

# Bible workbook

Year 11

Term 4

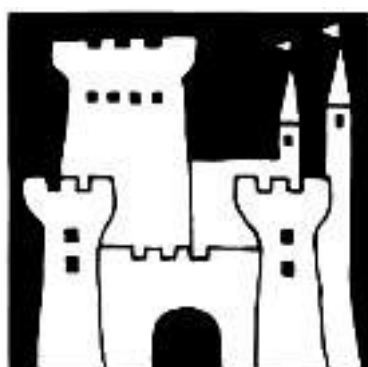
Attribute of God: God is...	Page	Number of weeks	Number of pages
God is Protector	2	3	8
God is Truth	9	3	12
God is Lord & King	21	3	6

Total: 26

## Acknowledgments:

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- LIFEPAK Home Schooling Curriculum, Alpha & Omega Publications, <https://www.aop.com/curriculum/shop-lifepac?filter=GL12> (free download samples)
- The Armour of God - Pastor Matthew Johnson, South Sydney Anglicam Church
- The Death of Western Christianity, Patrick Sookhdeo



# God is Protector

## The Armour of God

by Pastor Matthew Johnson, South Sydney Anglican Church



In Ephesians 6:10-18, the apostle Paul instructs Christians to put on the armour of God because we are in a battle with the spiritual forces of evil and the dangers are significantly higher than a broken arm. The Christians in Ephesus who are told to put on the full armour of God were surrounded by significant demonic activity, both in the worship of a Greek goddess Artemis (Acts 19:35) and significant sorcery/witchcraft (Acts 19:18-19). Ephesus was a dark, pagan and occultic city.

Yet, Paul did not want the Christians in Ephesus to be overly worried by this demonic activity. Paul makes it clear that through faith in Jesus Christ the church members have been liberated from “the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient” (Eph.2:1-10). Paul wants Christians to know that although they are surrounded by evil spiritual forces, they are safe and secure in Christ. Jesus is seated “in the heavenly realms far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come” (Eph.1:20-21). God has placed all things under Jesus’ feet” (Eph.1:22).

In the discussion of spiritual warfare, it is important that Christians who have come to faith in Jesus do not have undue fear about that which is pagan, occultic or demonic. For greater is he that is in Christians, than he that is in the world (1Jn.4:4). But neither should Christians be naïve or complacent about Satan’s schemes by which he attacks the church both directly and through personal agents.

### Read Ephesians 6:10-18

Although Christians are saved by God’s grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, we are saved for good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do (Eph.2:8-10). One of the good works God has prepared for us to do, is to stand firm against Satan’s attacks in the full armour of God. Indeed, it is by putting on the full armour of God that we are able to take our stand against the devil’s schemes.

### The Devil and the spiritual forces of evil

Paul states that in order to be strong in the Lord we should put on the full armour of God, so that we will be able to take our stand against the devil’s schemes (Eph.6:10-11). Paul encourages Christians to realize that there are opponents in life that are not only physical, but also spiritual. The church is in a battle against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Eph.6:13).

The devil, Satan or Lucifer is the major antagonist of evil in the Bible. The devil first appears as a snake in Genesis 3. He twists God’s word and encourages Eve to disobey God (Gen.3:1-3). Despite God’s teaching Eve not to eat the fruit on the tree in the middle of the garden, the devil tells her; “you will not surely die.” This was both deceptive and false. The devil is the first thing we discover in the Bible that is not good.

In Genesis 3 we also learn that God has cursed the devil for his deception of Eve and consigned him to destruction by one of Eve’s future offspring (Gen.3:14-15). The child who ultimately crushes Satan head is the Lord Jesus Christ. But what is the origin of Satan and the spiritual forces of evil?

The Bible is clear that God made everything that exists both in the visible world and the invisible world (Col.1:15-17; Jn.1:1-3). Only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is eternal, without beginning or end. The Bible also says "God saw everything that he had made and it was very good." (Gen.1:31). Consequently, we must conclude that Satan himself was part of God's good creation.

In the book of Job it says "that one day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD and Satan also came with them." (Job.1:6; 2:1). In Revelation 12, we are told that Satan and his angels lost their place in heaven and were cast down. It says that "the archangel Michael and his angels, fought against Satan and his angels but he (Satan) was not strong enough and they (Satan and his angels) lost their place in heaven... He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him (Rev.12:7-10). It seems right to conclude that Satan was an angel and perhaps even an archangel who was cast from heaven for mounting some sort of rebellion against God.

Isaiah speaks of Satan's fall from heaven. **Read Isaiah 14:12-15.**

Ezekiel also speaks of Satan's fall. **Read Ezekiel 28:12-17.**

Although the Isaiah passage is directed against the King of Babylon and the Ezekiel passage directed against the King of Tyre, there is biblical basis for believing these prophecies may not be directed solely against the respective kings, but also against the evil spiritual forces at work behind these kings.

The spiritual forces of evil that Paul warns us about in Ephesians are to be understood as Satan and "his angels" who were evicted from heaven by the archangel Michael. Like the rest of creation, it appears that Lucifer (the Morning Star) was originally created good and was the seal of perfection (Ezek.28:12). He was blameless in his ways until wickedness was found in him (Ezek.28:15). Because of an unwavering pride to usurp God as God (Isa.14:13-14; Ezek.28:17), Lucifer was cast from heaven and became the evil antagonist we know in the Bible as Satan, the devil, Beelzebub and the father of lies. But like all God's creatures Satan remains a created being. He is a powerful creature. But he is still a creature. He is not God's equal. He is simply a fallen angel wreaking havoc while he too awaits the final judgment of Jesus.

### **The Devils Schemes**

In Ephesians 6 Paul tells Christians to put on the full armour of God so that we might take our stand against the devil's schemes. The devil's spiritual attack on Christians is not a brute power, but a scheming deceitfulness. His power is largely lost once Christians understand Satan's schemes.

Satan's scheming is first revealed in Genesis 3 as he comes alongside Eve. Satan comes alongside Eve, presenting himself as part of God's good creation (a snake) while twisting God's Word. The Bible leads us to believe that in God's perfect creation a child could play in both a cobra's den and a viper's nest (Isa.11:8). So in God's original creation, before the fall, there was no fear attached to snakes. They were part of God's good creation.

Satan rarely presents himself as the evil creature, that is his true identity, for fear he will be rejected. Rather, in his deceptive ways, Satan always pretends to be an ally and at times, even a friend. The apostle Paul tells us that Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (2 Cor.11:14). This is part of the devil's scheme. Satan comes alongside Christians as a friend or ally and presents himself as something good before he endeavors to lead us astray. We need to remember the old adage "appearances can be deceiving" for this is part of Satan's scheming.

Satan's interaction with Eve involved appealing to 1) the lust of the flesh, 2) the lust of the eyes and 3) the pride of life (1Jn.2:16). These are things that the Bible calls the desires of this world.

First, Satan convinces Eve that the fruit was good for food (lust of the flesh) Then Eve sees that the fruit was pleasing to the eye (lust of the eyes) and it was also desirable for gaining wisdom. Particularly, Eve is told that by eating the fruit she will become like God (the pride of life). What pride and arrogance for a creature to think they could be like their Creator. Eve succumbs and falls into sin, encouraging Adam to join her.

Satan follows a similar pattern in Luke's gospel when he tempts Jesus in the desert (Luke 4:1-13). First, Satan twists God's Word in the Bible and appeals to Jesus' hunger. Turn these stones into bread (lust of the flesh). Then, Satan takes Jesus up a high mountain and shows him all the kingdoms of the world, offering to give them to Jesus if he bows down (the lust of the eyes). Finally, Satan tempts Jesus with pride. He tells Jesus you are the Son of God and you are so important that God will command his angels to catch you if you throw yourself off the temple (the pride of life). There are noticeable similarities between Satan tempting Eve and Jesus. But where Eve fails, Jesus remains faithful.

Satan likes to appeal to our humanity and especially our sinful humanity. The lusts of the flesh for food, drink and sex are strong. The lust of the eyes for shiny possessions or spectacular positions in society run deep. The pride of life to be greater than others, or even be like God, is a tantalizing prospect. Satan tries to tempt us in these ways to achieve his purposes both in non-Christians and Christians.

### **The Father of Lies**

In John's gospel, Jesus tells unbelieving Jews that God is not really their Father. He says; "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (Jn.8:44)

Satan is a liar and a murderer. Lying is Satan's natural language by which he robs us of true life. Just as Satan masquerades as an angel of light, rather than revealing himself truly as an angel of darkness, so he presents all sorts of things as "true" when in reality they are lies. This is one of Satan's most devious schemes. Sometimes the lies are directly applied to our minds (through temptation) and sometimes through a deceptive intermediary. More often than not Satan's lies are half-truths, even Scriptural truths taken out of context, masquerading as whole truths. Then Satan tells us that going against God's Word will not end badly. This is a lie. It is an echo of Satan's words to Eve – "you will not surely die."

We must be wary of all thoughts, mediums and/or teachers that promote things that are contrary to the Bible. The Bible is God's truth and anything that directly contradicts the Bible is a lie, coming from Satan.

But the lies of Satan may not always be encouraging direct disobedience of God's Word. Many of Satan's lies are an attack on our person, especially if we've had a traumatic childhood. Satan continues to tell us things about ourself – our value, our nature and our abilities that are also untrue. The Bible says that each and every person is "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Ps.139:14). But Satan may lie to people that they were an unwanted accident or that they are useless and unlovable. The Bible says, "we can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us." (Phil.4:13). Satan tells people

that they will never amount to anything. Believing such lies brings discouragement, despair and paralysis.

In Revelation, Satan is also called the accuser of the church, who accuses us before God both day and night (Rev.12:10). But Satan doesn't just accuse us of wrongdoing before God. At times Satan accuses us directly and personally of not being worthy of heaven. Or he makes us believe that one of our sins is unforgivable. In such direct attacks on our personhood and status as Christians we must choose to believe what God says and not what Satan whispers. His words are all lies and deceit designed to steal, kill and destroy (Jn.10:10).

### **Slavery through fear**

The second tool Satan uses against Christians (and people in general) is fear. Particularly, Satan likes appealing to our fear of missing out (FOMO). Satan said to Eve "God knows that when you eat from it (the tree) your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Gen.3:5). Eve was suddenly concerned that she was missing out on the knowledge of good and evil. This fear then led her to doubt the goodness of God. Was God holding back something good from her? Sadly, Eve not only believed Satan's lie, she also gave into the fear she was missing out and she failed to trust God.

The Bible says that Jesus' death for us was meant "to break the power of him who holds the power of death – that is the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." (Heb.2:14-15). Satan holds people in slavery by their fear of death. Death is a powerful and scary unknown. So, men and women will do all sorts of things to avoid death and they will do all sorts of things to try to add significance to their life before death. Satan exploits this fear of death in order to pull our strings. This also is part of his scheming.

Apart from lying to Christians directly, Satan also adds the fear that if people obey God, they will miss out on the good things this world has to offer. For instance, if a Christian tithes their money they will never save that house deposit. If a person limits themselves to only dating Christians, they'll never get married. Satan uses the fear that life is short and people might miss out to undermine their faith in God's Word. Then, when Satan is successful in undermining people's faith in God's Word – all sorts of other fears and anxieties begin to overwhelm them. If people do not confront these fears and intentionally choose faith in God's Word, worry and anxiety will often begin to shape their life.

The most common four-word phrase in the Bible is "Do not be afraid" says the Lord (Gen.15:1; Rev.1:17). Sometimes this is accompanied by the words "for I am with you" says the Lord (Isa.43:5). The greatest expression of God being with us and for us is the Lord Jesus Christ. The man Jesus Christ was known as Immanuel, which means God with us (Matt.1:23). The Bible is clear that if God is with us in Jesus who can be against us (Rom.8:31). The great surprise is that God is still with us and for us after all that we have done as sinners.

Human beings have all sinned against God and deserve to be punished for their wrongdoing. People have been tempted into sin by Satan. People have also given in to their own fleshly desires and done things they know are wrong. Such conduct has hurt ourselves, hurt others and offended God. God's righteous and just verdict is that man deserves to die. Man is destined to die once and after this face judgment. (Heb.9:17) But, in His great love for us God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save people from this fate (Jn.3:16). As Jesus died on the cross, he took the punishment for our wrongdoing. Jesus loved us so much that he went through the most horrendous death conceived by man so that sinful people can be forgiven and saved. How many people do you know who love you

that much they would die to save you? Probably not many! But then, after three days, Jesus also rose from the dead proving not only that he was God's Son, but also that he is powerful to help people with even their deepest fears. Jesus' love and power is a great antidote to fear.

The Bible says that if you believe Jesus did this for you and ask God to forgive you, He will. God will then come into your life by the Holy Spirit to help you live a life pleasing to Him. As Christians who know God's love for them, in the death of Jesus and God's power to help them in the resurrection of Jesus, should no longer be controlled by fear. If God loves people that much, He will die for them and he has resurrection power to help them, what is there to fear?

Therefore, if Christians know what God wants them to do because there is a clear command in the Bible, but they find fear is holding them back, then it is time to choose faith. Christians must learn to triumph over fear, by exercising faith in God's Word. Faith must triumph over fear in the Christian life and it does. The exercise of faith in God's Word becomes self-vindicating. When we trust God's Word, we discover it is trustworthy and works. So over time it becomes easier to trust God's Word even though we still at times be afraid.

### **What about the flesh?**

The Bible says "when tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death" (Jam.1:13-15). This is a significant verse because it explains that when Satan's tempts people, he tempts them by appealing to their own sinful desires.

Although Christians are justified by faith in Jesus, they are still undergoing a process called sanctification. Sanctification is the process whereby the Holy Spirit is gradually making believers more fit for heaven through the washing of God's Word (Jn.17:17; 1Tim.4:5). This means that at any point in time Christians will have some holy desires and some worldly desires depending on how much the Spirit has sanctified them. Some of our thoughts will be godly and some of our thoughts ungodly. As Christians we are meant to keep in step with the Holy Spirit, but sometimes we sin and give in to our old way of life.

### **The belt of truth and the sword of the Spirit**

The first piece of armour that Paul instructs Christians to put on is the belt of truth and the last item is the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Eph.6:14; 6:17). The belt of truth is meant to encircle the waist. In spiritual battle the first thing Christians need to do is secure God's truth. Given that Satan attacks us with lies and deceit, the best counter is to know God's truth. The only thing that can reveal lies, is truth. So, the better Christians know God's Word and attain a biblical worldview, the better they will be equipped in the battle.

The belt of truth also holds the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Eph.6:17). The sword of the Spirit is an offensive weapon. Not only does God's word protect Christians from the lies of Satan, the Word of God enables Christians to advance on Satan's domain. As God's truth divides the lies and deceit of Satan, people are liberated and brought into the Kingdom of light (Heb.4:12).

Please also note that the sword of the Holy Spirit is the word of God. In spiritual battle Christians often look for quick fixes or supernatural intervention. Some Christians will advocate saying a particular prayer multiple times, others will suggest cleansing your house with holy water or denouncing family curses. But what Paul advocates is taking up the Word of God. Since Satan's schemes against us primarily involve lies, the key remedy is truth. The better we know God's word in

the Bible and establish a truly biblical worldview the better we will become at standing firm in Satan's attacks.

### **The breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation**

It is often noted that the breastplate of righteousness is covering our heart and the helmet of salvation is covering our mind. This may be significant. What we know is that both the breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation are items designed to protect perhaps the seat of emotions and the seat of reason. The nature of armour is that it protects and gives people security in the midst of battle. Although the blows of war may come, the armour gives us the assurance that the assault will cause no real damage.

The breastplate of righteousness is designed to protect and provide this sort of security. Christians are credited with Christ's righteousness by faith alone in Jesus, not good works. When people believe in Jesus as their Saviour and Lord all their sin is credited to Jesus upon the cross and all his righteousness is credited to their account. This truth is called justification by faith and it means that Christians are now fit for heaven because Jesus' righteousness has been credited to their account. This means when God looks at Christians, he now sees Christ's righteousness. So although Satan accuses Christians, telling them their good works are not enough for God, Christians can remain secure knowing Christ's righteousness has been credited to them. As justification by faith is truly grasped it becomes a breastplate that covers the heart of believers protecting them from fear and despair.

Similarly, the helmet of salvation adds security to our mind. There are many Christians who don't really grasp their salvation in Christ. They fail to grasp that Jesus has paid for all their sins past, present and future. They fail to grasp that nothing in all creation can separate them from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus (Rom.8:38-39). The helmet of salvation again speaks of Christian security. Although Satan often attacks the minds of believers the helmet of salvation assures them that they are still secure in Christ. For Christians to really have the helmet securely fixed they must truly understand that the security of their salvation rests in Christ and not in themselves.

When Christians fail to grasp the assurance of their salvation in Jesus, it makes them liable yet again to Satan's use of lies and fear to enslave. When Christians start to believe they are not good enough they begin to give up. Or if Satan can convince Christians that they are losing the battle in a particular sin it can cause them to despair. But when Christians have the breastplate of righteousness firmly over their heart and the helmet of salvation securely upon their heads, they have assurance of salvation in Christ and do not give way to fear.

### **Shield of Faith**

The shield of faith is the main counter to fear. Since Satan uses fear to enslave people and control people, faith is the answer. Specifically, faith in God's Word. Faith is not only the way people are saved. Faith is also the way to live a Christian life that is pleasing to God. Christians need to be not only hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word (Jam.2:14-19). Christians who find themselves getting anxious or fearful about obeying some part of God's Word, must lift the shield of faith and fend off all the flaming arrows of irrational fear. At times this use of the shield will require an intentional choice of faith, that may be counter to everything we feel. Faith is trusting that God is good in all that he asks us to do regardless of how we feel about doing it.

### **Feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**

The gospel is the good news that all sinners can be saved by faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. If you believe Jesus died for your sins and ask God to forgive you – you will receive eternal life. Christians have been told that we must share this good news with everyone we can because people are perishing and will go to hell without faith in Jesus. The gospel message keeps Christians looking outwards towards the needs of others. Satan however tempts Christians and all people with a self-centered orientation of life. Satan appeals to the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Satan's temptation is always self-oriented and self-centered. But gospel feet are other-person centered and therefore counters Satan's temptation to self fulfilment.

### **Pray in the Spirit, be alert.**

It is worth noting that prayer is not actually listed as part of the armour. Nor is praying in the Spirit a particular type of prayer, like praying in tongues. Praying in the Spirit is simply normal Christian prayer whereby we commit all our anxieties in life to God (Phil.4:4-6). Paul writes in Romans; "the Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry "Abba Father." The Spirit himself testifies to our spirit that we are God's children." (Rom.8:15-16). Now thankfully as Christians pray, the Holy Spirit reduces their fears and anxieties by assuring them that they are God's children. The Spirit testifies to believer's spirits that they are God's children, perhaps even at a subconscious level; "Do not be afraid, for I am with you says the Lord."

Yet, prayer itself is not so much part of the armour as the general Christian way of life in which all the armour should be appropriated. It is only in a real relationship with God where believers call on Him as their Heavenly Father that they can expect victory in the battle. Even if God supplied a person with all the bits of the armour – the belt, the breastplate, the sandals, the shield, the helmet and the sword – it would be useless without a personal relationship with God. The answer to life's battle is not 6 pieces of armor, but God Himself. Only God can defeat Satan and so in all things Christians must rely on God to give them the victory. Prayer, by nature, is the humble acknowledgment that we need God's help in all things – even the putting on of the armour and the wielding of the sword and shield.

The final instruction is to be alert. It is not right for Christians to be ignorant or indifferent to spiritual warfare. Paul is adamant that our battle is not only against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. So, prayer and alertness are exhorted upon those who take God's word seriously. Christians must be mindful of Satan's schemes; his appeal to the desires of the flesh, his lying to us about what is good and his use of fear to manipulate us. Then grasping Satan's schemes believers should parry, block and at times even cut and thrust with the tools God has provided. Yet Christians do all this while remaining confident that Jesus has already won the battle, knowing they are totally secure in him.

### **Activities**

1. Why should a Christian not be afraid of the Devil and his schemes?
2. What do we learn about Satan from Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28?
3. Describe some of the Devil's schemes.
4. Satan is a liar. Explain how we see this in everyday life.
5. What is one of the greatest fears that Satan places in people?
6. How do we battle against the sins of the flesh?
7. Make a list of the elements in the armour of God, with a short summary under each heading.



# God is Truth



## What is Truth?

Truth is the opposite to a lie. It is fact or reality. It is an unchanging principle

Society is heading away from truth. Opinion is now recognized more than truth. But ideas coming from traditional Biblical values, such as beliefs about family, life and death, can no longer be tolerated.

The constitution of many 'Western' countries was founded on moral principles found in Christianity and Judaism. We call these values Judeo-Christian values. An example would be the Ten Commandments. Both Jewish and Christian faiths uphold these moral principles. Examples of governments upholding Judeo-Christian values in its foundation would be America, England and Australia. However, adherence to these values is breaking down in Western nations.

## What is the basis for Judeo-Christian values?

A belief in the God of the Bible, and that His book is our guide to Truth, for example:

- It is wrong to take another's life
- Traditional view of marriage – (It is ideal for children to have both a father and a mother.)
- Fair treatment of all individuals - (Love your neighbour as yourself)
- Freedom of religion - (God Himself has given us freedom to choose)

## The post-truth era

A Modern Philosopher has said, 'There is no truth. We should give up the search for truth because it all depends on how you see it.'

What did Jesus say?

"I am the way, the TRUTH and the life"

"You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free"

How do we know that Jesus is the Truth?

- The Bible tells us that Jesus and the Father together created the universe, (Gen 1:26)
- We can see from the order of creation that there must have been a Creator (Rom 1:20)
- Historical records (apart from the Bible) give evidence of the resurrection of Jesus, e.g., the empty tomb.
- We have an inner conscience that tells us right from wrong, (Rom 2:15)
- People who have accepted Jesus as the truth testify of personal experience.

## **What happens when people believe that truth is a matter of opinion?**

People try to pass lies as facts. Then other people start to believe their lies. Lying is no longer called lying.

*"The further a society drifts from Truth, the more it will hate those who speak it."* - George Orwell

## **Truth is the new hate speech**

People don't know what they believe. In modern society, people are too scared to challenge lies because they themselves do not know what to believe, or they are afraid to offend people with the truth.

## **How should Christians act in a post-truth era?**

We must set an example in the way we act and speak. We must know what is true and false; find out what is true before sharing it, e.g., on social media; we can ask God to show us what is true. We must stand up and fight for the truth.

Eph 6:12 For **our** struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Don't sit back and leave it to God. Fight with Him and speak out for Him.

## **Speak truth in love**

If we speak the truth without love we can come across as angry, bigoted, judgmental, harsh and unforgiving. However, if we just show love without speaking the truth, we are not standing for truth and not helping others to know the truth.

## **The West is now opposed to a belief in the true God. How did this happen?**

After World War 2, many Western nations introduced laws aimed at eliminating hatred and violence against Jews. Then nations passed laws to include other groups facing discrimination based on gender, colour and race.

More recently, more and more minority groups have convinced governments to pass more and more legislation banning discrimination against people on the grounds of race, gender, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language, birth, trade and sexual orientation.

Isn't this a good thing? At first glance, YES! It sounds OK, but it's the AGENDA we have to beware of. Laws passed to protect 'human rights' can be a way of deliberately restricting freedom of religion and expression.

*Problem:* What one person sees as hateful may not be seen by another person as hateful.

Many see our traditional values as hateful. Expressing Biblical values has become known as hate speech.

Anti-discrimination law is intended to protect the right of all people to be treated equally. This is a good thing, BUT what happens when some members of the community do not like the beliefs of another group? What one group sees as being right, the other group sees as being wrong. One group may lobby the government to pass laws to keep the other quiet – to stop them from expressing what they believe.

Although everyone is crying out for tolerance, the view of some of us will not be tolerated. Our Social Media posts and You Tube clips will get taken down. In our 'inclusive' society, anyone feeling, thinking or speaking in a non-inclusive way will be excluded.

### **Examples of hate-speech**

*Value: respect for human life*

Person opposing this value: a mother of an unborn child, (even at 9 months gestation), who wants her baby destroyed.

Hate speech against this person would be any attempt to speak up for the right of the child.

*Value: traditional view of marriage and family*

Person opposing this value: One who believes in the changing of the birth gender with sex hormones; or who believes in same-sex marriage and in adoption of children by homosexuals.

Hate speech against this person would be expressing the opinion that children should be raised in a traditional family.

### **Gender education in schools**

Anti-bullying programs in schools exist only for the protection of children who want to change their gender. Children are told that they have the right to change their gender if they feel like it. There is no respect for parents who do not want their children to participate. There is also no addressing of bullying of children who might be called fat, thin, stupid or any other names.

### **Hate speech becomes hate crime**

In the West now there are laws against hate speech and against “offense”. These laws are put in place by those who want to restrict religious freedom.

### **Is it wrong to offend anyone?**

Freedom of speech should include the freedom to offend.

### **Things we shouldn't hate**

- God and Jesus
- Truth
- Righteous living
- Other people

## Things we should hate

- Violence and murder
- Stealing, greed and dishonesty in business
- Lying and deceit
- Pride
- Idolatry
- False teaching and false religions
- Sexual immorality
- All sin

## Consequences of laws against hate speech

Laws against "hate speech" mean that those who break the law are guilty of "hate crime." People who commit "hate crime" can be thrown in jail or fined. This is not imagination. It's already happening in Western nations.

## Who is most valued in our modern society?

In an anti-God society, those with anti-God beliefs will be most valued. People who believe in God and His values will not be tolerated. Their differing opinions will be called "hate speech".

Everyone should be allowed to express their beliefs freely, no matter how much we disagree with a person's beliefs, ideologies and practice.

Let's stand up for Truth. Let's speak the truth in love, even when things are difficult to say.

**Reference:** The Death of Western Christianity, Patrick Sookhdeo

## Activities

1. If you were in charge of drawing up a constitution for a new country, which values would you choose? Make a list of 5.
2. Explain the meaning of Judeo-Christian values.
3. How can we know what is true and what is false?
4. Give three examples in our post-Christian society, of values that are not founded on truth.
5. What is hate speech? Give an example.
6. What is hate crime? Give an Example.
7. What is wrong with the statement; "This is MY truth."
8. How would you respond to a person who tells you that the earth is flat?
9. What is the meaning of tolerance?
10. Give an example of lack of tolerance in our society.

## Who is the true God?

Many people say, "I believe in God." But who is God? Can there be various expressions of God?

It is important for a person to identify their God. For most, God is a universal force, perhaps with greater-than-human powers. Many believe that this universal force can help them in pursuits, and perhaps contribute to self-healing through the power of the mind.

There is only one true God. He is a person who wants to have a relationship with us. God is a God who speaks to those willing to listen. How does He speak? Through divine revelation, through our thoughts, but always confirmed through God's written message to mankind, the Bible. There is only one true God – the God of the Bible.

So for those who believe in God the force, rather than God the person, they must identify their God as a different God to that of the Bible.

How small and powerless is mankind compared to the awesome powerful true God! Can a mere man or woman take control of their own life, their own circumstances through the power of the universe working within them? This is man/woman pretending to be above God; pretending to be in charge, with a bit of help from a force.

The true God requires complete submission to Him. Instead of saying, "I am in charge of my own life, with a bit of help from God the force," the true God demands that we say, "You are in charge of my life God, and I will go wherever you lead me. I will humble myself and admit that without you I am nothing."

How do we reach this position?

"Humble yourself under the almighty hand of God, and He will exalt you in due time." 1 Peter 5:6

"Cast all your cares onto the Lord, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7 - (Believe it)

"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

"For as many as received Him, (Jesus), to them He gave the power to become the Sons of God." 1 John 1:12

"I, (Jesus), am the vine, you are the branches. He that abides in me, I will abide in Him. For without me you can do nothing." John 15:5

In the western world there has been an explosion in interest in spiritual healing. There is an awareness that those who believe in a God, have a greater chance of being healed. The statistics prove this. But once again we must ask, which God?

Believe it or not, spiritual forces are real. At the foundation of the universe, God created.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

Prior to this there was a battle in the heavenly realm. An angel, Lucifer, originally created by God as a beautiful supernatural being, a servant of the Almighty God, became jealous of God’s power. He and a band of fallen angels were thrown out of heaven. They banded together and formed their own powerful force.

The Fall of Lucifer - Isaiah 14:12-15 (NKJ)

12 “How you are fallen from heaven,  
O Lucifer, son of the morning!  
How you are cut down to the ground,  
You who weakened the nations!  
13 For you have said in your heart:  
‘I will ascend into heaven,  
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;  
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation  
On the farthest sides of the north;  
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,  
I will be like the Most High.’  
15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,  
To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Together, Lucifer and his demons have been raging war against mankind, trying to blind them to the truth of the true God. Only the sacrifice of God’s Son, Jesus, cancelled the power of Lucifer and his angels over mankind. But because God gave mankind free will, He does not force His Son, His message, His truth, onto the people He created. It is up to each individual to search for truth with all their heart.

“Seek the Lord, and He may be found.” Isaiah 55:6

To find the true God requires humility and an open heart. It requires a willingness to read and accept the message God has provided for us in the Bible.

So what if a person says, “I believe in God”? How do we know whether or not they believe in the true God?

Does this person believe that God alone, by His supernatural power, created the heavens and the earth?

Does this person believe that God is a Person who wants to be intimately involved in the lives of individuals?

Does this person accept God’s forgiveness for personal sin, and have a desire to place the God of the Bible in control of their own life?

Unless a person answers ‘yes’ to all of the above questions, this person is following a different god.

A person following a different god, may see healings and may see miracles, but ultimately a pay-back will be required. This may come in the form of emotional problems, nightmares or family problems further down the track.

“I am the Lord your God...

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol...

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name.”

(Commandments 1,2,3 of the 10 commandments – Exodus 20:1-7)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.” Mark 12:30-31

“Choose this day whom you will serve.” – Joshua 24:15

## **The God of Israel and the god of Baal**

1 Kings 18:16-39

This is the account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal is recorded in 1 Kings 18. After Israel had gone more than three years without rain as a judgment for their idolatry, the prophet Elijah confronted the evil king Ahab and challenged him to a spiritual showdown. The king asked all Israel gather at Mt. Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of the false god Baal and the 400 prophets of the false goddess Asherah (verse 19).

On Mt. Carmel, Elijah said to the people of Israel, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21). The people said nothing. Elijah then challenged the prophets of Baal to prepare a bull as an offering for their god. Elijah would do the same—with this catch: they could light no fire on their altar. The God who answered with fire from the sky would be considered the true God (verses 22–25).

The people agreed that this was a good plan, and the prophets of Baal went first. The pagan prophets cried out and danced around their altar from morning till noon with no answer from Baal. Elijah began to mock them, saying, “Shout louder! . . . Surely Baal is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened” (1 Kings 18:27).

So the prophets of Baal “shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. Midday passed, and they continued their frantic display until the time for the evening sacrifice” (1 Kings 18:28–29). Despite hours of effort, nothing happened. (verse 29).

Elijah then called the people to him as he repaired the altar of the Lord. He used twelve stones and dug a trench around the altar. He then placed wood on the altar and laid the cut

pieces of the bull on it. Elijah then had the people douse the altar with twelve large jars of water. The water soaked the sacrifice and the wood and filled the trench (1 Kings 18:30–35).

Once the sacrifice was ready, Elijah prayed, “Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again” (1 Kings 18:36–37). Then God did what Baal could never do: the fire of the LORD fell from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, “and also licked up the water in the trench” (verse 38). The people of Israel bowed down and declared the Lord as God (verse 39).

Elijah then commanded the people to put the prophets of Baal to death, in keeping with God’s command in Exodus 22:20. Following this event, the Lord finally ended the drought and sent rain upon the land (1 Kings 18:45).

The miraculous event of fire from heaven was an answer to the prayer of Elijah. God was seeking to turn the hearts of His people back to Himself. He used a time of drought to get their attention and then, through His prophet, performed a dramatic miracle right before their eyes. No one who witnessed that event doubted that the Lord was God and that Baal was powerless. The repentance of the Israelites was soon followed by God’s provision of rain.



# The definition of Christianity

Read John 1:14, Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 28:1–6, and John 14:1–18

## THE BASICS

Christianity consists of specific truths from the Holy Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. The Bible is God’s complete revelation to man, and therefore any doctrine contrary to Scripture is non-Christian.

From the Biblical root word Christian, Christianity is defined as the collective movement of those who “believe in Jesus Christ and follow him.”

Without Jesus of Nazareth, Christianity would not exist. Jesus did not come to earth to establish a religious system or show us a way to God; he himself is the Way. He did not come just to tell us the truth; he is the Truth. Jesus also did not come just to give us life; he is the Life.

Christianity is not primarily a system of worship; it is a person: Jesus Christ. Christianity’s character is defined by the worship, honor, and obedience given to Jesus Christ by those who have faith in him.

Those who do not uphold basic Christianity are more accurately called pseudo- or even false Christians. We love them and pray that God will give them a clearer knowledge of himself and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Answer true or false.

- 1.1 Being a Christian implies being a follower of Jesus Christ.
- 1.2 You can believe anything you choose and still label your religion Christianity.
- 1.3 The Bible is the source document for the Christian faith.
- 1.4 Jesus Christ was simply a founder of a religious system.
- 1.5 Christianity is primarily about a person: Jesus Christ.

## Central Doctrines

Throughout the centuries, Christians have expressed their basic beliefs in Creeds, Articles of Faith, and other summaries.

An individual or group must adhere to these beliefs before being considered to be within the boundaries of Christianity. The following seven beliefs not only define Christianity, but serve as guidelines for testing the validity of Christian cults.

1. There is One and only One True God, revealed to us in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is known as the Trinity. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. Yet, there is only One God. This is the starting point of all Christian belief.

2. God the Son became man in Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus Christ is one with the Father (John 10:30), both truly God and truly man. John identifies him as being the incarnate Word who was with God the Father “in the beginning ...” “... the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

“... the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us ... full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). “... grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” (John 1:17). John claims Jesus Christ is God.

3. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross was for the forgiveness of our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3 and 1 Peter 2:24). Out of his love for us, Jesus of Nazareth, God incarnate, was crucified and bore the wrath of God in our place (John 3:16)

4. Jesus rose again from the dead (Acts 2:24). In his Resurrection, Jesus defeats sin and death. He proclaimed, “... I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” (John 11:25).

Paul reminds those who deny the bodily Resurrection of Jesus ...

“and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins”. (1 Corinthians 15:17).

Jesus is physically alive today, as both Messiah and LORD (Acts 2:36, Philippians 2:10–11).

5. God sent his Holy Spirit to the earth. Jesus assured his disciples, “And I will pray to the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever” (John 14:16). Those who do not believe in the current presence and ministry of God the Holy Spirit have deviated from Christianity.

6. Christ will, on some unknown day, return to earth in Glory to judge the living and the dead. This belief is central to the New Testament, based on Christ’s words: “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:3).

7. That the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, are the exclusive Word of God to man (2 Timothy 3:16). Jesus is the fulfillment of God’s prophecies, and Christians await no further revelation until the Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

These seven beliefs discern the validity of those who claim to be Christians. Those who deviate from any of these essential elements are non-Christian in their doctrine.

### **Complete these statements.**

1.6 Throughout the centuries, Christians have expressed their basic beliefs in

\_\_\_\_\_, Articles of Faith, and other basic summaries.

1.7 The basic and supreme Christian belief is the doctrine of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

1.8 Seven basic doctrines are essential to \_\_\_\_\_ .

1.9 The guidelines for identifying true Christianity can also be used to discern the \_\_\_\_\_ of those who claim to be Christian or followers of Jesus Christ.

**Complete this activity.**

1.10 In your own words, list each of the seven essential elements of the Christian faith.

**VALIDITY**

You must know what you believe and why you believe it. Your beliefs must be deeply rooted in the authority of the Trinity, Scripture, regeneration, and heritage.

**The Trinity**

The power of God is seen throughout history and the pages of Scripture. God created all that is and has sole authority over it. God loves his creation.

Jesus Christ is the fullest and most definitive revelation of God to man. After his Resurrection, he claimed, "... All power [authority] is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

The Holy Spirit is sent to us to exalt Christ, regenerate us, sanctify us and teach us to understand God.

**Scripture**

The God-given authority of the Scriptures is clearly seen in both its historical accuracy and the clear fulfillment of its prophecies within history.

Scripture contains the complete counsel of God concerning all things for his glory, man's salvation, faith, and life.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness ..." (2 Timothy 3:16).

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple" (Psalm 19:7).

**Regeneration**

All those whom Christ saves are regenerated, or given the Second Birth, which changes the direction of the heart toward God. Anyone who is regenerate can testify to the change of heart God gave them, from animosity and hatred towards God, to honoring and loving him.

**Answer these questions.**

- 1.11 How does the triune God validate the Christian faith?
- 1.12 Where is the authority of the Scriptures clearly seen?
- 1.13 How does regeneration give validity to the Christianity?

**Read Luke 9:49–50**

**TRUE AND FALSE CHRISTIANITY**

Categories exist within Christianity as well as within many other world religions. The three main categories are Roman Catholicism, the Orthodox churches (sometimes called “Eastern Orthodox” because of their origins in countries east of Western Europe such as Greece and Russia), and Protestantism. Most believers within these three main categories of Christians hold to basic Christian doctrine as explored previously. However, other groups attempt to convince people that they are Christian but do not hold to the basic doctrine. We call these latter groups pseudo-, or false Christians.

**Choose the correct answer.**

- 1.15 Within Christianity, there are different \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. theories      b. categories      c. basic beliefs      d. none of these
- 1.16 Most believers in the main categories of Christianity hold to \_\_\_\_\_ .  
a. no beliefs      b. many different beliefs      c. strange teachings      d. basic Christianity
- 1.17 Those who call themselves Christians but do not hold to basic Christian doctrine are \_\_\_\_  
a. Pagans      b. Buddhists      c. pseudo-Christians      d. nonbelievers

**Complete these activities.**

- 1.18 Name the three of the seven elements of basic Christianity.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.19 List the four main categories of Christianity.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_  
c. \_\_\_\_\_  
d. \_\_\_\_\_

1.20 What is the greatest difference between true and false Christians?

### **Denominations**

Different Christian churches are sometimes called denominations, such as Baptists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists, Anglicans and Pentecostals.

Certain beliefs and practices vary among the different denominations; but all hold to basic Christian truth claims.

# God is Lord and King



## Positions on the Rapture

Read Matthew 24:15-31; Matthew chapter 25

The doctrine of the rapture and the second coming of Christ is a very controversial topic in the church today. Scripture is not 100% clear on when the rapture and the second coming will be exactly. However, it is important to try and have a systematic understanding of what the Word of God says regarding this topic. It is important for every believer as we all fight to hold the faith and await the Lord's return.

### 3 Things Christians Agree On

1. There will be a tribulation with the coming of the antichrist, a false prophet, and a false teacher. The tribulation, (also called Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week), begins when the Anti-Christ signs a peace treaty with Israel. This is the beginning of the 7 years. The Great Tribulation however begins half way through – 3 ½ years from the signing of the peace treaty – when the Ant-Christ sets himself up in the temple and demands to be worshipped.
2. There will be a second coming of Jesus Christ.
3. There will be a rapture of believers where the believers will be caught up to meet the Lord.

Many Christians, however, disagree on when the rapture will happen.

### Why is the 7-year tribulation period also called Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week?

Read Dan 9:24 – 27 (Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week). The 70<sup>th</sup> week represents 7 years. This 7-year period has two seasons – firstly the outpouring of Satan's wrath, and secondly the outpouring of God's wrath. Only the second half of the 7 years is the Great Tribulation.

### What is the Rapture?

This is when those who are Christians will rise from the earth to meet the Lord in the air.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

### 4 Main Beliefs Regarding the Tribulation and Rapture

#### Pre-tribulation:

Those who hold this view believe that the Bible does not prophecy that the Church will be a part of the tribulation because the Church is no longer mentioned after Revelation 3. (The first 3 chapters are about the church and it is not mentioned again after that.) Those who hold the Pre-Trib view believe that Christians will be raptured prior to the 7-year tribulation period.

#### Mid-tribulation:

This position teaches that the Church will go through the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation, followed by the rapture, in the middle of the 7 years. The Church will, therefore, not endure the last 3.5 years, or the Great Tribulation.

**Pre-wrath position:**

The 7-year tribulation period, (Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week), begins when the peace treaty is signed, (called the beginning or sorrows). The Great Tribulation starts half way through the 7 years, (at the midpoint - 3 ½ years). The antichrist will set himself up and demand to be worshipped. (This is called the Abomination of Desolation – Read 2 Thess 2). Sometime after the midpoint there will be cosmic disturbances, (Joel 2:31 – Joel 2:30-32), then the rapture, followed by an outpouring of God's wrath upon the unsaved. This is very similar to the Mid-tribulation position, except that the rapture could happen towards the end of the second 3 ½ year period and not specifically at the midpoint.

Read Joel 2:31 – Joel 2:30-32 and Revelation 6:12. The cosmic disturbances, earthquake and darkness occur AFTER the Great Tribulation but BEFORE the Day of the Lord. (Day of the Lord represents God's wrath.)

After the cosmic disturbances comes the rapture – 1 Thess 4:15-17 – the Lord descends and we are caught up (before the Day of the Lord.) Then comes the outpouring of God's wrath.

**Post-tribulation:**

This position holds the belief that the Church will undergo the entire 7 years of the tribulation, followed by the rapture, and Christ's second coming at the end of the 7 years. Therefore, the rapture and Christ's second coming are the same event.

*Nobody knows for certain what will actually take place, but let's look at the Scriptures and compare the viewpoints*

**Reasons to Support the Post-Trib position:**

*The Post-Trib* position suggests that we will meet Him in the air while He is coming down. This is describing the second coming of Jesus when the rapture will take place.

The Bible talks about only one Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The Rapture and Christ's second coming are back-to-back in 1 Thess 4.

It states that Jesus' second coming is happening after the tribulation.

“...Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” Matthew 24:29-30.

It also states that Scripture does not indicate that the Church will skip the tribulation.

Those alive on earth at the beginning of the Tribulation will be faced with making a decision – to take the mark of the Beast or NOT to take it. Those who refuse will be severely

persecuted. They will be subject to Satan's wrath. However, the Scripture tells us that we will not be subject to God's wrath, which occurs at the 6<sup>th</sup> seal in Revelation, towards the end of the Tribulation. Perhaps this is when the Rapture happens.

### **Reasons to Support the Pre-Wrath positions:**

*The Pre-Wrath* position suggests that the rapture takes place shortly before the Second coming of Christ, just before God pours out his wrath on the world.

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

There will be a shout, a trumpet sounding, and the voice of an archangel when He comes. This verse also does not specify that we are going to heaven, but just that we will be with Jesus.

"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

### **Wrath of God**

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Thessalonians 5:9

Revelation 3:10 says, "...I will deliver you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the earth."

### **Both Post-Trib and Pre-Wrath positions believe that these Scriptures could mean ...:**

... either Christ will protect believers in the midst of the trials, or He will take the believers from the earth just before the outpouring of his wrath.

Examples of God's protection in the Old Testament:

Noah and his family were protected from the Flood.

Another example is the Israelites. God did not take Israelites out of Egypt during the 10 plagues; God protected Israel in Egypt as the plagues intensified.

Tribulation is the normal experience of believers in this age. Not experiencing affliction is a blessed exception that we should enjoy when we have it, but we should not count on it as if it were our right in Christ. We should always be ready to suffer for Christ and always be ready for Christ's return."

### **Reasons to support the Pre-Trib position:**

The Bible says that no one knows the day or the hour of Christ's return – only the Father, (Matthew 24:36)



The Great Tribulation begins when the Anti-Christ sets himself up in the temple and demands to be worshipped. If the Christians are still on earth at this time, (as they would for the Post-Trib and Pre-Wrath positions), they will be able to calculate the day and hour when Christ will return – it would be in 3 ½ years from when the Anti-Christ demands to be worshipped. Pre-Trib believers use this idea as the main supporting Scripture for their position. We should not be able to calculate the day or the hour.

However, the Pre-Wrath position still leaves the day and hour unknown, because it is not known exactly WHEN God’s wrath will be poured out. It will just be sometime towards the end of the second 3 ½ years.

The Pre-Trib believers do not count the Rapture as a second coming because Jesus’ feet do not touch the earth.

Regardless of which position you take ...

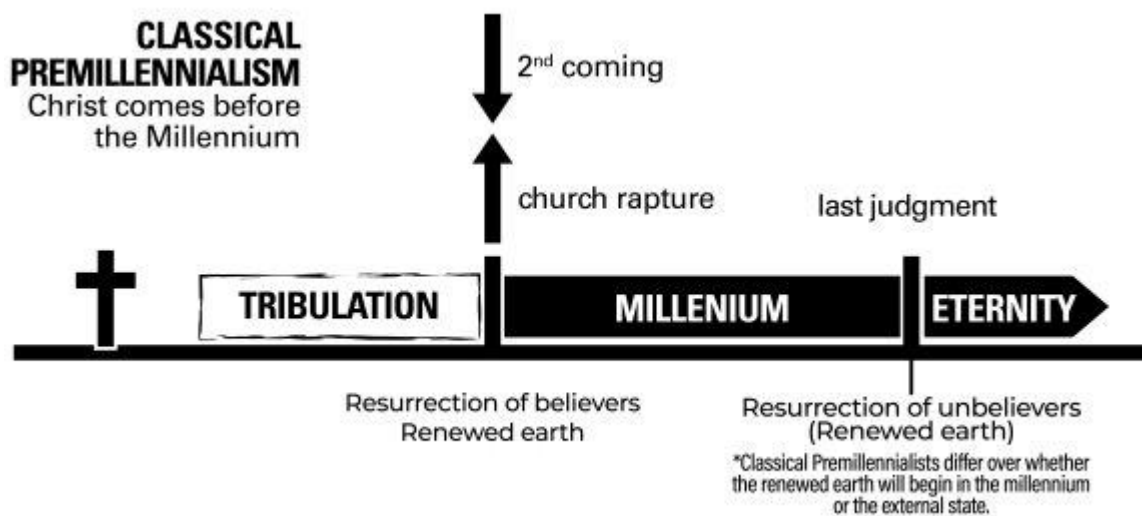
Jesus is coming. Tribulation is coming.

We will meet Him regardless of when it happens. We need to prepare for persecution and for tribulation, but we pray that we escape it.

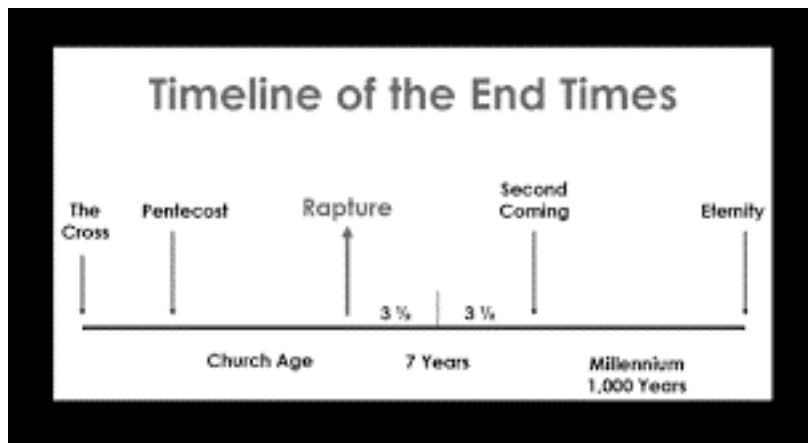
<https://pastorvlad.org/tribulation/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sr-A3-KQJIY> Michael Weis

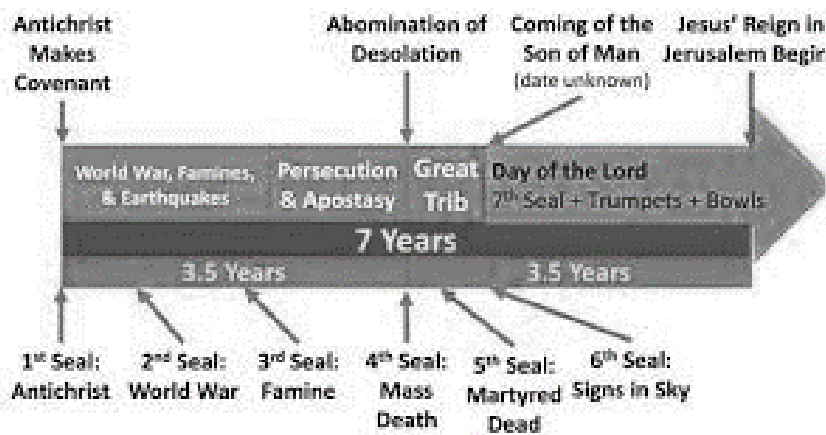
**Post-Trib position – rapture and Second Coming at the same time, after the Great Tribulation:**



**Pre-Trib Position – Rapture at the beginning of the 7 years (Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week):**



**Pre-Wrath Position – Rapture somewhere in the second half of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> Week, after the cosmic disturbances, or the 6<sup>th</sup> seal in Revelation 6:12:**



**Pre-Trib and Mid-Trib Comparison:**

