

A satellite image of a large hurricane or tropical storm over the ocean. The storm has a distinct eye and is surrounded by dense, swirling clouds. The surrounding ocean is dark blue, and some landmasses are visible in the background.

EndTime Issues . . .

CHRISTIAN RESOURCE – MINISTERS, TEACHERS, BIBLE STUDENTS

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WATCH THE "CURVE"

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EndTime Issues... Magazine

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Manuscripts are welcomed for consideration. They should relate to something that has recently been happening, to a clearer understanding of prophecy or have a deep spiritual end-time concern, be simply written and well documented with a focused interest to Christians. Length should be limited to 10 double-spaced pages. The ongoing appeal: "Issues of concern to the final generation."

Letters to the editor: We welcome your letters of encouragement, deepening insight on relevant topics and plain feedback relative to *EndTime Issues...* Please keep your communiques brief. Your letters will be the property of Christian Heritage Foundation. Personal answers normally cannot be made. Selected letters may be published in subsequent issues of *EndTime Issues...*

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We need your support in prayers and funds. As our financial base broadens, it opens doors for a greater number to hear and see these special truths.

Donations (tax deductible) can be made by check, Visa, MasterCard, money order or cashiers check to the *Christian Heritage Foundation*, 4256-B Mockingbird Lane, Banning, California 92220-1123 USA.

Watch the "Curve!"

The world's future was seen through the eyes of Katrina and Rita. Hitting the U.S. with the force of several atomic bombs, the coast was reshaped, cities were destroyed, businesses were shattered and the treasures of thousands vanished.

By the droves, people fled from the face of these hurricanes. "Natural disasters" have grown into a dangerous issue. Megacatastrophes – some now call them. A distinct turning point in intensity and frequency of calamities has come. People are demanding, "Improve the government's response!" "Get better prepared for the next one!" How do you improve 72 hours? How can you prepare for the variables of a disaster? As the indomitable spirit of man attempts to creatively plan to defend himself against nature, she continues to increase in power beyond man's capabilities.

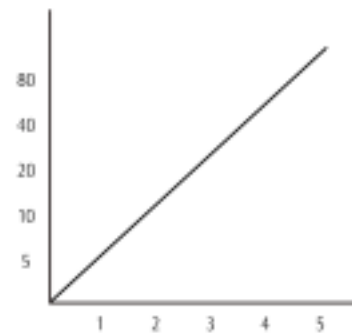
Since 1985 *hurricanes* have become more frequent and more intense. Scientist Kerry Emanuel recently said, "Increasing destruction from tropical *cyclones* over the past 30 years is now in evidence."¹

Globally, 2.5 billion people were affected by floods earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural disasters between 1994 and 2003 – a 60% increase over the previous decade. These figures don't include the Far Eastern calamities and associated Tsunami of December 2003.

Insurance losses are skyrocketing to a point of business uncertainty. Computer models at FEMA headquarters of what likely will occur are outdated. Storm intensity and frequency is far outpacing projections. Why? It's how God said the end would come. It's all in the "curve" of prophecy!

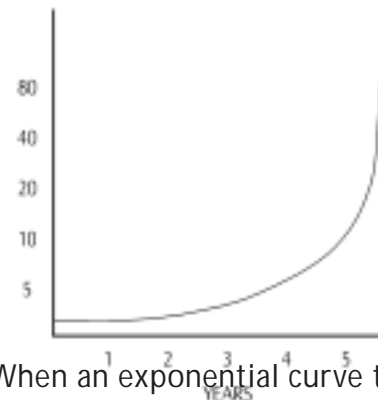
If a disaster pattern follows a simple straight line, projections can be accurate (using computer models). An example:

DESTRUCTION – MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



Each year the rise is predictable and follows a specific pattern. If, however, as time progresses, the intensity is compounded (just like a compounding investment), a vastly different curve occurs! It is called an *exponential curve*. This is what that curve looks like:

DESTRUCTION – MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



When an exponential curve turns straight up, something dramatic is about to occur! This is true in bioscience, politics, social science, economics and the physical world. That period relates to a trend that will suddenly *impact* mankind. The steep slope of this exponential curve began to accelerate on or about 1980 in:

- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Earthquakes
- National debt
- Unsolvable political crises
- Moral degradation
- Depletion of fresh water aquifers

Energy consumption
Global pollution
Famines
Floods
Pestilence – AIDS

Jesus said that when you begin to see these things coming together (and He lists specific happenings), it is the “beginning of sorrows.” The Greek root word for “sorrows” is *odin*, which refers to birth pangs. Labor pains come in an exponential curve or the baby might never be delivered alive. Calamities and conflict come in exponential curves or the world would never be provoked to cry out to God. In His incredible wisdom, He designed end-time events to come in an exponential curve. That will force the world into a choice that will finally evolve into two distinctive camps: One, in full rebellion against God; the other, loyal with an irrevocable commitment to His kingdom.

End-time events are progressing forward in an exponential manner. The gospel to all the world will *suddenly accelerate* under the Loud Cry. Wickedness will move from Gospel opposition to persecution and then to martyrdom. Everything end-time is on that curve. The spike of war will finally come when the four winds are released.

The “spike” of an exponential curve brings something to an end, a focal point or meltdown. This is part of the apocalyptic message that is repeatedly given in the Old and New Testaments.

The final stages come during a period of time called the “time of trouble” (Daniel 12:1) or “great tribulation” (Matthew 24:21). With mercy and amazing detail God has explicitly unveiled events that tell us when the “curve” is getting to the “end.”

Katrina and Rita are not sensational signs. They are stimuli to study “where we are” in the stream of apocalyptic periods. In that context we will find it is time to urgently study two things:

1. How to personally bond with our precious Jesus.

2. Discover the deepest mines of truth that must become part of the last message to the world. It goes far beyond a historical “three angels’ messages!”

Expositor White noted the “curve.”

“These wonderful manifestations will be *more and more frequent* and *terrible* just before the second coming of Christ and the end of the world, as signs of its speedy destruction.”²

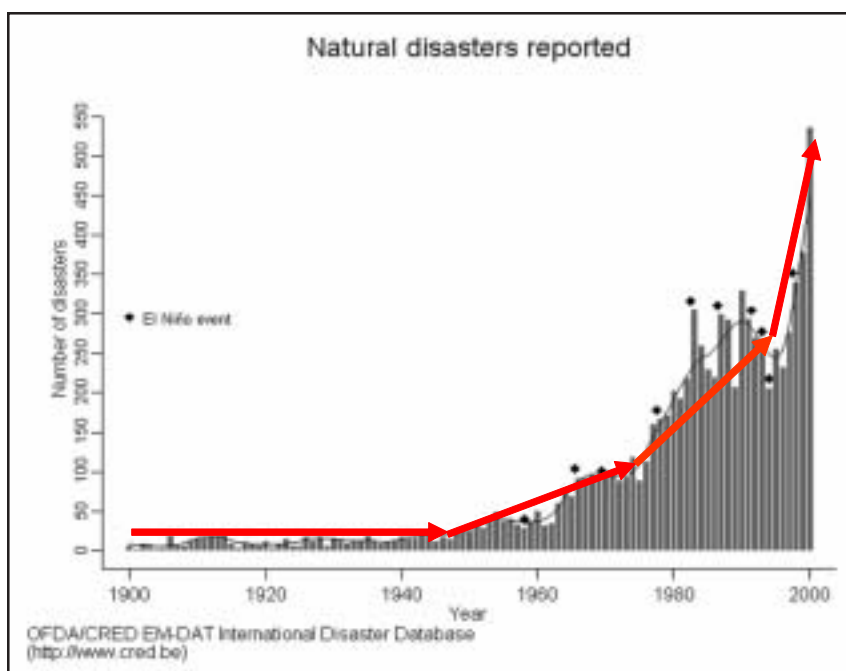
“The earth mourneth [and] fadeth away, the world languisheth [and] fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.” Isaiah 24:4-5.

Remember the story of the fig tree? When certain “signs” appear, summer – the harvest – is nigh. The “curve” tells us “time” has become mighty important. Soon millions will want to flee from the face of Jesus. They will be unprepared. We can be ready when that event “hits” our planet. FEMA, the National Guard and military might will be bosh. All we will need then is to have our loving Jesus embedded in our hearts. That will be an impenetrable shelter in the time of storm.

References:

¹*Nature*, vol. 436, 4 August 2005.

²*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 108 (emphasis added).



The Catholic Origins of Futurism and Preterism

By Michael Scheifler

Bible Light – biblelight.net

With the advent of the printing press in the 15th century, and the resulting explosion of Bibles accessible in the common language from Protestant sources, it became readily apparent to those who could now study the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation in particular, that Bible prophecy identified by symbols a persecuting apostate entity generally known as antichrist. The table on the next page shows the common elements from several places in Scripture that aid in identifying this antichrist power:

HISTORICISM

Now if we list and develop the characteristics of the antichrist in the chart (next page), the following becomes readily apparent:

1. It will rise to be a great power after the fall of the pagan Roman empire (after 476 A.D.).
2. It will be a geographically small nation (a little horn).
3. It will rule over many people, nations, and tongues (it will be universal).
4. It will be headquartered in the city of seven hills (Rome).
5. It will be a religio-political entity — a political city-state ruled by a priest-king.
6. Its priest-king will make great and blasphemous claims.
7. It will claim authority over all kings.
8. It will claim its power to change the holy times and laws of God as its mark of authority.
9. It will be an apostate church, that makes the nations drink her cup of apostate doctrine.
10. It will be a “mother” church, with apostate daughters coming from her.
11. It will be a persecuting power, killing the faithful saints of Jesus Christ as heretics.
12. It will hold power and authority for 1260 years following the fall of pagan Rome.
13. It will suffer a deadly wound that will end 1260 years of dominance and persecution.
14. It will be revived after the deadly wound, and all the world will wonder at it’s revival.

In this, the “Historical” interpretation, the



Michael Scheifler

Characteristics	The Little Horn (Dan. 7)	The Man of Sin (2 Thes. 2:3)	The Sea Beast (Rev. 13)	Woman on Beast (Rev. 17–18)
Source	Grows out of the head of the 10-horned fourth beast (Rome)	Owes his rise to removal of a hindering power	Comes from the “sea,” meaning many people (densely populated Europe)	Arises in a city with seven hills (Rome) and rules over many waters (peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues)
Time of Origin	Comes up among 10 horns (the divided successors of the pagan Roman Empire)	Revealed only after the fall of the hindering Pagan Roman Empire	Receives power, seat and authority from the dragon (Satan working through Pagan Rome)	Arises among the ten horns (divisions of Rome) that will hate her
Religio-political Church–State Power	Diverse power, blasphemes God, exercises authority over the saints, changes times and laws of the Most High	Political characteristics not mentioned, but demands and receives worship	Composite of Daniel’s beasts, which are kingdoms, and wear crowns, that demands and receives worship	The woman is an apostate church – the beast is the power of the state, hence this is a religio-political power having a priest-king ruler
Blasphemous Presumption	In this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things and words against the Most High	Exalts himself above God.	Has a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies	Full of names of blasphemy
Time of Dominance	Given power over the saints for a time, times and a dividing of times. (1260 years)	—	Given power forty and two months (1260 years)	—
Warring Against God’s People	Made war with the saints and prevailed against them	—	Makes war with the saints and overcomes them	This woman (apostate church) is drunk with the blood of the saints – in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.
Great Power	Looks more stout than his fellows	Has all power, signs and lying wonders	Who is able to make war with him?	The woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.
Demands Divine Homage	Sets himself over the saints, times, and laws of the Most High	Sets himself up as god, above all that is worshipped	Causes multitudes to worship him	This woman is the apostate “mother” of harlot churches
End	They shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end (the second coming)	The lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:	Cast into the lake of fire	Utterly burned with fire

antichrist was clearly not merely a single individual, it was a *system* of apostasy and persecution that would hold sway for over twelve centuries. The inevitable conclusion of those who studied these prophecies in Scripture, before and during the Protestant Reformation, was that there was *only one entity* that fit all the above characteristics: the papal dynasty of the Roman Catholic Church. Is it any wonder that the Catholic Church was so violently opposed to the scriptures being available for everyone to read for themselves? There was such a stir created during the reformation that the *Fifth Lateran Council* (1512-17 A.D.) resorted to strictly forbidding *anyone* to publish a book without prior censorship, and also prohibited *anyone* from preaching on the subject of antichrist:

SESSION 10, 4 May 1515, On censorship of books:

"Some printers have the boldness to print and sell to the public, in different parts of the world, books – some translated into Latin from Greek, Hebrew, Arabic and Chaldean as well as some issued directly in Latin or a vernacular language – containing errors opposed to the faith as well as pernicious views contrary to the Christian religion and to the reputation of prominent persons of rank. The readers are not edified. Indeed, they lapse into very great errors not only in the realm of faith but also in that of life and morals. This has often given rise to various scandals, as experience has taught, and there is daily the fear that even greater scandals are developing....

"We therefore establish and ordain that henceforth, for all future time, no one may dare to print or have printed any book or other writing of whatever kind in Rome or in any other cities and dioceses, without the book or writings having first been closely examined, at Rome by our vicar and the master of the sacred palace, in other cities and dioceses by the bishop or some other person who knows about the printing of books and writings of this kind and who has been delegated to this office by the bishop in question, and also by the inquisitor of heresy for the city or diocese where the said printing is to take place, and unless the books or writings have been approved by a warrant signed in their own hand, which must be given, under pain of excommunication, freely and without delay.

"In addition to the printed books being seized and publicly burnt, payment of a hundred ducats to the fabric of the basilica of the prince of the apostles in Rome, without hope of relief, and suspension for a whole year from the possibility of engaging in printing, there is to be imposed upon anyone presuming to act otherwise the sentence of excommunication."

SESSION 11, 19 December 1516, On how to preach:

"We command all who undertake this task of preaching, or will later undertake it, to preach and expound the gospel truth and holy scripture in accordance with the exposition, interpretation and commentaries that the church or long use has approved and has accepted for teaching until now, and will accept in the future, without any addition contrary to its true meaning or in conflict with it. They are always to insist on the meanings which are in harmony with the words of sacred scripture and with the interpretations, properly and wisely understood, of the doctors mentioned above. They are in no way to presume to preach or declare a fixed time for future evils, the coming of antichrist or the precise day of judgment; for Truth says, it is not for us to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. Let it be known that those who have hitherto dared to declare such things are liars, and that because of them not a little authority has been taken away from those who preach the truth."

But the Catholic Church eventually came to the conclusion that it would not be able to ban or burn all the Bibles, heretical books, and heretics that possessed or preached from them. This oppressive and crude tactic merely *confirmed* their identification as the harlot persecuting church of prophecy. A new and more subtle approach was needed in order to effectively counter the application of apocalyptic prophecy to the Catholic Church. One major identifying characteristic the Catholic Church needed to deal with was the time period of 1260 years that the antichrist power was to rule, according to Protestantism's Historicist interpretation. There simply *is only one entity on earth* that has ruled for this length of time after the fall of pagan Rome, and that is the Roman Catholic Church. A new "interpretation" would have to be found that

deflected attention away from the twelve century papal rule of the middle ages.

FUTURISM

Francisco Ribera (1537-1591) was a Jesuit doctor of theology, born in Spain, who began writing a lengthy (500-page) commentary in 1585 on the book of Revelation (Apocalypse) titled *In Sacrum Beati Ioannis Apostoli, & Evangelistiae Apocalypsin Commentarij*, and published it about the year 1590. He died in 1591 at the age of fifty-four, so he was not able to expand on his work or write any other commentaries on Revelation. In order to remove the Catholic Church from consideration as the antichrist power, Ribera proposed that the first few chapters of the Apocalypse applied to ancient pagan Rome, and the rest he limited to a yet future period of 3½ literal years, immediately prior to the second coming. During that time, the Roman Catholic Church would have fallen away from the pope into apostasy. Then, he proposed, the antichrist, a single individual, would:

- Persecute and blaspheme the saints of God
- Rebuild the temple in Jerusalem
- Abolish the Christian religion
- Deny Jesus Christ
- Be received by the Jews
- Pretend to be God
- Kill the two witnesses of God
- Conquer the world

So, according to Ribera, the 1260 days and 42 months and 3½ times of prophecy were not 1260 years, but a literal 3½ years, and therefore none of the book of Revelation had any application to the middle ages or the papacy, but to the future, to a period immediately prior to the second coming, hence the name Futurism. Ribera's work is available for study at the James White Library in, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI 49103.



Cardinal Robert Bellarmine, one of the best known Jesuit apologists, published a work between 1581 and 1593 entitled *Polemic Lectures Concerning the Disputed Points of the Christian Belief Against the Heretics of This Time*, in which he also denied the day = year principle in prophecy and pushed the reign of antichrist into a future period of 3½ literal years.

Recently reprinted: *A treatise of Antichrist. Conteyning the defence of Cardinall Bellarmines arguments, which inuincibly demonstrate, that the pope is not Antichrist. Against George Downam by Michael Christopherson priest ...*, Volume 1 of 2 by Michael Walpole (1570–1624?), a 1974 reprint of a 1613 edition, by Scolar Press Limited, Ilkley, England, ISBN 0859672042.



Manuel De Lacunza (1731–1801), a Jesuit from Chile, wrote a manuscript in Spanish titled *La Venida del Mesías en Gloria y Magestad* ("The Coming of the Messiah in Glory and Majesty"), under the pen name of Juan Josafa [Rabbi] Ben-Ezra about 1791. Lacunza wrote under an assumed Jewish



name to obscure the fact that he was a Catholic, in order to give his book better acceptance in Protestantism, his intended audience. Also an advocate of Futurism, Lacunza was deliberately attempting to



take the pressure off the papacy by proposing that the Antichrist was still off in the future. His manuscript was published in London, Spain, Mexico and Paris between 1811 and 1826.

La Venida del Mesías en Gloria y Magestad online at the National Library of Chile (in Spanish).

Edward Irving (1792-1834), a Scottish Presbyterian and forerunner of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements, translated Lacunza's work from Spanish into English in a book titled *The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty with a Preliminary Discourse*, published in London in 1827 by L.B. Seeley & Sons, which included Irving's own lengthy preface. Here are excerpts from Irving's translation:

Lacunza asserts that Antichrist would appear near the end of time:

That there shall be an Antichrist; that he shall be revealed, and publicly declared, towards the last times; and that he shall commit in the world the greatest evils, making formal war against Christ, and all that pertains to him;—these are three certain things, of which no Christian can doubt. — Vol. I, Part II, Phenomenon III, pg. 259.

Antichrist, Lacunza concludes, would not be just one man: ACCORDING to all the signs given in the Holy Scriptures, and others, not equivocal, offered to us by time, which is wont to be the best interpreter of the prophecies, the antichrist, or the contrachrist, with whom we stand threatened in the times immediate upon the coming of the Lord, is nothing but a moral body, composed of innumerable individuals, diverse in themselves, but all morally united and animated with one common spirit, against the Lord and against his Christ; – Vol. I, Part II, Phenomenon III, pg. 260.

As to the harlot woman riding the beast in Revelation 17, Lacunza acknowledges it is indeed referring to Rome:

“The doctors do all agree, that the woman here spoken of is the city of Rome, in other times the capital of the greatest empire in the world, and now the capital and centre of unity of the true Christian church. On this first point, which is not called in question, there is no occasion to tarry.” – Vol. I, Part II, Phenomenon III, pg. 288.

“It is not present Rome which is at all spoken of here, but future Rome alone to which the prophecy hath its determinate application.” – Vol. I, Part II, Phenomenon III, pg. 295.

Rome yes, Lacunza agrees, but *not* the Roman Catholic Church of his day, which he calls the true church, rather he pushes this prophecy in Revelation 17 off into the future:

Rome, not idolatrous but Christian, not the head of the Roman empire but the head of Christendom, and centre of unity of the true church of the living God, may very well, without ceasing from this dignity, at some time or other incur the guilt, and before God be held guilty of fornication with the kings of the earth, and amenable to all its consequences. And in this there is not any inconsistency, however much her defenders may shake the head. And this same Rome, in that same state, may receive upon herself the horrible chastisement spoken of in the prophecy.” – Vol. I, Part II, Phenomenon III, pg. 296.

This apostate Christian group termed Antichrist would be:

“... slain and destroyed by Christ himself in the great day of his coming in glory and majesty.” –



Vol. I, Part II, Phenomenon IV, pg. 321.

Edward Irving’s translation of Lacunza’s *Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty*

Volume I, in Adobe 6 PDF format. (1.4 mb)

Volume II in Adobe 6 PDF format. (1.4 mb)

Both Volumes I & II revised on 28 July 2003.

Margaret McDonald, a 15 year old Scottish girl, and member of Edward Irving’s congregation, had visions in early 1830 that included a Secret Rapture of believers before the appearance of the Antichrist. She informed Irving of her visions by letter. Irving then attended the prophecy conferences that began in Dublin, Ireland in 1830 at Powerscourt Castle, where he promoted *both* Futurism and a Secret Rapture.

Samuel Roffey Maitland (1792-1866), scholar and librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury, further promoted and established Futurism in England after 1826 as a result of reading the work of Manuel De Lacunza.

John Nelson Darby (1800–1882), a Church of Ireland clergyman, later with the Plymouth Brethren, also promoted Futurism and a secret rapture. Darby attended the series of meetings on Bible Prophecy that began in 1830 at Powerscourt, Ireland. At these conferences Darby apparently learned about the secret rapture as revealed by vision to Margaret McDonald, and promoted by Edward Irving. He soon visited Margaret MacDonald at her home in Port Glasgow, Scotland. Darby later visited America several times between 1859 and 1874, where his Futurist theology was readily accepted.

Cyrus Ingerson Scofield (1843-1921), greatly influenced by the writings of J. N. Darby, incorporated Futurism in the notes of his *Scofield Reference Bible*. First published by Oxford University Press in 1909, one million copies were printed by 1930. The *Scofield Bible* was instrumental in firmly establishing the Jesuit-inspired Futurist interpretation in the Protestant Bible schools of the United States in the 20th century.

THE JESUIT-INSPIRED FUTURIST LIE SPREADS TO AMERICA'S PROTESTANT SEMINARIES

These seminaries and ministries have wholly abandoned the historical Protestant and biblical teaching that the Roman Catholic Church is the apostate church, the harlot of Revelation, with the Antichrist papacy at its head; and instead, serve to screen the papal Antichrist power from being perceived by their students or viewers. They are accurately described as false prophets!

- **Dallas Theological Seminary** (a nondenominational Protestant school): Lewis Sperry Chafer (1871-1952), a student of Cyrus Scofield, founded Evangelical Theological College (now DTS) in 1924, which is likely the most influential seminary in the United States today. Futurism, and the secret rapture (which they call the blessed hope), are covered in articles 18-20 of the DTS Full Doctrinal Statement.

Some of the more well known alumni and faculty of DTS:

- **John Walvoord** (Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology, President of Dallas Theological Seminary from 1952 to 1986, Chancellor of DTS since 1986), author of *The Rapture Question* (1957), and member of the revision committee for *The New Scofield Reference Bible*.
- **Chuck Swindoll** (*Insight for Living*), President of Dallas Theological Seminary since July of 1994.
- **Charles C. Ryrie** (Professor Emeritus Dallas Theological Seminary), author of *The Ryrie Study Bible*, which has been characterized as the updated *Scofield Reference Bible* for the end of the twentieth century.
- **Hal Lindsey** (hallindsey.com – hallindseyoracle.com), author of *The Rapture: Truth or Consequences* (1983), perhaps the best known prophecy author of the last 30 years. Sole credited Bible authority for *Trinity Broadcasting's* recent Futurist antichrist movie *Omega Code*.
- **J. Vernon McGee** (1904-1988), *Through the Bible* Radio series.
- **Kenneth N. Taylor** (former director of *Moody Press*, founder of *Tyndale House Publishing*), author of *The Living Bible*. *Tyndale House* publishes the hugely popular *Left Behind* Futurist series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins.
- **Thomas Ice** (Executive Director of the *Pre-trib Research Center*), Th.M. from DTS, co-founder of *Pre-trib Research Center* with Tim LaHaye.
- **Renald Showers**, *Most High God: A Commentary on the Book of Daniel*.
- **Moody Bible Institute** of Chicago: In 1890, C. I. Scofield began a Comprehensive Bible

Correspondence Course, later taken over about 1914 by the *Moody Bible Institute* (Dwight L. Moody, founder of the *Moody Church*, had converted Scofield, and Scofield preached and presided at Moody's funeral in 1899).

- **Moody Press** supplied Sunday School lessons to the Assembly of God churches about 1914, introducing Pentecostals to Futurism and the secret rapture theory.
- *The Ryrie Study Bible*, by Charles C. Ryrie, a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, boasts 10,000+ study notes and is listed among the best selling books published by Moody Press.
- **Jerry B. Jenkins**, co-author of the *Left Behind* series, is the former vice president for publishing of the Moody Bible Institute, and former editor of *Moody Magazine*. Currently he is Moody Bible Institute's writer-at-large.
- **Western Theological Seminary** (Reformed Church in America).
- **Alma Mater of Tim LaHaye**, founder of the Pre-trib Research Center, co-author of the *Left Behind* series of books, by far the most popular series promoting Futurism and the secret rapture, which has sold 20+ million copies. Published by *Tyndale House*, at least 12 titles are planned for the series. The film version of the first book in the series has been produced by prophecy authors Peter and Paul Lalonde of *Cloud Ten Pictures*:

Left Behind – The Film Project
Left Behind – The Movie

Released first on video cassette, and then in theaters in early 2001 – people who have seen *Left Behind* say it is confusing, and lacks a Gospel presentation of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, making it of little (if any) evangelistic value, much like TBN's *Omega Code* and *Megiddo (Omega Code II)*.

- **Tim LaHaye School of Prophecy** – opened in January 2002 on the campus of *Liberty University*, Lynchburg, V.A. – Dr. Jerry Falwell, Chancellor. Tim LaHaye says he was impressed by the prophecy conferences of Albury Park and Powerscourt held in Britain in the 1820's and 1830's. This led directly to his co-founding the *Pre-trib Research Center*. Edward Irving and J. N. Darby attended, and apparently greatly influenced, these 19th century British prophecy conferences where the secret rapture and futurism gained in acceptance among Protestant prophecy scholars.

Well known ministries teaching Futurism and the Secret Rapture:

- **Trinity Broadcasting** – perhaps the largest Christian TV Broadcasting Network, TBN has produced two futurist-themed movies: *Omega Code* and *Megiddo (Omega Code II)*. TBN also airs the following movies with end-times, secret rapture / futurism themes:
 - *The Moment After* – TMA Productions. Two FBI agents investigate the reason for the sudden mysterious disappearance of millions of people.
 - *The Gathering* – DRC Productions. Two unbelieving women and a believing husband have disturbing visions of the impending tribulation and sudden rapture of Christians.
 - *End of the Harvest* – Christiano Film Group. A college student, who experiences strange dreams of a farmer harvesting wheat, reluctantly defends end-time Bible prophecy when another student fails to give the presentation to a group of die-hard atheists in a philosophy club. Subtly promotes spiritualism (communications from the dead).
- **Jack Van Impe Ministries** – Author of *The Jack Van Impe Prophecy Bible* and a verse-by-verse commentary on the book of Revelation entitled *Revelation Revealed*. On

his TV program, Jack claims that God Himself has shown him the error of previous Bible interpreters and given him the absolutely correct interpretation of the book of Revelation. Producer of the following futurist-themed movies:

- *Apocalypse I: Caught in the Eye of the Storm*
- *Apocalypse II: Revelation*
- *Apocalypse III: Tribulation*
- *Apocalypse IV: Judgment*
- **Jerry Falwell Ministries** – heavily promotes the *Tim LaHaye School of Bible Prophecy*, which opened in January 2002 on the campus of Falwell's *Liberty University*.
- **John Hagee Ministries** – Offers the *John Hagee Prophecy Study Bible*, billed as “the only Prophecy Study Bible of its kind,” with over 300 pages of Bible Prophecy study notes and having unique Bible Prophecy charts. John Hagee has strongly promoted the *Left Behind* books and movie with hour long infomercial TV programs.
- **The King is Coming**, World Prophetic Ministry, Colton, California; **Ed Hindson** President. Founded by Dr. Howard C. Estep (1916-1986), author of *The Catching Away* (1967). Committed to the literal interpretation of the Bible. Dr. Dave Breese, former President of W.P.M. and Teacher on *The King is Coming*, referred to Scofield's margin notes when teaching the Futurist interpretation of Daniel's 70 weeks on *The King is Coming*. Contributed to the Tim LaHaye Study Bible, billed as “the most complete study Bible ever!” Tim LaHaye has been guest speaker for a series of programs on the *The King is Coming*.
- **Grant R. Jeffrey** (Prophecy Online)
- **Hilton Sutton World Ministries**
- **Zola Levitt** – Zola Levitt Ministries “holds to a strictly literal and inerrant Bible interpretation, salvation through Christ alone, a soon pre-tribulation Rapture of all believers

and the establishment of a thousand-year kingdom on Earth.”

- **John Ankerberg** (*Ankerberg Theological Research Institute*), (*Harbor Lighthouse*)
- **Perry Stone** (Manna Fest), Founder and President of *Voice of Evangelism Ministries Inc.*
- **Chuck Missler** (*Koinonia House*). Questions Continue: The Great Snatch?
- **Dave Hunt** (*The Berean Call*) – author of *A Woman Rides the Beast*, remarkably enough, teaches the secret rapture and future antichrist in his newsletter *The End Times*.

PRETERISM

Another counter-interpretation to the Historicism held by Protestantism was proposed by the Spanish Jesuit Luis De Alcazar (1554-1613), who also wrote a commentary called *Investigation of the Hidden Sense of the Apocalypse*, which ran to some 900 pages. In it he proposed that all of Revelation applied to the era of pagan Rome and the first six centuries of Christianity. According to Alcazar (or Alcasar):

- Revelation chapters 1–11 describe the rejection of the Jews and the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans.
- Revelation 12–19 show the overthrow of Roman paganism (the great harlot) and the conversion of the empire to the church.
- Revelation 20 describes the final persecutions by Antichrist, who is identified as Cæsar Nero (54-68 A.D.), and judgment.
- Revelation 21–22 describe the triumph of the New Jerusalem, the Roman Catholic Church.

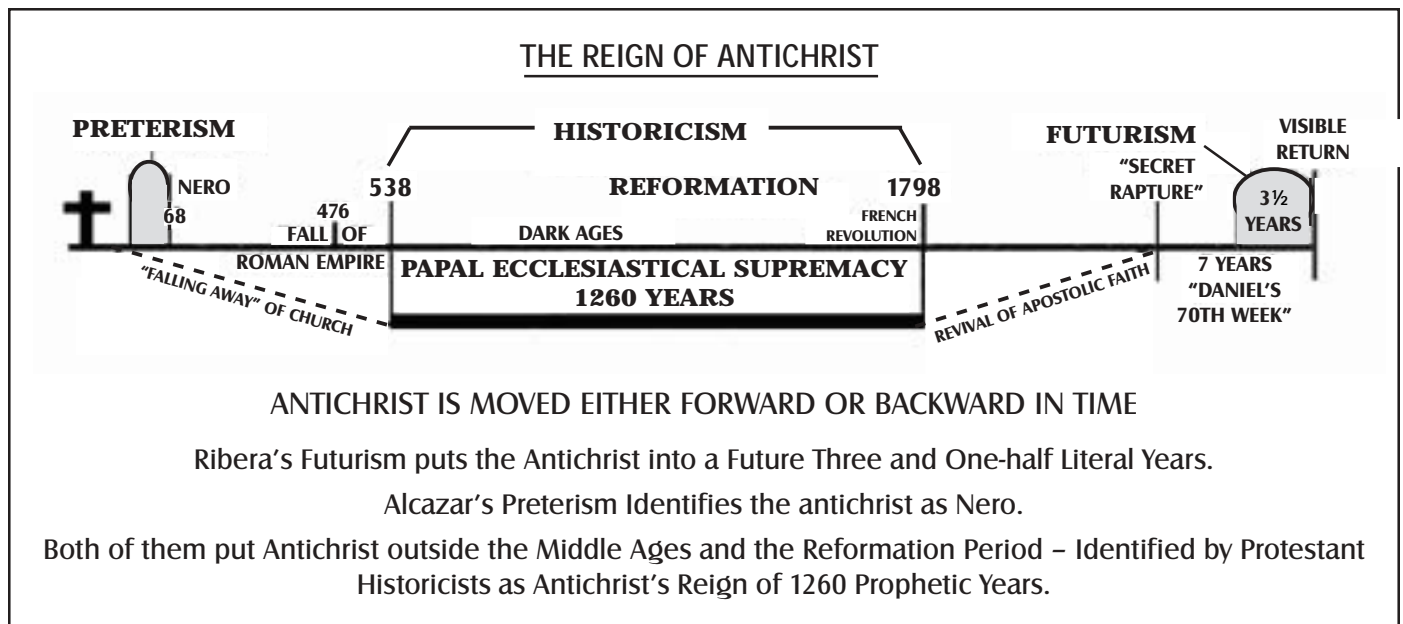
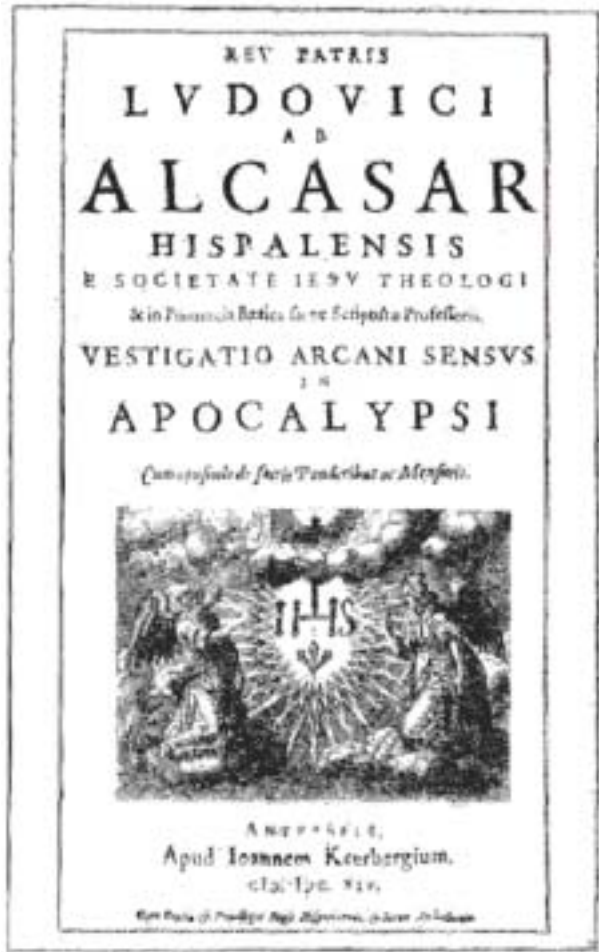
Again, Alcazar found no application of prophecy to the middle ages or to the papacy. That his interpretation differed so greatly from that put forth by Francisco Ribera or Cardinal Bellarmine, mattered little. Catholicism, the supposedly divine and infallible interpreter of scripture, was presenting two vastly different and quite incompatible

interpretations of prophecy in a desperate effort to counter the claims of the reformers.

The intent of both Futurism and Preterism was to be diversionary, to counter or offset the Protestant Historical interpretation, and present alternatives, no matter how implausible they might be. The result is evident from the following chart (below), which illustrates the three schools of interpretation regarding antichrist.

Now the truly amazing part of all this is that the Futurist theory dominates Protestant teaching today. About all you hear or read about today is the yet-to-appear antichrist, who will be unveiled in the last 3½ years of Daniel's 70th week, when he declares himself to be God in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. That scenario, as you can now see, is directly traceable back to the pen of the Jesuit Francisco Ribera. Note what one Protestant writer had to say *over one hundred years ago*:

"Accordingly, towards the close of the century of the Reformation, two of her most learned doctors set themselves to the task, each endeavouring by different means to accomplish the same end, namely, that of diverting men's minds from perceiving the fulfilment of the prophecies of the Antichrist in the Papal system. The Jesuit Alcasar devoted himself to bring into prominence the *Preterist* method of interpretation, which we have already briefly noticed, and thus endeavouring to show that the prophecies of Antichrist were fulfilled before the Popes ever ruled in Rome, and therefore could not apply to the Papacy. On the other hand, the Jesuit Ribera tried to set aside the



application of these prophecies to the Papal Power by bringing out the Futurist system, which asserts that these prophecies refer properly not to the career of the Papacy, but to that of some future supernatural individual, who is yet to appear, and to continue in power for three and a half years. Thus, as Alford says, the Jesuit Ribera, about A.D. 1580, may be regarded as the Founder of the *Futurist* system in modern times."

"It is a matter for deep regret that those who hold and advocate the Futurist system at the present day, Protestants as they are for the most part, are thus really playing into the hands of Rome, and helping to screen the Papacy from detection as the Antichrist. It has been well said that 'Futurism tends to obliterate the brand put by the Holy Spirit upon Popery.' More especially is this to be deplored at a time when the Papal Antichrist seems to be making an expiring effort to regain his former hold on men's minds." – From *Daniel and the Revelation: The Chart of Prophecy and Our Place In It, A Study of the Historical and Futurist Interpretation*, by Joseph Tanner, published in London by Hodder and Stoughton, 1898, pages 16,17.

In what could only be described as a stunning reversal, Protestants have over time actually become the papacy's greatest ally by spreading its Jesuit-spawned propaganda. What irony that Protestants, who originally broke away from what they *clearly* recognized to be the harlot/antichrist-

led church of prophecy, now champion the Futurist interpretation from high profile global ministries. Futurism has, without doubt, been successful beyond the wildest dreams of its Jesuit authors. The same can be said for the Preterist interpretation of Luis De Alcazar, although to a lesser degree.

The above article is based primarily on information obtained from *The PROPHETIC FAITH OF OUR FATHERS, The Historical Development of Prophetic Interpretation*, by Le Roy Edwin Froom, Volume II, Pre-Reformation and Reformation Restoration, and Second Departure, published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Washington D.C., Copyright 1948, Chapters 21-23 in particular.

A challenging question for our readers: "Will the papacy regain power again at the *end of time*?" If so, another question: "Is that in prophecy?" "Is there a reapplication of prophecies that refer to the papacy?" "If the antichrist is to be a power to contend with right at the end, is that FUTURISM? "Is Revelation 13 FUTURISM? Michael Scheifler has outlined beautifully and with precision what has occurred historically with apocalyptic truth and how it has influenced today's evangelical world. But – we must challenge: What about the future?

[ed.]



Prophecy Unfolds

COMMENTARY BEFORE THE TRUMPETS

[REVELATION 8:2-5]

By Franklin S. Fowler Jr., M.D.

THE SETTING

“And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.” Revelation 8:2

Seven angels are given trumpets to sequentially blow. What kind of sound will they make? Are they going to play a musical score, a mournful piece or will it be a single loud blast? While our imagination move into high gear, something stunning happens.

The action is *halted* by new imagery given to John. At first the change seems too abrupt. But wait! A majestic Being appears. Another “angel” enters the scene. That begins an awesome heavenly *short story*. It is called a *commentary insert*. Incredibly, it is one of God’s “media interruptions.” It’s an “Oh, before we go on ...” message that He feels is very important to share. These inserts usually portray what is happening *elsewhere at the time* of the vision. Here, it opens to us what occurs in *heaven* during part of the unfolding of the Trumpets and Seals visions taking place on earth. There is a partial overlap.

Attention is taken away from the anticipated sound of the Trumpets. This new Being is without a trumpet. Instead, He has a Golden Censer.

Amazing? Yes. Notice the comparison:

Trumpets

To be filled with sound

Censer

To be filled with coals

God wouldn’t have interrupted a vision unless He had something very, very important to tell us. Let’s carefully watch and listen in:

“And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer.” Revelation 8:3a.

This angel is set apart from the other seven. He is an “eighth.” In prophecy an *eighth* means something old will come to an end and something new will begin. On the *eighth* day Jesus arose. The covenant promise of redemption was then ratified. The great restoration Jubilee year was an *eighth* year after seven sevens. At the *eighth* millennium this earth is to pass away and the new heavens and earth will mark a beautiful beginning. We can expect a significant transition in God’s plans to occur by this *eighth* “angel!” Something exciting is about to happen.

It says that this “angel” – “came and stood.” Contextually, the angel appears and stands. We aren’t told what He was doing before John saw Him come – but He arrives at the Golden Altar of Incense with a Golden Censer not unlike the ancient High Priest did once each year. The seven Trumpet angels “stood before God” (vs 2). This angel “stood at the altar.” They are all standing, ready to act – in sequence: Jesus comes, God participates, then Christ officiates and, finally, the seven angels give a final trumpet call.

When do the Golden Altar and Golden Censer come in *proximity* to each other? During the Day of Atonement activities.

If this is Jesus – and it is – why is He introduced as “another angel” and not by an honorable name? This picture helps us to see our Lord as active, functional and in imagery that we can closely identify with. This is not new (see Genesis 48:16, Exodus 3:2, Joshua 5:13-15 Revelation 7:2). Jesus is represented in His final intercessory role for mankind.

“We have such a high priest ... a minister of the sanctuary ... he is the mediator of a better covenant” (Hebrews 8:1-2, 6).

The last time an *altar* was in view (and this is so important) was during the fifth Seal. There, the souls of the martyred saints were crying out, *“How long, O Lord, holy and true, doest thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?”* Revelation 6:10. These two references are in sequence. The martyrs under the altar cry out; Jesus, ministering at the altar, prepares to respond.

Altar of Incense

Martyrs: Question
“How long?” When will
 You vindicate right?

Altar of Incense

Jesus: Answers their
 question. Judgment
 begins – right is
 vindicated.

This opens to view the fulfillment of another prophecy when Jesus will stand or “rise up.” *“For the Lord shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.”* Isaiah 28:21. This commentary insert addresses two issues: first, loving intercession for His people; second, wrath against the wicked fulfilling Isaiah’s declaration (vs 5). Perazim represents where victory came over the Philistines and Gibeon where it came against the Canaanites. These all symbolize victory over the wicked.

THE GOLDEN PIECES

The Altar of Incense was located in the Holy Place. It was the final endpoint when blood moved from the slain Lamb to *intercession* “before the

throne.” It is where the seven lamps of fire also burned “before the throne” (Revelation 4:5).

The Golden Censer was symbolic of Christ’s ministration that would finally be taken into the Most Holy Place when all the sins are removed from the sanctuary. The Day of Atonement Censer was of pure gold (I Kings 7:50, Hebrews 9:4). Christ with the Censer at the Altar is in anticipation of that final cleansing step.

With these together, it assures us that the redemptive blood has already been shed. The altar sequence reveals it is end time. When the Trumpets begins to sound, dramatic events occur which will usher in probation’s close. This all represents timing imagery at man’s last opportunity to repent.

THE INCENSE

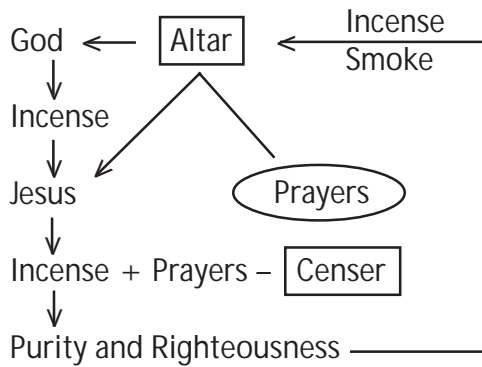
“... and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer [it] with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.” Revelation 8:3b

The source of the incense is not given, but elsewhere the expression “there was given unto him” refers to God the Father. God is providing Christ with extra incense so He can mingle it with the saints’ prayers. The focus opens with intercession, then shifts to vindication.

“Morning and evening the heavenly universe behold every household that prays, and the angel with the incense, representing the **blood of the atonement**, finds access to God.”¹

“Let them behold him as their Advocate, standing within the veil, having in his hand the golden censer, from which the holy incense of **the merits of his righteousness** ascends to God in behalf of those who pray to him.”²

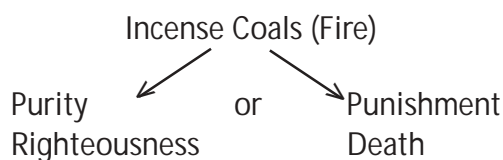
“The golden censer is waved, and the incense, the representation of **the purity and righteousness of Christ**, ascends, bearing the prayers of every soul that receives and believes on Christ to the altar which is before the throne of God. And Jesus is in the midst.”³ This commentary draws on this portrayal:



Why is extra incense given to Jesus? There can be only one reason: There are more prayers needing it. The martyrs are symbolically right there pleading. The only place in the Old Testament where incense represents the blood of atonement is in Numbers 16:46-47. There, it blocks the wrath of God and brings mercy. Here it is no different. It functions as a great intercessory medium. Christ's blood pleads His merits for all imploring saints. It brings cleansing and heavenly favor to all repentant sinners. Until the censer is emptied of coals (vs 5).

Thus – and this is so important – there is an end to God's mercy. Gabriel made precision clear in the 490-year prophecy of Daniel 9 that probation had a limit. That limit will be shortly seen. When the coals, representing fire, are cast down, a stunning end begins to develop!

Hot coals can cleanse – *mercy*. Burning coals can destroy – *justice*. One effect for the saints, one for the wicked.



This amazing event is about to happen!

“And the smoke of the incense, [which came] with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.” Revelation 8:4.

God loves the smell of fragrant offerings and incense (Genesis 8:21, Leviticus 2:1-2). Thus, He savors the prayers of His people. Here, mercy still pleads. A unique picture now develops. In the previous verse the extra incense is to be mingled with

the saints' prayers on the Golden Altar. Here the prayers (now mingled with incense) ascend up to God from Jesus' hand (Golden Censer).

What does that mean? This opens to us incredible insights into God's activity!

The Golden Censer is an extension of the Golden Altar. In the writings of expositor White, it can be seen as an intermediary item to purify the saints' prayers before ascending to God⁴ and an intermediary item before prayers go to the Altar.⁵ Jesus takes the prayers that came to the Altar and mixes them with His righteousness. Then, in loving ministry, places them in the censer from which they ascend to God.

But there's more – far more given in these few short verses. Get ready. It's incredible.

A PROGRESSIVE MESSAGE

In preparation for the Day of Atonement, coals were taken from the Golden Altar and placed in the Golden Censer. Extra incense was taken with this Censer, along with the sacrificial blood, into the Holy of Holies. Here in vss 3-5, John presents several distinct preparatory issues:

1. Jesus had already died – there was no need of separate blood to accompany the Censer. He represents His own merits.
2. The Altar and Censer are depicted as mediums from which prayers emanate.
3. The Holy of Holies is not pictured but anticipated.
4. It is a final Day of Atonement period in time.
5. *Before* entering the Most Holy Place with that sacred Feast-Day imagery, he symbolically uses the coals to describe an end-time *purpose* (next verse).

Thus, we can see forward-moving imagery:

- Golden Altar of Incense – intercession – Holy Place – *restoration promised*

- Golden Censer Intercession – preparatory to enter into Most Holy Place — judgment – *restoration complete*.
- Because the blood was spilled, Christ has authority to judge and to cleanse.

“And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar and cast [it] into the earth:” Revelation 8:5a.

The Censer is not cast to the earth (as many claim comes from expositor White’s quotation in *Early Writings*, pp. 279-280). If the issue was the Censer, it could have been thrown empty. The coals of fire are cast down to the earth.

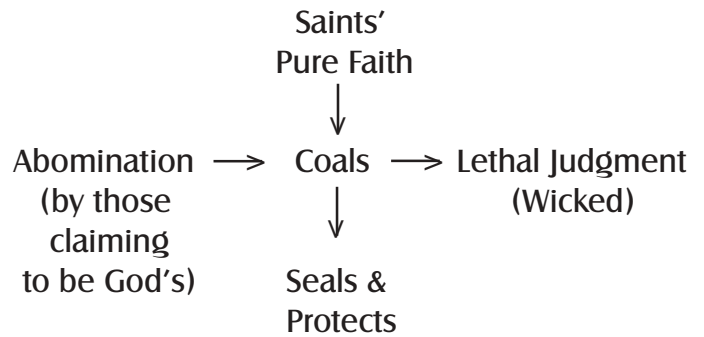
GOD’S USE OF BURNING COALS

1. Judgment on the Wicked:

God’s character is depicted as one of consuming fire (Deuteronomy 4:24). In Ezekiel 10:1-2 God asks Jesus, “the man clothed in linen,” to be a bearer of judgment on Jerusalem (representing apostate Israel). This was to come from “coals of fire: from between the cherubim.” That was where a Golden Censer was placed. From the center of God’s symbolic throne was the Golden Censer, resting on the mercy seat. It’s coals are one expression of justice. The coals represent judgment fire to the wicked or apostates when removed from the Censer.

The hurling of coals in Revelation 8 to the earth is in response to the fifth-Seal saints’ question, “How long until ...?” (Revelation 6:10). Contextually, it is a cry as to when God will vindicate His name because of what is happening to His people.

This now signals the answer to their prayers for justice. *“Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: [this shall be] the portion of their cup”* (Psalms 11:6). This is God’s culmination response to the abominations committed in Jerusalem noted in Ezekiel 8 and Babylon in Revelation. It *follows* in sequence the marking or sealing angel noted in Ezekiel 9.



How extensive this destructive judgment is, is not depicted here. This will be unfolded in the specific Trumpet messages. The first four Trumpets destroy with mercy. They represent the immediate effects from the coals.

“The Lord will not suddenly cast off all transgressors, or destroy entire nations, but He will punish cities and places where men have given themselves up to the possession of satanic agencies. Strictly will the cities of the nations be dealt with, and yet they will not be visited in the extreme of God’s indignation because *some souls will yet break away* from the delusions of the enemy, and will repent and be converted, while the mass will be treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath.”⁶ Note: Though destruction comes to cities and places; for some, repentance is still available.

“Long had God delayed His judgments, but now He would visit His displeasure upon them as *a last effort to check* them in their evil course.”⁷

“I have seen the most costly structures in buildings erected and supposed to be fireproof. And just as Sodom perished in the flames of God’s vengeance, so will these proud structures become ashes.... The flattering monuments of men’s greatness will be crumbled in the dust, *even before the last great destruction* [referring to the Seven Vials or Plagues] *comes upon the world.*”⁸

2. Purification of God’s People

Isaiah bemoaned his uncleanness. A seraphim took a coal from the Altar and touched his lips. He was purged from sin (Isaiah 5:6-8). Here, coals represent purification,⁹ something that will

happen to the 144,000 and the eleventh hour multitude.

“As we bow before God in humble prayer, He places a live coal from His altar upon our lips, sanctifying them to the work of giving Bible truth to the people.”¹⁰

“The Holy Spirit has fallen upon him, his soul has felt the vital, heavenly fire, and he will be able to compare spiritual things with spiritual. Power will be given him to tear down the strongholds of Satan.”¹¹

Won't that be an exciting time? God is filling you up with His Spirit to be part of the last great movement to finish His work!

“...and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.” Revelation 8:5b.

This awesome imagery relates to the Sinai experience when God revealed His sovereign power (Exodus 19:16-19) to the Jewish nation. It is a theophany of divine power and announces that judgment is beginning.

In Revelation 4:5 there is lightning, sounds and thunders. This relates to the time when the books are opened and judgment is set (Daniel 7:10). Just before the 144,000 go out on that *final mission*. The first five Seals of the scroll have been broken, the first “noise of thunder” is heard (Revelation 6:1). Now the full theophany occurs. When the measurement of the temple occurs (Revelation 11:1), the living church is being judged.

In Revelation 8:5, to the theophany display is added quaking. There is an earthquake at the opening of the sixth Seal (Revelation 6:12). That is *later* than the timing of this event. Here, when the coals reach the earth, a dual effect occurs. That happens before probation closes.

<u>Thunder</u>	<u>Trumpet Theophany</u>	<u>Earthquake</u>
(6:1)	(8:5)	(6:12-13)
Warning: Something is about to happen.	Judgment begins Sealing begins	Judgment ends

This fourfold chain of cosmic disturbance has its precedent in the OT where it refers to divine judgment (Exodus 19:16, 18; Psalms 68:8; 77:8-19; Isaiah 29:6; Habakkuk 3). There are additional allusions to prayer for help (like we saw from the martyrs in the 5th Seal) and then a divine response to the prayer with fire coming from the temple and consuming the persecutors (Psalm 18:6-15, Habakkuk 2:20–3:1-15).

SUMMARY

During the period between the 5th and 6th Seals – after the martyred saints cried out a timing question, “How long...,” – comes the first four Trumpets. It is to this *period* that this *commentary insert* has alluded to. Christ intercession continues. While it does with increased intensity, the first phase of God’s wrath begins. The same “coals” that begin punishing the wicked, seal the saints. This *period* is the grand finale’ of the conflict between good and evil. During this time the last gospel appeal will be given to the world in a crescendoing cry. It is the when the “two witnesses” of Revelation 11 finish the work.

References:

- ¹*The Home Missionary*, 06/01/1897 (emphasis added).
- ²*The Youth Instructor*, 01/16/1896 (emphasis added).
- ³*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, p. 415 (emphasis added).
- ⁴*Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 166; *The Seventh-Day Adventist Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1078.
- ⁵*Ibid.*, vol. 12, p. 415.
- ⁶*Ibid.*, vol. 21, pp. 66-68 (emphasis added).
- ⁷*Prophets and Kings*, p. 425 (emphasis added).
- ⁸*Selected Messages*, bk 3, p. 418 (emphasis added).
- ⁹*Gospel Workers*, p. 23.
- ¹⁰*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 251.
- ¹¹*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 88.

The Garden Patch



By David E. Stottlemeyer, M.A.
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University of California – Riverside
Avocado Breeding Program

Pest Control Methods

Traps, Barriers, Repellants and Poisons

More about Pests

“God has given no man the message, Kill not ant or flea or moth. Troublesome and harmful insects and reptiles we must guard against and destroy, to preserve ourselves and our possessions from harm. And even if we do our best to exterminate these pests, they will still multiply.” – *Manuscript 70*, 1901.

Progressive Steps in Controlling Pests

Our discussion of pest control methods started with simple and somewhat benign methods like crop rotations, growing flowers and encouraging diversity in the garden. Then we progressed to various biological controls such as predatory insects and diseases to keep pests under control. Now we will look at traps, barriers, repellants, and last of all, poisons. This order was intentional to try to encourage simple and nontoxic pest control methods first. Unfortunately, most people, when faced with a pest problem in the garden, reach first for the chemicals – not realizing that the control they bring is usually temporary and often causes other, unin-



David Stottlemeyer

tended problems. That is not to say that there is no place for using “poisons” in the garden... however, I believe they should be a “last resort” option, only used when necessary and according to directions. But first, lets discuss traps, barriers and repellants.

Traps

Traps can be an effective way to reduce or even eliminate the population of some types of pests. Usually we think of traps in terms of larger animals like gophers or mice, but there are also traps for smaller pests as well. It can be as simple as a roll of newspaper in the garden – pests such as slugs and earwigs will crawl into the paper during the early morning hours to hide – then the paper can be thrown in the trash to get rid of the pests. Or it can be more complicated, such as pheromone traps used to attract and kill various flying pests. An example of such a trap can be seen to the right.



For snails, a small container with a yeast/water mix (a small amount of yeast or brewers yeast mixed with water) can be used to trap snails. They are attracted by the yeast smell, climb into the water and drown. Live traps can even be used for some of the larger animals that you do not want to kill but simply relocate. The point is that the pest population is reduced to an acceptable level.

Barriers

And what about a barrier that will stop the pest from getting to your crop? Yes, barriers can be quite expensive like those who have to put tall fences around their gardens to keep out deer. But they can also be very inexpensive and effective for controlling pests. For example, you go out into your garden to see your little seedling, and you find it laying on the ground with the stem cut through right about ground level. This is usually caused by "cutworm," a grub-like creature that comes out at night and feeds on the stems of new plants. You can prevent this damage by placing a barrier around your seedling such as a paper cup with the bottom removed. When the seedling is a few weeks old, you can remove the barrier since the stem should be tough enough to discourage the cutworm.

Another example of a barrier is "Snail Barr," a copper strip placed around the trunk of trees or around planters to prevent snails or slugs from climbing up and causing damage. The copper reacts to a chemical in their slime, giving the snail or slug a slight shock. The result is that they will not cross the barrier – thus the damage is prevented.

Netting is often used as a barrier to protect fruit (like peaches) against birds. In the picture to the right you see my friend Donald Towns with his strawberry cage



If you have trees or other valuable crops that are bothered by gophers, you might check into wire root cages. These are available at many nurseries and come in different sizes, depending on how big the plant is that you want to protect.

Repellants

Repellants are designed to keep pests away from your crop by sight, smell, sound or taste. As you might guess, repellants are more effective with the "higher" animals such as birds, rabbits, squirrels, deer and so forth, and less effective with insects. Scarecrows have been used for a long time to scare animals away. One newer example is a kite shaped like a hawk or eagle – when the wind catches it, it appears to be flying and hovering. Because it moves around in



the wind, it can be very effective in keeping certain pests out of the garden. There are also strips of aluminum foil tape that can be hung in the garden. As it flutters in the wind, it also scares off various animals – especially birds.



There are taste repellants as well such as "Cropguard," which uses garlic to repel insects, and various pepper mixes that can be applied to crops you want to protect – all it takes is one taste by an unsuspecting bird and they quickly learn to stay away. Simply wash the material off when you are ready to eat it.

Then there are the noise devices that make various sounds, designed to keep certain problem animals away. I've not used any of these, but I've heard that they often work for a while, but the animals soon adapt to the sound and can become a problem again. Still, this is another option you might want to consider.

Poisons

Now we come to the poisons. Poisons do have a place in the garden since there are times when nothing else can stem a pest outbreak. Another quote from E. G. White might shed more light on this subject:

"This earth has been cursed because of sin, and in these last days vermin of every kind will multiply. These pests must be killed, or they will annoy and torment and even kill us, and destroy the work of our hands and the fruit of our land. In places there are ants [termites] which entirely destroy the wood-

work of houses. Should not these be destroyed? Fruit trees must be sprayed, that the insects which would spoil the fruit may be killed. God has given us a part to act, and this part we must act with faithfulness. Then we can leave the rest with the Lord." – *Selected Messages*, Book 3, p. 329.

Because of sin we have these pest problems and occasionally we may have to use poisons in the garden. As I said earlier, when faced with a pest problem, most people reach for the poisons first – and the most powerful they can find – rather than carefully considering some of the other options we've discussed thus far. And, let's face it, many are simply too busy to spend the time to try to find the answer to a pest problem when some chemical seems to promise an instant and painless solution. The thing to remember is that poisons at best give you only a temporary solution to a pest problem, and often have unintended side effects or collateral damage. As was mentioned in an earlier article, it has been found that poisons such as chemical pesticides are not only good at controlling the target pest, but is often even better at killing beneficial

insects – many of whom are predators. For example, Sevin – a widely used poison to control insect pests – is even better at killing honey bees and ladybugs. So, if you are going to use a poison, choose carefully and use according to directions. Best of all, try



to find out what is causing the problem in the first place and work on solving that so you won't have to use poisons the next time.

Poisons tend to fall into two broad categories – chemical and botanical. Botanical poisons are based on plants or other living materials. They usually (not always) are less toxic and break down quickly in the environment so their control effect is of a short duration. This also means that pests are less likely to develop a resistance to this class of poison. An example of such a botanical poison would be Pyrethrum. It is made from ground up pyrethrum flowers and breaks down quickly when exposed to light. It is labeled for use as a dust on animals for fleas, ticks and lice and as a premise treatment for fleas, ticks, roaches, ants, silverfish and bedbugs. Other examples would be: Rotenone, Neem Oil, Orange Guard, and Safers Insecticidal Soap.

As the name would indicate, chemical poisons are made from chemicals and are usually formulated for long lasting control of pests. Although this sounds good, the result is that pests can (and often do) develop immunity to such pesticides – this can be a real problem when it happens. I can remember as a biology student, seeing fruit flies that had developed resistance to the pesticide DDT such that they could be exposed to pure DDT and it would not have

any detrimental effect on them. And in the greenhouse, whiteflies are difficult to control because they quickly develop resistant strains to the chemicals used to control them. Personally, I consider chemical poisons to be a weapon of last resort to be used only when everything else fails.

Conclusion

As you might well guess, the topic of pest control is a vast subject and we have only barely scratched the surface. Yet, the promise is that if we are faithful, and ask for wisdom, the Lord will help us in our endeavors, including in the garden.

Sources

There are many sources of traps, barriers, repellents and poisons. Most local nurseries and hardware stores carry such items. There are also many sources available on the internet, one of my favorite being: Peaceful Valley Farm Supply: <http://www.groworganic.com/>

Photos

Peaceful Valley Farm Supply: <http://www.groworganic.com/>

Personal photo by David Stottlemeyer

CALAMITY BULLETIN

Worst Disasters → Death Toll

- * Athens, 430 B.C.: Typhus epidemic
- * Pompei, 79: Volcanic eruption
- * Constantinople, 542: Bubonic plague
- * Beirut, Lebanon, 551: earthquake and tsunami (tens of thousands dead)
- * Japan, 1181: famine (100,000 dead)
- * Holland, 1228: sea flood (100,000 dead)
- * Europe and Asia, 1346-52: Bubonic plague or "black death" (one third of the European population dead plus millions in Asia and North Africa for a total of 25 million)
- * Shensi, China, 1556: earthquake (800,000 dead)
- * Napoli, Italy, 1631: Mt Vesuvius erupts (3,000 dead)
- * Havana, 1648: Yellow fever epidemic
- * Sevilla, Spain, 1649: Plague (80,000 dead)
- * Turkey, 1668: earthquake (8,000 dead)
- * Lisbon, 1755: earthquake and tsunami (30,000 dead)
- * Bengal (India), 1769: famine (ten million dead)
- * Northamerica, 1775-82: Smallpox (130,000 dead)
- * Iran, 1780: earthquake (200,000 dead)
- * Philadelphia, 1793: Yellow fever epidemic (5,000 dead)
- * Sumbawa, Indonesia, 1815: Mt Tambora erupts (90,000 dead)
- * Japan, 1826: Tsunami (27,000 dead)
- * Cairo, 1831: Cholera epidemic, which spreads to London
- * London and Paris, 1832: Cholera epidemic (25,000 dead)
- * Ireland, 1845: famine (one million dead)
- * Mapoli, Italy, 1857: earthquake (11,000 dead)
- * France, 1870-71: Smallpox (500,000 dead)
- * Indonesia, 1883: Tsunami (36,000 dead)
- * Huayan Kou, China, 1887: Yang-tse Kiang flooding (possibly one million dead)
- * Mino-owari, Japan, 1891: earthquake (7,000 dead)
- * Japan, 1896: Tsunami (27,000 dead)
- * India, 1897: earthquake (1,500 dead)
- * Galveston, 1900: Hurricane (8000 dead)
- * San Francisco, 1906: earthquake and fire (3,000 dead)
- * Colombia, 1906: earthquake (1,000 dead)
- * Chile, 1906: earthquake (20,000 dead)
- * Messina, Italy, 1908: 7.5 earthquake (70,000 dead)
- * Mexico City, 1911: earthquake
- * Worldwide, 1918: Influenza pandemic (25-100 million dead)
- * Gansu, China, 1920: 8.6 earthquake (200,000 dead)
- * Yokohama, Japan, 1923: 8.3 earthquake (143,000 dead)
- * Nanshan, China, 1927: 8.3 earthquake (200,000 dead)
- * Florida, USA, 1928: Hurricane (1800 dead)

Continued

- * Gansu, China, 1932: 7.6 earthquake (70,000 dead)
- * Sanriku, Japan, 1933: 8.4 earthquake (3,000 dead)
- * Bihar, India, 1934: 8.1 earthquake (10,700 dead)
- * Quetta, Pakistan, 1935: 7.5 earthquake (30,000 dead)
- * New York, USA, 1938: Rains (600 dead)
- * Erzincan, Turkey, 1939: 7.8 earthquake (33,000 dead)
- * Tonankai, Japan, 1944: 8.1 earthquake (1,200 dead)
- * Nankaido, Japan, 1946: earthquake (1,330 dead)
- * Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, 1948: earthquake (100,000 dead)
- * Assam, India, 1950: earthquake (1,526 dead)
- * Holland, 1953: Sea flood (1,794 dead)
- * Iran, 1953: Rain flood (10,000 dead)
- * Louisiana, USA, 1957: Hurricane (400 dead)
- * Worldwide, 1957: Influenza pandemic (about four million dead)
- * China, 1960: Famine (20 million dead)
- * Morocco, 1960: earthquake (10,000 dead)
- * Chile, 1960: 9.5 earthquake (5,700 dead)
- * Mt Huascarán, Peru, 1962: Volcano eruption (3,000)
- * North Peru, 1970: 7.8 earthquake (66,000 dead)
- * Bangladesh, 1970: Sea flood (200-500,000 dead)
- * Vietnam, 1971: Red River flood (100,000 dead)
- * Nicaragua, 1972: earthquake flood (10,000 dead)
- * Bangladesh, 1974: floods (28,000 dead)
- * Ethiopia, 1974: famine (200,000 dead)
- * Haicheng, China, 1975: 7.0 earthquake (10,000 dead)
- * Tangshan, China, 1976: 8.0 earthquake (750,000 dead)
- * Guatemala, 1976: earthquake (23,000 dead)
- * Andhra Pradesh, India, 1977: cyclone (10,000 dead)
- * Mexico, 1982: volcanic eruption (1,800 dead)
- * Yemen, 1982: earthquake (3,000 dead)
- * Bhopal, India, 1984: Chemical pollution (3,800 dead)
- * Ethiopia, 1984: Famine (900,000 dead)
- * Ciudad de Mexico, 1985: 8.1 earthquake (9,500 dead)
- * Armenia, 1988: earthquake (55,000 dead)
- * Colombia, 1985: eruption of Nevado del Ruiz (23,000 dead)
- * Bangladesh, 1988: Monsoon flood (1,300 dead)
- * Gilan and Zanjan, Iran, 1990: 7.7 earthquake (35,000 dead)
- * Bangladesh, 1991: tsunami (138,000 dead)
- * Latur, India, 1993: earthquake (22,000 dead)
- * Kobe, Japan, 1995: earthquake (5,500 dead)
- * Chicago, USA, 1995: heatwave (739 dead)
- * North Korea, 1995-98: Famine and floods (3.5 million dead)
- * West Africa, 1996: meningitis outbreak (25,000 dead)
- * Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 1996: earthquake (40,000 dead)
- * Papua New Guinea, 1998: Tsunami (2,200 dead)
- * Yangtze Kiang, China, 1998: flooding (3,600 dead)

Continued

- * Central America, 1998: Hurricane Mitch and floods (12,000 dead)
- * Colombia, 1999: earthquake (1,185 dead)
- * Turkey, 1999: earthquake (17,000 dead)
- * Taiwan, 1999: 7.6 earthquake (2,400 dead)
- * Orissa, India, 1999: Cyclone (7,600 dead)
- * Venezuela, 1999: Floods (20,000 dead)
- * Gujarat, India, 2001: earthquake (20,000 dead)
- * El Salvador, 2001: earthquake (850 dead)
- * Afghanistan, 2002: earthquake (2,500 dead)
- * Algeria, 2003: earthquake (2,266 dead)
- * Andhra Pradesh, India, 2003: Heat wave (1,300 dead)
- * France, Spain and Italy, 2003: Heat wave (50,000 dead)
- * Bam, Iran, 2003: earthquake (26,300 dead)
- * Al-Hoceima, Morocco, 2004: earthquake (571 dead)
- * Haiti and Dominican Republic, 2004: rains (2,400 dead)
- * Philippines, 2004: typhoon (1,000 dead)
- * China, 2004: floods (1,300 dead)
- * Southeast Asia, 2004: tsunamis caused by 9.0 earthquake (111,000 dead in Indonesia, 31,000 in Sri Lanka, 10,700 in India, 5,400 in Thailand, 68 in Malaysia, 82 in the Maldives, 300 in Myanmar and 150 in Somalia, including 1,500 Scandinavian tourists, and dozens of Germans, Italians, Dutch, etc)
- * Zarand, Iran, 2005: earthquake (500 dead)
- * Nias, Indonesia, 2005: 8.7 earthquake (1000 dead)
- * Mumbai, India, 2005: monsoon (400 dead)
- * Niger, 2005: famine (? dead)
- * China, 2005: floods (? dead)
- * Louisiana and Mississippi, USA, 2005: hurricane (1000+ dead)

<http://www.scaruffi.com/politics/disaster.html>

Notice the frequency curve in the 1980's!