warns the mockers that their sense of time and its generational elapse did not offer any proofs of any kind. May I quote at length here: "They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation. But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years,

and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:4-9). Briefly, I provide here a few other reasons why the Preterist view has not appealed to me: 1. Christ himself warns that He will not return in secret. Most conclusively, referring to his return: "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it" (Matthew 24:25). When Bible prophecy is truly fulfilled, there will be no doubt to its fulfillment. God does not fulfill prophecy in secret. Otherwise, why would He stake the “proof” of who he is upon the claim that he can foretell the future unlike the false gods? “Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). Preterist historical claims of the actual fulfillment of the Tribulation period and other end time events — i.e. who, with certainty, were the ten kings? — are too subjective or too “veiled.” The world was hardly aware of any prophetic fulfillments taking place at the claimed times forwarded by the Preterist view. Indeed, Christ did say: "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another." And, that prophecy of the temple being destroyed was definitely fulfilled in 70 A.D. However, it leaves open the remaining eschatological program to later and future times. 2. Scholarship makes a very solid case that the book of Revelation was written very late in John’s life; somewhere in the vicinity of 90-95 AD. Therefore, the many prophecies in this book could not have been fulfilled in the 60-70 AD time frame. The fulfillment of its prophecies remain yet future. 3. Scripture says clearly that the Tribulation period is a time of suffering and trial as never before has been experienced in mankind’s history. Joel says it will be “[...] a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come” (Joel 2:2). Christ himself says: “For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now — and never to be equaled again” (Matthew 24:21). The point here is that there have been much worse periods experienced in the history of the world since the events surrounding 70 AD. As such, how could these “end time” events already have been fulfilled as the Preterist view claims? I realize that the brief comments that I have made here do not represent a systematic rebuttal to the Preterist view. I do appreciate your willingness to peacefully discuss differences of opinion.

EVR

Wilfred’s Itinerary 2016: *The Mulberry Ministry*

- October 2016: Atlantic Prophecy Congress: Myrtle Beach, SC. Contact Midnight Call Ministries 1-800-845-2420

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- December 5-7, 2016: 25th Annual Pre-Trib Study Group Conference. Irving, TX.

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Why All Tribulational Christians Face First Death

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blood?’ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.”

Presented here are the souls of the Christians who have been slaughtered between the Rapture and the time of the 5th seal (assuming that the Rapture occurs at the start of the Tribulation). They are shown under the altar in heaven, “until the full number of fellow servants” (Revelation 6:11) are killed as they had been. These earlier Christians will be given white robes at that time (they are not wearing them yet) and are waiting until the rest of the martyrs arrive.

A while later (at the time of the sixth seal) we now see that the “full number” has arrived. As already mentioned, there are so many martyrs at this point, they are called a “great multitude.” John the Revelator says “[...] there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands” (Revelation 7:9). These souls are identified as coming out of the “tribulation” (Revelation 7:14). They are definitely tribulational martyrs.

At this point, the “full” number has arrived, joining the martyrs shown in Revelation 6:9-11. They are all now wearing white robes. But just what event could have caused such a large number to have arrived in such a short space of time? In our conceptualization, the great winnowing of Revelation 13:11-17 occurs. It is the final “dividing.” A large number refusing to take the “mark” is martyred.

Envisioning both phases of the slain saints, says the Bible of them: “This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven say, Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them” (Revelation 14:12-13).

Why Sure Death For Tribulational Saints?

What happens to those who declare themselves believers in Jesus Christ during the Tribulation? Will they ALL be killed or not and who will populate the world in the Millennium period? As already tangentially revealed in the Bible verses quoted, ALL who become Christians during the Tribulation period are to be killed. That’s the apparent policy of the Dragon.

Here is what the Bible says about these Tribulation saints: “They triumphed over him [the Dragon] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death” (Revelation 12:11).

The Second Beast only offers one of two options. Therefore, “[...] all who refused to worship the image [are] to be killed” (Revelation 13:15). There is no allowance for exceptions. (Again, see Revelation 20:4.)

Practically considered, it will not be possible to live without the mark in that future world. If one is not able to “buy nor sell” at a time of a pervasive global crisis and a closed worldwide financial system, one cannot obtain food nor shelter. A Christian will die of starvation if not first murdered.

A number of respondents have postulated the idea that not all Christians could be killed in the Tribulation as there would be no people left on earth to populate the Millennium. This is incorrect. The Bible states that the First Resurrection occurs at this point. All those who become Christians during the Tribulation are resurrected at the beginning of Millennium. “They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4) upon earth.

There will also be a surviving number of people on earth (both Jews and Gentiles) ... though a greatly decimated number. (Some researchers have suggested that only 3% of the world’s population at the Tribulation onset will survive to the Millennium.)

In conclusion, resurrected tribulational saints and surviving Jews and Gentiles will populate the Millennium.

Saved to Death and Resurrection

We again consider the significant positional differences between those Christians who are raptured and those who later become Christians during the Tribulation. Firstly, those who are raptured are a unique and small group. They face neither the First nor the Second Death (physical death nor spiritual damnation) but a translation to a new body. What a wonderful reward to the Christians of the apostate, hostile world that exists at the time of the Rapture.

The only other group that is given a similar special dispensation (in part) are the 144,000 prophets. They are sealed, being already redeemed first-fruits (what we take to mean resurrected with eternal bodies) and therefore will not perish during the Tribulation. They possibly may also enter into the Millennial period and also not taste the Second Death [though we must disclose that the Bible is actually silent on these points.]

The Bible says that “[...] it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Hebrew 9:27). No human is appointed to die twice (contrary to the claims of those who say they have died and have returned from heaven). All must face the First Death (physical death) with the exception of Christians that are alive at the time of the Rapture. There remains one other outlier in this respect, and that is the situation of the two Old Testament persons, Enoch and Elijah. They did not face the First Death as they were raptured (Hebrew 11:5, 2 Kings 10:11).

As all are “appointed to die once” it would fit that Elijah and Enoch are brought back as the Two Witnesses of the Tribulation Period. They then do die at the end of their period of witness, and after three days are resurrected and take up to heaven.

Great Rewards to All Saints

Glorious is the fact that raptured Christians are spared

the First Death and Second Death; and are also spared “the hour of trial” (Revelation 3:10) and will be in heaven with the Lord while the Tribulation takes place upon earth. Tribulation saints, on the other hand, do face a physical death. They remain upon earth during the Tribulation period until they are killed and then for a short time do reside in front of the throne of God (either under the altar or before the Lamb) until the full number has come in.

Shown to be dressed in white robes they are then brought back to life in their physical bodies (this the First Resurrection) and will live on earth for the Millennial period. Tribulation Christians will not reside in heaven during the Millennium. After the First Resurrection, they remain as earth dwellers in resurrected physical bodies.

Raptured Saints however “[...] will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:17) in their translated resurrected incorruptible bodies. Whether on earth or in heaven, wherever Jesus will be, that is where the raptured Christians will be. They “[...] will be with the Lord forever.”

Only after the Millennium and the Judgement does the Second Resurrection take place. It is then that these tribulational believers receive their imperishable new bodies. They and all the saints then will live with Christ in the New Jerusalem.

In conclusion, Christians will have a nil chance of physically surviving the Tribulation period. ALL Christians will be killed during the Tribulation period. Could there be a few exceptions to this seemingly absolutist statement? Possibly. However, according to our studies, the Bible appears silent to these exceptions.

Surely the Tribulation is a terrible period ... as none ever before in mankind’s history. Nevertheless, there is good news to celebrate:

For ALL Christians, there will be no Second Death. We will all be given eternal life.

After the Tribulation, the Lord, “[...] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

There is no incentive to survive the Tribulation for Christians since all will be killed and all are then resurrected at the start of the Millennium.

Therefore, whether amongst the raptured or those saved during the Tribulation, there are no physical preparations to be made ... nothing to buy ... or escape.

For now, given that the Rapture still lies ahead, much of our deliberations here have been mostly academic. We are all still part of the generation that “[...] continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming” (1 John 2:28).

[A recent 3-part series, Anxiety Merchants and False Prophets specifically deals with the promotion of survivalist goods to Christians.]



Personal Perspective

Post Rapture: Why All Tribulational Christians Face First Death

A recent article, entitled Why the Rapture is No New Delirium, triggered an outsized response. Most were from pro-Rapture believers. (Only 10% or so of respondents sought to contest our abbreviated exposition of the Rapture Doctrine.) One prevalent question we encountered was in reaction to the claim we made that all tribulational Christians — these being those that come to recognize Christ as LORD and Savior after the Rapture — would be sure to perish.

We hold to that view and will present our reasons. We even ask: Why would any Christian want to survive through the Tribulation in the first place? Though tribulational Christians do not have the special position of raptured Christians, they nevertheless are promised a reward at the start of the Millennium as the Bible clearly outlines.

In reviewing this topic, we must begin by noting the positional distinctions between tribulational Christians and those of the pre-Tribulation period who are ALL raptured. During the Tribulation, the Holy Spirit is no longer an unction upon earth as during the Church Age. The Comforter has been removed along with the Church; and the Antichrist has been revealed. Those who come to Christ in this later 7-year period are not spared suffering and physical death (the First Death) as are the raptured saints.

Pre-tribulational Christians of the Church Age are translated to be in Christ's presence (Rapture). Tribulational Christians are not ... at least, not until after the Millennium. The former group does not experience the First Death; the latter group does. Graciously, neither group faces the Second Death.

Christians During the Time of Wrath

People will definitely become believers in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, during the Tribulation Period. As the terror of this time erupts, earth dwellers will come to the recognition that Jesus Christ was who he said he was — the Messiah ... the Saviour ... the Son of God. The state of evil in the world as well as the appearance of the Antichrist will be obvious to all. The timing of remaining prophetic events is then no longer entirely speculative. These are clearly seen to be unfolding.

Knowing that the Tribulation is underway (following the Rapture and the peace treaty that the Antichrist brings into effect with Israel) a maximum of 7 years would lie ahead. This information would be readily available at that future time as there is much evangelization.

We see an angel "flying in midair" proclaiming the eternal gospel "[...] to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people" (Revelation 14:6).

Also, the Two Witnesses provide testimony for a time of 1260 days; and the sealed 144,000 (who are first-fruits redeemed from amongst 12 tribes of Israel) are thought to bring the gospel to the entire world. [To note, the only thing we know for certain about the role of the 144,000 is that they are to be "bondservants" to Jesus (Revelation 7:3-4); and "they follow the Lamb wherever he goes" (14:4-5).]

As such, many people do become Christians during the Tribulation. In fact, there are so many that the Bible calls them a "great multitude." The "marker" for these tribulational saints is their wearing of white robes. They are also called a "great multitude" in Revelation 19:1.

However, we may be getting ahead of ourselves. Where does this "multitude" of saints come from?

Two Phases of Slain Saints

The great winnowing of Tribulational Christians from earth is described in Revelation 13:11-17. The false prophet (the second beast) orders all to worship an image of the first beast and presses all to take upon themselves the mark of the first beast so that they could buy and sell. Those that DO worship the image of the beast and take this mark will be eternally damned.

What happens to those who DO NOT take the mark of the False Prophet and refuse to worship the image of the beast? The good news: They are redeemed and therefore will not be condemned to the lake of fire. This is, nevertheless, not without suffering and one additional positional disadvantage to the pre-tribulational Christian (as we will yet show).

These Christians will be killed. The Bible clearly says that "[...] all those who refused to worship the image to be killed" (Revelation 13:15). A death sentence therefore is also implied for all those who do not take the mark. Revelation 20:4 confirms this saying: "[...] I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands." As a result, they are spared the Second Death but yet must face the First Death.

We propose that these above-mentioned events (shown in Revelation 13) take place sometime between the time of the fifth and sixth seals being opened. However, Christians are already being slain before this point.

The first tribulation Christians that we see slain are shown in Revelation 6:9-11. The Bible says here: "When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, 'How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our

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