

## What's New on Prewrathministries.org?

### New Look!!!

Very soon we will be launching a bold, new, and more professional look on the PreWrath Ministries Website.



In addition, Diane Jones of Wales designed a wonderful chart of the flow of the book of Revelation and it is available at no charge on the resource page thanks to Diane.

## Send Me Your Church Info

Last, I have had so many requests from all over the country asking if I know of churches teaching the prewrath position. Up until now I have not kept a list of churches. But with your help, I would like to compile and publish on the website a list of churches and locations that teach the Pre-Wrath view. Please email me at "Elbert@PreWrathMinistries.org" if you are a pastor or a member of a church that teaches PreWrath and would like to be included on the page. I need your church name, address and phone and your pastor's name. Thank you.

## Feature Article: The Elect

By Elbert Charpie

In a majority of end time passages, God's people are referred to as "the elect" and there is not much said about "the church." Those of a pre-trib camp insist that this is proof of a pre-tribulational rapture because the church will not be here during the 70th Week and therefore that is why the "church" is missing from most end-time prophecy. Furthermore, the argument continues, the church is not mentioned in the book of Revelation after the seven churches in the 2nd and 3rd chapters. One cannot deny that the "church" is mysteriously absent, but I believe there is a much better explanation. Following are some examples of the mention of the "elect."

Matt 24:22 (NIV) If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the *elect* those days will be shortened.

Mark 13:22 (NIV) For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive the *elect*--if that were possible.

So, the question is—why are God's people referred to as "elect" and not the "church" and why is the church missing through most of the book of Revelation?

Let me start by pointing out that there are other passages that are not necessarily prophetic where God's people are also referred to as the "elect."

Romans 11:7 (NIV) What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the *elect* did. The others were hardened...

2 Tim 2:10 (NIV) Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the *elect*, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

Titus 1:1 (NIV) Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's *elect* and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness...

1 Peter 1:1 (NIV) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's *elect*, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia...

My view about the "elect" is based on the description of the 7 churches in Revelation and what I found in the end-time passages that refer to the "elect." I plan on doing a future article on the 7 churches where I will go into much more detail, but for now I want to consider how each church is pictured in their relationship to the world.

The church at Ephesus is admonished for leaving their first love, but they are praised because they hate the practices of the Nicolaitans. The Holman Bible Dictionary defines Nicolaitans as: "Heretical group in the early church who taught immorality and idolatry... The Nicolaitans have been linked to the type of heresy taught by Balaam (Num. 25:1-2; 2 Pet. 2:15), especially the pagan feasts and orgies that they apparently propagated in the first-century church" (Page 1022). This group held to ideas that a Christian could be involved in sinful, worldly practices because the spirit and the flesh are two different entities. So, Ephesus is praised because they reject these doctrines.

The second church, Smyrna, is suffering afflictions, poverty, and slander. They are told they will suffer persecution. However, by the third church, Pergamum, we are

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## ***The Elect*** (Continued from page 1)

told they “hold” to the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans including the practice of sexual immorality. The fourth church, Thyratira, has a woman called Jezebel, a prophetess, who is leading the church into immorality. To Sardis, He says that they have a reputation of being alive, but they are dead. Philadelphia is praised but they are told they have little strength, but they have not denied the Lord. It indicates perseverance in the midst of mounting pressure. They are told to hold on to what they have. The last church, Laodicea, is told that He will spit them out of His mouth. They say they are rich, but Jesus says they are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

Among other things, I believe these seven churches are a picture of the church being pressured to compromise with the world. The prophet Balaam taught Balak to befriend Israel and to intermarry which resulted in the Israelites being led into idolatry. I believe the picture is one where the church during the 70th Week of Daniel will be continually pressured to compromise with the world and as pictured in Sardis and Laodicea, much of the church will compromise.

In Matthew 24, Jesus predicted this same demise of the church...

Matt 24:10 (NIV) At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold. He goes on the say...

Matt 24:21 (NIV) For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. 22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

My conclusion is that there is a distinct and important difference between the “church” and the “elect.” Because of compromise many in the church - those who are Christians in name only - will miss the rapture, and actually are not part of the true “elect.” The 70th Week of Daniel will open an era when God’s people can no longer be accurately called “the church.” I believe this is why the “church” is missing in end-time passages and why the more accurate term to describe God’s people during this time is the “elect.” The church has always had those who are members and claim to be Christians, but who have never truly been born-again. I believe that it was Billy Graham that said our greatest mission field is in the church pews. I also believe that one of the purposes of the 70th Week of Daniel is to “weed out” those who are the elect and those who are not. Malachi states this:

Malachi 3:2 (NIV) But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness...

## **One of My Greatest Encouragements**

I have lost count of the many times that someone has written to me explaining that they had “discovered” the PreWrath view before they knew a name for it. One gentleman wrote...

“25 years ago I thought I was the only one that believed that the tribulation was separate from the wrath of God and that the rapture separated the two. Since then I have found Van Kampen's book and then Rosenthal's book and now this site among others. There are still some questions I have so I am excited about rubbing shoulders, so to speak, with others that have the same understanding.”

As I have shared at various times, I was brought up being taught a pre-tribulation rapture and believed it for many years. I was always uncomfortable, because even believing pre-trib, I had questions for which I had no satisfactory answers. I had a dear friend and mentor that challenged me to read Robert Van Kampen’s book [The Rapture Question Answered](#). I resisted at first, but I finally came to the conclusion that the PreWrath view was the only view that was truly scriptural. Once I came to that conclusion, my belief was strengthened after studying scripture, because for the first time all prophecy seemed to fit together without artificial explanations or the many assumptions I had had to accept to believe pre-trib.

Now, after many years of promoting the PreWrath view, I find validation in the many testimonies of people who have come to a PreWrath conclusion years before Van Kampen or Rosenthal wrote their books. Their only source was the scripture and the contrary tide of popular opinion. It is these many people’s stories that have made me more confirmed than ever of the truth of the PreWrath position. Although for me it took Van Kampen to unlock my vision, my greatest encouragement is to find out that I am not the only one who has come to a PreWrath understanding from the simple descriptions of scripture. Now, I mentally “kick” myself for not having seen these truths years earlier.