

**THE PROPHETIC CLOUDS FORMING THAT SUGGEST
WE MAY BE VERY NEAR THE RAPTURE**

p. 1

One of the greatest Biblical scholars of Biblical prophecy was Dr. John Walvoord, who was the second President of Dallas Seminary. Dr. Walvoord died December 20, 2002. In the final week of Dr. Walvoord's life, he told his son that to understand Bible prophecy you need to have a thorough and careful understanding of five books of the Bible - Daniel, Matthew, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, Revelation. Much of what you are about to hear in this study comes from those five books.

When Jesus Christ was here on earth, His life and ministry was primarily aimed at Israel. He travelled throughout Palestine presenting Himself as the God/Savior/Messiah/King of Israel and He did many miraculous things proving He was who He claimed to be. In fact, in our study of Biblical miracles, we specifically catalogued 38 major miracles connected to Jesus Christ that proved He was the God/Savior/Messiah/King. But Israel rejected Him. As the Apostle John said, "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him" (John 1:11). So eventually Jesus said to Israel, "you will not see Me until you say, blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD" (Matt. 23:39). What we know from studying Scripture is that to get Israel to acknowledge this about Jesus Christ, will take a horrific Tribulation that will be dominated by the Antichrist who will try to exterminate Jews all over the world. In fact, when this happens, according to Zechariah, 2/3rds of the Jews will die (Zechariah 13:8).

In the course of His ministry to Israel, He said something to His disciples that went right over their head. He said, "I will build My Church" (Matthew 16:18). He used a future tense, first person singular, indicative mood verb (οικοδομησω). What He said to them was at some future time (future tense), not now, it is a fact (indicative mood) that I will build My church (first person singular). So when Christ was here on earth presenting Himself to Israel, the church was not yet in existence, but it would come into existence at some future time. That is what Jesus said.

Now when we use the noun "church," most people tend to think of a building where religious people assemble. Most people think of some religious sect or denomination. But that was not what Jesus meant.

What Jesus meant is at some point in the future, I am going to bring people together into My body and form My family through faith in Me. They will be a unique family of individuals, from all backgrounds and all nations, who have believed in Me and been saved from their sins. In fact, Jesus said this union would be so dynamic that "you will be in Me and I will be in you."

So to actually be part of the church, one must have been called out from the world into the family of God by faith in Jesus Christ. One must be in Christ by faith in Christ. The moment one believes in Jesus Christ, that person is put into the body of Jesus Christ and the family of God. Jesus said to His disciples, the living dynamic organism that will make one part of My entire body will be the Holy Spirit, who will not come until I am gone back up into heaven (John 14:16-17; 16:7-13).

Now when Christ ascended back up into heaven after His resurrection, these disciples had no clue or thought as to anything He said about the church. Jesus told them that they were to stay in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit and their response was this, “Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6). So those disciples were not thinking anything about the church at that time, they were still thinking about God’s program with Israel.

The disciples did understand that Jesus Christ had a plan and program for Israel, but what they did not understand is that Jesus Christ had a plan and program for the church. They knew about Israel, but they did not know about the church. God has one program for Israel and He has another program for the Church. The Church is not Israel and Israel is not the Church.

Christ had taught them much about God’s program with Israel. The central gospel that gives us those teachings about Israel is Matthew. One of the things Jesus taught them is that He will eventually come back and establish His kingdom with Israel. He will return a second time and just before He does return, there will be a series of very precise signs that will precede His second coming. Those signs will be in a specific chronological order. Those signs are carefully and systematically spelled out in Daniel 9, 11-12; Matthew 24-25; Revelation 6-19. In these chapters God reveals the specific signs that will lead to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Let me carefully and clearly define what the Bible means by second coming of Jesus Christ. **The first coming of Jesus Christ was the first time He was here with His feet on this earth in the land of Israel. The second coming of Jesus Christ will be the second time He comes here and puts His feet on this earth in the land of Israel.** All of those prelude signs in Daniel, Matthew and Revelation specifically reveal what to look for just prior to Jesus Christ’s second coming to Israel.

Well what about the church? If the church is not Israel and Israel is not the church, then what will happen to us? Are there things we are to spot? What are we to look for and how will it end for us? Dr. Charles Feinberg, a Jewish Bible scholar in the mid 1900’s, made a very important observation when he said, “We must not seek the data for this truth in the Old Testament, because even in Christ’s day, He spoke of the building of the Church as a matter yet future in time (Matt.16:18)” (*Jesus the King is Coming*, p. 27).

God has a future program for Israel and God has a future program for the Church and before God finishes His program with Israel, He will finish His program with the Church. The entire prophetic program of God, with both Israel and the Church, is focused on the return of Jesus Christ. In fact, John said in Revelation “Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev. 19:10). Jesus Christ is the whole prophetic program of God. The Bible is very clear on this point - Jesus Christ is going to return to finish the program with Israel and He will return to finish the program with the Church.

As Dr. Feinberg said, you cannot find prophecy about the Church in the O.T., so that means we must look into the N.T. There are at least 21 specific New Testament passages that state that Jesus Christ will come back and get His Church (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; I Cor. 1:7; I Cor. 16:22; Phil. 3:20; I Thess. 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; II Thess. 2:1; II Tim. 4:1; 4:8; Titus 2:13; James 5:7-8; I Pet. 1:7; 5:4; I John 2:28; 3:2; Rev. 22:7; 22:12; 22:20).

If we carefully examine all of these passages, what we conclude is that Jesus Christ has promised that He will personally descend from heaven and will appear in the sky and catch up His Church in the air to be with Him (I Thessalonians 4:16-17). He will not put His feet on the ground in Israel at this time, but will take His family up into the clouds to meet Him and then take them back to heaven. **This is called in theology the Rapture of the Church.**

The actual English theological word Rapture is a Latin derivative of the Greek verb “harpazo” (αρπαζω), which means to snatch away or catch up and to carry up and away (G. Abbott-Smith, *A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament*, p. 60). That Greek verb is found in I Thessalonians 4:17 and it is translated “caught up.”

Now there are two specific passages of the twenty one passages of Scripture that we want to cite that have to do with this moment:

Passage #1 - The first text is one that comes directly from Jesus, Himself, in John 14:1-3:

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”

What Jesus says is, the key to not having your heart troubled is to believe in God and believe in Me as God’s Son and Me as your God Savior. In God the Father’s house, which is heaven, are many dwelling places and I am going there and I am going to prepare a place for you. The pronoun “you” is plural, referring more than to just this group. Then I will come back and get you and take you there.

Two times in these verses, Jesus uses a verb “prepare” (ετοιμαζω). That verb is one that really presents the idea of constructing a place from the foundation up (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 183). The plural pronoun “you” is intensive. So what Jesus promises is that He has designed a place for every one of His family members and at some point, He will come back and get them and take them there.

Now I want to read the words of Dr. Charles Feinberg, which he wrote back in 1975: “Our day witnesses a greater manifestation of troubled hearts and spirits than probably any other generation. Psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, both secular and pastoral, are unable to cope with the great backlog of those who need help. It is one thing to command an untroubled heart, but how is it to be achieved? The Lord immediately states the method.

The antidote is faith in God. That will lift up the spirit, stabilize the heart and settle the mind. But Christ adds more. Amazingly, He states that as they believe in God, they are to believe in Him. Was there ever a more direct and unequivocal statement of His deity?" Dr. Feinberg then says belief in God and in Jesus Christ "is the cure for depression" (*Jesus the King is Coming*, pp. 28-29).

Believe in God and in Jesus Christ and your heart will not be so troubled. What Jesus said is I am going to My Father's house in heaven and I will come back and get My family and take My family there. **Now whether or not you believe that is up to you, but that is what He said.**

Passage #2 - The second text is one that comes indirectly from Jesus Christ-I Thess.4:15-17 Paul says he received this prophetic data "by the word of the Lord" (v. 15).

In other words, Paul got this information directly from Jesus Christ and he wrote it down for the church. What Paul writes is this:

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ shall 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 so we shall always be with the Lord."

So what Jesus Christ told Paul to tell the Church is that He will Rapture the Church and take it up out of the world to heaven? He will not put His feet on the ground when He does this, but He will cause His family to meet Him in the sky.

So for national Israel the promise is one day He will come back and put His feet on the ground in Israel and give her the land. The promise for the Church is that one day He will come back in the sky and catch His people up into the sky and take them to heaven.

Now when we carefully study the Old Testament prophetic books, and Matthew and Revelation, we learn that there are specific signs to look for just before Christ's second coming to Israel.

But the question we ask is, are there specific things to look for as a prelude to the Rapture? Are things taking shape right now that would indicate we could be very near the Rapture of the Church and if so, what are the things for which we should look?

Dr. Walvoord said, "One of the neglected areas of prophetic study is that pertaining to the end of the church age. The assertion is often confidently made that there are no signs of the Rapture of the Church, as it is presented everywhere in Scripture as an imminent event. Therefore, it is argued, we should be looking for the coming of the Lord, rather than for signs that precede, as the rapture of the church is before the time of the Tribulation in Scripture" (John F. Walvoord, *The Church In Prophecy*, p. 49). But then Dr. Walvoord writes: "If it can be demonstrated, however, that this present world situation is in fact a preparation for the events that will follow the rapture, it may safely be concluded that the rapture itself may be very near.

The signs of the approaching end of the age are in incidental or obscure factors in the current world situation, but rather stem from major events and situations which are comparatively recent. ...it is safe to say that never before in the history of the church has there been more evidence that the end of the age is at hand” (*Ibid.*, p. 166).

Now we believe that there are many prophetic clouds forming that do indicate we are very near the Rapture. We would like to discuss **seventeen prophetic clouds forming right now:**

Prophetic Cloud #1 - There will be a rejection of the Bible and Biblical truth. II Thess. 2:3

There will be a departure from the truth of the Word of God and there will be a heretical intensification of apostasy. Actually the word “apostasy” means to depart away and lead away from truth (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*. p. 71).

The Apostle Paul says there will be an “apostasy” that will come first before the Rapture (II Thess. 2:3). Paul says that prior to the Rapture and prior to the revealing of the Antichrist “apostasy comes first.” Paul did not say apostasy may happen first, he said it will happen first. Paul said the time will come when people will not endure sound doctrine (II Tim. 4:2), but Timothy’s responsibility was to preach it and teach it anyway.

Now Apostasy is not the same as theological ignorance or naïve error. Apostasy is a deliberate departure and rejection and even opposition of Biblical truth. We could give many examples, but one certainly is abortion. God says He forms life and gives life and we have political leaders who say we don’t care what the Bible says, if you want to it is okay to abort and kill life. In fact, right now in this state you can’t go down certain aisles in a store or go out on a boat but you can go to a clinic and kill a baby. It used to be that the Bible was esteemed in schools and universities. Now, it is rejected and replaced by evil literature that doesn’t tell the truth.

There are three specific forms of apostasy specifically mentioned in the word of God that will exist just prior to the Rapture.

1) Apostates do not accurately handle the Bible. **Gen. 3:1; II Pet. 3:16**

Apostates do not carefully, systematically and exegetically study to rightly handle the Bible. The Apostle Peter, in a context of the return of the Lord, said that there are ministers who are untaught and unstable who distort and twist the Scriptures to their own destruction (II Pet. 3:16). The beginning of this kind of apostasy started in the Garden of Eden when Satan said to Eve, “has God said” (Gen. 3:1). Apostates use the Bible, but they do not handle it accurately.

When I traveled from Dallas to Fort Lauderdale, I sat next to a jet pilot who flies the big jets and for two hours we discussed things, and for one of those hours we discussed Jesus Christ and the Bible. He told me that he was a believer in Jesus Christ. I asked him when you get into a Jet cockpit do you follow a systematic order or just wing it and just start punching buttons. He said no, I carefully follow a systematic order. When I shared with him how the Bible was to be handled, he said I have never been in a church where they do that. Frankly, he had been in churches that taught things that weren’t even sound or true. One church tried to put him back under the O.T. law.

How many churches do you know that very carefully and systematically teach the Scriptures in a verse by verse, contextual, exegetical way? That is what Apostates do; they do not study the Bible and accurately handle it. Since the vast majority of churches are not carefully studying the Bible systematically, we think it is a clear evidence that we are very near the Rapture.

2) Apostates reject the doctrine of the Trinity. **I John 2:22-23**

John said who is a liar, the one who denies Jesus is the Christ/Messiah?... the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father. Jesus said if you have seen Me you have seen the Father. Apostates deny the fact that there is a Trinity—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

This is proved by the first verse in the Bible which says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” The noun God is the plural Elohim in Hebrew, the verb created (bara) is third person singular in Hebrew. Explain that. Only one explanation, one God comprised of three distinct Persons.

Muslims don't believe that. Mormons don't believe that. Jehovah's Witness don't believe that. Most of the religions of the world don't believe that. Why? They are Apostate religions dominating the world, which means we are near the end.

3) Apostates reject the true identity of Jesus Christ-

The Bible predicts that just before the Rapture, there will be an increase of false religious teachers who will introduce false heresy among people (II Pet. 2:1). One thing apostate religions do is attack the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

A. Apostates deny Jesus Christ is God. I John 4:1-3

John says you need to be very careful about what you believe because there are some very demonic religious people who deny the Deity of Jesus Christ.

We have in our government those who think Mohammed, who was a child rapist and murderer and liar, is a better prophet and person than Jesus Christ. We have in our government Mormons who say Jesus Christ is the brother of Satan.

These people, according to John, are not just distorted; they are demonic because demonic people deny Jesus Christ is God, the second member of the Trinity.

B. Apostates deny Jesus Christ alone is the Redemptive Savior- II Pet. 2:1; Phil. 3:18

Peter says they “deny the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.” Apostates will deny the Lord is the one who paid the price for their sins. They deny that His redemptive work on the cross is the only thing that can save them. They will promote works and religion that can save you from your sin. Apostates believe they can save themselves by their works and religion.

They make up rituals and traditions that they claim can take you to heaven. They deny that Jesus Christ is the only one who can save them.

C. Apostates deny Jesus Christ is the Messiah who did come to this earth - II John 7

John says apostates deny Jesus is the Messiah who came to this earth. When you look at this world it is clear that most religions of the world are apostate religions. They are not carefully teaching the truth. It is a sound indication, we are nearing the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #2 - There will be an expansion and explosion of lawlessness. II Thess. 2:7

Paul said in the context of discussing the Rapture and Tribulation that “the mystery of lawlessness is already at work” (v. 7) and it will continue to work until the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way and then lawlessness will break loose in full force. There is a mysterious lawless spirit that exists right now. People hate authority and defy it. Look at the media and the way they talk to the President of the United States. When I was in the media back in the 70’s, there was a respect for the President even if we didn’t agree with him. Not now. There is an arrogance and a defiance to authority.

Let me ask you a question and be honest in your answer. Have you ever seen a time in history when lawlessness has been worse? In our church we have several retired police officers and every one of them has told me we are so glad we are retired because we could not cope with the lawlessness today. Police are not respected, law officers are not respected, they are mocked and attacked and what is so sad is that some of those in power side with the lawless people. That says we are near the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #3 - There will be a denial of the soon return of Jesus Christ. II Pet. 3:3-4

Peter says most people will basically laugh at the idea that Christ will soon return just before He returns. That thought won’t phase them or change them.

Peter says as we near the end of the church “mockers will come following their own lusts and say where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”

Dr. Walvoord pointed out something significant on this verse. He said when these people say everything is just as it is since the beginning, they are lying. That is not true. There have been many times when God has intervened in history and put a stop to things or done destructive things. He said the entire word of God testifies that God does intervene in human events both naturally and supernaturally. So that is an outright lie (*The Church in Prophecy*, p. 61).

It is interesting that Paul specifically brings out the fact that the believers who will be rewarded not only believe in the soon return and Rapture of the Lord, they look for it and love the thought of it - II Tim. 4:8. It will not be the majority who will be anticipating the Lord’s return.

Now we are living in a time when not only do people laugh at the idea of Christ returning, but they don't even want to hear about it. Not long ago I said to someone, I think Christ will soon return and their response was they have been saying that for a long time.

Prophetic Cloud #4 - There will be a coldness and indifference to the word of God in many Churches. **Revelation 3:7-22**

In the book of Revelation, there are seven churches that form somewhat of a chronology of the history of the church age. There is a church that is described that exists after the Rapture and it is a church of Laodicea. The church was not serious about God's word and Jesus Christ and God says I will spit it out of my mouth.

Dr. Walvoord said the church has been taken over by worldliness. The lives of the people in church are no different than those out of the church. He said prayer meetings are poorly attended and we may add, most people no longer go to church to hear a careful exposition of God's word

Texas Corners Bible Church is a growing church and some of the people who are coming to the church have told us we came here because the church we went to is not serious about God's word and reverent worship. One person said this: "At our previous church it was more about the band and entertainment than it was the word of God." They said when we went to the sanctuary, there was no reverence and it appeared to us to be more like a night club. There is an indifference to the word of God and that is predicted to exist just before the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #5 - There will be a lack of Biblical righteousness in leaders claiming they are right with God. **II Tim. 3:1-8; II Pet. 2:1**

Paul lists twenty characteristics of those who will exist in church who claim they are right with God:

- 1) They will love self.
- 2) They will love money.
- 3) They will be boastful.
- 4) They will be arrogant.
- 5) They will be revilers.
- 6) They will be disobedient to parents.
- 7) They will be ungrateful.
- 8) They will be unholy.
- 9) They will be unloving.
- 10) They will be irreconcilable.
- 11) They will be malicious gossips.
- 12) They will lack self-control.
- 13) They will be brutal.
- 14) They will hate those good.
- 15) They will be treacherous.
- 16) They will be reckless.
- 17) They will be conceited.
- 18) They will love pleasure more than God.

- 19) They pretend to worship God without any true godly power.
- 20) They are in opposition to one who teaches truth.

Peter brings out 15 more facts about these false teachers:

- 1) They surface from within the church. 2:1a
- 2) They teach destructive heresy. 2:1b
- 3) They influence many people. 2:2a
- 4) They blaspheme truth. 2:2b
- 5) They exploit God's people to get their money. 2:3
- 6) They continually indulge their flesh. 2:10a
- 7) They continually are self-willed and despise authority. 2:10b
- 8) They have no fear of heavenly authority. 2:10c-11
- 9) They promote things that are not logical or reasonable. 2:12a
- 10) They have no knowledge what they are talking about. 2:12b
- 11) They are deceptively consumed with extravagant carousing. 2:13b
- 12) They pursue immoral sexual relationships. 2:14a, 18-19
- 13) They are given to greed. 2:14b
- 14) They continually abandon an accurate instruction of God's word and doctrine. 2:15a
- 15) They continually move away from truth into that which is false. 2:15b-16

I just received a letter from a man this week from a man from another state, who has come to trust the way we handle God's word. He wrote me because he is in a church where the ministers told him it was okay to watch pornographic movies and listen to foul language as long as it wasn't real, but just a movie. He wanted to know what I thought.

Well, I wrote him back and cited passage after passage that totally contradicts what these ministers are saying. For example,

David says, "I will set no worthless thing before my eyes." Psalm 101:3

Peter says, "abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul." I Pet. 2:11

John says, "the lusts of the flesh and lust of the eyes is not of God, but the world." I John 2:16

Jesus said, "if you look on a woman to lust after her you have committed adultery." Matt. 5:28

Now these ministers of churches are telling people there is nothing wrong with that, which is contrary to what God said. Clearly, there is a lack of true Biblical righteousness today by those claiming they are right with God. This says we are heading to the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #6 - There will be a renewed interest in national Israel.

Is. 59:20-60:3; Zech. 8:22-23

One of the great prophetic themes of the Bible is that one day Israel will be in her land and will be esteemed as the nation of God by all powers in the world (Is. 59:20-60:3). Jerusalem will be the capital of the world, Christ will reign in Jerusalem and Israel will be seen and honored as the nation of God. All nations of the world will want to travel to Israel's land to honor her (Zechariah 8:22-23).

There is no question that there has been a major focus on Israel at the present time. In December of 2017, President Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital. He was the first national leader to do this since 1948. In March of 2017, President Trump recognized Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which Israel had won in the Six Day War in 1967. In November 2019, President Trump declared that the housing settlements for Israel in her land were not illegal. In December 2019, President Trump signed an executive order against Anti-Semitism that protects Jewish Israelis on college and university campuses. Clearly, in recent days there has been a revival of Israel. This is a clear indicator we are heading to the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #7 - There will be a rise in activity in Russia. **Ezekiel 38-39**

It is predicted "in the latter years" and in the "last days" (Ez. 38:8,16) that during the Tribulation, Russia will play a vital role in prophecy. In fact, two specific chapters in the Old Testament are designed to show what Russia will do and what God will ultimately do to Russia - Ezekiel 38-39. One thing that is critical to observe about Russia and that is ever since WWII, Russia seems to always align herself with Israel's enemies. For example, in our day we have seen that the Russians align themselves with the Iranians and the Iranians hate Israel and for that matter the United States.

Just recently Russia made an oil agreement between her and Saudi Arabia and oil will play a vital role in the Tribulation (Revelation 6:6). If you look at a map you will notice that to the far north of Israel is Russia and to the south of Israel is Saudi Arabia. Daniel predicts that during the Tribulation, these two powers will come into the land of Israel. Russia sits to the far north and the Arabs sit to the south and in the middle of this all is Israel. The fact that these two powers are working together does signal to us that the Rapture of the Church is near.

Prophetic Cloud #8 - There will be the promotion of a one world communistic government
Dan. 7:23; Rev. 13:7

The Bible clearly predicts as we near the end there will be a move toward a one world government. We are heading toward a one world government. Years ago if you were a communist or socialist you would get locked up in jail, but now there are people in Congress and the Senate who promote Communism. There are those who want government to control everything, including your life.

There are some who want world health, world banking, world currency and a world government. Would you have ever believed that we would see a time when a governor, who supports killing babies, would tell you what you can go into the store and buy? Would you have ever believed that you would live to see a political leader in the state of Michigan tell you that you cannot go to your own home? I have been in ministry for over 40 years and I have been told that I cannot go to visit people in a nursing home or hospital. In fact, I got into an argument about it. I said I can wash and put on a mask and gloves just like you can, so why can't I visit? Because the government says no. That is what Communists do and you can easily see that it is not much of a stretch to think that this world could be heading toward that.

Now Daniel predicts a political beast will surface who will take over the whole world (Dan. 7:23). John says that this Antichrist will have dominant power “over every tribe and people and tongue and nation” (Rev. 13:7). As we near the time of this happening, we may expect to see a formation of a one world government that begins to take away the rights of the people.

One of the dramatic things that is happening right before our very eyes is that the Government is beginning to move in ways that do seem to be taking away the rights of the people. The world is heading toward a one world government and that says to us we are near the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #9 - There will be a major focus on China. Daniel 11:44; Rev. 9:16

During the Tribulation, it is predicted that the Antichrist will be troubled by news coming from the East (Dan. 11:44). John predicts that during the Tribulation, a 200 million-man army capable of destroying 1/3rd of the world’s population will come from the East (Rev. 9:15-16). Clearly China will play a key role in the Tribulation.

China has become one of the most important powers in the world. She has grown economically, militarily and technologically. China is at the front and center of world news right now and not in a positive way. She is a dominant force.

It is no coincidence that right now China is carrying out nuclear tests. She is not viewed favorably in the world because of the Coronavirus epidemic. Eventually China will move militarily against the west and the fact that she is right now so much the focus of world events, indicates we are nearing the Rapture of the Church.

Prophetic Cloud #10 - There will be a rise in the Babylonian harlot religion of Islam.
Jer. 50-51; Rev. 17-18

There are four chapters in the Bible specifically aimed at telling what God will do to the Babylonian harlot, which includes its false religion system, which is Islam.

Islam is the fastest growing religion the world. It is a bizarre, hateful religion formed by a corrupt liar, killer and child rapist who made up a wild fairytale story and got people to follow him. It is a religion that God promises to wipe off the face of the earth. This religion will flourish just before the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #11 - There will be an increase in homosexuality that existed like in the days Of Sodom and Gomorrah. **Luke 17:28-30**

Jesus referred to His return in times when it would be specifically like it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. The sin that caused God to destroy those cities was homosexuality, which is an abomination to God. Jesus says before I return, things will be like they were then.

We are there. This sin dominates this world. We have male with male; female with female; males who want to be females and females who want to be males.

As a society we have progressed in godliness, we have regressed into a cesspool of godlessness and that all says we are very near the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #12 - There will be an increase in occult demonic activity like existed in the days of Noah. **Luke 17:23-27, 30; Rev. 9:21**

Jesus said it will be just like it was in the days of Noah when He returns. The days of Noah were dark evil days. There was so much demonic and Satanic activity that we read in Genesis 6:5-6, “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth.” Jesus said just before I return, it will be like that.

Since 2019, there has been a tremendous rise in astrology and psychic and occult activity. In the United States the fastest growing religion is Wicca, which is a form of pagan witchcraft.

There is what has been called a new “occult spirituality” that is surging. When Brett Kavanaugh was nominated for the Supreme Court, a coven of Brooklyn witches tried to put a hex on it and stop it, which didn’t work. All of this activity says we are nearing the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #13 - There will be an increase in world activity with the Egyptians. **Dan. 11:40-42; Is. 19:19-25**

Both Daniel and Isaiah predict that Egypt will play a key role in the Tribulation. For the most part, lately Egypt does not appear to be much in the news. But there were two things that happened this week which do have prophetic implications.

- 1) Egypt received 4 tons of medical supplies from China - this cements a relationship with China.
- 2) Egypt is to receive more than 186 million euros from the European Bank - this cements a relationship with the European Union.

During the Tribulation the Egyptians will play a key role in actually moving against the Antichrist and in close proximity to this will be movement in China. It would appear that the formation of a relationship with China is happening right now.

This clearly says we are nearing the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #14 - There will be a tension that will increase and move in many nations toward Civil War. **Rev.6:4**

One of the early things of the Tribulation will be an outbreak of Civil War. Right now clouds are forming in various parts of the world that could easily escalate into Civil war. There are civil tensions in Venezuela, China, and even in the United States.

It is predicted that shortly after the Rapture of the Church there will be an outbreak of Civil war. The stage is being set right now. There is an unrest that exists among people in states.

One reporter observed this week that the top four sale items in the United States are: toilet paper, water, canned goods and guns.

I was just recently speaking with a person who sells guns and he told me gun sales have skyrocketed to new all-time historical records.

One reporter who conducted interviews said the reason why many people are buying guns is because they sense there is an “apocalypse coming.” One writer said, “People are preparing for battle.” He said people are buying guns because they fear they are going to need them to protect themselves and their families.

One of the first things that will happen after the Rapture will be Civil war. The stage is being set now and this all says we are nearing the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #15 - There will be an increase of cosmological disasters.
Matt. 24:7; Rev. 8:5-12

Jesus predicted that just prior to His return there would be strange cosmological disasters, such as famines and earthquakes. In fact, it is predicted that God will send such destructive storms that people will try and hide from the wrath of the Lamb. God will cause all kinds of cosmic disasters to hit during the Tribulation.

As we near the Tribulation, we may expect to see some unusual destructive cosmological events. There will be earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes and famines. All of this says we are near the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #16 - There will be an increase of pandemic sicknesses. **Rev.6:8**

During the Tribulation, God will destroy many people with pandemic sicknesses and pestilences. What cannot be denied now is that we are living in the worst pandemic sickness we have ever seen.

In the Tribulation, if you do the math on what God says in Revelation 6:8 and 9:15, one out of two people will die in the world. The present world population is about 8 billion people, which means during the Tribulation about 4 billion people will die. Pandemic sickness will be one of the ways people will die. We are just getting a small glimpse of it now as over 145,000 people have died in the world; but this does say God does have power to do this and this does say we may be very near the Rapture.

Prophetic Cloud #17 - There will be an increase of predator animal attacks. **Rev. 6:8**

In the Tribulation, God will use predator animals to attack and kill people. As we near this the predator animals will lose their sense of fear of humans.

Just recently we have seen pictures of mountain lions walking right down city streets. The people are isolated and the predator animals are actually coming into cities. In Chile, predator lions are prowling the streets of the capital of Santiago. In streets of some Mexican cities, Jaguar lions are moving into cities. In San Francisco, coyotes are stalking in the streets. This same thing is happening in London, Japan, Wales and Thailand. What is going on? Why are these predator animals beginning to infiltrate human areas?

God says in the early part of the Tribulation He will kill people “by the wild beasts of the earth” (Rev. 6:8).

All of these facts indicate the prophetic clouds are forming for the Tribulation, which means we must be nearing the Rapture.

Now the Rapture of the family of God is a blessed hope. The last things Jesus said to the churches is “Behold, I am coming quickly and My reward is with Me.” “Yes I am coming quickly” (Rev. 22:12, 20).

In that last chapter of the Bible, Revelation 22:11, John says that when Jesus Christ returns, the one who is filthy will still be filthy and the one who is righteous will still practice righteousness.

It is important that believers in Jesus Christ be practicing Biblical righteousness when Christ returns.

If you have never believed on Jesus Christ, do it now. Invite Jesus Christ into your life to be your Savior. As Jesus said, this is the key to not having a troubled heart in troubling times.

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, then it is time to get very serious about understanding and applying God’s word because **there are sign-forming clouds that do indicate we are very near the Rapture of the Church.**