

## Rapture and Resurrection

From Ronald L. Dart's Program Notes

An old friend used to say that "if the devil cannot get at you any other way, he will waste your time." A request came in for a radio program on the question of the pre-tribulation rapture of the saints. Would you believe the Internet search showed nearly a million and a half web pages that use the phrase "rapture theory"? A search on "Pre-tribulation Rapture" got nearly a quarter million.

This comprehensive search was to determine who was on which side of this issue. There were exhaustive arguments raised on both sides. It certainly appears that a massive amount of time has been wasted on this issue. Reason and common sense should say something to us when we encounter something like this. If the Bible were all that clear on the issue, do you suppose we would have this breadth of disagreement? And why all the hyperventilating about it?

Actually, it turns out that there are four theories on the rapture, not merely two. And they have managed to create schisms across a wide range of believers. Did you know that this doctrine had never been advanced before about the year 1830? Apparently, it came in a private vision to a Scottish lass

named Margaret MacDonald. She was a prophetess in the Catholic Apostolic Church. The theory was picked up and carried forward by John Nelson Darby of the Brethren movement. He refined it into something like what is taught today in any number of churches.

Frankly, all these people who are bickering about the rapture and separating brother from brother should be ashamed of themselves. There is, though, one interesting thing about the vision that Scottish lass had about this.

Christian journalist Dave MacPherson has written a book on the subject of the origin of the pre-tribulation rapture. He writes: "We have seen that a young Scottish

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lassie named Margaret MacDonald had a private revelation in Port Glasgow, Scotland, in the early part of 1830 that a select group of Christians would be caught up to meet Christ in the air before the days of Antichrist." Take notice of the words, "a select group of Christians." It may surprise you to learn this, but underlying most

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### **Are You A Fixed Income Victim? . . .**

With the changes in the law, with Obama Care and the new health care and other laws, are you reeling from wondering how you'll make ends meet? Unfortunately you're not alone. Where do you cut back? Maybe you're too old to get a part-time job. So what do you do? Do you feel trapped? Is the first thing you do to stop giving to God? It's easy to tithe when all is going well and you've just had a raise, but when the tables are turned, do you have what it takes to bite the bullet and trust God? Frankly, it takes faith. Faith in a God who rewards those who "diligently seek him." David said in Psalm 37:25: "I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging for bread." If you can't trust God to provide for you when you obey him, how can you trust him to give you salvation?

# The Unraveling of the United States

By Richard Glasgow

Is it just me, or does it seem like this country is spiraling out of control at an unprecedented rate? Even casual observers have to be wondering what's happening to the American way of life. A chilling transformation has been taking place which has dramatically affected our economy, culture, academia, health care, and our very political structure.

Ironically, Senator Barack Obama, when running for President in 2007, told us that it was his intention to "fundamentally transform America." What did that mean? And why would a president want to "fundamentally transform" America? And how would that transformation come about?

Don't get me wrong. It's not my purpose to berate the President. But I don't intend to shy away from being critical of any politician (regardless of party affiliation) who has contempt for our Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, and Natural Law—on which our laws are based.

Our country is massively divided into many disparate groups. Politicians capitalize on the disparity of those groups and pit them against their political foes. To list a few: On the Left you have feminists, the LGBT (Lesbian/Gay/Bi-Sexual/Transgender) community,

environmentalists, labor unions, pro-abortion advocates, academia, the mainstream media, and advocates of big government. On the Right: the Tea Party, advocates of smaller government, the NRA, Pro-Lifers, Christian Fundamentalists, Fox News, and talk radio. This pitting of groups against each other is known as "identity politics."

The granddaddy of identity politics is played when the administration fosters visceral hatred between an even *larger* group of Americans: Those who pay federal income tax and those who are recipients of government benefits, such as food, housing, cell phones, and more. Sadly and tragically, those in positions of power (along with help of the mainstream media) are encouraging low-income constituents to overtly and vociferously break God's 10th Commandment, "You shall not covet." You see this almost daily in government's demand for "the greedy rich" to pay ever more taxes for the benefit of those who are deemed by government to be "less fortunate."

That's not the way this country was founded, and it's not how it became the most blessed nation on the face of the earth.

It's unconscionable for

politicians to encourage constituents to break God's Laws. The politics of envy is but one of the destructive forces tearing this country apart. Virtually all of God's Laws are being trampled and denigrated at the behest of our leadership. Most assuredly, they are culpable and will be held responsible when godly judgments on this country occur.

Our founders knew well that our Republic could only succeed and flourish if we were able to govern our own personal lives in an upright manner. John Adams, one of our founding fathers and second President of the United States, made this prescient observation more than 200 years ago: "Our Constitution was made only for a *moral* and *religious* people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other" [emphasis added]. Then there's the famous quote from Alexis de Tocqueville: "America is great because she is good. If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Clearly, we don't have a moral and religious majority in this country. What we are witnessing on a daily basis is what happens to an *immoral* and *irreligious* people. Unless or until the majority of this country repents and turns back to God, our future is bleak.



## Radio Update

New station in  
**Blackwell, Oklahoma**  
Sponsored by the  
Church of God 7<sup>th</sup> Day  
WBBZ 1230AM  
Sun 10:00 a.m.

We're getting free play  
for a limited time in  
**Inglewood, California!**  
KTYM 1460AM  
Mon & Thurs 4:00 p.m.

New station in  
**Dallas, Texas**  
began airing April 1!  
KBXD 1480 AM  
M-F 10 a.m.  
Sat 9 a.m.

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schisms in the Christian faith is this idea that there is a select group. Never mind that all Christians are a select group. These folks are the best of the best, the select of the select. It is an almost irresistible appeal to being an insider.

There was something interesting C.S. Lewis said. He spoke of what he called the temptation to the inner circle. Lewis, describing this desire to be in the "Inner Ring," emphasized, "Of all the passions, the passion for the Inner Ring is most skillful in making a man who is not yet a very bad man do very bad things." And one of the bad things that can be done is to divide brother against brother.

Let's point out a few things about prophecy that should be obvious, but apparently are not. "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20-22).

But, the Scottish lass MacDonald was carried by the Spirit, some would argue. Maybe, but here is what John says about that: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). And Paul: "Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears" (1 Corinthians 13:8-10). The word for perfection is *telios*, that which is complete as

opposed what is in part.

Let's consider a statement: "All prophecy is incomplete." Paul just said it, didn't he? We prophesy in part. But when that which is complete comes, what is in part disappears. The purpose of prophecy is not well understood among Christian folk.

Consider, for example: Why should God reveal anything about the future to us in the first place? Is it to turn us into insiders? "I know something you don't know." Not really. There are two important purposes served by prophecy.

1) It gives us a chance to repent and change the outcome (as it did with Nineveh). 2) It enables us to see God's hand in history when it happens.

Prophecy in the Bible is like an oil painting. The closer you stand to it, the less you see. Prophecy gives us an overview of what is coming so we can make better decisions. If you approach biblical prophecy this way, you will probably find the whole argument about the rapture irrelevant. So, considering prophecy as an oil painting, let's take a step back and get an overview.

As mysterious as the Book of Revelation is, it does have a form that anyone who looks can see. First, there is a scroll that is sealed with seven seals. "And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no one in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found

worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judea, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof" (Revelation 5:1-5).

"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (vv. 6-9).

The Lamb of God earned the right to open this book. No one else could do it. The logical assumption follows that this took place at a point in time, and the sequential opening of the seven seals followed.

If you're like most Christians, you're intrigued with the prophecies in the Book of Revelation. You'll want to be sure to order this *FREE* CD of the *Born to Win* program, *Rapture and Resurrection*. Ron Dart is ready at this point to open the seven seals to your understanding and you won't want to miss this. Maybe you've seen a tornado, been in an earthquake, watched devastating

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wars on TV, but to use the vernacular, “you ain’t seen nothing yet.”

“And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.” Get this *FREE* CD titled, *Rapture and Resurrection*, and be prepared for what could lie ahead in your lifetime. Let it turn your heart to God to live by his every Word.

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*That the man of God may be  
proficient and equipped  
for every good work.*

## Come to the Feast!

By Allie Dart

“All things are ready  
come to the Feast!

Come, for the table now is spread.  
Ye famishing, ye weary, come,  
And thou shalt be richly fed.”

The Feast of Tabernacles is the spiritual highlight of the year. In those eight days, the spiritual food is so concentrated that it super charges your batteries for the remaining year. CEM is preparing daily to serve up a rich Feast from which every age group will benefit and all will enjoy.

YEA has been the drawing card that has built CEM’s Feast site. This year’s lessons and teachers are outstanding! Each lesson is relevant! They are fun! They teach *our* beliefs! They are easy for the teachers to present! And they are memorable!

**Younger teens:** Please notice that Lisa Gregor wrote the lessons we’ll be teaching this year. All of you teens know how Lisa relates to teenagers. She tells it like it is in your language—in a fun way.

Every YEA lesson and seminar has been carefully selected and

written for its particular age group. There is never a dull moment. The YEA classes sizzle, crackle, and pop! Parents, ensure your kids are in every YEA class or seminar. That will be the best Feast present you can give them.

There’s much more than just YEA classes. A full schedule of fun activities is being planned specifically for our kids to give everyone the opportunity to get acquainted, make new friends, and bond with old friends. If you have any ideas that you would like to see incorporated into this year’s Feast, we want them. Please call Paula Hughes at 1-888-BIBLE-44, or send an email to Phil McCollum at cemfot@gmail.com.

We love each one of you. We need you. Please join us at CEM’s Feast site in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, and rejoice with us. You’ll get individual attention and be glad you are with us at this family friendly Feast where Christ is paramount.

### HOLY DAY REMINDER

Pentecost is celebrated May 19<sup>th</sup>. A Holy Day offering envelope has been included for your convenience.

*In  
Memory*

CEM gratefully acknowledges a generous gift in memory of Bob Lovell of Ohio. Bob passed away on March 28, 2013, at the age of 82. He was a member of the Church of God in Bloomington, Illinois, and is fondly remembered for his knack with a story. Bob is survived by his wife of 65 years, Geneva; his brother; two daughters; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; four nephews; and one niece. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Also remembered is Amy Benton Torres of Mixon, Texas, who passed away in her sleep April 11, 2013 at the age of 38. CEM has received a special gift in her memory. Her family and co-workers remember her as sweet, kind, and hardworking. She is survived by her mother and stepfather; four aunts, of whom Linda Benton is one; two uncles; her father, Clell Benton; her son, Austin, who is 13; and her grandmother, Carolyn Easter. Amy will be sorely missed.

Please remember the family in your prayers as they deal with this unexpected loss.