

Grace to the Humble

Pre, Mid, or Post? It absolutely amazes me that even in this present hour many Christians are still trying to push their view of the Rapture on others.

A teaching I heard while writing a book on the subject a couple of years back provided much wisdom in how to teach people a better approach. I believe this wisdom is needed now more than ever!

The teaching was from the late Bible teacher Derek Prince, entitled, *Approaching Biblical Prophecy, Prophetic Guide to the End Times*. In it, Derek gives seven guiding principles when approaching the prophetic portions of Scripture. In this article, we will list just one of these principles, as it is more relevant to the point we desire to get across.

That point is actually the first principle Derek lists and is as follows. Many prophecies are given for a specific time and situation, and until we come to that time and situation, we will not be able to understand the prophecy! He bases his argument on the following Old Testament passage:

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the revealed things belong to us and to our children forever, to observe all the words of his law.

(Deuteronomy 29:29)

What is being said here is simple. There are things that God keeps back from man and there are things that He makes known! Derek goes on to say that when he speaks on End-Time Bible Prophecy, it often happens that someone will want to know his view on the timing of the Rapture, to which he always and unashamedly answers, "I don't know."

The reason is because he believes the timing of the Rapture is one of those "secret things" that the Father has not revealed! He adds that anybody who claims to be able to reveal that secret thing is a false prophet and, "By his own lips he has identified himself."

Revealing Hearts and Minds

This teaching on how to approach biblical prophecy certainly sheds light on the true intentions of those who call themselves teachers today yet are aggressive and dogmatic when it comes to defending their position.

And what are those *true intentions* we speak of? For one, to claim to be endowed with the prophetic mantle concerning things to come is a sure and quick way to fame and fortune!

But just think of the damage they will have created if wrong, especially those who hold to the Pre-Tribulation View. It will have caused many Christians to be unprepared for hardship and persecution to come. Even worse, it will have resulted in many Jews leaving this life without having heard the Gospel!

To benefit the reader not familiar with the theme, a Pre-Tribulation Rapture teaches that unbelieving Israel comes to Christ only when the Church is removed. Therefore, strong evangelistic efforts to convert the Jews NOW is rejected!

All Scripture Is Inspired by God

Finally, dear friend, seeing the importance of what we have just learned on how to approach Bible Prophecy, we need to be extremely careful about taking sides in the current Middle East conflict.

The New Testament gives clear instructions concerning the matter. Christians are not to get involved with the affairs of this world. Rather, we are to pray for ALL rulers and kings and, more specifically, that God's will be done for them.

But let me warn in advance, putting this sound biblical advice into practice might be difficult because of pressure in your Local Church, that may be teaching the exact opposite.

If that should happen, and you begin to have doubts because of the majority, remember this: All Churches in the Book of Revelation receive a commendation from the Lord, except the Church of Laodicea! That Church is in a bad state indeed, but the sad thing is, most people are not even aware of it!