



# The Prewrath Rapture Theory Exposed

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**S**atan is ever busy seeking to confuse the message of the Word of God and sometimes he uses good men to do his dirty work. An example of this is the **prewrath rapture theory** that is now circulating in books by Marvin Rosenthal, formerly of *Friends of Israel*, and more recently by Kent Hovind, from *Creation Science*. Hovind's views differ from those of Rosenthal.

In 2001 Renald Showers wrote an excellent *Examination and Critique of the Prewrath Rapture View* as taught by Rosenthal and this article exposes the errors of Hovind's view

## What is Prewrath Teaching?

Hovind's Prewrath theory teaches that **only the seal judgments** occur in Daniel's 70th week and the Rapture of the Church occurs at the **end** of Daniel's 70th week (Dan.9:27). He places the Trumpet and Vial judgments **after the 70th week** and claims that the trumpet and vial judgments are the wrath of God which **follow** the Rapture. He then places the 2nd Advent at **2300 days after the mid-point of the 7 years**.

Both Rosenthal and Hovind confuse the Church and Israel. Both have Israel worshipping in an **earthly rebuilt Temple** while the Church is still on earth which cannot be the

case because the Church is "*an holy temple in the Lord*" (Eph.2:21) indwelt by the Holy Spirit. God doesn't dwell in two temples on earth at the same time! Scripture makes a clear distinction between the Church and Israel. The 70-weeks prophecy is **entirely Jewish** as Daniel stated:

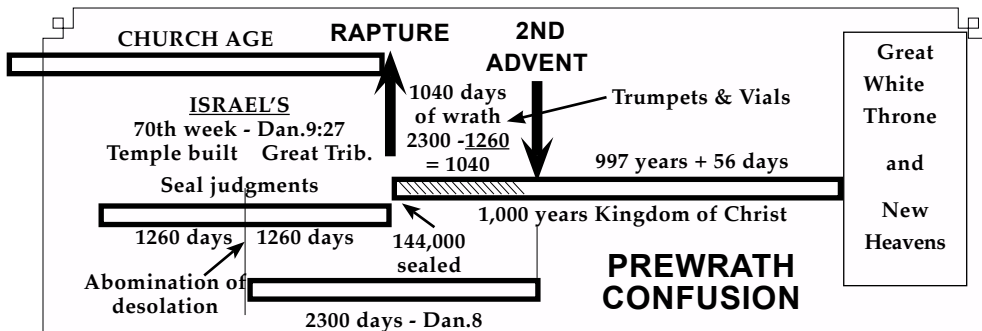
*"70 weeks are determined upon **THY PEOPLE** and upon **THY HOLY CITY**"* (Dan.9:24).

The Church did not exist during the first 69 weeks of Daniel's prophecy and it will not be here for the 70th week. Scripture does not allow for God's administration to work through Israel **AND** the Church at the same time. Paul made it clear that *"blindness in part is happened to Israel **UNTIL** the fulness of the Gentiles be come in"* (Rom:11:25).

When Israel rejected Messiah, **the nation was blinded (Matt.13:14-15; John 12:37-41; Acts 28:25-28)** but after the Church is Raptured, Israel will turn to the Lord and *"the veil shall be taken away"* (2Cor.3:16). The Church has to be removed **BEFORE** Israel turns to the Lord:

*"Blindness in part is happened to Israel **UNTIL** the fulness of the Gentiles be come in"* (Rom:11:25).

Only then will *"all Israel be saved"* (Rom.11:26). The Church therefore must be removed **BEFORE Israel's 70th week!**



James stated in Acts 15:14-16  
*"Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name... AFTER THIS I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David."*

The Church must be called out from the Gentiles and only **AFTER THIS** will Israel be God's witness on earth. The prewrath error has both Church and Israel witnessing at the **same time**. God is not the author of confusion.

Revelation chapter 7 states that 144,000 Jewish men, witnesses, are sealed **immediately BEFORE** the Tribulation seal judgments begin (Rev.7:2-3). They are called the "firstfruits" (Rev.14:4) because they are the **first Jews to be saved after the Rapture** and through their preaching "all Israel" will turn to Christ at the time of the Russian/ Islamic invasion which must occur **in the first half** of the 70th week (Ezek.39:22).

There are also two **Jewish witnesses** who testify at Jerusalem during the first 1,260 days (Rev.11:1-3). Everthing about the

70th week is Jewish and there is **not one mention** of the Church on earth from Rev.4 to Rev.19.

### *Seals, Trumpets and Vials*

Prewrath teachers hold that the Rapture occurs **after the seal judgments** (Rev.6) and before the trumpet and vial (bowl) judgments which they call the **time of wrath**.

However, there is no mention of the Rapture when the 7th seal is broken and the first Trumpet judgment is announced (Rev.8:1). The Trumpet judgments are in chapters 8 and 9 **before** Antichrist takes over the Temple in the middle of the 70th week in Rev.ch.13. Only the vial judgments occur in the second half of the Tribulation and these are directed against Antichrist (Rev.16:2,10,13,19), who reigns in the **second half of Daniel's 70th week and is destroyed when Christ returns**.

To say that God's wrath is confined to the trumpet and vial judgments is absurd for the fourth seal alone will cause the death of **one quarter of the world's population** and that is only one of the seal judgments!

Furthermore, the 144,000 Jewish witnesses are sealed by God **BEFORE the seal judgments begin** so it is Israel's time of testimony from the very outset of the 70th week. John wrote:

*"And I saw another angel...and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, TILL we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads" (Rev.7:2-3).*

When the **6th seal** is broken men cry out that the great day of God's wrath **"HAS COME"** (Rev.6:17).

#### *Israel Saved Before the Mid-point of the 70th Week*

At the **mid-point of the 70th week** it is said that Israel are those who *"keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ"* (Rev.12:17), therefore Israel's conversion must occur **in the first half** of the 70th week after which they are **protected by God for the final 1,260 days** (Rev.12:6,14) and then Jesus returns in glory and power.

Ezekiel's prophecy states that Israel turns to the Lord when the nation is invaded by Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya and Sudan (Ethiopia):

*"So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward" (Ezek.39:22).*

Joel calls this time *"the Day of the Lord"* (Joel 2:1,11) and states that God will remove the *"northern army"* of Russia and her Islamic allies leaving

only one sixth to escape (Ezek.39:1-7; Joel 2:1-3, 11, 15-20).

It will be the conversion of Israel that will cause Antichrist to turn on the Jews (Dan.11:44; 12:7) after which, Israel will fight for survival, during the **last 1,260 days** (Zech.12:1-8; Rev.12:11-17) while the Vial (bowl) judgments are poured out on Antichrist.

**The entire 7 years is therefore determined on Israel and Jeremiah calls it "the time of Jacob's trouble"** (Jer.30:7) adding, *"he shall be saved out of it"*. Thus it is impossible for the Church to be here for any part of the 70th week.

#### *The 2,300 Day Blunder -Dan.8:14*

Kent Hovind made a monumental blunder when he interpreted the 2300-day prophecy of Dan.8:14 as **future** when it has obviously been **fulfilled** in the Persian and Grecian eras (538 - 165BC).

In this prophecy Daniel saw a ram with two horns pushing westward. The Bible says that *"the two horns are the kings of Media and Persia"* (Dan.8:20).

Then a goat with a *"notable horn between his eyes"* came from the west and destroyed the ram. We are told that the notable horn was the *"first king" of "Grecia"* (Dan.8:21): that was Alexander the Great (333 - 323BC).

The notable horn was broken and in its place came up **four horns** and we know that after Alexander's death (323BC) the Grecian Empire was divided among Alexander's

four generals. Then *“in the latter time of THEIR kingdom”* a *“king of fierce countenance”* would arise and destroy *“the holy people”* (Israel) (Dan.8:22-24).

The king of *“fierce countenance”* was Antiochus Epiphanes (175-163BC), a Seleucid king who reigned in the **latter part** of the Grecian kingdom before Rome dominated. Antiochus replaced Jason the high priest with Menelaus (172BC). Having obtained the priesthood, Menelaus refused to pay the tribute. He was summoned to Antioch but on arrival found that Antiochus was not there. He then arranged for Lysimachus, whom he had left at Jerusalem, to take vessels from the Temple and sell them in the market at Tyre to pay the tribute to Antiochus.

When Onias III, the rightful high priest, rebuked Menelaus for selling the vessels of the Temple, he was killed by Antiochus' men. The Jews at Jerusalem rose up against the Syrian garrison and there commenced a series of aggressions against the Temple which continued until 25 December 165BC when Judas Maccabees cleansed the Temple.

The exact date of the commencement of hostilities against the Temple in 171BC cannot be determined from history but we know it was in 171BC and 2300 days before the 25 December 165BC would fall on 5 August 171BC.

While Antiochus is no doubt a “type” of the future Antichrist, the prophecy of Daniel 8 has **already**

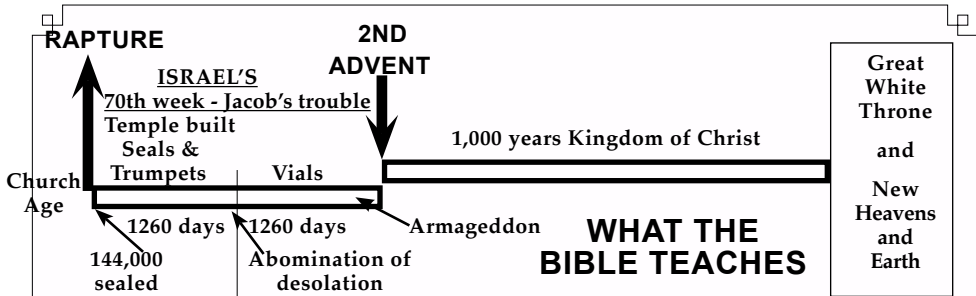
**been fulfilled and cannot be applied to the last days.** Hovind has made a serious blunder in trying to fit the prophecy of 2,300 days, into the events of the last days.

### *A Short Millennium*

The Bible states that Christ will return and reign for 1,000 years but Hovind's scheme has **reduced it to 997 years and 56 days.** When Christ returns Antichrist with all his armies, will be slain by the sword that proceeds out of Christ's mouth and Satan will be bound for 1,000 years (Rev.20:2) in the bottomless pit. The Tribulation martyrs will be raised and reign 1,000 years (Rev.20:4) while the living nations will assemble before the Lord's throne and after 75 days the sheep will go alive into the kingdom and the goats (unsaved living nations) will be cast into the lake of fire.

### *Millennial Blessings, Not Wrath, after the 70th Week*

Hovind places the conversion of the 144,000 AFTER the 70th week has run its course. However, Daniel clearly states that six blessings will attend the Jews and Jerusalem **at the end of the 70th week - not 7 years PLUS 1,040 days of wrath!** The end of the 70th week does not usher in nearly 3 years of unprecedented wrath, but peace and *“everlasting righteousness”* with Christ reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords. The judgment of the Gentiles won't need 1040 days. The sheep and goats will be separated within 75 days (Dan.12:12).



### *Prewrath Removes Imminence*

It is true that Jesus indicated there would be a long period of time before He returned (Matt.25:19; Luke 20:9) and that Peter would live to an old age but He also said:

*"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not"* (Luke 12:40).

*"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house ... and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning"* (Mark 13:32-35)

Imminence does not mean that Jesus would come in the life time of Peter for the Lord said it would not. Imminence means that **the time is not known and that we should be ready at any time.** The Lord plainly said the Son of man was like a man taking a far journey and that **nobody would know the day or hour of His return.** Hovind has

fixed the date of the Rapture at the end of the 7 years of Tribulation and the 2nd Advent 1,040 days later!

If the Rapture occurs at the end of the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy (Dan.9:27), then according to Hovind, Christ's coming for His Church is at least 7 years in the future and we should not be looking for the Blessed Hope of Christ's return but for the Antichrist to make a covenant with Israel. Also, we should be watching for the awful slaughter of a quarter of the world's population in the 4th seal, and the signs of the heavens departing as a scroll in the 6th seal judgment etc.

Signs are for Israel and NOT the Church. The Church is listening for sounds: the trump of God, the shout of the Lord, and Michael's shout as he begins his special ministry to Israel in the 70th week after the Church has gone.

The Thessalonian Christians were told that the Rapture of the Church was an assurance that Christians would **NOT go into the time of God's judgment** on this world. The Day of the Lord is the *"time of Jacob's trouble"* (Jer.30:7) - not

the Church's trouble. Israel must go into the Tribulation in order to bring them to repentance but the Church is the Bride of Christ and *"ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day (the Day of the Lord) should overtake you as a thief"* (1Thess.5:4).

Imminence applies to the Rapture because once the 70th week begins the 2nd Advent will be fixed at 7 years later. Even Jesus does not know the day of his return (Mark 13:32) because the Father will determine the day when the bride is complete and will say to the Son, "Go and get your bride." Jesus said *"the times or seasons" - "the Father hath put in his own power"* (Acts1:7).

Hovind clearly does not understand the Biblical doctrine of imminency and has raised a straw man to knock down. At this point in history we don't know the date of the 2nd Advent because **the unknown period of time is the Church age**. After the Church age is finished the Jews will count the days till Christ returns.

### *What the Bible Teaches*

The Bible teaches that Christ will return to the air and call for His Bride at the end of the Church age - **before** Israel's 70th week of Dan. 9:27 begins.

The sudden disappearance of millions of believers around the world will be a sign to Israel that the end of the age has come Matt.24:40-41; Luke 17:34-37), Then 144,000 Jewish men will turn to Christ and be sealed by God to globally preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. They

will all be martyred by the midpoint of the 7 years (Rev.14:1-5).

Immediately after the Church is raptured the leader of the Revived Roman Empire will confirm a 7-year covenant with many; the Temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem and Jews will begin to offer sacrifices again.

During the **first half** of the 7 years God will pour out **seal and trumpet** judgments on earth and Russia will lead Islamic nations into Israel. This invasion will be used of God to **bring all Israel to repentance and faith in Christ (Ezek.39:22-29)**.

When all Israel is saved, Antichrist will break his covenant with the nation and cause the sacrifices in the Temple to cease halfway through the 7 years: he will set up his image in the Temple (Dan.9:27).

During the second half of the 7-year Tribulation, Antichrist will seek to wipe out the Jewish nation but God will preserve her and at the end of the seven years, the Lord will return with all His saints in glory and power to destroy Antichrist and his armies (Dan.12:6-7).

Satan will be bound for a thousand years and after the living nations that survive the Tribulation have been separated, the saved will inherit the earthly kingdom and the unsaved will go into the lake of fire with Antichrist and his followers.

**The prewrath Rapture teaching confuses the plain teaching of God's Word and should be rejected by every Bible-believing Christian.** ●