

Gary Ray

WHAT WILL THE POST-RAPTURE
WORLD LOOK LIKE?

Your next steps in a new world

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iAMA WATCHMAN^{.com}

WHAT WILL THE POST RAPTURE WORLD WILL LOOK LIKE?

I Am A Watchman
Publications

I Am A Watchman Publishing
Union City, California

WHAT WILL THE POST-RAPTURE CHURCH LOOK LIKE?

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The *I Am A Watchman* ministry desires to equip and encourage believers, reach the lost, and see individuals prepared for the return of the King.

I Am a Watchman Publications
www.IAmAWatchman.com

Printed in the United States of America
ISBN# 9781642544123

First Printing, September, 2018
I Am A Watchman Publishing



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Gary Ray has served in pastoral ministry for more than 30 years. He is a student of the Word and has a passion for presenting Scripture in ways that are interesting and clear—particularly for those with limited or no church background.

Other books by this author include:

- » ***The Prophecy Book***
- » ***The Story of Jesus***
- » ***The Story of Jesus Bible Study
(Student and Leader Guides)***
- » ***The Discipleship Handbook***
- » ***The Reasons to Believe booklet***
- » ***Why and How to Teach on Prophecy
and Eschatology***

These e-books (and an abundance of free discipleship resources) can be accessed through the www.IAmAWatchman.com ministry website. Informative and encouraging teaching videos by this author posted at www.Vimeo.com/IAmAWatchman.

Gary is happily married and lives in the Pacific Northwest with his wonderful wife, children, and grandchildren.

ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

This booklet was written to express, in a very condensed format, what I have learned about leading in ministry after serving in pastoral roles for more than 30 years.

By design, the writing in this booklet is more informal than scholarly. The hope is that it will read as a friend counseling a friend—or as an older minister who’s been around the block, counseling newer believers who are young in the process of exploring God’s leading regarding Christian service.

Sensing that the Lord’s return was near, I prepared this booklet as a resource for those not taken in the Rapture and find themselves living in a Post-Rapture Tribulation-era world. Will God be present during this dark period of history? Will there be a Church? Will God be looking for individuals to teach, preach, and engage in Christian service? I believe the answers to all these questions is YES!

My prayer is that this booklet will encourage, equip, and embolden individuals as they consider how God may want to use them to do great things in this important time in history.

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WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE DID EVERYBODY GO?

Greetings my name is Gary Ray I have served as a pastor for about 25 years. I have served on the I Am A Watchman ministry team since August 2017. The I Am A Watchman ministry decided to prepare this writing in advance of a supernatural event which some now may be referring to as the Rapture, or the Disappearances. The goal is to provide those left behind with counsel and comfort. I imagine you have many questions—that you're frightened and anxious about what is going to happen next.

First, let me share that though you may not have been rescued by God in the Rapture, you can still be redeemed. You can be saved! You can have the hope of heaven; it is not too late.

This writing assumes that the following has happened: all of a sudden, without notice, millions of people vanished from the face of the earth. Christians refer to this event as the Rapture. The term Rapture is a Latin-based term Christians used to describe a sudden catching up or taken away of God's people. The term God's people is synonymous with the Church, Christians, the Bride of Christ, believers and devoted followers of Jesus. Vanishings will be reported in every nation, and it's likely that most if not all infants and toddlers and children will now be gone.

In trying to understand what has happened, people will attempt to identify what was common amongst those who vanished. Did those who disappear have the same diet? Did they have a common virus, participate in the same kind of activities, go to the same kind of places, have the same kind of pet,

or wear the same brand of clothing? I tell you, though few will accept it, there are only two common factors amongst the millions who have vanished. Millions from every nation, every age group, every economic stratum, working in every kind of industry, having different kinds of health conditions and educational backgrounds are gone.

There are only two things common to all who vanished. Number one, they were young and had pure hearts, or they were old enough to be responsible for their choices, and they chose to believe in God and His Son Jesus Christ, and they decided to as best they could not just believe in Him, but also to live for Him.

The I Am A Watchman ministry team prepared this video in advance of the Rapture because prophecies in the Bible noted that the event was coming. In fact, about a third of the Bible is prophetic in nature. There are more than 1000 prophecies in the Bible, and more than 90% have been fulfilled exactly as foretold. The remaining 10% will be fulfilled exactly as foretold. Though many have tried, no Bible prophecy has ever been proven to be in error. The precision rate of Bible prophecy is unparalleled—the accuracy rate is 100%. To illustrate the wonder of Bible prophecy let me note that Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled more than 110 specific prophecies during his ministry on earth about 2000 years ago. And most of those prophecies were well outside a human's ability to control (such as Judas deciding to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver—that prophecy was penned more than 500 years before it was fulfilled and had to do with Judas meeting with the Pharisees—Jesus had nothing to do with those arrangements).

Statisticians note that the probability of Jesus being able to fulfill less than half of the prophecies attributed to him are about one in 10^{157} —that number is statistically zero. It approximates the number of electrons in the entire universe. So, the statistical probability of one man fulfilling less than half of the prophecies attributed to him—less than 50 prophecies, is zero; and the Bible notes that more than 900 prophecies should've been fulfilled by this point in history. And they have, every single one. The biblical record of fulfilled prophecy is 100% accuracy. I share this to help you better appreciate the wonder and the power

of Scripture. So if you have questions about what is to come, I encourage you to study Bible prophecy. The Bible is going to be your best source for answers in the days to come. Information on how to access free resources on the topic of Bible prophecy is provided at the end of this recording.

A study of Scripture, particularly Bible prophecy, is how we at I Am A Watchman knew that there would be a Rapture.

Understanding Bible prophecy and a prompting of the Holy Spirit led to the establishment of the I Am A Watchman ministry—a ministry designed to warn, equip and encourage. It is why we prepared teaching videos and e-books, Bible studies and devotionals, research articles and blog pieces, why we developed a Facebook page and video channels, a devotional journal and the I Am A Watchman website. We have worked to encourage believers and warn the world that the Rapture, the Tribulation, the Antichrist, Armageddon, and the final judgment were coming. We have made provisions so that many online study resources will remain up for some time barring any new regulations prohibiting the posting of Christian material online. Again, information on how to access these free study resources on these important subjects is provided at the end of this video.

Let me take a few minutes to provide a biblical overview of the Rapture.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE RAPTURE

Was the Rapture foretold in the Bible? Yes. Jesus, Paul, and John spoke prophetically about the Rapture. Verses pertaining to the Rapture and the Last Days were written between 1900 and 3350 years ago (this is written in 2018), and fall into a category of Scripture known as prophecy. Before I share the specifics of where the Rapture teaching is found in the Bible, I would like to present a brief overview of Bible Prophecy. Bible prophecy not only foretold the Rapture, but it also proves the Bible to be true and provides insight into what is to happen in the future.

What is the Rapture? The Rapture is a swift catching up or rescuing of God's people prior to the outpouring of God's wrath during the Tribulation. A time when Satan will greatly persecute the people of faith. The English term Rapture comes from 1 Thessalonians Chapter 4. The Greek text of the New Testament uses the word *harpazo* for, and it means to seize upon with force or to catch or snatch up. The Latin translators of the Greek New Testament Bible translated that word, *harpazo*, *rapturo*. The Latin, *rapturo*, became the root word for the English term Rapture.

Through the Rapture, God has caught up His church so that they would not have to experience the upcoming time of tribulations and wrath. John, the writer of the book of Revelation, said it this way, The church will be “kept from the hour of testing that shall come upon the world” (Revelation 3:10). The Apostle Paul, writing of the quick and sudden nature of the Rapture wrote,

“Behold I show you a mystery we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment in the twinkling of an eye...for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:51)

Writing to the Thessalonian Church, Paul wrote,

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up... with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.” (1 Thess. 4:16-17)

The phrase caught up was translated in the Greek, *harpazo*, translated in the Latin *rapturo*, and became the root word for the English term, Rapture. This is what Jesus said about the Rapture. He said, “There will be two in the field, and then suddenly one will be left.” And, “There will be two women grinding at the mill. One will be taken, and one will be left.” In Luke 12 Jesus spoke of the importance of expecting His return. In Matthew 24 Jesus spoke of the need to be watching and waiting and ready for His return.

There are many allusions and references to the Rapture throughout the Bible. The Fall Festival, the Feast of Trumpets, is one such example. That Festival foreshadows the Rapture. The phrases, “no one knows the day or the hour” and, “the thief in the night” are associated with that ancient Festival, as is the blowing of the trumpet, the days of awe, and a new beginning for all humanity. All of these associations have Rapture and tribulation connotations.

The Old Testament book, The Songs of Solomon, is about an unworthy bride being told to wait for the promised ensure return of her wonderful Groom. However, she's unfaithful, and when He returns she is not ready. He comes like a thief in the night and is the woman is left behind. Jesus' parable of the ten virgins and His teaching on the wedding banquet also reference the Rapture.

Scriptural support for the Rapture

Historically, there have been three prominent views regarding the timing of the Rapture. The I Am A Watchman ministry concurred with the majority of Bible scholars and taught that the church was to be Raptured (caught up to be with Christ) at some point before the commencement of the seven-year Tribulation

period. Noted below is the Biblical foundation for that position.

- ➔ The Tribulation describes a period of suffering unsurpassed, “such as was not since there was a nation, no, nor shall be” (Daniel 12:1).
- ➔ The Tribulation period will be a time of wrath (Revelation 6:16-17,11:18; 14:19; Zeph. 1:15, 18). However, we see in 1 Thess. 5:9 that the Church is not appointed unto wrath, but unto salvation. The Rapture was the Lord fulfilling His promise to rescue from a future time of ‘wrath.’
- ➔ The church will be “kept from the hour of testing that shall come upon all the world.” (Revelation 3:10)
- ➔ Scripture notes that the Holy Spirit 1) Dwells in the hearts of believers. 2) Holds back or restrains Satan and, 3) Will one day be taken away. The taking away of the Spirit/restrainer points to the Rapture as to remove the Spirit from the earth will require removing committed Christians from the earth. ***“And you know what restrains him [Satan] now...For...He [the Holy Spirit] Who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.” (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7).*** This taking away of the Spirit is linked to the removal of the Church and the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).
- ➔ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 supports the Rapture teaching.

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this, we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

- ➔ 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 supports the Rapture teaching.

“Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

- ➔ Many Scriptures noted the “Jewishness” of Tribulation events profiled in the Bible. It is said to be the “the time of Jacob’s trouble,” it concerns “Daniel’s people,” a “false Messiah,” the city of Jerusalem, the twelve tribes of Israel, the “son of Moses,” and a “flight on the Sabbath.” The Church is not specifically mentioned in the book of Revelation after the judgments begin. The I Am A Watchman ministry taught that the Church was not specifically mentioned because the Church was to be Raptured before of the Tribulation.
- ➔ Jesus’ teaching on the End Times (Matt. 24) indicates that the timing of the Rapture is immediately after the ‘Birth Pains,’ and before the beginning of the Tribulation.

“Immediately after the distress of those days...he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds...”
“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken, and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken, and the other left. “Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”
(Matthew 24:29-44)

Summary:

- ➔ A Rapture event was foretold.
- ➔ Through the Rapture, Jesus fulfilled His promise to come again (John 14:3; Acts 1:9) and rescue His people, the true Church, from the upcoming time of wrath (Rev. 3:10).
- ➔ The admonition now is to do the following:
 - o Believe in Jesus. Accept Him in your heart as Lord and Savior. Commit to follow Him (John 1:12, 3:16; Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-10; Rev. 3:20).
 - o Watch for His return—the “glorious appearing” which will happen at the end of the seven-year Tribulation period.
 - o Be active—do the right thing, the right way, with the right heart, and don’t stop (Matt. 24:46; Gal. 6:9).
 - o Tell others what has happened/share your faith (Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Peter 3:15).

WHAT HARDSHIPS WILL I FACE?

The Tribulation is a term referencing the last seven years of history as we know it. It will begin when Israel signs a seven-year peace agreement with her enemies. It will conclude with the Battle of Armageddon, the return of Jesus, His thousand years Millennial reign, and the judgment of the False Prophet and the Antichrist. I recognize some of these terms may be unfamiliar. The www.IAmAWatchman.com website makes available free downloadable documents, ebooks articles, and teaching videos that provide more detail on what these terms mean and what is to come. But for now, let me share a general overview of what's going to happen over the next seven years or so.

According to Matthew 24, there will be “wars and unrest.” Luke 21 notes that there will be “troubles and perplexities on the earth, in the sky, and in the heavens.” The Old Testament prophet Amos wrote that there would be changes in the weather and a blight on the animals, the birds, the fish, and even the land of the earth. Revelation speaks of earthquakes, darkness, intense heat, pest infestations, poisoned water, and persecution. Daniel chapter 9 notes that there will be a peace agreement between Israel and her enemies and that this agreement will be brokered by a new world leader. The peace agreement will be for seven years and will seem to be an unbelievable achievement for a leader who will have just recently stepped onto the world stage. The signing of the peace covenant will be hailed as a magnificent achievement and thought to bring peace to the world. It will, however, initiate the seven-year Tribulation which will be the most turbulent period of history the world has ever known.

The man who brokers this agreement will be lauded by the masses and thrust into positions of power. He will likely lead in making possible the rebuilding of the third Jewish Temple. He will appear to be benevolent, wise, and good, but

he is the Antichrist, and he will bring more death and destruction than anyone who has ever lived. During the seven-year Tribulation period, the Antichrist will assume more and more control over world systems: financial, commerce, military, health, etc. Ultimately, he will dominate them all. There will be a move toward a global government, one economic system, and a one-world unified religion. Though the new world religion may be called a church, it is not The Church of Jesus Christ. The Antichrist will control these systems and coordinate ever increasing pressure and persecution on Jews and believers in Christ.

As the Antichrist increases efforts to persecute those who love God, God will bring about a series of tribulations on the earth. The book of Revelation notes that there will be 21 specific judgments of God. These are represented by seven bowls, seven trumpets, and seven seals. A profile of these judgments is available on the IAmAWatchman.com website, and in a separate document in the Rapture Kit binder.

I do not wish to profile them here because I do not want your initial focus to be on upcoming judgments and tribulations. Initially, your focus should not be fearing what is to come, or thinking about how to avoid what is to come. Right now your focus needs to be, Am I saved? Do I truly believe and trust in God? Only when your focus is on how can I serve the Savior and how can I share my faith during the Tribulation will you begin to have any hope or peace. Judgments are coming to the earth, but know this - the 21 divine judgments are not coming because God is in a bad mood or because He does not care. He does care. The judgments are coming to prompt humanity to draw close to Him, to see that the Bible is true, that the prophetic record is pure, that there's a need to believe in and be saved by Jesus, and finally, to remind the world that God is in control and a final judgment is coming. He wants the world to be ready for that.

It will require great courage and great faith to be a faithful believer in the Last Days. It will be more difficult than it was for those who lived during the first four centuries of the New Testament Church (when more than 1.95 million were martyred for their faith). The book of Revelation notes that in the Last Days many will die as martyrs and many more—several billion, will die by wars, pestilence,

plagues, earthquakes, and other supernatural judgments. I share this not to frighten you, but to help prepare you for what is to come. Up to this point in your life, you may not have done all that you could have done to live well in the eyes of God, but you now have an opportunity to finish well.

Remember, the most important thing is not how you start a race, it's about how you finish. Put your trust in God—He will help you to live well, and to finish well.



There is hope—His name is Jesus!

YOUR BEST NEXT STEPS

First things first—Are you right with God? The Lord will bless, forgive, help, and save those who believe in Him, love Him, and are committed to following Him. It is not enough to believe that God exists or to know many facts about the Bible or Jesus. Even the demons can do that (James 2:19). The questions are: Do you believe in God, that He sent His Son Jesus to earth 2000 years ago, that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross and rose to life on the third day so that your sins can be forgiven? Do you love God and wish to serve Him? Are you a committed follower of Jesus Christ? Becoming a Christian is your first and best next step on the path to finding hope in this new world. Trying to bypass that first step in this new world is like trying to drive a car across the United States with only a gallon of gas. You'll make it a few miles down the road, but then will end up pushing the car, becoming weary, giving up, and never getting to where you want to go. The first step—become a Christian! That decision will not only help you in this new world; it will determine your eternal destiny.

On the following pages is a simple, four-step plan to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior. Some refer to this process as being 'saved' (1 John 2:2; Acts 4:12) or 'born again' (see John 3:3 and 2 Cor. 5:17). Born-again believers are disciples and followers of Christ.

A link to a 20-minute video teaching on this vital topic is noted here: <https://vimeo.com/260646426>

FOUR STEPS TO SALVATION

1. Acknowledge that you have sinned, that God has not been first place in your life, and ask Him to forgive your sins. Scripture notes that God is rich in mercy and that Jesus will forgive the sins that are confessed to Him.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.” (John 1:9)

2. Believe that Jesus died to pay (atone) for your sins, rose again, and is alive today. There is a link between the words, believe, trust and faith. A true believer will not just believe that Jesus lived, they will strive to live for Him.

“If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name [Jesus] by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

3. Accept God’s gift of salvation. Believe that God loves you. Believe that Jesus came and died for you. Believe that God’s grace is greater than your sin. Do not let regret, bitterness, or shame keep you from falling into the loving arms of God.

“For it is by grace you are saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

4. Ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and be Lord of your life. God through Jesus Christ offers grace, forgiveness, hope, purpose, love, and eternal life. It is available to all, but not forced on any. Ask to receive His gift today.

“To all who receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

[Jesus said] “Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in.” (Revelation 3:20)

You can begin a new life in the faith by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God. This is a sample prayer; you can pray in your own words:

“Dear Jesus. Thank you for making me and loving me (even when I’ve ignored you and went my own way). I realize I need You in my life; I’m sorry for my sins, I ask You to forgive me. Thank you for dying for me on the cross so that my sins can be forgiven. Please help me to understand Your love and Your Word. Help me to learn more about who You are and Your will for my life. As much as I know how I want to follow You from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person. I accept Your wonderful gift of salvation, and pledge to live for You and tell others about You.”

- Thank you, Jesus!



“I once was lost but now am found. Was blind but now I see.”

A PROJECTION OF WHAT THE POST-RAPTURE CHURCH WILL LOOK LIKE, AND THOUGHTS ON WHO WILL LEAD IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

What the post-Rapture church is likely to look like: I think it best to provide a foundation for the term church before I share thoughts on what form the post-Rapture church may take. Satan loves to deceive and confuse. Accordingly, the term church has been misused and misunderstood over the centuries.

"Church" is defined as "A body of believers who love and serve Christ together. They hold to a strict interpretation of the Bible, and practical applications of it in each believer's life. Their primary function is to glorify God and win the world to faith in Christ."

The church was established by Christ and the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus was crucified (Acts 2). Though the church has at times faltered, it is important to remember that God loves the Church and that Jesus came, died, and rose again so that the Church could be established. Note what the Apostle Paul said about the lofty role the Church was to play through the ages:

"His intent is that through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known." (Eph. 3:10)

In Matthew 16, Jesus noted that Peter's statement, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God" would be the foundation stone (truth) upon which the Church would be built. Jesus also promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against His Church.

Characteristics of God's church: The word 'Church' is not found in the Old Testament. The New Testament (Greek) word for Church is Ecclesia. It means a formal assembly of individuals sharing a common purpose and bond. Below is

an example of how the word Ecclesia is used in Scripture:

“The Church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened, and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, with all living in the fear of the Lord.” (Acts 9:31)

What the Church is NOT: The church is not a program, an organization, a building, or a denomination.

What the Church IS: people—followers of Christ indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:9, 16; Heb. 3:6b); A “house of God” (Jude 18:31; 2 Chr. 5:14; Psalm 42:4), the “house of the Lord” (Exod. 23:19; Deut. 23:18; Isa. 2:2), a “house of prayer” (Matt. 21:13; Isa. 56:7), a “family” (Eph.2:19), a “place to rejoice” (Deut. 12:11-14), a place to praise God (Psa. 111:1, 134:1-3), the “bride of Christ” (Gal. 6:16; Rev. 21:2,9, 22:1), a “...special shoot that God planted” (Isa. 60:21), and a body (1 Cor. 12) comprised of believers committed to:

- ➔ “Pray for one another” (James 5:16a)
- ➔ View others as valuable and important to the Kingdom’s work (1 Cor. 12:14-24)
- ➔ Confess to one another” (James 5:16b)
- ➔ “Love one another” (1 John 4:7)
- ➔ “Encourage one another” (Eph. 4:29; 1 Peter 4:11a)
- ➔ “Forgive one another” (Eph. 4:32)
- ➔ “Bear one another’s burdens” (Gal. 6:2)

The Church is a body of believers united not by a common heritage or set of preferences, but by a common need, calling, future, and Lord.

Summary: The true Church was not founded on a creed, but on Jesus Christ. The true Church was never a denomination. It transcended denominational

lines. The true Church has never been tied to a building or an organization—the Church is the collective body of believers Christ from every tribe and nation on earth.

What will happen to the Church?

God's Church, that is, committed followers of Christ, was taken (caught-up) into heaven, by Jesus, in a happening known as the Rapture. The question is: Will a new Church arise during the Tribulation Period? I believe the answer is Yes. The Bible speaks of many coming to faith in the Last Days. It speaks of God sending two powerful witnesses and sealing 144,000 to carry-out His work. The Bible speaks of individuals resisting the Antichrist, of Tribulation martyrs, and of believers who survive the Tribulation and reign with Jesus on a renewed earth in what is called the Millennial Reign of Christ. I believe these references point to there being a rebirthed Church in the Last Days.

Yes, it will be different. There will be no denominational offices, Christian bookstores, or TV evangelists. Believers will not (at least for long) meet openly in church buildings. The Church of the Tribulation period will not be marked by vibrant youth or women's programs, large staffs, slick presentations, comfy accommodations, or well-staffed nurseries. The Tribulation-era Church will be considered an enemy of the State. Oppression will be fierce and violent. Believers will meet covertly, barter and trade food and services to survive, and will often be in survival mode. But like the Church in the book of Acts, the Tribulation-era Church will be blessed of God and accomplish a mighty work.

If it is true that only Christians were taken, then why are so many churchgoers still here? Let me address that question by sharing what Jesus said it would be like at the time of the final judgment (an event that will happen at the end of time). Beginning in Matthew 7:21 we read:

“Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my father who is in heaven.”

Clearly, it is not about what we say, or what we think. It's about what we do and how we live. Verse 22:

“On that day many will say to me Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do mighty works in your name, and then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you depart from me you workers of lawlessness.’”

Sobering words. It is possible for individuals to be involved in, and surrounded by, spiritual things; to be a regular church attender and giver, but still not forgiven, or in a right relationship with God. Know about God is different than being in a relationship with God, through His Son Jesus. We are not saved by doing good things, no matter how good they are, we are saved through and only through being in relationship with Jesus Christ. And true believers more than just believe. In James 2:19 we read:

“You believe that God is One [which is to say, you believe that God has manifested himself as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit] then you do well [that's the beginning in your understanding]. But even the demons believe that, and they shudder.”

Those who enter heaven will need to demonstrate a higher level of faith than the demons. A true believer will make God first in their life, and they will strive to learn and grow in their faith. They will share their faith and serve others, sacrificially give, and with all their might follow God's leading. Followers of Christ are not perfect from a human point of view. I am not perfect. I'm far from it, but in Christ, my sins have been forgiven, and yours can be too.

Some may be thinking: I'm a good person and a good God would not take some of my friends and family members and leave me behind, and do all this without warning—that does not seem fair. Let me state that what God has done, and what God always does, is fair. God is good, and there was warning. In John 3:16 we read, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Only a good God would do that. Through the ages God, through patriarchs, judges, kings, and

prophets, through His Son, through the Holy Spirit, through His Word—through the ages God reached out to humanity. He has helped humanity, spoken to humanity, intervened for humanity, and pleaded with humanity to acknowledge and follow Him.

Romans 5:8 reads: “God demonstrated his own love for us in this while we were still sinners Christ died for us.” Through prophecies and promises, God warned that a Rapture was coming. He urged humanity to be spiritually ready for it. Yes, God is fair, and the fact that the Rapture happened simply proves that God is true to his word. But take heart—there is good news. God cares for humanity, and though the hour is very late, there is yet an opportunity for individuals to be saved and assured of a place in heaven in the eternal age to come. That option is available but living as a true believer at this time in history will not be easy.

You must be willing to live for Jesus and be a witness for Jesus through a dark period of history known as the Tribulation. Let me share a little bit about what the Tribulation is and what is to come.

Leading in ministry after the Rapture Could God be calling you?

Could it be that God is calling you to do something significant? Could it be that God desires to use you to serve as a leader in the new, post-Rapture church? Don't be quick to discount the possibility that God may have great plans in mind for you. As for excuses, I'm sure you have some—even good ones. I assure you, God has heard them before and from some notable fellows. The prophet Jeremiah told God he was too young. Abraham and Sarah probably questioned whether or not they were too old. Moses gave God five excuses and even provided the name of someone he felt could do a better job. Peter provided a most poignant excuse when he told Jesus he could not want to use him, for he was a 'sinful man.' It doesn't matter what you've done—what matters

is what you are willing to do. It doesn't matter who you were—what matters is will you try to be what God wants you to be? Abraham was a liar, Jacob was a trickster and thief, Moses was a murderer, David was an adulterer. “God’s grace is always greater than our sin,” and it may just be that our great God desires to use His great power to do great things through you.

What to know:

The bottom line is, God can use anyone, at any time, to do anything. This is a critical time in the history of planet earth. The ‘church’ is gone. Pastors who taught truth and served well are gone. Those who loved and followed the Lord were Raptured and are now in heaven. The Bible speaks of apostasy in the church, false teachers, a coming false religion and the horrors associated with the coming Antichrist. But the Bible also speaks of Tribulation period saints, of a kind of new remnant Church being born, and of a great revival with millions turning to the Lord. There is a need for new believers in Christ to be open to the possibility that God may want them to be teachers, pastors, home church leaders in this new Church. There is not the time to get a degree in theology—it is not possible to be commissioned or ordained by a church (at least in the traditional sense). In the early days following the Rapture, a series of small gatherings of new believers and house churches will spring up all over the world. Will you prayerfully consider how God may use your training, experience, and natural abilities to support the new Church that is just now being born?

What happened and what is about to happen?

In short, Jesus Christ came as promised and rescued committed followers by taking them from this world in an event called the Rapture. I use the word rescue because a terrible evil is about to fall on the earth. Referencing the Rapture and the evil that is coming, the book of Revelation records the words of Jesus: “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth” (Rev. 3:10).

Before one can begin to understand how God is going to move in the future, one must first have an understanding of how God worked in the past. 50 days after Jesus was crucified God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who believed in Jesus. The Holy Spirit resided in the hearts of believers and provided comfort, guidance, and an equipping so individuals could accomplish the work God desired. The Holy Spirit also served as a restrainer. 2 Thess. 2:6 notes that the Holy Spirit (which resided in the hearts of true believers) has been restraining the work of the demonic realm. When the Rapture came, believers were taken, and with them, the restraining presence of the Holy Spirit. With the Restrainer gone, a darkness will fall upon the earth. Soon a world leader will broker a peace agreement with Israel and nations that have been hostile to her. A war may precede this but does not have to. Though the world will not know it, the Bible notes that the one who brokers this peace agreement is the Antichrist, and the signing of this peace agreement will launch the Tribulation period.

The seven-year Tribulation period will be a time of unprecedented hardship, persecution, war, pestilence, and judgment. The book of Revelation profiles 21 specific judgments that will come on the earth. The emerging new Church and its message of hope and salvation will be the only light in the darkness that is falling on the world. Jesus told his rough, untrained and uneducated disciples, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12), and His disciples nodded in agreement. Then Jesus said, now “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14-16). Now, some 2000 years later, God is calling you to be a light. An epic battle is brewing—the “father of lies” (Satan) will soon indwell a man (the Antichrist) and oppress the earth. Soldiers are needed; speakers of truth and hope are needed. Will you serve?

WHAT GOOD LEADERS KEEP IN MIND

This section provides a general overview of the principles and guidelines I have found helpful in my many years in ministry. Remember, Satan is an expert at attacking our mind (2 Cor. 10:5). Keeping the right perspective, and focusing on the right things, will serve you well as you lead in His work.

- ➔ **Leaders, teachers, and pastors do not know everything.** It is OK to have questions and to learn along with those you teach. Do not take the I must know everything about God and the Bible before I can do anything for God approach. This is a new day. There are only new believers on earth. They do not need a scholar; they need someone who will stay a step ahead, love them, pray with and for them, and someone who will strive to learn and share what God reveals.
- ➔ **God will help you to do what He calls you to do.** No matter what it is, if God is prompting or leading you to do it, then He will help you accomplish it. Success is never about our abilities, resources or plans—it is about sincere believers allowing God to work through them.
- ➔ **The best thing you can do is pray.** Jesus prayed constantly. He did this because it was helpful, and to present an example of how we should live (John 13:15). The Apostle Paul encouraged believers to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17). A wise pastor said, “The more we need, the more we need to pray.” Through prayer, you will find peace, gain insight, and will strengthen your relationship with God. Remember, God does not require eloquence; just share from your heart. Balance your thank yous with your requests. Ask for guidance, pray for others, and pray that God will help you be all He wants you to be. For additional information on prayer please access this A Am A Watchman article here: <https://iamawatchman.com/how-to-pray-10-principles-of-a-powerful-prayer-life/>

- ➔ **It's not about your strength, wisdom, experience, training, or resources.** If God were considering hiring you, that kind of questions would not be on His job application form. God looks at the heart. The question is, do you have a heart that yearns to live for Him? Be encouraged by this: God delights in using the unlikely to accomplish the incredible. That is why, at least in part, God chose a young David to defeat Goliath, the elderly Abraham to become Father of a nation, Amos the tender of sycamore trees to become a great prophet, and Peter the fisherman to become an Apostle and leader in the New Testament Church. When you are a part of spiritual work, the logic of the world does not always apply. Does God choose the best? Sometimes. But often He chooses to use the small, broken, wayward, and humble so that His glory can be magnified in and through us.

- ➔ **Measure success correctly.** Again, when you are involved in spiritual work, the logic of the world does not always apply. In the world, one tends to measure success by what they can see—profit margins, numerical growth, tangible assets, etc. In the spirit, the opposite is true. In the world, your degree of success is determined by how much you reap. In the faith, success is determined by how well you plant. In fact, you may never reap, or see the fruit of your labor. Noah preached while he worked on the ark—no one believed. Jeremiah the prophet preached, and no one listened. There were times when thousands cheered Jesus, but in the end, there were few true followers at the cross, and less than 120 believers shortly after the resurrection. But Jesus was a success, and so were the others I mentioned, not because they accumulated fame and fortune, but they were faithful. Being faithful is the primary determinate for success. If you are faithful to do what God calls you to do, no matter what it is (big or small, public or private), you are a success in His eyes.

- ➔ **Live for an audience of One.** Many leaders are tempted to either try to please everyone or like a dictator, live only to please themselves. Neither approach is the mark of good Christian leadership. Certainly,

a selfish, me-focused approach is not God-honoring. And though you may be naturally gifted, trained to lead, and like a General feel comfortable barking orders, that is not the best approach either. Trying to please everyone may seem like the loving approach, but the leader who tries to please all will soon find it impossible and will be prone to discouragement. The answer then is to live for an audience of One—not self, but God. You can't please everyone so don't expect to. You should not live just to please yourself because Christ desires we have a profound love for others (Mark 12:30-31). The answer is to strive to live for God. Discern what He wants you to do and do that. Live to please Him and you will have His blessing, and inner peace.

- ➔ **If you are a believer, know that you're wearing a target, and that's OK.** It has long been this way, but now especially so—Satan hates those who love God and is on a mission to discourage and destroy (1 Peter 5:8, Luke 22:31). When you became a Christian, you put a target on your back. Satan and his minions will seek to tempt, trick, and trap you. But remember, the victory is promised, and God stands with you (Heb. 13:5b; Psalm 28:7). As a pastor, I have seen good Christians become very discouraged when difficulties came their way—some even turned their back on God and rather gave up trying to live for Him. What a victory for the enemy. Friend, challenges are coming. There will be setbacks. You will suffer loss. But try to think of your spiritual walk like a football game. The coach (Jesus) has called you to be on His team, to suit-up, go out on the field and play in the big game. It is an honor. And when you are on the football field and the game is in play and you have the ball, the opposing team is going to try to tackle you. They will chase you, grab you, push you, and throw you to the ground. That's how the game is played. And in football, when one is tackled, they do not immediately call foul, or cry to the coach, or ask to be taken out of the game. No, the hit is expected, and so is perseverance. Know that the ball is in play. For the next seven or so years, the enemy will be on the field, and he will play dirty. Expect the hit. Pray that God will provide courage and the ability to play well.

- ➔ **Know that what works today may not work tomorrow.** In the world, we are taught to emulate successful models. How-to books have been the #1 category for book sales for years. We are conditioned to try to discover what a ‘successful’ person has done and then do what they did. Certainly, there is some wisdom there, however, in the Spirit, we must always be prepared for the possibility that God may lead us down unexpected and new paths. Jesus taught us much about this truth. His entire ministry was an enigma to the religious leaders of His day, who thought that a Messiah would focus on the Law (like Moses) and be a political/military leader (like David). They were so bound by their expectations and preconceived ideas that they missed His message and His blessing.

In Mark 6:8 Jesus told His disciples to prepare for a missionary journey and NOT take provisions. Later, in Luke 22:36, Jesus told the same disciples to prepare for the same kind of journey by doing the opposite—specifically urging them to take extra provisions. The point: Let Jesus lead. Expect the unexpected. Be willing to step out in faith and follow Him even if it has never been done that way before or that’s not the way brother Jones successfully did it last month. Don’t unnecessarily blaze a new path, but be willing to be a trailblazer if that’s what God wants you to do. Remain in constant prayer. Ask God to reveal and confirm His will for you. For additional information on Discerning God’s will, please visit: <https://iamawatchman.com/knowning-gods-will-what-the-bible-says-about-how-to-discern-and-follow-it/>

- ➔ **Though you can accomplish the impossible (in Christ), you are not invincible.** Over the years there have been well-intentioned individuals who put themselves in danger or denied themselves (or worse, their children) medical attention claiming that God would protect them. Unfortunately, this approach often yielded terrible and devastating results. Yes, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood in the fire and were kept safe—but that is because they were doing exactly what God

had led them to do. It is wrong to think of God as our Genie—a magical being that can be summoned at will and lives to serve as our protector. God protects but does not exist to save us from every foolish choice. In Luke 4, Jesus was tempted by Satan and told to throw Himself off the pinnacle of the Temple. Though He knew it was written that angels would protect Him, He refused to throw Himself down saying, “It is not right to put the Lord God to the test” (Luke 4:12). Have faith. Be bold. Attempt great things, but do not put God to the test. Do not step in front of His leading, or outside of His will, for it is there you will find the fullness of His blessing.

- ➔ **Set boundaries—God first, family second and ministry third.** Church leaders are vulnerable to burn-out because of the emotional, spiritual, and physical demands of ministry. Yes, a good leader will be available to respond to crisis situations 24/7, but a good leader will also know how to discern what situations require immediate attention, what work can wait, and what work can be delegated. Over the years, too many ministers have neglected their health, and their families, in the pursuit of ‘doing God’s work.’ It is not pleasing to God, or honorable, to neglect family or marriage vows due to non-priority acts of Christian service. Honor God. Keep the Lord first in your life, and don’t let good but non-priority work supersede the commitments to your family God wants you to keep. Remember, God first, family second and service third.
- ➔ **Most will not listen.** It will not matter how eloquent or clever you are, the truth is, most will not want to hear what you have to say about God, Jesus, the coming Tribulation or the judgment. Remember, Christ-followers are to gauge success differently than the world does. I challenge you to gauge success not by how many listen, but by how faithful you are to share God’s message. Consider this: Ezekiel was one of the great prophets of the Old Testament. Early in his ministry, God told him, “You will speak my words to them [my people] whether they listen or not, for they are a stiff-necked and rebellious people...” (Ezek.2:5). In case Ezekiel somehow missed the message,

God repeated the directive two verses later (2:7). Your calling is to communicate God's message. Do your best, be bold but speak in truth and love, and trust that God will take care of the rest.

- **Delegate.** Good managers know how to delegate. They are not threatened by surrounding themselves with people who have exceptional abilities—even abilities exceeding their own. For a time, Moses struggled with this. Having had a fine education (in sharp contrast to the people he was leading who lived in slavery their entire lives), Moses was likely a far more skilled and capable administrator/leader than his countrymen. But attempting to rather singlehandedly lead almost two million people was too much. He grew so weary that he asked God to let him die. His Father-in-law counseled Moses to enlist helpers—good men who could share the burden of leadership. Moses took the advice and things quickly improved. A good manager's mind thinks in terms of multiplication, not addition. He/she knows that more work can be accomplished when more are trusted and empowered. Yes, it may be tempting to continue doing certain tasks, particularly when you can do it better. But the better path is to train and mentor so that in the end, more are engaged, more become skilled, and more is accomplished—all for the glory of God.
- **Be transparent.** No one is perfect. It's OK to strive to be, but don't pretend to be. When you falter, be quick to acknowledge it humbly, and as appropriate, ask for forgiveness. Don't give up. You're on a learning curve, and some missteps are expected. God's love for you is sure. He does not love some imaginary version of you—He loves you. No masks are required. Be real. Be transparent. Share with others how they can pray for you, what you are learning, and your struggles. Christ-followers are made to be at their best when they learn together, share together, grow together, and work together. Being transparent will help you garner trust and good-will, better your witness, and be a better leader.
- **Be accountable.** Bottom line—there is a direct correlation between limited accountability and maximum vulnerability to sin. Many, many

greats have fallen into the trap of thinking that they do not need an accountability structure, and spectacular were their falls. Satan is smarter than we are, and he knows how to prey on our vulnerabilities. It is foolish to give him more than he struggles to take. Accountability partners serve as a hedge of protection against Satan's efforts to discourage and destroy. Lines of accountability are not binding, they are a safety net, and a God-honoring structure that good leaders embrace.

- ➔ **Major on the majors.** Satan will try to destroy you, but if he can't, he will try to discourage and distract you. As a leader, you are in trouble if you are trying to please everyone, or if you are unsure what the priorities are. Establish priorities. Form a game-plan. Keep lists. Track progress. In the classic book *Alice in Wonderland* the main character exclaims, "If you don't know where you are going any road will get you there." That is both dead wrong, and deadly. At this point in history, you do not have the luxury to meander or get distracted. Those who allow this to happen will become discouraged and less effective in doing the work that is pleasing to God. Problems and interesting options will come your way. Give them proper prayerful consideration and then press-on to accomplish primary objectives. "Major on the majors and minor on minors." If a minor is, in fact, a major, it will present itself again. Pray, seek counsel, then make a decision and stick with it. Second guessing yourself or worrying about incidentals is a waste of time and resources. Trust that God will guide your steps and help you to do what He wants you to do.

- ➔ **View the book of Acts as your model for ministry.** There are many repeating numbers, themes, imagery, and types (foreshadowing) in the Bible. For example, the Old Testament evil ruler Antipas Epiphanes foreshadows the work of the Antichrist in the New Testament book of Revelation. The Old Testament Feast of Passover and the sacrifice of unblemished lambs in the days of Moses foreshadows the sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God. An entire book can be written on this

subject. Suffice to say that the Church in the New Testament book of Acts likely foreshadows this period of history. The Church of Acts was great but small. New believers were called to witness and lead. There was great oppression, but also a great anointing and moving of God. There were no church buildings and no denominational offices, but the Church penetrated every vestige of perhaps the most powerful empire the world has known. Many Christ-followers lost jobs and homes—there were many fugitives and many martyrs, but the Church thrived because to them, Church was a lifestyle, not a scheduled event. They did not go to church; they were the Church. In Acts 2 and 4 we read that believers lived together, ate together, prayed and studied together, and shared what they had for the benefit of all. There was love and forgiveness and sacrifice—three qualities that Satan and the Roman Empire could not overcome. Read the book of Acts. Pay special attention to how believers worked together and sacrificed for the cause of Christ. Note their missionary spirit and Christian zeal. Pray that God will help you rekindle that kind of holy fire in those you have the privilege to minister.

- ➔ **Speak the truth but speak it in love.** There is power in love. I was astounded to find that it is the compassion of Jesus—not the power of Jesus or the wisdom of Jesus, but it is the compassion of Jesus, that is one of the leading descriptors of the Messiah in the Gospels. The individuals He ministered to saw it in His eyes, in His countenance, and in His actions. Jesus communicated a strong message, but many listened because it was spoken in love. Speak the truth, but be gentle, wise, encouraging, and lead with love. The words of those who come across as condescending or judgmental tend to be quickly discarded. Those who use truth as a club will not be effective at communicating God’s message (which is a message of love). Criticism is not a spiritual gift, nor is it an admirable quality. An effective communicator will lead with humility and speak with love as they share the truth of God.
- ➔ **Correct in private, compliment in public.** Scripture notes that our

every word should be useful for edification (Eph. 4:29). That means, our words should motivate others toward improvement. Sometimes it's tempting to impulsively vent frustration, or want to win your point. But a wise leader will remember that the goal is not to win the point, it is to win the person. Complimenting in public builds goodwill and strengthens the foundation of your relationships so they can better weather the tough times. Correcting in private guards against the enemy being able to use embarrassment or pride to inflame a situation. Remember, the strength of your relationships is a testimony for the Lord. In John 17 Jesus prayed, "Father I pray that they [His followers] will be one...so that the world may believe that God sent the Son." The quality of your relationships correlates with the strength of your witness. Amazing but true.

- ➔ **When there's a wrong, seek to make it right.** In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus spoke of the importance of being a peacemaker. Everyone appreciates peace—but God did not commend those who want peace, He commended those who do what needs to be done to facilitate peace. In general, that means, as you can, you are called to initiate the forgiveness/restoration process (even if you are not at fault). For the sake of your witness and the cause of Christ, you are to call the meeting, seek restoration, forgive first, speak first, hug first, as appropriate apologize first, etc. Those who hold on to the hurts of the past are likely to get stuck there and miss experiencing any joy in the present. Learn from the past but don't get stuck there. Be a peace-maker. When you lead in the process of healing and restoration, your life is pleasing to God.
- ➔ **Always seek to know more.** The Church in Berea (Acts 17:21) was commended because the people studied the Scriptures daily. The Apostle Paul spoke of running the good race (not, he ran a good race some years ago, but that his race/journey was ongoing). Believers are called to grow in the faith (1 Cor. 13), and to begin a spiritual walk—not to take some kind of spiritual pose or stand. Learn and don't stop learning. Serve and don't stop serving. "Pray without ceasing." Know

that there is always more to learn and more to do. Ask God for the strength and the hunger to mature in Christ in a way that is pleasing to Him.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

Teaching Suggestions and Resources

- ➔ **Do your best to be prepared:** Study, pray, be prepared, and stay a step ahead of your students. It is OK to not all the answers. In fact, have someone write out the questions that arise during your meetings, assign research homework to class participants and invite students to share their findings during future lessons. Do what you can to make learning interesting and a group event.
- ➔ **Don’t lecture:** The best small group learning environments are informal and discussion-based. Know what you are going to say, but allow students to interrupt, ask questions, and share comments. Plan ways for students to participate in the lesson (lead in prayer, read Scripture, share a testimony, coordinate tech. support, prepare food, lead a song, etc.). Again, do what you can to make the learning experience interesting and interactive.
- ➔ **Keep the discussion on track:** The enemy loves distraction. Sometimes, ‘innocent’ sounding questions can take the discussion away from the important truths the Lord would have you communicate—truth that someone in the class desperately needs to hear. Discernment here is key. Sometimes the Spirit will prompt the discussion to take an unexpected turn—that’s OK. There may be times when a lesson you prepare well for should be shelved at the last minute. But in general, keep to the lesson plan, and keep the discussion focused on your

primary topic. Redirect the discussion as needed. Interrupt if necessary. This can be a challenge but can be done in love (Brother John, that was an interesting thought but let's return to the original question which was...). Remember, as the facilitator; you are the steward of the time that all participants invest in this spiritual-growth activity.

- ➔ **Prioritize teaching about Jesus:** I have heard many sermons about being kind, being good, forgiveness, grace, and heaven, but the best and most impactful sermons center on Jesus—what He said, what He did, and what He expects of His followers. Prioritize teaching on the Gospels. Also, emphasize the book of Acts (as that is your model for followers of Christ), and the book of Revelation, as that book profiles the events that are to come.
- ➔ **Text selection:** Pray and ask the Lord to lead you in what to teach on. Consider how current events or local issues can be addressed from a biblical perspective. If you are teaching through a book (which is a good approach to teaching) consider selecting a passage of 10-15 verses for your text. Research the text and expound on key words. Another approach is to look at a chapter or so at a time—expounding on 3 to 6 significant points in that chapter. Let God lead. Begin with prayer and end with assigning some homework and providing a glimpse of what the group will be studying next.
- ➔ **Teaching Resources:** Consider using *The Story of Jesus Book* and associated Bible Study booklets as resources for your first study. The *Story of Jesus* book takes the material in the Gospels and presents it in chronological order (with pastoral commentary). At the end of the ten-week study, the class will have a good basic understanding of who Jesus was, what He did, what He taught, and what He expects. These teaching resources can be downloaded at no cost through the www.IAmAWatchman.com website.

Additional teaching Resources:

- ➔ The www.IAmWatchman.com website also has a number of Teaching Kits available (at no cost). Here is the download link: <https://iamawatchman.com/teaching-series/>
- ➔ A number of teaching videos are posted on the I Am A Watchman Vimeo Channel at www.Vimeo.com/IAmAWatchman
- ➔ Information on what it means to be a Watchman can be found here: <https://iamawatchman.com/category/watchman-lifestyle/what-it-means-to-be-a-watchman/>
- ➔ Information on how to be saved can be found here: <https://iamawatchman.com/category/im-all-in/how-can-i-know-im-saved>
- ➔ Informative articles on Growing In Christ can be found here: <https://iamawatchman.com/category/watchman-lifestyle/discipleship-growing-in-christ/>
- ➔ Informative encouraging and inspirational articles can be found here:
 - <https://iamawatchman.com/category/watchman-lifestyle/encouraging-and-inspirational/>
 - <https://iamawatchman.com/category/loving-jesus/blogs/>
- ➔ Information on Bible Prophecy can be found at the links noted below:
 - A seven-part teaching on Bible Prophecy can be accessed at www.Vimeo.com/IAmAWatchman
 - A 175 page book on Bible Prophecy can be downloaded here: <https://iamawatchman.com/ebooks/>

- ➔ A Watchman Journal Devotional book (titled, 99 Days on the Wall) can be accessed at: https://www.amazon.com/Watchmans-Journal-99-Days-Wall-ebook/dp/B07GFRDZX3/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1536011252&sr=1-1&keywords=99+days+on+the+wall
- ➔ Information on Apologetics (A three-part teaching titled, REASONS TO BELIEVE) can be accessed at www.Vimeo.com/IAmAWatchman
- ➔ The Discipleship Handbook (a book that provides an overview of major Christian doctrines) can be accessed at <https://iamawatchman.com/ebooks>



“I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it one day for a crown”

COURAGE

When I was a young man and participated in competitive sports, I learned that victory did not always come to the strongest or fastest. Yes, victors are often strong and fast, but the X-factors—*heart, determination, and focus*, often trumped brute strength. In the Spirit, **courage** is a primary X-factor. Many believe that degrees, training, number of memorized verses, or service experience guarantee effectiveness in one's spiritual walk and calling. However, without courage, even the most talented and able will fall short of being what God has called them to be, and accomplishing what God desires them to accomplish. **Courage** is an attribute that God appreciates, and believers must demonstrate.

In a sense, this is one of the most important sections in this booklet. Certainly, being saved and forgiven is of primary importance, but living with courage is key. This has been true through the ages, but is particularly true in these last, dark days. What follows are a few thoughts and suggestions to help you develop courage—and inspire courage in others.

- ➔ **Know that fear will *magnify* a situation, and faith will help you *manage* a situation:** Fear often makes situations seem worse or more frightening than they really are. Fear is the opposite of courage—perhaps that is why it is one of Satan's favored weapons, for if through fear he can compromise our courage, he is more than halfway to a victory. Faith is the firewall for courage. If we pray for and work to strengthen our faith, then courage is guarded, and we are better positioned to stay on track. It is when we let our mind wander, and move from peace to panic, that we lose focus, heart, drive, and the ability to carry-on.
- ➔ **Fear and worry are cousins that feed off each other and inflame situations:** Know that allowing fear and worry to grow will never help, and will always hurt. Yes, fear and worry are natural emotions that have *some* value, but allowing these emotions to run roughshod in our psyche will steal your joy and compromise your witness. When you begin to worry, begin to worship. Praise God. Sing, quote scripture,

pray for others, and study the Word. Give worry no ground, and try to squelch the embers of fear and worry before they spark flames that are difficult to extinguish.

- ➔ **Don't play the What if game:** Satan has a way of making this game sound attractive and helpful. After all, he will say, “*Is it not wise to consider all options and possibilities?*” Yes, the wise will consider options and establish contingency plans—but continuously asking, “*But what if this happens?*” or “*What if that happens?*” is a no-win scenario. We never fill-in the blank *what if _____* with, *I win a million dollars*. It's often more like, *what if a tragedy comes my way tomorrow*. Satan knows this, and he loves to attack our minds. He loves to introduce thoughts of doubt and despair. Give him no ground. Do your best not to allow yourself to start down that slippery slope.
- ➔ **Redirect thoughts:** Satan attacks the mind (2 Cor. 10:5), so we must learn how to guard the mind. The best defense is to, as Paul wrote to the Philippian Church, focus on that which is good pure, noble, and helpful (Phil. 4:8). A few suggestions are noted below:
 - » **Pray:** Remain in constant prayer. “Make your **every** need be known to him.” (Phil. 4:6). “Cast **all** of your cares upon Him...” (1 Peter 5:7). The more you focus on prayer, the less Satan will be able to steal your joy, focus, and courage.
 - » **Know what is going to happen:** As a pastor I found that many did not want to study prophecy or read the book of Revelation because these segments of Scripture speak of war and tribulation. But not knowing about the future only feeds our fears. Being ignorant makes us vulnerable. God has not provided insight into the future to frighten you, but to prepare you. Consider this: If you walked out on a football field in the middle of a game, and you were unprepared for someone to tackle you—it would hurt. Great players prepare for the hit. They expect it, and know how to counter or minimize its impact. Don't be afraid to find out what both God and Satan intend to do in the years to come. Yes, it will

be unsettling, but not knowing will give the enemy an advantage (Eph. 4:27).

- » **Don't go it alone:** God has designed things in such a way that we are *better together*. Two working together can accomplish more than two working independently. Find a believer who will be your brother or sister in the Lord—someone who will serve with you, learn with you, pray with and for you, and encourage you. Courage, and fear, are contagious, and no one is strong all the time. Find one (or more) to give you counterbalance when the tough times come.
- » **Know the Word:** In Luke 4, at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, Satan attacked by skillfully tempting the Lord. Jesus overcame each temptation by *quoting Scripture*. Scripture is living and powerful (Heb. 4:12). Meditating on Scripture eases stress and can guard your focus. Responding to challenges and temptations by recalling and quoting Scripture shows wisdom, and honors God.
- » **Take the long view:** The long view is, *the Tribulation will only last seven years, the Kingdom of God and the glory of heaven will last forever*. The pain and suffering of this world will soon be gone. Consider this, if you were to measure-out time, and you presented one million years as one yard, then the thinnest line you could draw to bisect the yardstick of time would be still greater in width than the 7-year Tribulation period the world will endure. And that is just for one million years. Our time in heaven will be millions of billions of years. Paul said it well when he said, *"The troubles all around us will soon be gone, but the joys to come will last forever"* (2 Cor. 4:18).
- » **Focus on the positive:** Track blessings. Journal answered prayers. Share testimonies of God's goodness and working. Rejoice in every blessing, no matter how small. It is said that during the horrors of WWII, a young Corrie ten Boom and her sister were arrested by Nazi's and put into a concentration camp. Many gave up and perished in that camp, but Corrie ten Boom did not, and

there is a reason why. Corrie focused on the positive. At one point, when food was scarce, rats were prevalent, and guards were entering dorm areas day and night, beating inmates at random, Corrie sat on the floor with her sister and listened to her share her hurts and fears. Certainly they were justified, but Corrie turned the conversation by saying, “Let’s take a minute and think about what we can be thank God for.” Silence. It would be easy, thought her sister, to talk for hours about their many hurts and needs, but what was there to thank God for? Finally, Corrie offered, “Let us thank God for the fleas.” Yes, they were horrible and made life uncomfortable, but the camp guards knew that their dorm was infested and fear of the fleas kept them relatively safe at night (which was not the case for the other dormitory areas). As they thanked God for the fleas, it became easier to see and thank God for other blessings—they had each other, they were still alive, they had their faith, etc. In time it became easier or Corrie’s sister to see the positive, which is what believers are called to do. Paul challenged, “*In everything give thanks, for this is God’s will for you...*” (1 Thess. 5:18). Note that believers are not called to thank God *for* everything, but *in everything*, that is, in every situation, for God (and His many promises) are never far from His people.

- » **Know what is likely:** This is difficult to write, and I do not pen this without consideration of your feelings. However, I think it best to have in mind that most will not survive to the end of the Tribulation period. It is OK to pray that you do, and to desire to survive to see the ‘glorious appearing’ and return of the Lord at the end of the Battle of Armageddon, but it is a mistake to position yourself to lose heart, or faith, if that is not God’s will for you. Do not have a *I will have faith if, or I will believe if, or I will serve God if...* mindset. Our faith in and love for God can not be conditional (*if God rescues me, if He keeps me safe, if He provides food, if He keeps me from prison, etc.*). I understand the desire to survive, and the inclination to link a good God with good times and blessings, but during the Tribulation period a great evil will

sweep the land. An epic battle of good versus evil is waging, but be assured, God will prevail.

- » **Have the right goal:** At this point in history, the goal cannot be to retire well, accumulate wealth, gain position, move into a nice home, complete your degree, or even to survive—the goal must be to be a servant and witness for God. The faithful will strive to be a witness to as many as possible in the time they are given. Your goal should not to live long—but to live well, and finish well. There will be temptations (and perhaps opportunities) to run and hide. And it may be that God calls some to do that, and if that is what He leads you to do then by all means do it. But I believe that most will not be called to run, but to fight. I believe that most will be called to be a light, to be His voice, and to be His witnesses. Goals centered on living for God, serving God, and being a witness for God are achievable, and achieving your goals yields a deep sense of satisfaction. If a football player’s goal was to score a touchdown every time he held the ball, or to be the MVP of every game, that player will soon become disappointed and discouraged. The wise player sets wise goals. In the same way, your goals must in line with God’s will for you, and in keeping with what is prophesied to happen during this phase of history. The world is about to encounter hardship as never before, but when hardships are encountered as spiritual goals are being achieved, there can be a peace, joy, and satisfaction that no one and nothing can take away.
- » **God will help:** I believe that God will help believers to be bold and brave if they make difficult decisions to resist evil and be a witness for Him. Scripture notes that many will be martyred because they refuse to worship the Antichrist. I am sure that many will be given the opportunity to save their lives if they *just take the mark*. It is likely some will say, “*God does not exist, but even if He did, wouldn’t he want you to save your life and follow the law of the land?*” Compromising your faith and witness may seem like the

prudent decision, and some may wonder how they could ever be brave enough to go to the gallows or speak for Christ knowing that the punishment will be severe. I tell you this: Jesus will help those who are sincere in their commitment to be obedient in those very, very difficult moments of life. So commit now to be brave for Jesus later—and believe that He will stand with you, and will help you to be a bold, brave, and strong witness for Him.

- » **Think about the reward:** Those who die as martyrs during the Tribulation period will be recognized and rewarded by God (see Rev. 7:15-17). These saints will be given white robes (Rev. 6:11) and will return to earth with Christ to usher-in His Millennial Kingdom (Dan. 7:18-27). Further, during the Millennial Reign of Christ Tribulation martyrs will have the honor of sharing in administering God’s work (Job 36:7; Isa. 60:17; Psa. 37:29-31; Jer. 3:15).
- » **The future:** Some may say the future is bleak, and from an earthly point of view this may be true. But believers are called to see with eyes of faith (2 Cor. 5:7). Do not focus on the pain of the moment, but on God’s glorious promises for the future. You may lose your home, job, and life, but if you finish well, you will receive an eternal and wonderful reward. Remember, Paul said, “*To die is gain.*” (**Phil. 1:21**). You will reign with Christ during the Millennium. You will hear, “Well done my good and faithful servant” at the “Great White Throne Judgment” at the end of time (Rev. 20:11-15). You will escape the “second death” and be counted with “the sheep,” His beloved, at the time of accounting (Matt. 25:31-46). You will not be found lacking when your life works pass through God’s holy and evaluative fire (1 Cor. 3:13-15). Great things await the courageous and faithful. Be bold. Be strong. Keep your eye on the prize. Satan may have his day, but eternity belongs to the Lord. Be comforted in this Scriptural promise: “*...No eye has seen...no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived—the things God has prepared for those who love Him*” (1 Cor. 2:9).

NEXT STEPS

It is often difficult to formulate a plan of action in times of crisis. In this section you will find a few suggestions for your next steps.

1. Get a good Bible: I encourage you to get a Bible that includes many study notes. These are often called Study Bibles. The notes will help explain difficult passages and unfamiliar references. Choose a translation that is not a paraphrase of the original text (such as, The Way, The Living Bible, The Good News, or The Message), and a translation that is readable and understandable to you. In my view, good English translations include, but are not limited to, The English Standard Version, The New International Version, The New American Standard, The Holman Study Bible, and The New Century Version.

2. Be aware of false teachers: The Bible notes that many will come—some will come with the ability to manifest miracles. Their presentations will be polished and compelling. They will present false teachings and a compromised message. They will attempt to lead people away from truth. Remember, God's Word, the Bible, is the best source of truth. Test all teachings against the Word of God and remember, though there are a number of interesting Christian speculative fiction books dealing with the Tribulation and the Antichrist (the Left Behind book series is one such example), recognize that they are fiction. Don't draw specific conclusions or seek spiritual answers from works of fiction. Look for answers in the Bible. The Bible needs to be your key source for truth and facts in these Last Days.

3. Share your faith and connect with other believers: Find true believers and spend as much time as possible with them. You will need each other as Tribulation period trials increase.

4. Learn as much as you can as fast as you can: Yes, spiritual things are the priority, but hone practical skills as well, such as first aid. Learn CPR and how to respond in emergency situations, because they are coming. Research

medicine and medical treatment alternatives. Know that medical services and pharmaceutical access will be controlled and restricted in the future. Learn how to grow, store, and preserve food, operate a generator and solar powered devices, and purify water, because earthquakes, contaminated water, war, and a controlled economy are coming. Take measures to become self-sufficient and as possible, live off the grid. But above all, learn the Word. Study Scripture. Learn what Bible prophecy notes is about to happen. Find study and prayer partners. Surround yourselves with the things of God. And because there will likely be disruptions in online and power services and prohibitions on Christian literature of all kinds, I urge you to download and print copies of the study resources the I Am A Watchman ministry makes available. If you can, purchase non-digital study resources (physical books and DVDs). Seek out books by evangelical publishing companies such as Tyndale, Eedermans, Zondervan, Moody Press, Life Way, Baker, and Nelson. Helpful resources could include Bible encyclopedias and dictionaries, a Bible thesaurus or topical Bible, and certainly Bible commentaries. Particularly helpful will be commentaries on the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), commentaries on the book of Acts and the writings of Paul (Ephesians, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians), and commentaries on the prophetic books of Revelation, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zachariah.

5. Urge people not to take the Mark of the Beast! The Beast is a reference to the Antichrist. I shared earlier that the Antichrist will eventually assume control of all world systems—that includes the economy. By the midpoint of the Tribulation, a, for lack of better term, mark of loyalty to the Antichrist, will be required. Without that mark, most likely applied to the forehead, hand, or wrist, you will not be able to buy or sell on the open market. Taking that mark will probably be presented as a good economic decision—something that will foster global unity or better protect personal security, but it's a lie. Those who take the mark align themselves with the Antichrist and no redemption for them will be possible. It will not be possible for those who take the mark to change their mind later and become a follower of Jesus Christ. Don't take the mark! Many, perhaps most who refused to take the mark will be put to death. Those who have stored medical supplies and have underground networks for food

and water will be the most likely to survive. So, I urge you to store food and medicine and survival supplies, print and keep hard copies of Christian study material. Hide them. Cherish them. Establish networks for sharing and bartering, and note, these must be with strong Christians because, at some point, your life will depend on whom you work with and communicate.

6. Liquidate assets: A new global currency is coming. Natural disasters and disruptions in services (power and water) are coming. Sell what you can. Stocks, bonds, and retirement accounts will soon have little value and restricted access. Invest in sellable tradable commodities or perhaps something that has intrinsic value such as gold, silver, medicine or fuel. Downsize. Be prepared to be mobile. Yes, life is about to become very, very difficult, but God will not forsake you, and He has not forgotten you. He will help you to be strong and brave if you commit to living well and finish well. Remember, the goal now is not to survive—the goal is to Finish Well.

7. Read the Word daily: Titus 2:15 notes that disciples are to study and “rightly handle” (understand and share) Scripture. It honors God when His people strive to learn what the Word says, how to share it, and how to incorporate it into a daily walk. A chronological reading guide follows:

CHRONOLOGICAL DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Day 1 - Genesis 1-3

Day 2 - Genesis 4-7

Day 3 - Genesis 8-11

Day 4 - Job 1-5

Day 5 - Job 6-9

Day 6 - Job 10-13

Day 7 - Job 14-16

Day 8 - Job 17-20

Day 9 - Job 21-23

Day 10 - Job 24-28

Day 11 - Job 29-31

Day 12 - Job 32-34

Day 13 - Job 35-37

Day 14 - Job 38-39

Day 15 - Job 40-42

Day 16 - Genesis 12-15

CHRONOLOGICAL DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Day 17 - Genesis 16-18
Day 18 - Genesis 19-21
Day 19 - Genesis 22-24
Day 20 - Genesis 25-26
Day 21 - Genesis 27-29
Day 22 - Genesis 30-31
Day 23 - Genesis 32-34
Day 24 - Genesis 35-37
Day 25 - Genesis 38-40
Day 26 - Genesis 41-42
Day 27 - Genesis 43-45
Day 28 - Genesis 46-47
Day 29 - Genesis 48-50
Day 30 - Exodus 1-3
Day 31 - Exodus 4-6
Day 32 - Exodus 7-9
Day 33 - Exodus 10-12
Day 34 - Exodus 13-15
Day 35 - Exodus 16-18
Day 36 - Exodus 19-21
Day 37 - Exodus 22-24
Day 38 - Exodus 25-27
Day 39 - Exodus 28-29
Day 40 - Exodus 30-32
Day 41 - Exodus 33-35
Day 42 - Exodus 36-38
Day 43 - Exodus 39-40
Day 44 - Leviticus 1-4
Day 45 - Leviticus 5-7
Day 46 - Leviticus 8-10
Day 47 - Leviticus 11-13
Day 48 - Leviticus 14-15
Day 49 - Leviticus 16-18
Day 50 - Leviticus 19-21

Day 51 - Leviticus 22-23
Day 52 - Leviticus 24-25
Day 53 - Leviticus 26-27
Day 54 - Numbers 1-2
Day 55 - Numbers 3-4
Day 56 - Numbers 5-6
Day 57 - Numbers 7
Day 58 - Numbers 8-10
Day 59 - Numbers 11-13
Day 60 - Numbers 14-15;
Day 61 - Numbers 16-17
Day 62 - Numbers 18-20
Day 63 - Numbers 21-22
Day 64 - Numbers 23-25
Day 65 - Numbers 26-27
Day 66 - Numbers 28-30
Day 67 - Numbers 31-32
Day 68 - Numbers 33-34
Day 69 - Numbers 35-36
Day 70 - Deuteronomy 1-2
Day 71 - Deuteronomy 3-4
Day 72 - Deuteronomy 5-7
Day 73 - Deuteronomy 8-10
Day 74 - Deuteronomy 11-13
Day 75 - Deuteronomy 14-16
Day 76 - Deuteronomy 17-20
Day 77 - Deuteronomy 21-23
Day 78 - Deuteronomy 24-27
Day 79 - Deuteronomy 28-29
Day 80 - Deuteronomy 30-31
Day 81 - Deut 32-34; Ps 91
Day 82 - Joshua 1-4
Day 83 - Joshua 5-8
Day 84 - Joshua 9-11

CHRONOLOGICAL DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

- Day 85 - Joshua 12-15
 Day 86 - Joshua 16-18
 Day 87 - Joshua 19-21
 Day 88 - Joshua 22-24
 Day 89 - Judges 1-2
 Day 90 - Judges 3-5
 Day 91 - Judges 6-7
 Day 92 - Judges 8-9
 Day 93 - Judges 10-12
 Day 94 - Judges 13-15
 Day 95 - Judges 16-18
 Day 96 - Judges 19-21
 Day 97 - Ruth 1-4
 Day 98 - 1 Samuel 1-3
 Day 99 - 1 Samuel 4-8
 Day 100 - 1 Samuel 9-12
 Day 101 - 1 Samuel 13-14
 Day 102 - 1 Samuel 15-17
 Day 103 - 1 Sam 18-20; Psa 11, 59
 Day 104 - 1 Samuel 21-24
 Day 105 - Psalm 7, 27, 31, 34, 52
 Day 106 - Psalm 56, 120, 140-142
 Day 107 - 1 Samuel 25-27
 Day 108 - Psalm 17, 35, 54, 63
 Day 109 - 1 Sam 28-31; Ps18a
 Day 110 - Psalm 121, 123-125, 128-130
 Day 111 - 2 Samuel 1-4
 Day 112 - Psalm 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21
 Day 113 - 1 Chronicles 1-2
 Day 114 - Psalm 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87
 Day 115 - 1 Chronicles 3-5
 Day 116 - Psalm 73, 77-78
 Day 117 - 1 Chronicles 6
 Day 118 - Psalm 81, 88, 92-93
 Day 119 - 1 Chronicles 7-10
 Day 120 - Psalm 102-104
 Day 121 - 2 Sam 5:1-10; 1 Chr 11-12
 Day 122 - Psalm 133
 Day 123 - Psalm 106-107
 Day 124 - 2 Sam 5:11-25, 6:1-23; 1 Chr. 13-16
 Day 125 - Psalm 1-2, 15, 22-24, 47, 68
 Day 126 - Psalm 89, 96, 100, 101, 105, 132
 Day 127 - 2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17
 Day 128 - Psalm 25, 29, 33, 36, 39
 Day 129 - 2 Samuel 8-9; 1 Chronicles 18
 Day 130 - Psalm 50, 53, 60, 75
 Day 131 - 2 Sam10; 1 Chr. 19; Psa 20
 Day 132 - Psalm 65-67, 69-70
 Day 133 - 2 Samuel 11-12; 1 Chronicles 20
 Day 134 - Psalm 32, 51, 86, 122
 Day 135 - 2 Samuel 13-15
 Day 136 - Psalm 3-4, 12-13, 28, 55
 Day 137 - 2 Samuel 16-18
 Day 138 - Psalm 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64
 Day 139 - 2 Samuel 19-21
 Day 140 - Psalm 5, 38, 41-42
 Day 141 - 2 Samuel 22-23; Psalm 57
 Day 142 - Psalm 95, 97-99
 Day 143 - 2 Sam 24; 1 Chr 21-22; Ps 30
 Day 144 - Psalm 108-110
 Day 145 - 1 Chronicles 23-25
 Day 146 - Psalm 131, 138-139, 143-145
 Day 147 - 1 Chronicles 26-29; Psalm 127
 Day 148 - Psalm 111-118
 Day 149 - 1 Kings 1-2; Psalm 37, 71, 94
 Day 150 - Psalm 119:1-88
 Day 151 - 1 Kings 3-4; 2 Chr 1; Psa 72
 Day 152 - Psalm 119:89-176
 Day 153 - Song of Solomon 1-8
 Day 154 - Proverbs 1-3

CHRONOLOGICAL DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

- Day 155 - Proverbs 4-6
 Day 156 - Proverbs 7-9
 Day 157 - Proverbs 10-12
 Day 158 - Proverbs 13-15
 Day 159 - Proverbs 16-18
 Day 160 - Proverbs 19-21
 Day 161 - Proverbs 22-24
 Day 162 - 1 Kings 5-6; 2 Chr 2-3
 Day 163 - 1 Kings 7; 2 Chronicles 4
 Day 164 - 1 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 5
 Day 165 - 2 Chr 6-7; Psalm 136
 Day 166 - Psalm 134, 146-150
 Day 167 - 1 Kings 9; 2 Chronicles 8
 Day 168 - Proverbs 25-26
 Day 169 - Proverbs 27-29
 Day 170 - Ecclesiastes 1-6
 Day 171 - Ecclesiastes 7-12
 Day 172 - 1 Kings 10-11; 2 Chr 9
 Day 173 - Proverbs 30-31
 Day 174 - 1 Kings 12-14
 Day 175 - 2 Chronicles 10-12
 Day 176 - 1 Ki 15:1-24; 2 Chr 13-16
 Day 177 - 1 Kings 15:25-34, 16:1-34;
 2 Chr 17
 Day 178 - 1 Kings 17-19
 Day 179 - 1 Kings 20-21
 Day 180 - 1 Kings 22; 2 Chr 18
 Day 181 - 2 Chronicles 19-23
 Day 182 - Obadiah; Psalm 82-83
 Day 183 - 2 Kings 1-4
 Day 184 - 2 Kings 5-8
 Day 185 - 2 Kings 9-11
 Day 186 - 2 Kings 12-13; 2 Chr 24
 Day 187 - 2 Kings 14; 2 Chronicles 25
 Day 188 - Jonah 1-4
 Day 189 - 2 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 26
 Day 190 - Isaiah 1-4
 Day 191 - Isaiah 5-8
 Day 192 - Amos 1-5
 Day 193 - Amos 6-9
 Day 194 - 2 Chronicles 27; Isaiah 9-12
 Day 195 - Micah 1-7
 Day 196 - 2 Chronicles 28; 2 Kings 16-17
 Day 197 - Isaiah 13-17
 Day 198 - Isaiah 18-22
 Day 199 - Isaiah 23-27
 Day 200 - 2 Kings 18:1-8; 2 Chr 29-31;
 Psa 48
 Day 201 - Hosea 1-7
 Day 202 - Hosea 8-14
 Day 203 - Isaiah 28-30
 Day 204 - Isaiah 31-34
 Day 205 - Isaiah 35-36
 Day 206 - Isaiah 37-39; Psalm 76
 Day 207 - Isaiah 40-43
 Day 208 - Isaiah 44-48
 Day 209 - 2 Kings 18:9-19:37;
 Psa 46, 80, 135
 Day 210 - Isaiah 49-53
 Day 211 - Isaiah 54-58
 Day 212 - Isaiah 59-63
 Day 213 - Isaiah 64-66
 Day 214 - 2 Kings 20-21
 Day 215 - 2 Chronicles 32-33
 Day 216 - Nahum 1-3
 Day 217 - 2 Ki 22-23; 2 Chr 34-35
 Day 218 - Zephaniah 1-3
 Day 219 - Jeremiah 1-3

CHRONOLOGICAL DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

- Day 220 - Jeremiah 4-6
 Day 221 - Jeremiah 7-9
 Day 222 - Jeremiah 10-13
 Day 223 - Jeremiah 14-17
 Day 224 - Jeremiah 18-22
 Day 225 - Jeremiah 23-25
 Day 226 - Jeremiah 26-29
 Day 227 - Jeremiah 30-31
 Day 228 - Jeremiah 32-34
 Day 229 - Jeremiah 35-37
 Day 230 - Jer 38-40; Ps 74, 79
 Day 231 - 2 Kings 24-25; 2 Chr 36
 Day 232 - Habakkuk 1-3
 Day 233 - Jeremiah 41-45
 Day 234 - Jeremiah 46-48
 Day 235 - Jeremiah 49-50
 Day 236 - Jeremiah 51-52
 Day 237 - Lamentations 1--2-36
 Day 238 - Lam. 3:37-66; 4, 5:1-22
 Day 239 - Ezekiel 1-4
 Day 241 - Ezekiel 9-12
 Day 242 - Ezekiel 13-15
 Day 243 - Ezekiel 16-17
 Day 244 - Ezekiel 18-19
 Day 245 - Ezekiel 20-21
 Day 246 - Ezekiel 22-23
 Day 247 - Ezekiel 24-27
 Day 248 - Ezekiel 28-31
 Day 249 - Ezekiel 32-34
 Day 250 - Ezekiel 35-37
 Day 250 - Ezekiel 35-37
 Day 251 - Ezekiel 38-39
 Day 252 - Ezekiel 40-41
 Day 253 - Ezekiel 42-43
 Day 254 - Ezekiel 44-45
 Day 256 - Joel 1-3
 Day 257 - Daniel 1-3
 Day 258 - Daniel 4-6
 Day 259 - Daniel 7-9
 Day 260 - Daniel 10-12
 Day 261 - Ezra 1-3
 Day 262 - Ezra 4-6; Psalm 137
 Day 263 - Haggai 1-2
 Day 264 - Zechariah 1-7
 Day 265 - Zechariah 8-14
 Day 266 - Esther 1-5
 Day 267 - Esther 6-10
 Day 268 - Ezra 7-10
 Day 269 - Nehemiah 1-5
 Day 270 - Nehemiah 6-7
 Day 271 - Nehemiah 8-10
 Day 272 - Nehemiah 11-13; Psalm 126
 Day 273 - Malachi 1-4
 Day 274 - Luke 1; John 1:1-14
 Day 275 - Matthew 1; Luke 2:1-38
 Day 276 - Matthew 2; Luke 2:39-52
 Day 277 - Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3
 Day 278 - Matt 4; Luke 4-5; John 1:15-51
 Day 279 - John 2-4
 Day 280 - Mark 2
 Day 281 - John 5
 Day 282 - Matt 12:1-21; Mark 3; Luke 6
 Day 283 - Matthew 5-7
 Day 284 - Matthew 8:1-13; Luke 7
 Day 285 - Matthew 11
 Day 286 - Matthew 12:22-50; Luke 11
 Day 287 - Matthew 13; Luke 8
 Day 288 - Matthew 8:14-34; Mark 4-5
 Day 289 - Matthew 9-10
 Day 290 - Matt 14; Mark 6; Luke 9:1-17

CHRONOLOGICAL DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

- Day 291 - John 6
 Day 292 - Matthew 15; Mark 7
 Day 293 - Matt 16; Mark 8; Luke 9:18-27
 Day 294 - Matt 17; Mark 9; Luke 9:28-62
 Day 295 - Matthew 18
 Day 296 - John 7-8
 Day 297 - John 9:1-41; John 10:1-21
 Day 298 - Luke 10-11; John 10:22-42
 Day 299 - Luke 12-13
 Day 300 - Luke 14-15
 Day 301 - Luke 16; Luke 17:1-10
 Day 302 - John 11
 Day 303 - Luke 17:11-37; Luke 18:1-14
 Day 304 - Matthew 19; Mark 10
 Day 305 - Matthew 20-21
 Day 306 - Luke 18:15-43; Luke 19:1-48
 Day 307 - Mark 11; John 12
 Day 308 - Matthew 22; Mark 12
 Day 309 - Matthew 23; Luke 20-21
 Day 310 - Mark 13
 Day 311 - Matthew 24
 Day 312 - Matthew 25
 Day 313 - Matthew 26; Mark 14
 Day 314 - Luke 22; John 13
 Day 315 - John 14-17
 Day 316 - Matthew 27; Mark 15
 Day 317 - Luke 23; John 18-19
 Day 318 - Matthew 28; Mark 16
 Day 319 - Luke 24; John 20-21
 Day 320 - Acts 1-3
 Day 321 - Acts 4-6
 Day 322 - Acts 7-8
 Day 323 - Acts 9-10
 Day 324 - Acts 11-12
 Day 325 - Acts 13-14
 Day 326 - James 1-5
 Day 327 - Acts 15-16
 Day 328 - Galatians 1-3
 Day 329 - Galatians 4-6
 Day 330 - Acts 17; Acts 18:1-18
 Day 331 - 1 Thessalonians 1-5;
 2 Thessalonians 1-3
 Day 332 - Acts 18:19-28; Acts 19:1-41
 Day 333 - 1 Corinthians 1-4
 Day 334 - 1 Corinthians 5-8
 Day 335 - 1 Corinthians 9-11
 Day 336 - 1 Corinthians 12-14
 Day 337 - 1 Corinthians 15-16
 Day 338 - 2 Corinthians 1-4
 Day 339 - 2 Corinthians 5-9
 Day 340 - 2 Corinthians 10-13
 Day 341 - Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3
 Day 342 - Romans 4-7
 Day 343 - Romans 8-10
 Day 344 - Romans 11-13
 Day 345 - Romans 14-16
 Day 346 - Acts 20:4-38; Acts 21;
 Acts 22; Acts 23:1-35
 Day 347 - Acts 24-26
 Day 348 - Acts 27-28
 Day 349 - Colossians 1-4; Philemon
 Day 350 - Ephesians 1-6
 Day 351 - Philippians 1-4
 Day 352 - 1 Timothy 1-6
 Day 353 - Titus 1-3
 Day 354 - 1 Peter 1-5

CHRONOLOGICAL DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Day 355 - Hebrews 1-6

Day 356 - Hebrews 7-10

Day 357 - Hebrews 11-13

Day 358 - 2 Timothy 1-4

Day 359 - 2 Peter 1-3; Jude

Day 360 - 1 John 1-5

Day 361 - 2 John; 3 John

Day 362 - Revelation 1-5

Day 363 - Revelation 6-11

Day 364 - Revelation 12-18

Day 365 - Revelation 19-22





About this author: Gary Ray is a student of the Word. He has served in pastoral ministry for 30 years and currently serves as President of the *I Am A Watchman* ministry.

Gary is a lifelong learner. He has received and shares the grace of God, and enjoys speaking and writing about what God has done and what He is going to do.

About this booklet: The world will not be the same after the Rapture. This booklet is designed to help individuals understand what has happened, how to find forgiveness and salvation in Christ, and how to prepare for the future. A darkness is coming and with it the Antichrist, war, persecution and tribulation. Nevertheless, there is hope—His name is Jesus.

The information in this booklet (and the material on the IAmAWatchman.com website) will help readers be reconciled to God and find the courage to finish well. Remember, you are not alone. God loves you, and a great reward awaits the faithful.

"...Give thanks to the God and Father of...Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus...from death. This fills us with a living hope, and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot...spoil or fade away. They are...ready to be revealed at the end of time. Be glad...even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many...trials you suffer. Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested...Then you will receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed." (1 Peter 3:1-7)