

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

Answering Your Prophetic Questions

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Preface

Only three time periods exist for any man or for any nation—the past, the present and the future. We know the past, in part at least; but on the whole, we do not know the future. Nevertheless, both the past and the future exercise enormous influence over the present.

The future contains factors of fear for many people, especially because frightful catastrophes are now possible.

Dr. M. R. DeHaan wrote some time ago: “Not one in a hundred of the members of our evangelical churches could give the order of events of the last days, and hence do not know what to look for.”¹

In my evangelistic meetings through the years I have received written questions from hundreds of people concerning prophecy, or things that will happen in the future. The year in which I wrote this book was one of my busiest years in evangelism. Pastors and churches asked me to speak on prophecy more times that year than in any other year of my twenty-eight years in evangelism. People are vitally interested in the future now as never before. The message concerning the future is “being sounded from the pulpits and airwaves of mainstream Christian evangelists and resonantly striking a chord among tens of millions of conservative Christians. . . . Those who embrace dispensationalism find ‘end is near’ forecasts a powerful motivation for converting others to Christianity.”²

I have collected these questions and stored them in my files for years. About a year ago I took them out, reread them and decided to try to answer them in print. I have had an extremely enjoyable and profitable time studying God’s Word for answers to these questions about the future. I have written fourteen other books, but I can truthfully say this has been the one I have delighted to write more than any of the others. I have spent literally hundreds of hours in research and study, and I thank God for the things I have learned.

The Word of God from beginning to end is a great unfolding of the future, and the Holy Spirit has come to show us “things to come” (John 16:13). “I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning . . .” (Isa. 46:9, 10). A note in the Pilgrim Bible at verse 10 says: “Prophecy is simply prewritten history. God, Who is all wise, knows the future as well as the past. He has revealed much of that future through the predictive

portions of the Bible. Some prophecies have been fulfilled, while others await fulfillment, but all of them must eventually be brought to pass.”³

My prayer for every reader of this book is that you will be ready for the future and not afraid of it. Make sure you have trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. As we think of the any-moment return of the Lord Jesus Christ, may each of us

look for Him (Phil. 3:20);

live for Him (2 Pet. 3:11, 14);

labor for Him (Luke 19:12, 13).

I am grateful for all the help I have received through the writings of others, and I pray that you will be helped by the answers I have given.

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Q 1. After the Rapture, will any Christians be left here for the Tribulation? If not, who does Revelation 13:7 refer to as saints?

A Revelation 13:7 says, “And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.” The context of this verse indicates it will take place during the middle of the tribulation period and that the Beast (Antichrist) will have power over the earth for the last forty-two months of that period. He will make war against the saints of God and will overcome them.

This verse does not refer to the believers of this present Church Age. The saints of this present age will be raptured before the tribulation period (1 Thess. 4:13–18). “Saints” refers to those whom God has saved and separated unto Himself. There were saints in the time of the Old Testament, before the Church Age, and saints during the time of the New Testament. There will be saints (saved ones) in the coming tribulation period. The saints of Revelation 13:7 will be those saved during the Tribulation, after the rapture of the Church.

The Devil will give the Beast power (Rev. 13:2, 4, 5, 7), his seat—a throne (v. 2), great authority (v. 2), a mouth (v. 5), occasion to make war with the saints (v. 7; cf. Dan. 7:21, 25) and ability to overcome them (v. 7). During the last half of the Tribulation, the Beast will seek to destroy everyone who worships the true God, and only those who have gone into hiding will escape death.

John Phillips, in his interesting book, *Exploring Revelation*, wrote concerning the Beast: “To war he goes with the refurbished equipment of the inquisition, with the rack, the thumbscrew, the stake, the boiling oil. To war he goes with his firing squads, gas chambers, long-prepared concentration camps, death pits.”⁴

Q 2. What Scriptures show that the Second Coming has two phases: when Christ comes *for* His own and when He comes *with* His own?

A Many people believe in only one aspect, Christ’s coming to the earth. However, the Bible distinguishes between the Rapture and the Second Coming and a period of approximately seven years between the two.

At the Rapture	At the Second Coming (Revelation)
Christ will come <i>for</i> His own (John 14:3).	Christ will come <i>with</i> His own (1 Thess. 3:13; Jude 14).
Only His own will see Him (1 Thess. 4:13–18).	Every eye will see Him (Rev. 1:7).
He will come in the air (1 Thess. 4:17).	He will come to the earth (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:11, 12).
Living saints will be translated (1 Thess. 4:17).	No saints will be translated.
The saved ones will go to Heaven (1 Thess. 4:17).	The unsaved will remain on the earth. Satan will be bound and cast into the bottom- less pit (Rev. 20:1, 2).
Satan will not be bound.	Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1, 2).
The world will continue in sin.	Christ will judge the world for sin (Isa. 13:9–11; 2 Thess. 1:7–9).
Christ will come <i>for</i> His Bride (John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17; Rev. 19:7).	He will come <i>with</i> His Bride (Rev. 19:7–14).
Christ will come as the bright and morning star (Rev. 22:16).	Christ will come as the Sun of Righteousness (Mal. 4:2).
The Rapture has no signs preceding it.	Definite signs will precede the Second Coming (Luke 21:11, 25).
Christians will be delivered from wrath (1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9).	The unsaved will experience the wrath of God (Rev. 6:12–17).

Q 3. Will children be raptured with the Church?

A I have been asked this question many times in my meetings. One grandmother told me, "I have a two-year-old grandson, and although I am eager for the Rapture to take place, I would not like for him to go through the Tribulation." Many parents relate with that grandmother. I have preached for forty years that I believe children prior to the age of accountability are safe under the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. William L. Pettingill answered this question in these words: "I have no doubt that all who die in infancy, whether children of saved or of unsaved parents, are saved through the blood of Christ. . . . I am satisfied that all infants, since they are in a state of safety at the time of the Rapture, will be taken away with the Church."⁵

W. Myrddin Lewis wrote, "There can be no denying the grace and love of God in that moment, for when the trumpet will sound and the dead in Christ will arise, all the living believers, as well as all the world's little children, will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air."⁶

In his book *Prophetic Questions Answered*, Keith L. Brooks wrote, "When our Lord comes, this world, ripened for judgment, will be deprived of the salt of the earth, the lights of the world and the innocent children. It will not be a question of little children being left behind, but of their parents, if they are not believers."⁷

Q 4. What will the people left after the Rapture think and do about those who have been raptured?

A Someone estimated that only 2 percent of the people living on earth at the time of the Rapture will be taken and that the other 98 percent will remain here. Of course, no one knows for sure. Just what those who are left will think and do we can only speculate.

I have a newspaper titled *The Last News*, which attempts to portray what newspapers might print immediately after the Rapture. Here are some of the possible headlines:

Christ Returns?
 Millions Missing around the World
 World Leaders Call for U. N. Emergency Session
 Many Graves Found Open—Bodies Gone
 Playful, Sensual World Shocked by Sudden Mass Kidnapping
 Death Stalks the Highways
 Throngs in the Nation Die of Heart Attacks
 Weeping Mothers Cry, “Where is my baby?”
 Stock Market Faces Crash
 Thousands Attempt Suicide
 Panic Stalks High School Corridors
 Worldwide Business Paralyzed
 Teenage Mobs Terrorize Cities⁸

These headlines can only speculate concerning what might happen after the Rapture. But one day—maybe today—Jesus will come for His elect. If you do not belong to Him, you will be left behind. You will have missed your opportunity (2 Thess. 2:10–12). Second Corinthians 6:2 states, “Now is the day of salvation.” Acts 16:31 declares, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.”

Q 5. Will Christians who don’t believe in the Rapture still be raptured?

A Some Christians do not know about the Rapture; others know about it but do not believe the Bible teaches it. When Christ comes, all Christians will be raptured: “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” (1 Cor. 15:51, 52). We are saved, not according to our views about the Rapture, but by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8, 9). If a person is truly saved, he will be raptured regardless of his belief concerning the Rapture. I would encourage anyone who says he doesn’t believe in the Rapture to be like the Bereans who “searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Q 6. Will our bodies disappear at the Rapture, or will they need burial plots?

A A Christian's body will disappear when the Rapture takes place. The Bible says, "We [Christians] shall not all sleep [die], 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" (1 Cor. 15:51, 52). Those of us believers living when Christ comes at the Rapture will not have to die. Our bodies will change in the twinkling of an eye (according to the General Electric Company, in 11/100 of a second), and we will get our glorified bodies. The Lord will "change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Phil. 3:21).

The Bible records that when God translated Enoch without seeing death, he "was not found" (Heb. 11:5). He disappeared and went to Heaven. When God translates the living Christians at the Rapture, we will not be found either. We will be with the Lord forever.

There will be no need for burial plots for our bodies. When salesmen have tried to sell me a burial plot, I have told them I do not expect to die. This statement arouses their curiosity, and they usually ask for an explanation. I tell them I expect Jesus Christ to come in my lifetime and that if He does, He will take me up to be with Him without dying. I am looking for the "Uppertaker," not the undertaker!

Q 7. What will happen to the animals left after the Rapture occurs?

A No animals will be raptured. Many pets will still have their owners, since in many cases families are composed of both believers and unbelievers. Those pets whose owners were raptured will probably find food for a while and will live off the food they can find. After a while many of them will starve to death because famine in the Tribulation will become extremely severe.

When the third seal is broken fairly early in the Tribulation, a measure of wheat will sell for a penny (Rev. 6:6). According to Thayer,

a scholar of Greek, a measure is less than a quart. A measure of wheat would be one day's food and would satisfy a man with an average appetite. According to Matthew 20:2, a "penny" (denarius) is a day's wages. Dr. John Walvoord commented on these measurements: "To put it in ordinary language, the situation would be such that one would have to spend a day's wages for a loaf of bread with no money left to buy anything else."⁹

When the fourth seal is broken in the tribulation period, the fourth part of the earth will be killed with "sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth" (Rev. 6:8). The "sword" symbolizes war; "hunger" represents famine; "death" depicts pestilence; and "beasts of the earth" refers to animals that will kill people during the Tribulation. Perhaps the beasts of the earth (possibly wild animals) will kill people because of their hunger.

John Phillips has a different idea: "Another thought demands consideration. The beasts are closely linked with the pestilence, and this might be a clue. The most destructive creature on earth, so far as mankind is concerned, is not the lion or the bear, but the rat."¹⁰

Many animals will die after the Rapture when the twenty-one judgments come upon the earth, war and famine come (Rev. 6:4–6), the third part of trees and all green grass will burn (Rev. 8:7), the waters will turn to blood (Rev. 16:4), the sun will scorch with great heat (Rev. 16:8, 9), the great earthquake will shake the buildings to the ground all over the world (Rev. 16:18, 19) and hailstones weighing about 100 pounds will fall (Rev. 16:21).

A terrible time of tribulation is soon to come upon the world, upon both man and beast. The animals are unaware of what lies ahead, but you are aware. I pray that if you have not already done so, you will trust Jesus Christ as your personal Savior before He comes so that you will "escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

Q 8. Which Scripture passages teach that people who heard the gospel before the Rapture cannot be saved after the Rapture?

A Paul wrote concerning both the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and the revealing of Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:1, 8). He told about those who will perish because they