

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE ARRIVAL OF THE ANTICHRIST

RLJ-1633

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PART 1: THE SECRET RAPTURE

THE WORLD IN 1966

When I came back to Christ in 1966, I knew very little about future events as predicted in the Bible. I spent three and a half years at Central Baptist Church in Salt Lake City, which was part of the Southern Baptist Convention, and while there was some teaching on the Antichrist, most of the emphasis was given to the second coming of Jesus.

We weren't concerned about the arrival of the Antichrist during our lifetime.

2018 – 51 YEARS LATER

The world was a lot different when I started seminary in the fall of 1969:

- ❖ All the telephones were rotary style. There were public telephone booths everywhere in the cities and at all gasoline stations.
- ❖ Audio recordings were made on reel-to-reel tape recorders.
- ❖ Music was recorded on vinyl albums.
- ❖ Many people still had only black and white television sets; color was available but it was very expensive.
- ❖ All television programming came from local stations via antenna. Cable television was just getting started.
- ❖ Video cameras recording on videotape had just come on the market, but most people still used 8mm movie cameras.
- ❖ All typing was carried out on typewriters; carbon paper was used between multiple sheets of paper if more than one copy was needed.
- ❖ Every church had a mimeograph which used a typed stencil to make copies for the congregation.
- ❖ Offices used black and white photocopiers for duplication.
- ❖ All commercial printing was done on ink presses, using photo static aluminum plates.
- ❖ There were no personal computers yet; instead, there were IBM punch card processors.
- ❖ There were no bar codes on merchandise in the stores.
- ❖ Very few people had a credit card. It was common to use cash and checkbooks. It took about four days for a check to clear the bank and many people did what was called "check kiting" where they knowingly wrote a check with insufficient funds and hoped to get the necessary money to cover the "hot check" before it bounced.



INSUFFICIENT TECHNOLOGY

The Antichrist is going to control the nations of the world and create a financial system in which no man can buy or sell unless he has the Antichrist's mark of loyalty in his right hand or forehead. We knew in the 1960's that the technology would not support such a system. **Revelation 13:15-18**

As a result, we weren't worried about what would happen to us if we had to live under the Antichrist. We were having a good time with the Jesus movement in the late 1960's and the huge charismatic revival that dominated our churches through the 1970's.

A CHANGE WAS COMING

Technology began to develop faster in the 1980's.

- ❖ A new gadget called the "beeper" was introduced and people of importance began to wear them. These devices connected to cell towers and allowed someone to page the person with the device. The beeper would display a callback number and the person would look for the nearest phone booth to call the number displayed.
- ❖ Cell phones were introduced by 1985, consisting of a regular handheld telephone receiver hooked up to a transmitter, powered by a large battery. The entire set came in a case and weighed about 2 lbs. Using a cell phone was very expensive and I remember people racking up a huge bill of several hundred dollars and not being able to pay it.
- ❖ Shortly after this we were introduced to a word processor, where we could type a document on a primitive computer disc. The stored text could also be edited and printed on continuous-form paper. We thought this was fantastic because it had a built-in spelling program and pages of text no longer had to be retyped to correct simple errors and projects could be worked on, stored, and then retrieved for use later on.
- ❖ This was followed by the first personal computers (PCs) in the late 1980's. They cost \$3,000 and had a speed of 60 MHz. We were elated as we abandoned our expensive IBM typewriters and word processors.
- ❖ The 1990s ushered in the Internet and the technological development we have today. The system for the Antichrist is in place and population control is now possible. It is impossible to function without a personal number today; in the United States it is called a Social Security Number and known as a personal number throughout the rest of the world.

THE SECRET RAPTURE TEACHING

Have you ever given any thought to who will arrive first: Jesus or the Antichrist?

I'm sure you've heard expression that "Jesus can arrive at any moment, so it is important to be ready." This is a sentimental false teaching that has permeated the Christian churches and dates back to a Jewish Jesuit priest named Manuel Lacunza (1731-1801). He was responsible for introducing the "secret rapture" teaching and wrote a book called "The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty" in which he stated that

Jesus would come back before the Antichrist is revealed and secretly remove all Christians from the earth.

After the book was published in Spanish and circulated for a number of years, the leadership at the Vatican took notice and banned it in 1819.

A copy of the book was given to Pastor Edward Irvin (1792-1834) in London, England, who had it translated into English and began to push this false teaching of the rapture.

Irving published the book in 1827 and it was in turn picked up by a British evangelist named John Nelson Darby (1800-1882). When he came to the United States to establish the American version of the Plymouth Brethren, he was introduced to Cyrus Scofield (1843-1921) and passed on the heretical rapture teaching to him.

Scofield was a pastor from Dallas, Texas and the author of the Scofield Bible. He adopted the rapture teaching and promoted it in his infamous bible. Scofield managed to worm himself into the life of the American evangelist D.L. Moody and convinced Moody of a secret rapture. Moody was at the end of his life, but the teaching found its way into the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and this became a main doctrinal teaching of the bible school. It was also spread to its affiliate, BIOLA, in Los Angeles.

Scofield was the mentor to evangelist/pastor Lewis S. Chafer (1871-1952), who took over the First Congregational Church in Dallas when Scofield died in 1921. Chafer founded Dallas Theological Seminary in 1924 and one of the main doctrines is the secret rapture.

Harold (Hal) Lindsey was born in 1929 and he worked for a while as a captain on a tugboat after high school. Later he got saved and became a radical Christian during the Jesus movement. He felt called to enter the ministry, got a degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, and unsurprisingly, became a fanatic of the secret rapture. He wrote a bestselling book "The Great Late Planet Earth" in 1969 and I was one of the millions that bought the book and adopted the teaching of the secret rapture without checking to see if it was true.

The secret rapture went from a fringe teaching in the 19th century to becoming a major doctrine by the 1970's in Baptist, Pentecostal, and Evangelical churches. It subsequently spread all over the world with the Jesus people revival in the 1960's, the Charismatic movement in the 1970's and by evangelists like Billy Graham, Rex Humbard, Jimmy Swaggart and scores of others.

The teaching however was not embraced by mainline denominations like the Presbyterians, Methodists, Lutherans and Episcopalians, etc.

I had a rude awakening in 1979 when I met Pastor Gordon Ginn and he taught me how the secret rapture is a hoax. When I had my eyes opened and traced the origin of this satanic teaching to a Kabbalistic Jew/Jesuit priest named Lacunza, I became angry with myself for being so gullible to believe such a lie.

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT

What does the Bible teach on the secret rapture?

1. Jesus taught that His second return would be known on a worldwide scale.
Matthew 24:23-27
2. Jesus never stated that He would remove His followers prior to the coming of the Antichrist. On the contrary, the tribulation period would be shortened for the elect's sake. **Matthew 24:21-22**
3. Jesus told us about the Abomination of Desolation standing in the temple in Jerusalem. **Matthew 24:14-20**
4. There will be a catching away (rapture) when Jesus comes back, but Paul did not state the rapture will take place prior to the coming of the Antichrist.
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
5. On the contrary, Paul said that Jesus will not return until the Antichrist has set up his reign on the earth. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-13**
6. Jesus made it clear that the Antichrist will make war with the Christians on earth.
Revelation 13:2-9
7. The description of Jesus' second return tells us that the Son of God will first deal with is the Antichrist and the false prophet. **Revelation 19:11-21**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?