

BIBLE EXPLORER

News

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Online Newspaper

RAP-3

THINGS NON-PENTECOSTALS DON'T KNOW

— About The Rapture & *The Magic Twins*™ —

#rap-3— Online NEWSpaper "RAPTURE" series. Each editorial builds on the aggregate foundation of all the previous ones.



From #rap-3—

Dispensationalism is the primary culprit behind the error that continues to characterize our current crop of end-time-prophecy super preachers. But people will continue to *heap unto themselves teachers...*

From the library of my late father, I have a book entitled "88 REASONS Why The Rapture Will Be In 1988." Its author was Edgar C. Whisenant, a retired-from-NASA electrical engineer. Its sequel, "89 REASONS Why The Rapture Will Be In 1989," was not far behind it.

The book's publisher, World Bible Society, distributed it to evangelical churches across the globe. There was a profusion of hyperspiritual confirmation of Whisenant's prophecy. With Pentecostals, that took the form of *messages in tongues from God to the church...* "Thus sayeth the Lord, thy God!"

Dispensationalism was at the heart of it—intellectually and emotionally appealing. How else might one characterize the seduction of Eve in the garden?

If you find our wording of that question curious, perhaps this will help to explain it:

^ "But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived^{G-1818} by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray...if you receive a different spirit...or a different gospel...you put up with it easily enough. But I do not think I am in the least inferior to those 'super apostles.' I may not be a trained speaker, but I do have knowledge..."

—2 Corinthians 11:3-6 [NIV]

^{G-1818} The KJV word, here, is "beguiled." Per Strong's Concordance, the original Greek means "wholly seduced."

Within the "expert" camp of all professions, the passion to be the FIRST to discover a new thing is even more extreme than for all the rest of us who are not "experts." But all those folk are creatures of Human Nature (the Sin Nature), too! Satan – the most highly intelligent, ever, of all created beings – is fully aware of that substantial weakness. He takes full advantage of it, too.

That helps us to understand how and why lots of really smart guys like Edgar Whisenant and, yes, even John Nelson Darby, are so easily and thoroughly seduced by the Father of Lies.

Satan further leverages that weakness by causing "experts" to buy-in to their own hype.

The more they repeat that hype, the more they believe it. The more they believe it, the more convincing it becomes to others who both admire them and have "itching ears." Along with more praise and admiration emerges a firmly entrenched deception that sounds and feels a lot more "religious" than Truth.

"It can't be wrong when it feels so right!"

Thomas Sowell said this—

Much of the social history of the Western world over the past three decades has involved replacing what worked with what sounded good.

Might it also be true in matters of faith and doctrines?

This may not be the single most common false premise of the current cadre of pre-Trib and mid-Trib Rapture *experts*, but it clearly reigns as one of them: It is the presumption that the founding of the current nation of Israel must play a pivotal role in calculating the season for Christ's return to gather the saints unto Himself.

Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 record Jesus' initial response to His closest friends' question, "How can we know when you'll come back?" He made sure they (and we) would understand that no man, nor any angel from Heaven, nor even He could know the precise day or hour for that glorious event.

But He did disclose the seasons and the sequence of observable events that we must anticipate. Most of the *experts* appear not to know that He also gave us some truly marvelous and clear ILLUSTRATIONS of how things will be. The most significant of those are the ones He shared at Matthew 25.

All the sermons we have heard treat those Matthew 25 parables as if they are something less than illustrations that He presented to help us understand His Matthew 24 narrative. We plan to address that shortly...

And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

— Luke 21:29-32

Those *experts* who will be proven wrong repeatedly, never mention that phrase, "and all the trees," at Luke 21:29. Could it be Human (the Sin) Nature that prompts them to prefer the words of Matthew 24:32 & Mark 13:28, because they really, really want that fig tree to be Israel?

