

What's New on Prewrathministries.org?

FAQ System!!!

In the last newsletter we announced a new look for the prewrathministries website. We have also incorporated a new Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) system.



The FAQ system may be accessed from the home page and it allows easier maintenance and addition of questions and answers. Also, it provides the ability of visitors to ask new questions and to have them not only answered by email, but easily included on the FAQ page.

Also, remember that we have gone to a quarterly newsletter. There will be a seasonal publication: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. This allows a little more flexibility in writing newsletters and balancing pastoral duties.

Send Me Your Church Info

Again, I am still getting many requests from all over the country asking if I know of churches teaching the prewrath position. I have only had a few pastors respond to my plea to build a list of prewrath churches. Please send me your church information so I may include it in a prewrath list. I have also come across pastors who are prewrath but do not have the freedom to teach prewrath in their churches. I believe there are those who would be encouraged by your belief even if it is not actively being taught. Please let me know that also by emailing me at elbert@prewrathministries.org.

Feature Article: Coming Full Circle

By Elbert Charpie

The PreWrath view opened my eyes to a truth that I had missed for years. When I understood the significance of the Day of the Lord, and began to understand the timing for the unfolding of the events at the time of the end, I began to see a broader picture in which God is just completing what He started. Another source that helped me see this picture was Randy Alcorn's book, Heaven. Let me see if I can explain...

The Day of the Lord is the culmination of all of the events of history from the fall in the garden until the Day of the Lord ends. But, we need to understand that the Day of the Lord is not really the end. It is just the beginning. After the Day of the Lord, God will come to reign personally and physically with man from that point forward. God's dealing with man will be on a different level than it has ever been since the fall. It will again be as it was when God walked with Adam in the cool of the evening. After a thousand years, and an intervening conflict with Satan as he is released for a short period and condemned, God will create a new heaven and a new earth. On the surface that has always seemed to be the end of the story. But, let's look in a little more detail.

Man was created in the Garden of Eden to enjoy a paradise—Heaven on earth, if you will. But, man sinned in the garden by eating of the forbidden tree and sin destroyed the relationship man had with God. Did God intend for man to sin? I certainly do not think so. So, what was God's original intention "in the beginning?" I believe it was for man to live on a perfect earth enjoying a physical existence to a degree that you and I can only vaguely imagine. God created man to have dominion—Gen 1:26 (KJV) "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Randy Alcorn brought out a point that I had never considered. He quoted, Isaiah 9:7 (NIV) "Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this." He focused on the thought that God's government will increase without end. Imagine a perfect world with no sin and where the Bible says life spans will increase. How long would it take to exhaust the resources of this world? We are doing a pretty good job in spite of the existence of sin and without God being physically present, wouldn't you agree? Rev. Alcorn suggested that this world was never intended to be the end of God or man's dominion in this universe. To imagine that God created the entire universe for one planet, and that is all, is a terrible waste and God is not a God of waste.

Now, if that was God's intention in the beginning, did man's sin change his mind? I think not. In fact, when God creates the new heaven and new earth after the millennial reign of Christ, we will once again live in paradise. Heaven will exist as it was intended in the beginning—on earth. So, God will accomplish what He had set out to do in the very beginning, only man's sin will have caused a several thousand year detour to get there. We will have come full-circle! But the amazing thing is that this will still only be the beginning. It is as if all the history of the Bible would not have been necessary if man had made the right choice to begin with. Imagine for a moment what the Bible would say if man had not sinned in the garden. After the new heaven and new earth, we will get to participate in the writing of eternity!

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Coming Full Circle (Continued from page 1)

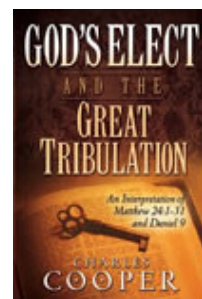
When you see this broader picture, it makes God's plan so much bigger and the Day of the Lord, rather than being the end, it only a beginning in itself. We have had many stories that were in trilogies. The Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, Indiana Jones (except for the latest release)... As we consider the big picture of the plan of God, it is as if the Day of the Lord were just the conclusion of the first episode of the trilogy of God's plan. Episode two will be about the thousand years that Christ rules this earth WITH man, and episode three will be about the return of the Garden of Eden.

The result is a greater awareness of Who God is... He is the God who finishes what He starts. Hebrews 13:8 (NIV) "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." We have had the uninformed view that God has worked in dispensations—that there was the way He worked in the Old Testament, the way He worked in the New Testament, and the way He will work at the end of time. But now, we must recognize that He is the same God throughout and has been working out his plan from the time he spoke the world into place, and will continue to work out his plan until the world is perfect once again and then forever. Maybe it is just me, but this revelation was a huge boost to my faith and to the truth of the scripture and the validity of the PreWrath view.

What Do We Do About Tribulation?

One of the questions on my FAQ page is:

"Is there any scripture that would seem to indicate how long the persecution of the church will last before the rapture comes? I was pretrib for many years until a new friend pointed out the discrepancies of the pretrib view and the scriptural sense of the prewrath view. But I am so sick at heart and scared of the years to come that I hope I die before it all starts to happen. Do you think most prewrath people feel this way?"



This question has always haunted me because none of us look forward to persecution. I have had many occasions where people have written to me to ask what they should do to prepare for the coming tribulation. Some have suggested that they stockpile food and find a place to retreat to and hide. Others have suggested we prepare to protect ourselves, and some are just paralyzed by the thought. Charles Cooper has just recently published the book, God's Elect and the Great Tribulation, where he explores to great length the options Christians have as we anticipate the persecution of the Antichrist. I am almost finished with it, and recommend it to anyone who is struggling with these questions. Rev. Cooper boils our choices down to three responses. The first is to **Fight**. As Christians this is not an option as it opposes how Jesus taught us to treat our enemies. Second is **Flight**. But where are you going to go? The third option, and the only real choice is **Faith**.

I have had several occasions where someone has asked this question. My response has been that Jesus addressed the topic of the end-times with his disciples several times and He told them that persecution was coming. He never told them to horde their stuff or to flee—except in the case of those who were in Jerusalem. Instead, Jesus had two responses - to watch and be ready. Here are some examples:

Luke 12:38 (NIV) It will be good for those servants whose master finds them **ready**, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. 39 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40 You also must be **ready**, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Matt 24:4 (NIV) Jesus answered: "**Watch** out that no one deceives you.

Matt 24:42 (NIV) "Therefore keep **watch**, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Mark 13:35 (NIV) "Therefore keep **watch** because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back--whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: **Watch!**"

Now this watching and readiness, in my opinion, has a lot more to do with spiritual insight and understanding than with physical preparedness. Note the passage in Matt. 24:4 where Jesus warns about not being deceived. Several of His discourses on His return began with the warning to not be deceived. Is it possible that God knew that many might have the wrong idea about His return? Many missed the truth of His first return and why should the second time be any different?

Matt 16:2 (NIV) He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' 3 and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. 4 A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.