

# BIBLE EXPLORER

# News

"Featuring News That Shouldn't Be News But Is News"

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Online Newspaper



## THINGS NON-PENTECOSTALS DON'T KNOW

— About The Rapture & *The Magic Twins*<sup>SM</sup> —

rap-7

#rap-7— **Online NEWSpaper** "RAPTURE" series. Each editorial builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.

From #rap-6—

*The trumpet of the seventh angel* at Revelation 11:15 is the last trump at 1 Corinthians 15:52. It is called *the trump of God* at 1 Thessalonians 4:16.



Whenever difficult times come, some Bible "expert" announces, "Get ready! Jesus is coming soon!" With each new crisis at least one of them is convinced that it's either the beginning of The Tribulation or the time immediately before it. Here are some examples—

Adolf Hitler presided over the slaughter of ten million Christians and six million Jews. The USSR's Joseph Stalin killed almost 20 million people. Prime Minister Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge killed a full third of Cambodia's people from 1975-1979.

Francisco Solano López Carrillo, president of Paraguay from 1862 until he died in 1870, presided over the killing of more than 90% of that country's male population—and more than half of the total population, including members of his own family.

Add to those the atrocities of China's Mao TseTung, Belgium's King Leopold II, the USSR's Vladimir Lenin, China and Taiwan's Chiang Kaishek, Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam, Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un of North Korea, Iraq's Saddam Hussein, Italy's Benito Mussolini, Yugoslavia President Tito and Uganda's Idi Amin.

And have you read about the bloodcurdling human torture of Medieval times? 1,000s of people were stretched without mercy until they were separated from their arms and legs. Many were also impaled on long wood stakes in the ground and left in the open to die slowly.

And let's not forget the tens of thousands of Christians in the Middle East and North Africa who're currently getting raped, burned alive, beaten, beheaded and drowned, etc.

- ① Were the Christian victims of those atrocities fully convinced that each tyrant *du jour* was the AntiChrist and they were experiencing The Great Tribulation?
- ② Had preachers assured them that they'd get raptured up to Heaven before anything really, really bad would start happening to them?
- ③ How might their survivors respond to the notion that we Christians in the U.S. Bible Belt region are *special*? "We're gonna get raptured!"

④ Might there be a similar episode in the future of the U.S.A.? If so, what do you think might prompt God to respond differently?

You may agree that most of the victims of those evil tyrants were probably good people. Many Christians among them were possibly familiar with the words of 1 Corinthians 10:13, "...God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]."

We are to take comfort in the knowledge that there WILL be a way of escape and that we WILL be able to bear it. To bear it or not to bear it, then, becomes a personal choice. The Psalm 27:5 mindset is worthy—

*For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me...*

And there's the familiar Psalm 23—

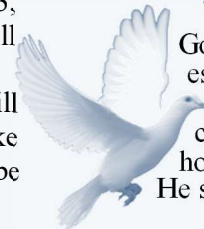
*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou [art] with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

He didn't remove Daniel from the lions' den. He didn't keep those three Hebrew boys out of that fiery furnace, either.

Might the rapture theorists have missed the significance of Jesus' prayer at John 17:15?

*I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*



God's M.O. is firmly established: He does not remove His children from the horrors of tribulation; He sustains them in it.

If you have ever asked a preacher when Jesus is coming back, you may have heard something a lot like, "Well, dear sister, you know nobody knows the day or the hour when Jesus will come back. In fact, Jesus doesn't even know that: only God, the Father, knows."

**This Is The Good News—**

Jesus will come back to gather His just-spontaneously-changed<sup>G-236</sup> followers. While it's also true that He doesn't know the exact day or hour for that event, He clearly knows the precise timing within the final sequence of end-time events for it.

He made that clear in His narrative at chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew and chapter 13 of Mark and chapter 21 of Luke.

