

Jan Markell's Understanding the Times *Olive Tree Ministries*



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November-December 2020

The Top Ten Bible Prophecy Stories of 2020

By Jan Markell

This year is not over yet, and *some can't wait for it to end!* It has been a tough year with much prophetic significance. It is difficult to narrow the stories down to the top ten, but here goes. Space is limited so I must be concise.

1) *The Decline of America.*

There is really no end-time power in the Bible other than a Revived Roman Empire from which the Antichrist will headquarter. Thus, prophecy watchers have always known *America must decline.* This year we have watched *capitalism come under attack* and socialism and globalism be heralded. Some progressive, but deluded, political leaders are even hailing Marxism.

2) *The Rise of Lawlessness and Anarchy.*

We see unbridled lawlessness in Matthew 24 and parts of Revelation, although the context of both is the Tribulation. So once again, we see Tribulation events casting a long shadow on the Church Age. Here in America, literally "all hell is breaking loose", and *our Republic and rule of law are*

disintegrating right before our eyes! At the root of this is the spirit of the Antichrist.

3) *Peace Efforts in the Middle East.*

We can debate the practicality of these events, and should America and Europe even intrude on Israel with peace efforts? Nonetheless, they are setting the stage for peace deals proposed by the Antichrist. See page 5 for an extensive story on peace efforts in 2020. And the year is not over so *more peace efforts may take place before year-end.* But I am reminded of the haunting words in Jeremiah 6:14: "Saying peace, peace, when there is no peace."

4) *Increasing Attacks on Christians, Christianity, Churches, etc.*

Thanks to Covid-19, churches, and Christianity in general, became gross inconveniences in 2020. Churches were either shut down or marginalized starting in March. Christians in America were harassed and even arrested for wishing to just practice their faith and meet for

continued on page 2



Capitalism under siege in 2020

The Top Ten Bible Prophecy Stories of 2020

continued from page 1

worship. Believers in the Mideast and Africa were slaughtered by the thousands. Jesus said a day was coming when *we would be hated for His Name's sake* (Matt. 10:22).

5) Growing Apostasy and Wolves Among the Flock. Sound biblical preaching is fading with a rise in the love for experience, emotion, and unsound doctrine. There is even the love of the “doctrine of demons” (I Timothy 4:1). The *New Apostolic Reformation* continues to surge, led by *Bethel Church* in Redding, CA. A new, but very false teaching in both churches and seminaries is the Marxist *Critical Race Theory*. At the same time, Bible prophecy has vanished from most pulpits as well as support for Israel.

6) Pre-Tribulation Birth Pangs. The worst of the birth pangs are in the Tribulation, but we see a foreshadowing of these horrors now in the Church Age. Natural disasters are unprecedented globally. The destruction is heart-wrenching to watch and the suffering is unspeakable. This will increase to such a level in the Tribulation that what is happening now is miniscule in comparison. But the stage is again being set. All of the earth is groaning.

7) The Continued and Rapid Decline of the Culture. Everywhere evil is being called good (Isaiah 5:20). *Aberration is celebrated.*

Netflix seemed to honor pedophilia with its “Cuties” feature and film. California passed pro-pedophilia legislation, removing felony status for sex with minors. Today’s character of mankind is outlined in Romans 1 and II Timothy 3—and it’s all predicted for a final generation.

8) The Rise of Strong Delusion. So much delusion arose in 2020 it is incalculable. What thinking person wants all police abolished? Or thinks America is a racist nation? Or destroys the economy over a virus? Or its youth think the Holocaust is a myth? II Thessalonians 2 suggests such a delusion is sent because there is no love of the truth. *This will then cause people to fall for the lies of the Antichrist.*

9) A Covid-19(84) Surveillance State Worsened. Government intrusion and “contact tracing” abounded in 2020. People even had to “register” for church so they could be traced. The goal lines for easing government restrictions, lockdowns, quarantines, and even face masks, kept changing. *Clearly, society is being prepped for the Antichrist here in 2020.* Around the world, people are being turned into mind-numbed robots. Many are cowering in fear.

10) The Longing for a Savior. With the world in a meltdown mode, millions are looking for just one superhuman man to bring back

The Top Ten Bible Prophecy Stories of 2020

continued from page 2

peace and prosperity. He is waiting in the wings! Most have rejected Jesus Christ. They will cheer for a short season for the Antichrist.

That’s my short list of prominent events in 2020 that have end-time

significance! It could be seen as a heartbreaking list, but it heralds an imminent happening that many believers have been longing for—the *return of the King of Kings*. It could be even today.

Suddenly – In the Twinkling of An Eye!

By Jan Markell

“For you yourselves know that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’, then sudden destruction will come upon them like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.”
– 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

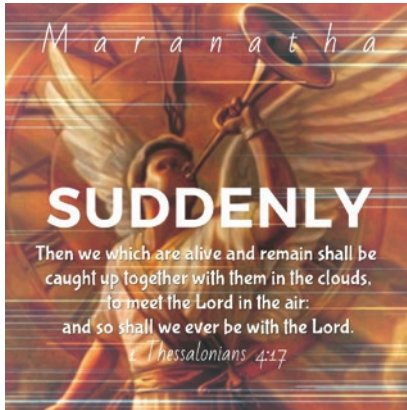
Last days’ events happen quickly. *Even suddenly.* The word quickly (Greek word: tachos) is used eight times in Revelation. Think of an automobile tachometer, which measures the working speed of an engine typically in revolutions per minute. *And it revs up.*

We often see *sudden destruction* falling upon the wicked in the Bible. The unrepentant living during Noah’s time experienced a *sudden and catastrophic* flood (Gen. 6-9). They had 120 years to repent as Noah

preached to them, but they chose to ignore him and judgment *suddenly fell* (Gen. 6:3-7).

Have you noticed that in 2020, *everything has happened suddenly?*

- Our fairly ordinary world *suddenly vanished.*
- Stores sold out *suddenly.*



• Fear gripped America—and the world—*suddenly.*

• People were ordered to *suddenly* totally change their lifestyles.

• People lost businesses of a lifetime *suddenly.*

• A U.S. President went from popular to “the cause of it all” *suddenly.*

- Reality became *surreal suddenly.*
- Cities turned into ghost towns *suddenly.*
- Mankind became lovers of self, treacherous, and without self-control *suddenly.*

continued on page 4

Suddenly – In the Twinkling of An Eye!

continued from page 3

- Cries for global government *transpired suddenly* as only a one-world system could slow down the wreckage.
- Virtual became the new way of doing all things *suddenly*.
- The U.S. economy went from best ever to *horrible suddenly*.
- Church went from essential to irrelevant in the eyes of the world *suddenly*.
- Hollywood *suddenly* stopped making sick movies as theaters *suddenly* closed.
- Order turned to *chaos suddenly* with racial tension.
- That tension *suddenly turned* to lawlessness.
- Lawlessness turned to anarchy *suddenly*.
- The cry for police protection *suddenly turned* to “abolish the police.”
- Common sense simply turned *suddenly to strong delusion*.

Is there a message in all of this? Something else will happen suddenly—the Rapture of the Church. *It will take place in the twinkling of an eye*. That is so fast it can hardly even be measured.

When God begins to move, He doesn't waste a moment. But He does take time to warn before He judges. *And He seems to be telling us that things are going to change for Eternity suddenly via the Rapture of the Church*.

Everything in America Is Being Shaken

Just as we went to press, President Trump and his wife Melania tested positive for coronavirus. We do not know how this is going to play out but ask you to *prayerfully remember all affected*. Printed items, such as this magazine, are behind about three weeks due to the production and mailing process.

Jan Markell and Michele Bachmann discuss the attack on America, voter fraud, the attempt to steal the 2020 election, and related issues, on radio programming that aired starting October 10 and 17. You can

find that programming in its audio and visual format on our website under “Radio”, then go to “Complete Archives.” They will also appear visually on His Channel Internet television.

Due to overwhelming breaking news, we also offer daily “headline” updates concerning all that is happening in the world and church at our website, www.olivetreeviews.org. We produce an e-newsletter that is up-to-date and timely about two times a month. Sign up online under “Resources”.

Mid-East Peace Deals and Bible Prophecy

Stage-Setting

By Jan Markell

Let me state right up front that President Donald Trump is the most Israel-friendly U.S. President in her 72-year history. I have no doubt that he wants to see Israel and the Jewish people prosper in every way. He moved the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 2018—something every U.S. President promised and then abandoned. I sense that if Israel were attacked tomorrow, President Trump would somehow intervene.



Jared Kushner, Mover and Shaker

I have said publicly that I am less enthusiastic about his son-in-law, Jared Kushner. Before Kushner entered politics, he was a far-left liberal heralding all of the liberal causes. I don't believe this kind of leopard changes his spots. I fear he is speaking unsound advice into the ears of his father-in-law, the most powerful man on the planet. Thankfully, our President also has evangelical advisors that speak into his policies daily, and they are speaking truth.

But Jared Kushner is the mover-and-shaker behind the treaties in the Middle East that came to the forefront in 2020. And I do not believe he has even a remote biblical

understanding or perspective on God's land and people. Yet, he has been a driving force behind the "Deal of the Century" presented in January and the "Abraham Accords" presented in September.

More Nations Waiting in the Wings

In September, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain became the third and fourth Arab nations to form deals with Israel, ensuring her peace and security. The previous nations include Jordan and Egypt. *And peace breaking out in the Mideast is far better than war breaking out.* However, neither the UAE nor Bahrain have ever been involved in a military conflict with Israel, and likely never would be. They didn't have much to lose.

Now, there is word that five to seven more Arab nations may join in on the peacemaking. This is historic, but at what price? But since we are to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6), *why would anybody be against peace efforts in that region?*

It Takes Two for Peace

In part, because in the January "Deal of the Century", a Palestinian state was once again thrown onto

continued on page 6

Mid-East Peace Deals and Bible Prophecy

Stage-Setting

continued from page 5

the table. That same topic came up in the "Abraham Accords" of September. The Palestinians are an invented people as they are Jordanians, Syrians, and Egyptians, but they were renamed Palestinians for a political cause in the 1960s. To have an "agreement" with these folks, they need to be in cooperation with these peace efforts. If you hadn't noticed, they are not! *And they never will be.*

All such efforts are dead on arrival as it concerns the Palestinians. These terrorists will never agree to dismantle their terror network, dismantle terror efforts in Gaza, stop paying terrorists a reward, and much more.

Setting the Stage?

The God-given land of Israel has been divided since the San Remo Conference of 1920—one hundred years of man-made intervention that has not pleased God.

There is endless talk of a Palestinian State. Could there be a Palestinian state, and further division of the land, in the Tribulation? Yes, and I believe that is the division referenced in Joel 3. It will be brokered by the Antichrist as Israel will be handing their security over to him. He will declare his friendship to the Jewish people that will last three-and-one-half years. They will trust him enough to allow their land to be divided like never before. At the mid-point of the

Tribulation, he becomes their arch-enemy!

Are these deals of 2020 setting the stage? That is possible.

But they are also fulfilling other important prophecies! Israel must be dwelling in peace and safety, having no bars or gates, when the Gog-Magog invasion of Ezekiel 38-39 takes place (Ezekiel 38:11). She is called an "unwalled village" during that time. Right now, walls characterize her very existence! *Something is going to change.*

While peace efforts in the Mid-East are prophetic, they are not the Daniel 9:27 covenant that will be brokered by the Antichrist. In fact, this begins the Tribulation. The Rapture of the Church does not. The Daniel 9:27 treaty needs an Antichrist present just like the Mark of the Beast needs a Beast on the scene. We simply cannot have any apocalyptic peace treaty by a skilled but devious Antichrist without this Mr. Fix-It alive, well, and prominent on the scene!

In other words, current peace deals are not apocalyptic.

So Who Is Protesting?

In the Gog-Magog War, Sheba and Dedan protest this invasion (Ezekiel 38:13). Sheba and Dedan are most likely the Saudis along with other Gulf States. The Saudis could sign on to the "Abraham Accords" before

Mid-East Peace Deals and Bible Prophecy Stage-Setting

continued from page 6

this magazine is delivered to your home. So could other Arab nations in the region.

Whoever could have imagined that Arab nations would protest a war against Israel? These treaties have created a new climate in that region, and there is going to be far less hostility. The Bible prophesied this 2600 years ago. Bible-believing Christians are the only ones who know the future in advance!

Is there a downside to these efforts? In all such deals, both sides have to sacrifice things, but is God's land negotiable? Israel was set to annex about 130 settlements in Judea and Samaria until the "Abraham Accords". That annexation is now delayed until 2024. That is not land-for-peace but this prevents Israel from claiming God-given land. And, should a leftist occupy the White House in 2020 or 2024, such annexation will go off-the-table.

It's All Israel's Land

I have heard from enough Washington insiders to know that President Trump does not want to create any policy that will knowingly harm the Jewish state. But he has assigned the deal-making details to Jared Kushner, who most certainly does not have a biblical perspective or worldview. Kushner stated in September, "We were trying to save the two-state solution. If we kept going with the status quo, ultimately,

Israel would have eaten up all of the land in the West Bank."

Even the Jewish Jared Kushner cannot see that all of the land is God-given and 100% of it belongs to Israel.

He Who Keeps Israel Neither Slumbers Nor Sleeps

We are a privileged generation to see Bible prophecy unfold before our very eyes! No previous generation has seen the convergence of events that ours does. The super-sign is Israel. Israel's short modern history is momentous and miraculous. Presidents Truman and Nixon stepped in to be enormous benefactors, as well as Donald Trump. Presidents Jimmy Carter, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama primarily harmed Israel. Until the last ten years, support for Israel in Washington has been bi-partisan, but no longer. *One party does not care what happens to God's land.*

But "He that keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps" (Psalm 121:4) so God will never abandon her or create any policy that will harm her. He will allow the Antichrist to come against her in the Tribulation, *but this is the event that brings the remnant of Israel to faith!*

God has things under control but our prayer changes things. Let's keep praying for the peace of Jerusalem.

Prophecy in the News

Americans Who Hold to Biblical Worldview Declines

New research from George Barna indicates that the percentage of Americans who hold a biblical worldview has declined yet again. Only six percent of Americans hold a biblical worldview (i.e., a view of the world that is informed by Scripture).

As Barna explained, "People do what they believe." The same holds true for how we engage politically.

For example, someone whose worldview believes humanity was created by intelligent design will think about questions related to life and human dignity very differently than someone who believes human beings are the result of random chance.

Christians, whose worldview is shaped by Scripture, believe all people -- born and unborn -- are made in God's image and have inherent value and dignity. Therefore, many Christians advocate for pro-life policies in the public square.

Perhaps this explains why the Bible describes end-time character to be that outlined in II Timothy 3 and Romans 1.

One Out of Five Churches in America May Not Make It

During the lockdowns, many churches experienced a precipitous drop in giving, and there are still

some states that are putting very strict restrictions on church gatherings. This has had an absolutely devastating impact on many church budgets, and there have been widespread cutbacks.

We have never seen anything like this before, and things have already gotten so bad that Barna Group president, David Kinnaman, is projecting that 1 out of every 5 churches in America "could be forced to shut their doors in the next 18 months". Confidence among pastors that their churches will make it through the pandemic has declined from more than 70 percent in May to around 58 percent now.

Unfortunately, so many bright lights that are giving hope to people are starting to go out, and that trend is only going to intensify as our economic problems become even more serious going into the new year. We need the church more than ever!

Average American Family Filmed by 238 Cameras a Week

The study was authored by the Safety.com security team, which found that the average American is filmed by security cameras more than 238 times a week, a number that has increased rapidly and is only expected to continue as facial recognition is pushed throughout society.

CNBC reports that there will be

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Prophecy in the News

an estimated one billion security cameras filming around the world by 2021, with somewhere between 10-18% of those being in the United States alone.

When calculated on a per-person basis, this is the second-highest ratio of security cameras to the population in the world. CBS News reported in 2019 that second to China, the U.S. has at least one security camera filming for every 4.6 people, compared to one camera for every 4.1 people in China.

This is setting the stage for the surveillance of Antichrist during the Tribulation, from which the Church is absent.

The Advent of a Cashless Society

The coronavirus pandemic has accelerated the trend toward a cashless economy, financial experts say, buoyed by the growth of e-commerce and the fear of handling paper money contaminated with COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in official guidance to retail workers in response to the pandemic, encouraged the use of touchless payment options, when available. Cash withdrawals from ATMs plunged 25% nationwide during

the early weeks of the pandemic, according to industry figures.

The electronic-transfer industry has hailed the growth of a cashless economy as a consumer-driven trend and expects it will continue as the nation adapts to living with the pandemic. About 27% of business owners reported an increase in contactless payments.

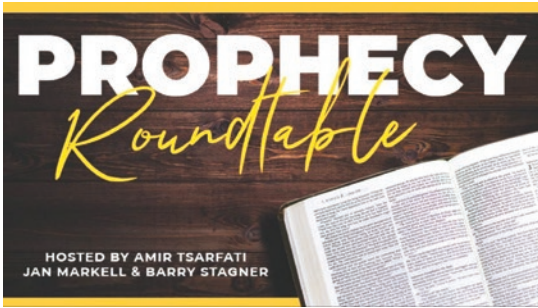
Big Finance is the key driver moving us to a cashless society. You'll notice banks have been slowly closing branches and ATMs, and they're doing so in an effort to nudge us more toward their digital platforms. This saves them labor, it saves them a lot of real estate costs, and it improves their bottom line.

To add to this scenario, Amazon has created a new way for customers to make purchases with just their palm. The new hand recognition technology called "Amazon One" is currently available in two of its *Amazon Go* stores located in Seattle, Washington. By holding their palm above the device, patrons can enter secure areas and pay for items without cash or credit card.



Amazon One

These people are clueless that they are setting the stage for the Beast empire.



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About Jan Markell

Jan came to faith in Christ through Jewish evangelist Dr. Hyman Appleman when she was just 11 years old. Jan has authored 8 major books with *Tyndale House*, *Baker Book House*, and *Bethany Fellowship*. She began the "Understanding the Times" radio broadcast in 2000 and it is now heard on about 900 radio stations and around the world electronically. She hosts the largest conference of its kind in North America every fall.

Resources by Olive Tree Ministries

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Hidden in Plain View: The New World Order in Bible Prophecy

DVD by Jan Markell

Updated Summer of 2019

with New Info

\$12 – DVD – 60 minutes

The implementation of Antichrist's system will require a crisis and Jan shows how all human efforts are leading to the Rapture of the Church. From secret societies to the banking industry, from the billionaire cabals to Celine Dion and the entertainment industry, the world is preparing for a one-world scheme that will end in failure. Their seven year paradise will be the Tribulation. Thankfully, the believer looks forward to the one true globalist system known as the Millennium.

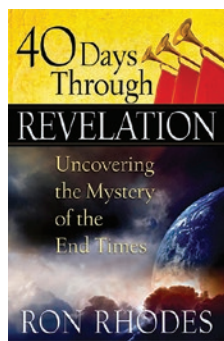


Hybrids, Super Soldiers, & the Coming Genetic Apocalypse

DVD Set by Pastor Billy Crone

\$55 – 16 DVDs – 32 messages

Clearly these are the days of Noah as man plays God and tries to re-invent His creation. Therefore, this study seeks to equip you with the hardcore scientific evidence and Biblical warnings from God concerning this modern day re-creation of virtually all life forms on the planet. This is Pastor Crone's most important series. Jan Markell has a short interview in this.



40 Days Through Revelation: Uncovering the Mystery of the End Times

Book by Dr. Ron Rhodes

\$15 – Book – softbound – 298 pages

The book of Revelation begins and ends with guarantees that its inspiring message leads to blessing. Popular Bible teacher and author Ron Rhodes guides readers on an encouraging journey through this prophetic book, interpreting its picturesque language and revealing its reassuring promises. Each short chapter is perfect for a group Bible study or a personal quiet time.



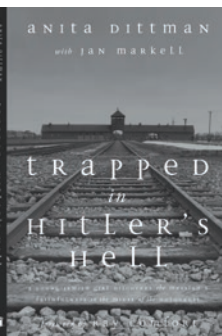
Agenda Series Twin-Pack

DVD set by Curtis Bowers

\$25 – Two DVDS – 90 minutes & 85 minutes

Curtis Bowers reveals the endgame of the Socialists and Marxists: *One world government*. This may be the most eye-opening documentary you will ever see. This powerful expose' of the Socialist and Communist agenda to take over America and take her down is a brilliant history lesson with input from some of the leading commentators of our day. The world awaits a crisis that will speed this event. Could it even be the Rapture of the Church? Global government will be installed by the Antichrist.

Resources by Olive Tree Ministries



Trapped in Hitler's Hell: A Young Jewish Girl Discovers the Messiah's Faithfulness in the Midst of the Holocaust

By Anita Dittman and Jan Markell

Book: \$10 – softbound – 206 pages

Jan's classic book, now celebrating 38 years of making a difference. The remarkable story of Anita Dittman and her miraculous survival during the Hitler years. The story spans 12 riveting years of deprivation, captivity, escape, and walking across Europe to find her mother in

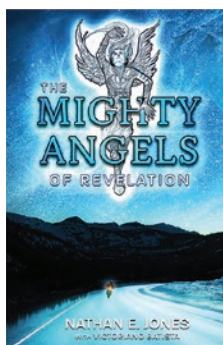
a concentration camp. It is inspirational and puts trials in perspective. It demonstrates that with God, all things are possible. He truly never leaves or forsakes us.

"I read 'Trapped in Hitler's Hell' and loved it. It was mesmerizing, fascinating, inspirational, and God-exalting. And it was a masterpiece of writing!" – Dr. Dave Reagan, Lamb Lion Ministries

Trapped in Hitler's Hell Documentary DVD: \$15

75 minutes, full color, produced by George Escobar

"Brilliant. Gripping. A touch of cinematic expertise seldom seen. This drama was carried right to the heart of the viewer—me. I trust this dual production of film and book will be like an emotional hypodermic needle for America to awaken to the fact that the present leadership has placed the Western world on the cusp of the whole thing being repeated."—Merv Watson, Israel

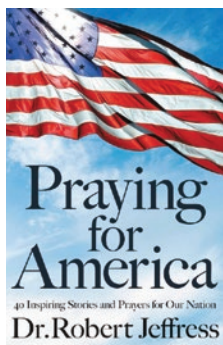


The Mighty Angels of Revelation

By Nathan Jones

\$16 – Book – softbound – 400 pages

Come and travel along with a man called the Elder and his angelic guide as the end times are revealed throughout the book of Revelation in stunning detail. Along the way, meet 72 of God's mighty angels as they proclaim God's messages of warning and hope to a lost world. Terry James calls it the premier book on the subject of angels.



Praying for America: 40 Inspiring Stories and Prayers for Our Nation

By Dr. Robert Jeffress

\$16 – Book – hardbound – 197 pages

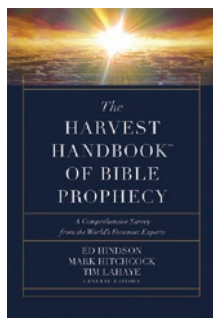
Each chapter of this uplifting book includes an inspiring story demonstrating the power of faith in the life of our nation, a prayer, and a relevant passage of Scripture to inspire and encourage you in praying intently for our country. In these increasingly divided times, *Praying for America* will serve as a very necessary and timely reminder that "In God, we trust."

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The Harvest Handbook of Bible Prophecy

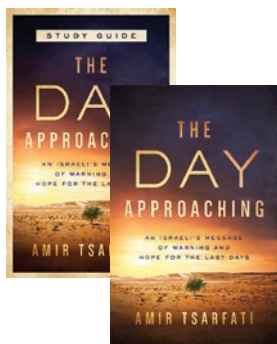
(Updated version of “The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy”)

UPDATED!

By Dr. Tim LayHaye, Dr. Ed Hindson, Dr. Mark Hitchcock + 40 contributors

\$15 – Book – hardbound – 451 pages

This volume has 150+ topics on the most important subjects of prophetic study including Armageddon, the Day of the Lord, eternal life, the glorious appearing, the messianic kingdom, the Millennium, rewards, the Tribulation, and more. It has thousands of Bible-based facts about the end times and beyond and a chronology of the last days from a pre-tribulational, premillennial view .



The Day Approaching (study guide optional)

By Amir Tsarfati

\$15 (book – 224 pages) and \$10 (study guide – 144 pages)
Books – softbound

As a Jewish native Israeli who is a Christian, Amir Tsarfati has a distinct perspective that weaves biblical history, current events, and Bible prophecy together to shine light on the mysteries about the end times. From his vantage point in the Middle East and through careful Bible study, Amir points to evidence that informs us the return of the Lord is imminent. The study guide can be purchased separately.



Rapture Kit Flash Drive

By I Am a Watchman Ministry

\$30 flash drive

Here is an item to leave behind to be a witness during the Tribulation for those who do not escape the wrath of this horrific time. It contains books, videos, a Bible, an explanation of what happened, and more—and what that person must do now that they've been left behind. This flash drive is just over one inch in length.



How the Blessed Hope Became the Blasted Hope: The Attack on Bible Prophecy

By Jan Markell

\$12 – DVD – 60 minutes

Why has eschatology or Bible prophecy been downplayed in the last 25 years? What kind of damage have Rick Warren, Lynne Hybels, John Piper, Hank Hanegraaff, and many others done and how have they marginalized this topic? Dispensationalism has become almost a dirty word in the world of scholars and is seldom taught any longer. Support for Israel is also at an all-time low. How can we reverse these trends?



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The Top Ten Bible Prophecy Stories of 2020