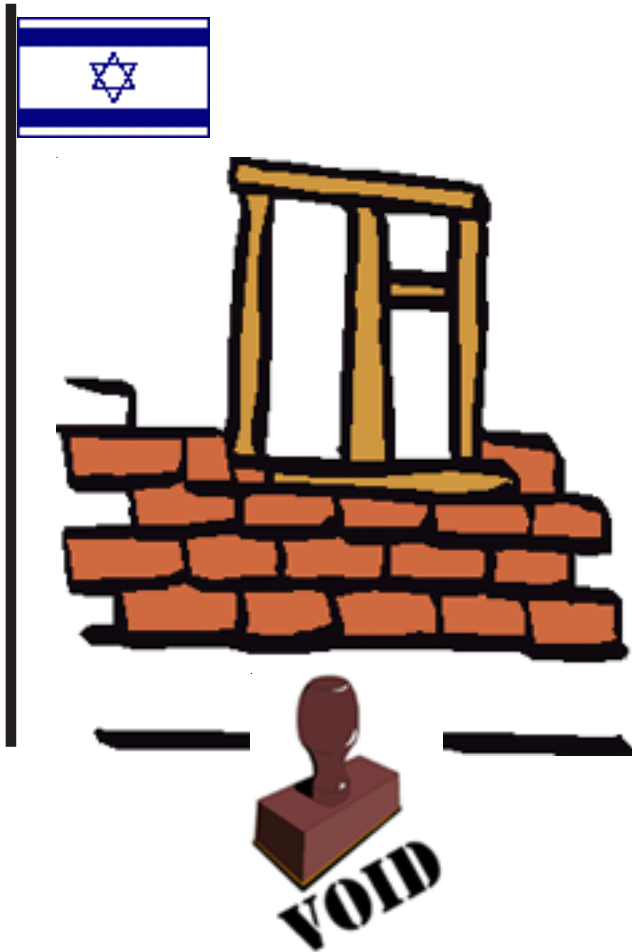


***THE MYTH OF THE REBUILT TEMPLE  
AND THE TRUE IDENTITY  
OF THE RESTRAINER***



**David and Donna Carrico  
B 17**

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*THE MYTH OF THE REBUILT TEMPLE  
AND THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE RESTRAINER*

(Daniel 9:26-27 KJV) And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. {27} And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

In our study of the prophecy of the 70 weeks of Daniel we exposed the myth of the seven-year tribulation, the myth of the seven-year tribulation, and also the myth of the rebuilt “Jewish tribulation temple.” In our 70 weeks study we discussed how this scripture clearly said that the Jewish temple was to remain desolate until the return of Jesus. In other words the desolation would be permanent and final. There will be no Jewish temple rebuilt on the Temple Mount where the Dome of the Rock now stands as a witness to this perpetual desolation. The sanctuary (the Jerusalem temple) was destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Roman General Titus because they committed abomination by sacrificing animals for sin after Jesus died on the cross as the “once for all” sacrifice for sin. The judgment of God said the temple was to remain desolate until “the consummation” (the return of Jesus) and the Dome of the Rock is God’s exclamation mark to this desolation that God is determined to keep pouring out. It is wonderful to uncover the myth, the false doctrine of the rebuilt temple, but we must go farther than that in order to discover the truth that this false doctrine was designed to hide.

We will now begin to examine in detail the passages that are used to teach the Temple myth and to uncover the truth of God that has been obscured by this popular false doctrine. We will begin II Thessalonians Chapter 2.

## II Thessalonians 2:1

Paul here is talking about the same “coming” of the Lord that he did in I Thessalonians 4:15-17.

(1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 KJV) 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 them which are asleep. { 16} 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: {17} 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.

This is the passage that dispensational pre-trib rapture teachers use to teach their secret rapture. They do this by reading two returns of Jesus into scripture, a secret rapture to “pouf up” the Christians, and another to return to Earth seven years later. When we read the Bible with the understanding that there is only one return of Jesus, and not two, the scriptures make perfect sense. To make their pre-trib scenario work out they have to make the coming of the Lord in II Thessalonians 2:1 a different one from I Thessalonians 4:15-17. This is ridiculous and is obviously scripture twisting.

#### F. F. Bruce

“It is difficult to suppose that the “day of the Lord” in this section (V2) belongs to a different time from that in view in I Thessalonians 4:13-18, as held by the Darbyite school of dispensationalism.”<sup>1</sup>

#### II Thessalonians 2:2

(2 Thessalonians 2:2 KJV) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Another one of many errors of the “secret rapture” is that they teach that it is imminent, meaning that it can happen at any moment and that there are no prophecies left to be fulfilled before this happens. They are not just wrong in their teaching of two returns of Jesus, but this verse warns against those that teach the return of the Lord is imminent. The purpose of II Thessalonians 2:2 is to warn us so that the secret rapture teachers and others of their ilk won’t trouble or disturb your walk with the Lord.

“Lightfoot translates ... as ‘it is imminent’ (“the apostle then does not deny that the day of the Lord may be near. He asserts that it is not imminent.”)<sup>2</sup>

In the next scripture we are given two distinct prophecies that must be fulfilled before Jesus returns.

## II Thessalonians 2:3

(2 Thessalonians 2:3 KJV) Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

This scripture warns us in the strongest possible language not to let anyone deceive us by saying that these two events don't have to take place before Jesus returns because God says that they do have to take place. The two events that must take place before Jesus returns are:

### 1. "A falling away"

This is the apostasy (apostasia) from the faith. The word apostasy shows us that this will involve people and institutions that once knew the truth because you cannot fall away from something you never had. There will be many people and institutions turning from the truth of Jesus that they once had. We believe that we are in the last days apostasy right now.

Secret rapture teachers invent their own doctrine out of thin air and then they do their best to try to force the secret rapture into these words. The following is an example of one of these bizarre interpretations by a rapture teacher on the meaning of "a falling away". The comments of G. K. Beale are helpful at this point to show the impossibility of their wild interpretation.

"Some contend that apostasia means 'departure' in the sense of the church being gathered bodily (in development of 2:1) as a "rapture" directly preceding the Great Tribulation and the coming of the antichrist. The following observations point to the implausibility of this identification. (1) The word apostasia in the Greek Old and New testaments always refers to a "departure from faith" and never to the "bodily resurrection". (2) a negatively religious nuance of "departure" is also probable, since in 2:3 it is conjoined with the man of lawlessness and in 2:8-12 deception and departing from the faith also appear in conjunction with "the lawless one". (3) the "gathering" of 2:1 is an allusion to Paul's earlier teaching on the final resurrection of all God's people (I Thessalonians 4: 14-17). Thus, the readers should not be misled because a sure sign of Christ's return (apostasy) has not yet taken place."<sup>3</sup>

## 2. “That the man of sin be revealed”

This is interpreted by secret rapture teachers to be the antichrist, by which they mean the political ruler of Revelation chapter 13. It is obvious from a simple reading of II Thessalonians chapter 2 that “the man of sin” is not talking about the “beast” in Revelation chapter 13, but the false prophet. The man of sin is here said to be a worker of signs and lying wonders.

### II Thessalonians 2:8-9

(2 Thessalonians 2:8-9 KJV) And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: *{9} Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

If we can drown out the roar of the darling tele-evangelists long enough to read our Bibles we see that the Bible tells us it is not the “beast” that works the miracles, but that the “False Prophet” performs miracles to persuade people to worship the beast.

(Revelation 13:11-14 KJV) And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. *{12}* And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. *{13}* And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, *{14}* And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

We can further identify “that man of sin” as the “false prophet” by the title that is here applied to him “the son of perdition”. The word perdition means ruin or destruction and only one other person in scripture was given this ominous title, Judas.

(John 17:12 KJV) While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.



Judas cast out devils and healed the sick with the other apostles yet he came to the place where Satan entered into him.

(Luke 22:3 KJV) Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.

The future son of perdition, like Judas, will try to pass himself off as an apostle of Christ, however, like Judas of old, he will be a person that Satan has entered into.

There is yet another witness of scripture that can be shown to identify this “son of perdition” as “the false prophet”. In Zechariah 11:13 the prophet prophesies concerning the thirty pieces of silver for which Judas would betray Jesus.

(Zechariah 11:13 KJV) And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty *pieces* of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

The prophet then gives the prophecy concerning a future “idol shepherd” (the false prophet) which ties together both sons of perdition (Judas and the false prophet) in one prophetic passage.

(Zechariah 11:15-17 KJV) And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd. {16} For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, *which* shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces. {17} Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword *shall be* upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.

The next verse in our study is the scripture that rapture teachers use to teach that this ‘antichrist’ will one day take over the yet to be rebuilt Jewish temple.

(2 Thessalonians 2:4 KJV) Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

“This reference to the temple shows that the church community is the place where end-time prophecies about Israel and its temple will take place. The same phrase, God’s temple, is found nine

other times in the New Testament outside of 2 Thessalonians, and it almost always refers to either Christ or the church. Not once in Paul (five times outside of 2 Thess.) does it refer to a literal temple in Israel of the past or the future. It is true that Matthew 26:61 refers to destroying the physical “temple of God” and rebuilding “it in three days”; that is, rebuilding the spiritual temple. So Matthew represents a transition to a spiritual temple that is the only focus of Paul and, for that matter, the book of Revelation (3:12, 11:1, 19);<sup>4</sup>

We have already seen from our study of Daniel 9:26-27 that the Jewish temple in Jerusalem will not be rebuilt but will remain desolate.

Now we will look at some of the other places where Paul uses the word NAOS (temple). Paul asked the Corinthians “know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost.” We must guess the rapture teachers do not know their body is THE temple.

(1 Corinthians 6:19 KJV) What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Other passages where Paul uses the word NAOS clearly defines it either as the body of the individual Christian or the Christians as they come together as the church of the living God.

(1 Corinthians 3:16 KJV) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

(Ephesians 2:19-22 KJV) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; {20} And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; {21} In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: {22} In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Let’s look at the scripture referred to in the quote from Beale where NAOS was used to refer to the physical temple.

(Matthew 26:61 KJV) And said, This *fellow* said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

Once again if we would just take time to read our Bibles, we see quickly that it is the Jews who seek to put Jesus to death and accuse him of using

the word NAOS to refer to the physical temple of Jerusalem. If you read the doctrine of Christ, you'll quickly see that this was a false accusation and that Jesus used the word NAOS to refer to His body, not the Jerusalem temple.

(John 2:19-21 KJV) Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. {20} Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? {21} But he spake of the temple of his body.

Case closed! The rapture teachers have truly gone out on a limb that God is going to saw off! Jesus did however have something to say about the physical temple in Jerusalem in another passage.

(Matthew 24:1-2 KJV) And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to *him* for to show him the buildings of the temple. {2} And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

This prophecy of Jesus was only partially fulfilled and A.D. 70 when the Roman army destroyed the temple because there were stones of the original temple left intact. The wailing wall which is to this day a popular tourist attraction was a part of the very temple that Jesus prophesied against. We will give you a friendly travel tip: if you visit Jerusalem, don't visit the wailing wall because the word of the Lord says it will surely come down. We will now examine the other major passages in scripture that are used by the rapture teachers to teach the "rebuilt temple".

(Revelation 11:1-2 KJV) And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. {2} But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months.

We have already seen that the prophecy in Daniel 9:27 forbids the rebuilding of the temple with God insisting that it remain desolate. We've also seen the way the word NAOS (temple) is used in scripture, especially by Jesus Christ himself which forbids us to read a physical rebuilt Jewish temple into this text. A quick study of the other scriptures in the book Revelation where the word NAOS is used will show that the rebuilding of an earthly

physical temple is the last thing on God's mind. What IS on God's mind is the temple made out of God's people rather than brick and stone.

(Revelation 3:12 KJV) Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name.

The use of the word of NAOS in; Rev. 7:15, 11:19, 14:15, 14:17, 15:5, 16:1, 16:17, are all clearly referring to the temple in heaven and God goes out of his way to make sure that we understand that there will be no physical temple either in the new heavens or the new earth.

(Revelation 21:22 KJV) And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

Therefore, in the scripture Revelation 11:1-2, what temple are we looking at?

“Since the imagery throughout the book is of a heavenly temple, is difficult to conceive how this could refer to a literal temple on earth. Therefore, this is the church, primarily the saints of this final period but secondarily the church of all ages (as argued throughout this commentary)”<sup>5</sup>

Now let us now determine what it means to measure the temple of God in Revelation 11:1.

(Revelation 11:1 KJV) And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

“The image of the measuring reed is drawn from Eze 40:3,..... The context suggests that the task of measuring connotes preservation since what John is expressly told not to measure is the outer court, which will be given to the nation's (v2).”<sup>6</sup>

“In Ezekiel, measuring secured both the inner and outer courts against the contamination of Israel's former “abominations”, namely unbelievers worshiping false gods in the sanctuary and priests participating, and in idol worship in the sanctuary (44:8-10)”<sup>7</sup>

We will now take a closer look at the scriptures in Ezekiel that form the background of the passage in Revelation 11.

(Ezekiel 40:3 KJV) And he brought me thither, and, behold, *there was* a man, whose appearance *was* like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate.

(Ezekiel 44:8-10 KJV) And ye have not kept the charge of mine holy things: but ye have set keepers of my charge in my sanctuary for yourselves. {9} Thus saith the Lord GOD; No stranger, uncircumcised in heart, nor uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into my sanctuary, of any stranger that *is* among the children of Israel. {10} And the Levites that are gone away far from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray away from me after their idols; they shall even bear their iniquity.

The problem with the old Testament Temple was that the Levites who were in charge of preserving the true worship of God in its purity did not do their job. They allowed strangers into the house of God that brought their false doctrine and their false gods. God showed this vision to Ezekiel to help him preserve the true worship of God in the remnant after the physical temple was destroyed and 587 B. C. by the Babylonians. What Ezekiel was shown was not an earthly temple of the past or the future but the heavenly worship patterns of the temple in heaven.

(Ezekiel 43:10 KJV) Thou son of man, show the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.

So what we have in Revelation 11:1 is God measuring the true remnant of God to protect them and preserve the true worship of God in the end-time tribulation. They worship at the only true altar, the cross of Christ, not one stained with animal blood! As Christians we do have an altar and a city, not a city of this earth or an altar in a physical temple, but very real ones nevertheless.

(Hebrews 13:9-15 KJV) Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For *it is* a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. {10} We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. {11} For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary

by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. {12} Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. {13} Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. {14} For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. {15} By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

“A theological objection to the futuristic literalist view is that a future temple with an altar represents the revival of the O. T. sacrificial system, whereas Hebrews 10:1-12 affirm that Christ’s sacrifice typologically fulfilled and abolished the system forever.”<sup>8</sup>

(Revelation 11:2 KJV) But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty *and* two months.

We will now revisit Revelation 11:2 to understand the meaning of the outer court. Since we have established that Revelation 11:1 refers to God measuring the end-time remnant for the purpose of protection and preserving the true worship, the meaning of Revelation 11:2 now becomes clear.

“Since the Temple, altar, and the worshipers in the Temple represent to our seer the Christian community of the faithful, the outer court and the city symbolized those who were given over for 3 1/2 years to the domination of antichrist, irrespective of the race, whether Jew or Gentiles.”<sup>9</sup>

Those that are measured represent the true church, while those that remain in the outer court and do not press into the holy place represent the Apostate church. The temple that provides analogy for John’s vision and Revelation 11 is clearly Ezekiel’s temple, not Solomon’s temple or Herod’s temple. The churches in the end-time will come under a similar judgment for not preserving the true worship of God just like the Levites in the temple in Ezekiel came under the severe judgment of God for allowing “strangers” to bring in false doctrine and false gods.

(1 Peter 4:17 KJV) For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Today millions of professing Christians in America are waiting for the rapture in churches that have deeply compromised the true faith and true wor-

ship of God. They are filled with excitement over the newest Bible translation and the latest “Left Behind” movie. The future is so bright for them that they have to wear sunglasses because the latest seminar on “the purpose driven church” will help their church grow even larger as they keep prospering for Jesus. Their hireling pastors can’t get mad enough at the devil to take a stand against Freemasonry or any of the ungodly doctrines or fads that flood their church because this might drive off some loyal tithe payers. While these “panzies in the pulpits” won’t get mad at the devil, they will get mad at you if you expose any of the ungodly practices that they so heartily embrace. While they won’t fight the devil, you will find out quickly that they will fight you or anything else that would threaten their beloved religious system.

The measuring of God’s end-time remnant in Revelation 11 is the same as the “sealing” of God’s remnant in Revelation 7.

(Revelation 7:3 KJV) Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

This supernatural seal will protect God’s true remnant during the reign of the end-time beast.

(Revelation 9:4 KJV) And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

When Revelation 11:2 says that the outer court will be trampled under foot for 42 months, it speaks of the compromised churches and the compromised Christians entering into the last half of Daniel’s 70th week without the supernatural protection of God. This is precisely the warning that Jesus gave to the church in Thyatira and all churches - if they compromised God and His truth that they will go into the end-time tribulation without God’s protective hand.

(Revelation 2:20-22 KJV) Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. {21} And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. {22} Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

It is our heart's desire to reach the people in the churches that they might wake up before it's too late. Many indeed are waking up and coming out of Babylon while many are so given over to their religious system that their minds have turned into spiritual goo. God's true remnant does not hang its head in defeat, fear, and despair, nor do they hide their head in the sand and try to soothe their minds with false hope.

God's true remnant faces these coming days with hope and great expectancy knowing that their God is going to act mightily on their behalf.

(Ephesians 6:13 KJV) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

As we return to our text in II Thessalonians we will uncover another great scriptural truth that it is obscured by the "secret rapture hoax", the true identity of the restrainer.

(2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 KJV) And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. {7} For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. {8} And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

According to "the secret rapture" teachers, the restrainer that is holding back Satan's plan is the Holy Spirit. They erroneously teach when the "secret rapture" takes place that the Holy Spirit will leave the earth and then the antichrist will come to power. This is as un-Biblical as almost all of the rest of the "secret rapture theory" is!

"If the Holy Spirit is the restrainer, this would fit the pre-trib argument nicely, but it doesn't. First, because the Holy Spirit's job is not to restrain people from sin. His job is to convict them of it. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit teaches, convicts, comforts, intercedes, guides, strengthens, sanctifies and regenerates. (John 16:8, 13; John 14:26; John 16:13; Romans 8:26; Romans 15:16; John 3:5), but nowhere does it say that he restrains the active sin. As gods children, born of his spirit, it is our responsibility to resist sin by relying on Him. If his job were to restrain sin, this would violate our free will."<sup>10</sup>

Nigro makes an excellent point here. For the Holy Spirit to be the restrainer some bizarre combination of "dispensational Calvinism" would have to be



true in a strange world where people have no free will. This is disturbing to even think about and fortunately, thank God, it isn't true and according to the word of God impossible. In the strange world of pre-trib rapture they teach that the Holy Spirit is the restrainer and that he will be removed at the secret rapture before the great tribulation begins. They go on to teach that after the Holy Spirit is removed from the earth that the people continue to get saved during the great tribulation. Jesus said that we must be born again by the spirit of God to be saved.

(John 3:3 KJV) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

(John 3:5 KJV) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

How can someone be born again by the spirit of God when the Holy Spirit has been removed from the earth? Rapture teachers at this point go to disgusting links to prop up their beloved theory. We have heard some teach that we are saved by Grace now and we will be saved by Works during the great tribulation. This puts them in the cursed position of teaching another gospel.

(Galatians 1:8-9 KJV) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. {9} As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Another scripture that shows the utter impossibility of the position that the rapture crowd is trying to take is Galatians 3:14.

(Galatians 3:14 KJV) That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The Holy Spirit is clearly promised to all Christians, yet rapture teachers come up with some Christians that have the Holy Spirit and some that don't. This is not just a doctrinal error, but a clear misunderstanding of the true gospel which leaves the person that receives it born-again by the Holy Spirit and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. When you listen to the pre-tribbers try to explain how the Holy Spirit can be removed and still on earth working at

the same time it will make you dizzy. It will also make you realize how far these people have removed themselves from Biblical truth. The following statement by John F. Walvoord sounds like it would apply more accurately to the force of Star Wars than the Holy Ghost of scripture that is revealed as a person.

“Pretribulationists agree that the removal of the Spirit is not complete, for the Holy Spirit is still omnipresent and still exercises some restraint, as the book of Revelation makes plain in the protection of the 144,000.”<sup>11</sup>

The rapture teachers want us to believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, yet He will be gone and here at the same time. They want to correctly maintain that the Holy Spirit is God and powerful, yet after their imaginary secret rapture they want us to believe there will be some things that the omnipotent Holy Spirit cannot do.

If you engage in the unpleasant task of thinking about what the rapture teachers are saying, you will come to the obvious conclusion that instead of teaching the Biblical doctrine that there is a power from God that is restraining the plan of Satan, they are really teaching the Holy Spirit will be restrained and prevented from indwelling Christians after their secret rapture. Here is one example of that teaching.

“That the Spirit works in the Tribulation all agree. That the Spirit indwells all believers in the Tribulation is nowhere taught.”<sup>12</sup>

To continue to propagate their doctrine at this point reveals that the error of pre-trib rapture goes much deeper than just the question of whether Jesus returns before or after the tribulation. It maintains one gospel that results in people receiving the Holy Spirit and another gospel that does not. It maintains one class of Christians that have the Holy Spirit and another class that does not. This insults God’s Holy scripture that says there is no such thing as a Christian without the Holy Spirit.

(Romans 8:9 KJV) But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

It also maintains that in the future the divine all-powerful person of the Holy Spirit will be restrained from operating in the fullness that He works in now. In championing their favorite heresy these teachers have maligned not only the gospel, but the very nature of God himself. Therefore if the “restrainer” in II Thessalonians, chapter 2, is not the Holy Spirit, then we should focus our attention on the question,

“Who is the restrainer?”

While the Bible nowhere states that the Holy Spirit restrained sin or holds back the plan of Satan, it does identify a power from God that performs this function. We agree with Marvin Rosenthal’s identification of the restrainer.

“The restrainer is neither the Holy Spirit nor human government. Evidence is strained to support either of these contentions. There is, however, substantial evidence to identify the restrainer. He who restrained until “he be taken out of the way” is the archangel Michael. The following evidence will substantiate that fact.

1. The archangel Michael has long been recognized by both Jewish and Christian scholars as having a special guardian relationship to Israel (Dan. 10:12-13). In relation to Israel, he is called “Michael, your Prince” (Daniel 10:21). His name means *who is like God?* almost as if in contrast to Satan who desires to be “like the most high” (Isa. 14:14). Daniel is told that Michael is “the great prince who standeth [Present continuous tense; that is, he continues to stand] for the children of my people” (Dan.12:1).”<sup>13</sup>

Let us examine the scripture to answer our questions about the identity of the restrainer.

(Daniel 10:12-13 KJV) Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. {13} But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

In this passage we see an angel was sent to Daniel in response to his prayer, but a fallen angel, called ‘the prince of the kingdom of Persia’ fought against him for 21 days. We see Michael restraining this fallen angel so that the other angel is able to complete his mission.

(Daniel 10:20-21 KJV) Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. {21} But I will show thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and *there is* none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

Here the angel that was sent to Daniel tells him that he must now leave to fight with a fallen angel called “the prince of Persia”. He says that “there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.” The word “holdeth” helps us to get a positive ID on the restrainer. The word holdeth in the Strong’s Concordance is #2388 and the Strong’s Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary gives us the following information on the Hebrew word *chazaq*;

“...to bind, restrain, conquer; -...”<sup>14</sup>

That is precisely what is said in II Thessalonians 2:7 - that there is a “he” who “letteth” or restrains until “he be taken out of the way”. That “he” has been positively identified as Michael the archangel.

(Daniel 12:1 KJV) And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

This scripture tells us that during the end-time tribulation that will occur during the last half of Daniel’s 70th week, the angel Michael will stand up for the people of God in a special way. The comment on the phrase “stand up” from Barne’s Notes helps our understanding.

“Stand up. That is, he shall interpose; he shall come forth to render aid. This does not mean necessarily that he would visibly appear, but that he would in fact interpose. In the time of great distress and trouble, there would be supernatural or angelic aid rendered to the people of God.”<sup>15</sup>

The end-time event when Michael stands up for the people of God is recorded in our Bibles in the book of Revelation.

(Revelation 12:7-9 KJV) And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, {8} And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. {9} And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

In the end-time tribulation there will be an “all out assault” by Satan and his

angels on the people of God. Michael and the angels of the heavenly army will “stand up” and fight for us. This war will be similar to the one we saw described in Daniel chapter 10, however, it will be on a much larger scale. The result of this war is that Satan and his angels will be “cast out into the earth”. At the cross Satan was cast out of this world. (Please read our other booklet, B16 - *THE SEVENTY WEEKS*, for further understanding.)

(John 12:31 KJV) Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

Jesus tells us that with his ministry on earth and his death on the cross that Satan was cast out of this world (John 12:31). We need to understand this as Satan being confined to another dimension where he can influence our world as commander of his dark army, but he cannot enter the world. So what we see in Revelation 12:7-9 is Satan’s re-entry into our world after having been banished.

The scripture tells us that an angel (Michael) bound Satan in the bottomless pit for a thousand years.

(Revelation 20:1-2 KJV) And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. {2} And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

When reading this scripture in Revelation, more than any other place in scripture, people are unable to hear God’s word because of the brainwashing and indoctrination of the modern tele-evangelists and popular prophecy teachers.

It is crucial for Christians to understand that at Calvary Satan was cast out of this world and banished to the bottomless pit, and that soon Satan and his fallen angels will be reentering our world in a Satanic attack that will be unprecedented. While the modern church is watching the Left Behind videos and waiting for the “secret rapture” to rescue them from anything unpleasant, Satan is planning a war in the heavens that will result in his re-entry into our world and the slaughter of countless thousands of souls who have placed their faith in a fable instead of the word of God. Satan has hidden his master plan behind the false doctrines of the “secret rapture” and the “the millennial reign of Christ”, and unbiblical terms and unbiblical doctrines that have served him well.

Satan’s re-entry into our world will be followed by hordes of fallen angels who will assault our world in waves of hellish fury. The fifth and sixth trumpets will bring two waves of Satanic assault.

(Revelation 9:1-4 KJV) And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. {2} And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. {3} And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. {4} And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

(Revelation 9:13-15 KJV) And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, {14} Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. {15} And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

In Revelation 20:1-2 we see an angel with a key place Satan in the bottomless pit, then in Revelation chapter 9, we see an angel with a key release the fallen ones from the bottomless pit. When we believe the words of Jesus and understand that the binding of Satan and the fallen angels took place with the ministry and death of Jesus, and that their release from the abyss is close at hand, we are beginning to perceive the truth.

(John 12:31 KJV) Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

(Matthew 12:28-29 KJV) But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. {29} Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

There are two scriptures in the old testament which forced us to use the number 1000 in a symbolic sense.

(Psalms 105:8-9 KJV) He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word *which* he commanded to a thousand generations. {9} Which *covenant* he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac;

(1 Chronicles 16:15-16 KJV) Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word *which* he commanded to a thousand generations; {16} *Even of the covenant* which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac;

These two passages speak of the time of the blessing of the covenant with Abraham as a thousand generations. The time of the blessing of the covenant with Abraham cannot be limited to the Old Testament before Jesus Christ. The old covenant that was made with the house of Israel and the house of Judah was replaced with a better new covenant with the house of Israel and house of Judah.

(Hebrews 8:6-11 KJV) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. {7} For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. {8} For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: {9} Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. {10} For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: {11} And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

This new covenant was not just new - it was better. It did not negate the blessings of the old covenant, but only added to them and improved them. When John the Baptist was born, his father Zacharis prophesied that the birth of his son who was to become the forerunner of Jesus Christ was an event that was to bring about a fuller level of blessing from the covenant with Abraham.

(Luke 1:67-73 KJV) And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, {68} Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, {69} And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; {70} As he spake by the mouth of his holy proph-

ets, which have been since the world began: {71} That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; {72} To perform the mercy *promised* to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; {73} The oath which he swore to our father Abraham,

According to the apostle Paul the death of Jesus Christ did not put an end to the blessing of Abraham, but made it even greater and extended it also to the Gentiles.

(Galatians 3:13-14 KJV) Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: {14} That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

These two passages of Scripture (Psalm 105:8-9) and I Chronicles 16:15-16) force us to understand the “thousand generations” as a symbolic number. The Holy Ghost could not tell the exact number of years that the blessing from the covenant with Abraham would be in effect. If He had told that number, people would have known the exact time of the return of Jesus because the blessing from the covenant with Abraham will extend until that time. The time of the return of Jesus is something that the father says cannot be revealed.

(Matthew 24:36 KJV) But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

We are also forced to take the thousand years of Revelation 20:4 in a symbolic manner.

(Revelation 20:4 KJV) And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

John saw “the souls of them that were beheaded”. What John saw was the disembodied souls of people who had already died. When many people read this Scripture they do not see disembodied spirits, but they see people living in physical bodies that will impregnate women and worship in a temple



with animal sacrifices after the return of Jesus. This amazing false phenomenon is perpetrated by the brainwashing of the modern tele-evangelists. The saints that died in the faith go to be with the Lord and share in His reign that began when he ascended to the right hand of the Father. Jesus is reigning now at the right hand of the Father and will continue to do so until He returns to the earth to destroy death once and for all with the resurrection of the saints.

(1 Corinthians 15:23-26 KJV) But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. {24} Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. {25} For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. {26} The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

The Holy Ghost could not have revealed the exact number of years in the reign of Jesus at the right hand of the Father because if He had, this also would have enabled people to know the exact time of Jesus return. The reign of Jesus at the right hand of the Father is the period of blessing of the new covenant. Once again the holy ghost has used the word "thousand" and a symbolic way to describe the extent of the covenant blessing.

THE END

July 13, 2005

This book (B17) is the second one in a series (B16, 17, 18, 19) of end time prophecy books we have written. Please check our resource list for Bible teaching tapes that would compliment this series.

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**ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup>WORD BIBLICAL COMMENTARY, F. F. Bruce, 1982 WORD BOOKS, p. 163, Volume 45, I & II Thessalonians.

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David and Donna Carrico have been ministering as Followers of Jesus Christ, a counter-cult ministry since 1984. Together they have researched and written several books such as *THE GREAT SEAL OF THE USA - Its Occult Meaning*, *THE EGYPTIAN - MASONIC - SATANIC CONNECTION*, *CHRISTIAN WORKER'S HANDBOOK - The Guide for Ministry to Masons*, *COLLEGE FRATERNITIES - The Secret Society on Campus* and also contributed a chapter in *THE DARK SIDE OF FREEMASONRY* compiled by Ed Decker.

They offer other resources such as Cassette and video tapes on the many aspects of their ministry. Along with the resources on the occult and Freemasonry, they offer teachings on Biblical apologetics and the Five-fold ministry in the church. The Carricos offer personal ministry to survivors of various types of abuse and have written a healing workbook titled, *FROM VICTIMS TO VICTORS - Through the Cross of Jesus Christ - Gilead's Balm*.

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The ministry started and co-sponsored the Annual ritual Abuse and Secret Societies Conferences in St. Louis, Missouri. These conferences were for care-givers, survivors, law enforcement, clergy and anyone interested in getting educated on the subject and ministering to survivors. David and / or Donna are available for speaking engagements, seminars, conferences, and revivals for a love offering, travel and lodging expenses and the opportunity to offer a resource table at the meetings.

Feel free to check out their web site at: [www.ritualabusefree.org](http://www.ritualabusefree.org) There are many tracts, Bible studies and articles available to read and download along with all of the other information and resources offered on the site. The most important facet for the Carricos ministry is teaching the word of God and encouraging believers to "wake up" and to be obedient to the Lord and to take a stand for Him on many important issues as we see the day of His return approaching.

*(Isa 58:1-2 KJV) Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. {2} Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.*