

THE WORLDS Timely Warning-piece.



A powerfull Judg is coming, that will spare
No Kings nor States, then let them have a care:
He'l have account how they have rul'd his people here,
Their Armies nor their Fleets he doth not fear.

Licensed, and entred according to Order.

London, Printed for Fr. Grove near the Sarazen's
Head on Snow-hill 1660.



THE LAST GREAT ASSIZE. OR Day of Judgment.

*In Four Sermons upon the
20th Chapter of the Revelations.
To which is added,*

*Two SERMONS upon
the First Chapter of the
Canticles, Vers. 6, 7.*

By Sampson Smith,

The Pre-Trib Rapture in 17th and 18th Century England and New England

Submitted to the Pretrib Study Group
By William C. Watson December 2, 2012

English Words Usage / Concept of Rapture

<u>“Rapt”</u>		<u>“Rapture”</u>		<u>“Left Behind”</u>	
Vernon Manuscript	1320s?	Barton Holyday	1626	Robert Maton	1642
John Lydgate	1420	Joseph Mede*	1627	Thomas Vincent	1667
William Bond	1531	Nathaniel Homes	1653	author of <i>Theopolis</i>	1672
Thomas Draxe	1613	Capt. John Browne	1654	Oliver Heywood	1700
Barton Holyday	1626	William Sherwin	1665-1700		
Joseph Hall	1635	Increase Mather	1709		
George Walker	1638	Cotton Mather*	1726		
William Sherwin	1665	John Norris	1738		
		Philip Doddridge	1739		
		John Gill*	1748		

Note: Although ‘rapt’ and ‘rapture’ can refer to a spiritual or emotional experience of being ‘swept up into heaven’, those listed are only those instances of a physical, corporeal ‘sweeping up’ within the context of Matthew 24 or 1 Thessalonians 4-5. Use of the words “Left Behind” is within the context of the rapture mentioned in Matthew 24 or 1 Thessalonians 4-5.

*Those likely only Pre-Conflagration Rapture:

Thomas Draxe, Joseph Mede, Cotton Mather, Praisegod Barebones, William Hooke, John Gill

Although not pre-trib, mention others who were:

Thomas Collier 1674, Praisegod Barebones 1675, Thomas Burnett 1681, Pierre Jurieu 1687

Saints Resurrection well before return to Earth

William Bridge	1641
Robert Maton	1642
John Archer	1642
Ephraim Huit (Hewitt)	1643
Samuel Hutchinson	1646
Nathaniel Homes	1653
Capt. John Browne	1654
James Durham	1658
John Birchensha	1660
William Sherwin	1665
William Hook	1673
T.M.	1680
John Mason	1691
Jane Leade	1702
John Floyer	1721

Saints to Heaven for safety, escaping troubles

Robert Maton	1642
Jeremiah Burroughs	1643
Ephraim Huit (Hewitt)	1643
Samuel Hutchinson	1646
Elizabeth Avery	1647
Peter Sterry	1648
Nathaniel Homes	1653
John Aspinwall	1653
Capt. John Browne	1654
Archbishop Ussher	1655
John Birchensha	1660
William Sherwin	1665
Praisegod Barebones	1675
T.M.	1680
M. Marsin	1701
Increase Mather	1701, 1709
John Hildrop	1711

-Most conflate rapture (wise virgins) with calling of the Jews

(sealing of the 144,000), both have a theophany in clouds &

time for events in heaven, return to earth for Armageddon)

-At least time for marriage supper/conflagration (Noah, Lot)

Multiple 2nd comings (surprise/peace, obvious/war):

William Bridge 1641, Robert Maton 1642, Samuel Hutchinson 1646, Anon 1699

70th Week of Daniel later, not attached to 69 weeks/ 7 Years Conflagration

William Lloyd 1690, Benjamin Marshall 1728/ Increase Mather 1709,

“Rapt” in the 14th, 15th, & 16th centuries

used not just for ecstatic spiritual experience, but also for a physical catching up into heaven

The word “rapture” is commonly used now to describe the taking away of believers to heaven, but anti-dispensationalists insist the “rapture” was begun by Darby in the nineteenth century. An etymological study shows its use centuries earlier.

- “Rapture” comes from the Latin *rapio* or “caught up” and is found in English as early as the early fourteenth century in the Vernon Manuscript, “wan he was **rapt** into paradys.” [Elijah]
- John Lydgate, early fifteenth century associate of Chaucer, wrote “in this wyse were the brethren twayne to heaven **rapt**.” [2 witnesses of Revelation]
- It is also found in the early sixteenth century when William Bond wrote “he was **rapt** & taken vp in to the thyerde heuen.” [Paul’s mystical experience]

Etymological research was in Dictionary of the English Language, and extensive word search in EEBO
Vernon MSS, in [Old English Miscellany](#), 223; John Lydgate, [Chronicle of Troy](#) (1420) 2:14 [wikipedia.org](#)
William Bond, *Pilgrim of Perfection* in [Wynkyn de Worde](#), 1531): 25 in “Rapture” [wikipedia..org](#)

Thomas Draxe (1608, 1613) Cambridge grad, vicar Essex

more than pre-conflagration: “al those things” (only the worthy taken early)

Just as God saved “Noah and his family” in the deluge, that “hee will remember and saue them, when all the world besides perisheth ... Lot in Sodome, hee shall bee preserued when all the rest are consumed.” *-The Worldes Resvrrrection (London, 1608), 41.*

Draxe exhorted us to “watch and pray, that we may be accompted worthy to **escape all these things** that shall come.”

-The Lambs Spovse Or The Heauenly Bride. A theological discourse (London,1608), D4.

“Enoch and Elias (though instantly transchanged) **rapt** aliue into heauen.”

-The Earnest of our Inheritance: Together with a Description of the New Heaven and New Earth (London, 1613), 50.

“accounted worth to **escape al those things** that shall come upon the world, and to stand before the Sonne of Man.”

-An Alarm to the Last Judgement. Or An exact discourse of the second comming of Christ (London, 1615), 126,128

Robert Maton (1607-1653) Oxford grad, Puritan minister

more than just pre-conflagration rapture (before Armageddon & other wonders)



Robert Maton

“why shall the elect onely be gathered together and the rest **left behind...**they shall be left, **either to perish in that great destruction,** which shall come **upon all Nations that fight** against the Jewes, whom our Saviour shall then redeem: **Or to bee eye-witnesses of Gods wonders** in all Countreys at that time.”

-Israel's Redemption (London, 1642), 60, 67.

Maton's pre-trib rapture before Armageddon

“when the great Day of the Lord's descent shall come, there is to be a **generall security**: *Eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage*. And **not warring and fighting**. For if an end of the warres should be made by the Lords coming, how would the faithfull have time here to rejoyce, and to give thankes unto God for their greatest enemies overthrow?”

-*Gog and Magog, or the Battle of the Great Day of God Almighty* (London, 1642), 110.

Ezekiel 37-38, Joel 3, Zechariah 12 & Revelation 16-17:

“all foreshow one and the same battell... First, because they all speake of a more generall confederacy and combination of the Kings of the world... Secondly, because they all say, that the returning or the Jewes into their owne Land, shall be the occasion of this warre-like assembly. ... Thirdly, because they all declare, that the destruction of this great army, shall be in the land of Judea.”

-*Gog and Magog, or the Battle of the Great Day of God Almighty* (London, 1642), 94-95.

John Archer's 40 days between rapture & kingdom

Cambridge grad, lawyer & MP

“when he comes from Heaven to set up his Kingdom, he will raise up all Saints who are dead before his coming...as Christ had a middle State betwixt his Resurrection and Ascension for forty days; so shall his Saints have who dye before his coming from Heaven; ...but they shall have a middle state betwixt glory and mortality...yet he said then to come from Heaven, although he had come before, therefore he must have gone to heaven again...and in this place they are kept till this Kingdome of Christ come...”

-The Personal Reign of Christ upon Earth (London, 1642), 19.

Jeremiah Burroughs (1600-1646) Cambridge grad, rector

Saints rescued from Great Tribulation

Westminster Assembly



“The first thing that shall be done in this great day of Jezreel, shall be the deliverance of the Churches from wofull affliction which they shall be found to be in a little before, For so the Scripture tells us, *Dan.12.1.* that *before this day there shall be a time of trouble such as never was...and at that time thy people shall be delivered...* it is therefore called a *great day*, because of Gods appearing so gloriously in the deliverance of his Church at that day. ... It is a going up, it is a rising... search into these truths of God, that so they may be the better prepared to meet Christ their Bride-groom when he commeth.

An Exposition of The Prophetie of Hosea (London, 1643), 187, 195.

Ephraim Huit (Hewitt) (1604-1644) Connecticut Puritan minister

Christians delivered & preserved, Kingdom given to Jews who settle Judah,
Gog & Magog invade, Christ's bride returns to earth to set up Christ's Kingdom

“deliverance from outward trials is expressed by the Lords coming in the clouds...in the deliverance of his Church, from Egypt, and preservation in the wilderness is described by his riding on the heavens...upon this coming of the Son of Man in the cloudes, the kingdom is given to the Iewes...but upon the Incarnation of our Lord, the kingdom was taken from the Iewes... & given to the Gentiles [until] the summoning of the Elect by the sound of a trumpet...our Lord Mat 24.30. & his beloved disciple Iohn Rev 1.7. do couple this coming of the Son of man in the Cloudes with that holy wailing of the Iewes in their conuersion...Zac 12.10.” *-The whole Prophecie of Daniel Explained, by a Paraphrase, Analysis (London, 1643), 196-199.*

“The estate of the Jews even in those times of their restore are said to be very troublous, for that, 1. Warfare... 2. Also the Adversary they cope with is the Turkish State, whose rage and Terror is well known...” *Ibid.*, 347.

...Gods Church as a Bride royally attired descends from Heaven...the Saints are here said to take the Kingdom.” *Ibid.*, 204-205.

Elizabeth Avery (ca. 1640s) The Saints are taken out of “the Great Tribulation” to “a place of safety...a resting place for...for three yeers and a half” then Christ will gather the Saints will come

“he will gather all his from all places...**the great Tribulation** which shall befall the Church of God immediately before her deliverance out of Babylon ...so the Church shall be secured...in the wilderness...which is **a place of safety...God will provide as a resting-place** for the Saints: which I say is an undoubted truth, in respect of the judgements of God which are coming on the earth...that is **three yeers and a half**...expect a dissolution of all things at the last days, when *the Son of man shall come in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory*, and **all the Saints with him**, who shall be **gathered together** by the sound of a trumpet, as in *1 Cor 15*. And *1 Thess 4* and *5*... *1 Pet 3*. Where it is said, that *the day shall come as a thief in the night*...those that are risen at the coming of Christ, with those who are risen from the dead, shall be **caught up** into the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. Now these clouds are not the clouds of the air, but the clouds of heaven.” “Christ coming in glory spiritually, and all his Saints with him...”

Scripture-Prophecies Opened (London, 1647), 7-9,19,25.

Nathaniel Homes (1599-1678) Oxford DD, Congreg. Pastor

Rapture to heaven before Conflagration & Armageddon, then earthly millennium

“all **mankind shall rise in their order**, Christ the first fruits...afterwards, they that are Christs at his coming...notes a distance of time of above a thousand and a halfe of yeers...the **rapture** of the Saints into the clouds, to be their present translation **into heaven**...this our gathering together unto Christ at his coming (so the Apostle calls this **rapture**, 2 Thess.2.1.) wee shall from henceforth never lose his presence, but always enjoy it, partly on earth, during his reign of the thousand yeers, and partly in heaven, when wee shall be translated thither. [Why] this **rapture** of the Saints on high to meet the Lord in the clouds, rather then to wait his coming to the earth. What if it bee, that they may be **preserved during the conflagration** of the earth, and the works thereof, 2 Pet.3.10. That as Noah, and his family were preserved from the deluge, by being lift up above the waters in the Ark, so should the Saints at the conflagration bee lift up in the clouds unto their Ark, Christ, to be preserved there from the Deluge of fire, wherein the wicked shall be consumed?”

-The Resurrection Revealed (London,1653), 492,494.

Homes on a Jewish kingdom while the Church is in heaven

Christ appears in clouds for rapture & calling of Jews, then Israel restored, Armageddon

“conversion of the Jewes yet to come, at the beginning of the Restitution of all things. ...**this coming** is meant of a coming after his Ascension, and yet **before the ultimate day of doome** ...a future thing... But this **cannot be understood of his appearance at the ultimate day of judgement**, because they speak of his **pouring out of grace, and giving repentance** to the families of the Jewes ...The **Israelites** after their **return** into their own Country at the time of their redemption, are not to enjoy a full and perfect tranquility, and peace, until the last **war with Gog and Magog** shall be finished. For it shall come to pass that **after the Israelites shall returne into Palestine**, that Nation of Gog and Magog shall come to invade...the Holy Land...confirmed by [Ezek, Joel, Dan].”

-The Resurrection Revealed (London, 1653), 62-63, 80-82, 426-427.

William Aspinwall (1605-1662)

left Boston with Anne Hutchinson for Rhode Island in 1637,
returned to England 1651, 5th Monarchist, back to New England 1659

“If God by some voice from heaven, I mean out of his Churches, say *Come up hither*, Rev.11.12,13. Follow his call, and fear not enemies; though you see them, & they see **you ascend up to heaven, you shall be safe.** Some **commotion or earthquake will ensue**, but no detriment to you that obey the voice from heaven, The detriment will be to the enemies themselves...”

-A Brief Description of the Fifth Monarchy, or Kingdome, That shortly is to come (London, 1653), 9-10.

Capt. John Browne (1582-1659) of merchant ship (London-Annapolis)

144,000 on earth after rapture while church in heaven, then Jews called,
Jerusalem & Temple rebuilt, the Beast rages until cast into pit



“the hundred forty and four thousand, who are called Virgins, cannot be said to be the Virgins that attend the Spouse, the Lamb’s Wife, seeing that they are **upon the Earth after the said Spouse is taken up**. ...then will follow the calling of the two Tribes of Judah and Benjamin to Jerusalem...and then **the City is built**, which bringing back of the ten Tribes will not be completed till **after the Saints are taken up**, when as before that time **both Jerusalem and the Temple will be built**, and Sacrifice offered...After the calling of the two Tribes for to build and inhabite Jerusalem, the next remarkable thing that will in those days fall out to be, is the rising or manifesting of the Beast...” *A Brief Survey of the Prophetical and Evangelical Events of Last Times* (London,1654),7,12-13.

Capt. John Browne's Order of Events in Last Days

1. “**Falling away** of the Churches...from the Truth of that Doctrine that was taught them by the Lord Jesus a falling away before the man of sin would be revealed, 2Thess.2.3.
2. “the coming forth of the Mystical Whore of Babylon...The place of her abode...is that great City... which reigneth over the Kings of the Earth...Rome, the chief Seat of the sixth Head, of Roman Monarchy
3. “the image which Nebuchadnezar saw consisting of two legs...this division of the Empire...the Western Empire is afterwards divided into severall Kingdoms...and the Eastern is quite devoured by the Turks...
4. “this **Gospel of the Kingdom must be preached in all Nations** after the falling away of the Churches...
5. “then will follow the **calling of the two Tribes of Judah and Benjamin to Jerusalem...**
6. “then the **City is built...both Jerusalem and the Temple** will be built, and Sacrifice offered...
7. “this seventh Head or Government is stiled a Raiser of Taxes...must immediately precede the vile person ...this little horn must be the same with the vile person, **Man of Sin, and Beast...**now is no treasure to be found nor Revenue left to defray the ordinary charges thereunto, much lesse for the maintenance of an Army
8. “John's Beast...shall return...causing them (viz. **the Jewes**) **to be besieged...**daily Sacrifice shall be taken away, and the **transgression of desolation...the Sanctuary...trodden under the feet...**
9. “during the **time of that terror** will the Church of the Iews (the one hundred and fourty four thousand) fly out of Ierusalem into the wildernesse...
10. “the ten hornes and the Beast will arise, before whose power is at the height **the Saints will be taken up** ...therefore the more the reason to set upon this most necessary work of preaching the Gospel...
11. “**bringing back of the ten Tribes...**
12. “**the hundred fourty and four thousand...are upon the Earth after the said Spouse is taken up.**
13. “The **Beast [will] set up the abomination** which makes desolate...**then the great tribulation** that would immediately follow, such as was not from the beginning of the world to that time.

Early Tribulation according to Capt. Browne

10 Horns destroy Whore, give power to Beast (revealed), Rapture, abomination in temple

“What the ten Horns and Beast will doe before and after the taking up of the Saints.

“**First, before** the taking up of the Saints, the ten Horns will arise, and hate the Whore, and make her desolate ...and destroy her, before they give up their power unto the Beast.

“Secondly, As to what the Beast will doe. First, **before the Saints are taken up** he shall make warre with the King of the South (the Ægyptian Prince) but afterwards they shall be reconciled seemingly, for they shall talk of deceit (or speak lies) at one Table, and both set their hearts to doe mischief...his heart shall be against the Covenant (or people of the Jewes, with whom he had before made a League)...his evil thoughts will then begin to work against them, according to Ezekiel’s Prophecie in his 38. Chapter 10,11,13. For this **Gog...will evidently appear to be this vile Person or John’s Beast**, if we compare Ezek.38...with the 19. Revel.17,18.) At the time appointed he shall return ...causing them (the Jewes) to be besieged, as he passeth through their Country... So that know will begin to be fulfilled another part of Daniel’s Prophesie, who saith in his 8. Chapter 13,14. That the time that the dayly Sacrifice shall be taken away, and the transgression of **desolation**, to give both the Sanctuary and the Host, to be **trodden under the feet, shall be two thousand three hundred days**...before the end of the vile Persons raigb be. ...**during the time of that terror** will the Church of the Iews (viz. the one hundred and fourty four thousand) fly out of Ierusalem into the wilderness.

“And now we come to declare what he (the vile Person or Beast) will doe after the Saints are taken up; that is, he and his Army, after a short space, will recover their Spirits again, and being impowred by the devil he takes Jerusalem...And **then he will set himself in the Temple of God, and exalt himself above all that is called God**, 2Thess.2.4. and Dan.11.36...now persuaded, by the Dragon and the vile Person, to joyn with him, in utterly rooting out this people of the Jews out of that plentiful Country... And now we apprehend will be the time, when all the world will wonder after the Beast, whose deadly wound by a Sword was healed...set up the abomination which makes desolate,,then would be the time that they [Jews] would have most need to fly [to the wilderness], in regard to **the great tribulation that would immediately follow**, such as was not from the beginning of the world to that time.” Ibid., 43-46.

Late Tribulation according to Capt. Browne

Rapture, Beast takes Jerusalem, ends sacrifice 3 ½ years, Beast cast into lake of fire

“the holy City shall they tread under foot two and forty months [3½ years]...in the midst of the week [in the middle of seven years] he shall cause the Sacrifice to cease...and they [Jews] shall be given into his hands until a time, and times, and the dividing of time [3½ years]... So that from the time of **the Saints being taken up**...to the time that the Beast and the false Prophet will be taken alive and cast into the lake of fire, and the said Devill or Dragon bound up with a chain, will be a short time... So that the longest time of the Prophecies concerning him, for **the said time of the Saints being taken up, to his end, will not be four years.** A short time in respect of eternity, but a long time in respect of **the miseries and plagues that will fall upon the Inhabitants of the Earth.** Ibid., 47.

James Durham's order of events in the last days

(1622-58) St. Andrews grad, Scottish covenanter, prof Glasgow captain in Cromwell's army

1. "Antichrist Rome's destruction, her people lament, but the Saints sing 'Alleluja'"
2. "Preparation for the Bride (Church): the first resurrection, 'clothed in fine linen' ...*the marriage supper of the Lamb is come*...the Churches marriage with Christ, which is the same with the Resurrection
3. "The Lambs order and army...after the Lambs marriage...a flourishing Church, able to send out Armies...not only Angels and Saints glorified; but such of the Church, as are arrayed..."

-A Commentarie upon the Book of the Revelation (Edinburgh, 1658), 691, 699-700.

John Birchensha (1660s) Rapture, destruction of Whore, Jews called, return to their land, nations invade, take Jerusalem, Christ & Saints destroy them

“The dead shall be raised...some of them which did slay them shal behold them when they ascend into heaven in a Cloud... A tenth part... will leave the great Whore; partly abhorring her cruelties, partly seeing the mighty wonders of God in raising the dead, and partly foreseeing the judgements ready to fall upon the Babylonish and Papal Empire. And... the Lord will put it into their hearts of the Jews (having seen the sign of the Sonne of Man in Heaven, and being convinced that their Messiah is come) to imbodye, in order **to a journie into their owne Land.** ... **All Nations shal be brought against Jerusalem to battle;** for Wars wil be among the Turks, and the spoile shal be divided in the midst of Jerusalem: and the City shall be taken, and the houses spoiled, and the women defiled... But the Heathen shal not long possesse the Holy City: For now **the Lord wil come to give his Saints** possession of their own Land: And he wil come with All his Saints...and **those nations that shal gather together against Jerusalem shal be destroyed...**”

-The History of the Scripture (London,1660), iv,61-62, 98-99.

William Sherwin (1607-1687) minister Wallington (south of London) ej.1660
promoting the Rapture & Millennium 'after so many hundreds of years of its lying hid'

“the Saints...at the sounding of that last Trumpet at the end of the world shall be changed in a moment, at the twinkling of an eye...**rapt** up to meet Christ in the air...

“the end of the fourth Monarchy...which agree with the times of the seventh Trumpet...Christ by a change before, **in an instant delivers the faithful then alive, from that temporal destruction, and the ruine of the Antichrist...** The examples of the Flood in Noahs time, and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Lots time are instances...”

“he will raise all his people that then sleep in the grave, **to reign on earth** with him, till the great multitude of their fellow-members be come in. This Doctrine many of the ancient Fathers acknowledged...**Justine Martyr...Irenaeus...Tertullian...**even **Augustine** sometime held it, though by the subtlety of Satan, forgeing lyes to asperse the Millenary opinion, and stirring men up to foist in offensive errorrs...in these latter times hath **again discovered it, after so many hundred years of its lying hid for the most part in the Church,** to be a doctrine really embraced by his faithful people [who] will doubtless certainly know, that upon their **rapture** to meet Christ, they shall be perfected in glory evermore in heaven.”

-Eirenikon: or a Peaceable consideration of Christ's Peaceful Kingdom on Earth (1665), 40, 46-47, 107-108.

Sherwin: 3 Personal Comings only way to explain it

Tribulation, Lord's Coming, Resurrection & Change, Calling Jews,
Antichrist revealed, Armageddon

“What, such an apprehension make **three Personal Comings!**
**Yes, it may be so... For without making three of two or two
of one, I am sure it cannot be done. ...**

“The time of great and universal **Tribulation** that shall come
upon the World, foretold by our Lord, is called an Hour of
Temptation. ... The Lord's Coming; The Saints Resurrection
and Change; then caught up to meet the Lord in the Air; the
Jews Conversion; the Consternation of the Wicked; and the
Man of Sin, and his Company's Destruction; Calling of his
Saints to Judgment; Subjecting the Nations to the Jews,
Reigning over the Nations...”

The Glorious Kingdom of our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ on Earth Rightly Timed (London 1693), 5,
18,19. Sherwin died in 1687, but his son an engraver lived until 1709.

Thomas Vincent (1634-1678) Oxford grad, rector London, ej.1662

Rapture of righteous, others left behind, terror -sounds just like Tim LaHaye!

“the righteous...suddenly **caught up together in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air; which sight will be fearful and amazing to them, when they perceive themselves to be **left behind**. ... O the fear and trouble which will be upon the spirits of those unbelieving Christ-less, graceless sinners... some of them linked in the nearest relations to them, when **their believing relations shall be caught away from them**, and carried up into the air, with the rest of the glorious train of Saints, when **themselves shall remain below upon the earth**... Friends will be together at that day as at other times, not expecting Christ’s coming... Suppose that the heavens should just now open and you should hear the sound of the last Trumpet, and Jesus Christ should descend. ...all you that are impenitent and unbelievers, would be **left behind**: and think what **terror would fall upon you**... O how dreadful would it be for you, and all that should be found in the number of them that are left?”

-Christ’s Certain and sudden Appearance to Judgment (London,1667), 53-54.

Samuel Hutchinson (1590-1667) brother-in-law of Anne
Tribulation, Rapture, Armageddon Hutchinson, settled Rhode Is.

“when we see the people of God is **such distress as never was known** in the World, then we may look for Christ’s appearance for delivering them. ... Now before this great Restitution of all things, we must expect **Christs second coming**, before which Antichrist will never utterly be destroyed...*2 Thess.2.1.the Saints shall be gathered* together unto him, according to that in *Mat.24.31. He shall send his Angels with the great sound of a Trumpet, and they shall gather together his Elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other;* and then shall be...that **great Battel of Armageddon...His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives...Then the Lord shall be King over all the Earth.**”

A Declaration of a Future Glorious Estate of a Church to be here upon the Earth, at Christ’s Personal Appearance for the Restitution of all things, a Thousand Years (London, 1667), 7, 15.

Hutchinson's double appearance of Christ

first spiritually & 'unawares' during 'peace', later personally & obvious for war

“While men look onely for a glorious and a spiritual Appearance of Christ, and never think of his Personal Appearance, this is one Reason why this day of Christ will take them unawares: *For I will come, saith Christ, in an hour you think not on, Mat.24.44. and so in Luk.17.26,27. As it was in the days of Noah...they ate and drank and married, and gave in marriage, unto the day that Noah entered the ark, and the Flood came and destroyed them all: and so in vers.28. As it was in the days of Lot, they ate, they drank, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from Heaven, and destroyed them all: Even thus, and so, shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. Thus Christ will come as a Thief in the Night...*

“When Christ appears Personally, there shall be such Troubles as never was upon the Earth, *Dan.12.1 & Zech.14.2. I will gather all Nations against Jerusalem to Battel, and the City shall be taken, and the Houses risted, and the Women ravished...vers.3. Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those Nations: vers.4. And his feet shall stand in that day upon Mount Olives: vers.5. And the Lord my God shall come, and all the Saints with him.*”

ibid., 16.

Hutchinson's Secret Rapture & Calling of Jews

“when we see strange Signs in the Heavens, following great **Tribulations upon the Earth**, the nearer we may expect the glorious Estate here upon Earth. ... The Church we know was to be in the Wilderness **1290 days** [3½ years], as appears in Dan12.11. ...this is the time Christ will appear with all his Saints and Angels...for the **Conversion of the Jews**, and for the bringing in of the **fullness of the Gentiles**... So that though the day and hour of Christs coming is kept forever **secret**...*for the Elects sake those days shall be shortened*, to teach us to watch and pray and wait continually for the appearing of Jesus Christ, lest that day come upon us unawares. ... It is generally conceived that the Jews shall be converted, and the fullness of the Gentiles shall be brought in, before the day of Judgement”
[but Zechariah 12:10 made him wonder] Ibid., 25-26, 7.

William Hook (1600-1677)

Oxford, pastor MA&CT, chap Cromwell

Rapture, safe in heaven, 3 ½ year Tribulation, return with Christ master Savoy, 1658-60, ej

“There are several Resurrections mentioned in the Scriptures. But great troubles will follow **this Resurrection [pre-Trib rapture]** after a short time...which will **shake the power of the Beast...**till it come to **Armageddon...** The Beast lives in **Hell upon Earth [tribulation]**, the **Saints in Heaven...**when they ascended up to Heaven in a cloud, their Enemies beheld them. They **rise up from Antichrist** and his Pollutions, and all his earthly and hellish waies...and at last, **they shall come with Christ** to judge the world. ...

“**Until then they are protected**, somewhat like as when the Egyptians pursued the Israelites into the Red Sea, at what time the pillar of cloud removed from before the Israelites, and stood between them and the Egyptians; For thus, here is a cloud of Protection between the ascending Witnesses and their Enemies.”

[witnesses in Rev 11 laid dead 3½ days/years]

-Short Discourse of the Nature and Extent of the Gospel-Day (London, 1673) 13, 18, 20-23.

William Lloyd (1627-1717) Anglican bishop



Taught that the 70th week of Daniel was separated from the previous 69, which went from the command by Ataxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem until when the Messiah would be “cut off.” No mention was made of the 70th week, which Lloyd thought would be separate from the 69 and come later.

-An Exposition of the Prophecy of Seventy Weeks, which God sent to Daniel by the Angel Gabriel (n.p.,1690).

Benjamin Marshall (fl.1690-1730) rector Gloucs

- Defended Bishop Lloyd after Lloyd's death:

“Those sixty nine Septenaries of Years ended in the Year of Christ 32... Consequently a Propheitik Week, or one other Septenary of Years is still remaining, and without any Succession of Time for it in the Prophecy. However this remaining week of the Seventy... We are not at a loss for it. Look for it in the remaining Single Week of the Prophecy distinctly spoken afterwards... When the Angel had done with those two Periods of this Prophecy, He afterwards tells the Prophet expressly of another of One Week only, distinguishing that more immediately in the Half Part thereof.”

-Three Letters in Vindication of the late Bishop Lloyd's Hypothesis of Daniel's Prophecy (London,1728), 44-45.

- Pointed out the Angel who gave the prophecy to Daniel:

“detach'd the Week from the other sixty nine Weeks...he separated it from having any Succession of Time with them.” Ibid., 48.

(This set up the view that the tribulation would be seven years long, divided in half by an “abomination” which “makes desolate.”)

John Mason (1646-1694)

Camb, rector Bucks, 'enthusiast'

Tribulation, Papacy Falls, Christ appears, Jews called, Rapture, Jerusalem invaded, 2nd Coming

“Watch therefore, for you know not the Day, nor the hour, when the Son of man cometh.’ ...why the doctrine of Christ’s Kingdom hath met with so cold a reception, especially when the time of the End draws near...**they who live in daily expectation of the coming of Christ, are the most lively zealous Christians.**

“When ‘the times of the Gentiles shall be fulfilled’ Christ...will reign here upon earth...there will be a **Tribulation**. This goes before the Destruction of Babylon... after this, the Sun is darkened...This is an Overthrow...of the fourth great Empire, the Papal Empire, the Popes having the Fag-end of the Roman Empire...the Destruction of Mystical Babylon. Then comes the **Conversion of the Jews: the appearance of the Son of Man**, the Tribes mourning...‘then shall two be in the Field, the one shall be taken, and the other left’ ...‘They shall fall by the edge of the sword’ ...‘and Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles’ ... first by the Romans, now by the Turks ‘until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled’ ...

“Christ’s **coming is to set up his kingdom...but dreadful Tribulations make way for it**...the Lord will be here in a short time...‘Watch therefore, for you know neither the Day nor the Hour when the Son of Man cometh’ ...that he may come to you as a friend in the day, not as a thief in the night.”

The Midnight Cry. A Sermon preached on the parable of the ten virgins (London,1691), 3,11,14-15.

Thomas Beverly (fl. 1690s) rector Hertfords.

2 Separate Raptures (first martyrs, later rest of Saints) before Millennium

“there must be a **space of Time** of the Saints dead in Christ [martyrs] Rising first, who Answer to the Saints of the First Resurrection; and the Saints chang’d, who Answer to the Partakers of the First Resurrection; and the Time of these Chang’d Saints being caught up... **Both** of these Saints **Live and Reign with Christ a thousand years...**”

-The Dead Raised First (1691), 3.

Anonymous tract (1699)

Christ will appear twice in the sky, first to gather his Church, then to judge nations

“those saints that are then alive shall not prevent the rising of the Saints that were dead at the coming of Christ...for the dead in Christ shall be raised first; then the Saints alive in the Body, in this mortal state, shall be changed...in the twinkling of an eye, less than a moment, raise all the dead Saints, and change all the Saints then alive into an incorruptible immortal state... They shall be **caught up in the Clouds to meet the Lord in the Air...in this appearing of Christ...**

but here it's another sight of Christ, viz. as their Judge: for so he will be to the Sinner and ungodly, when he shall come the second time in the Clouds of Heaven...coming to enter upon his Kingdom here on Earth, with all his Saints in a glorified State, after having received their gloried bodies, and after meeting their Lord in the air, prepared for this great Assize and Judgment of the World.”

[alludes to 3½ years between the two: Satan's “42 months near running out” and the Church's “1260 days of her being in the wilderness...the place prepar'd of God. Where she should be fed all the 1260 days.”p.52-55.]

Anon, *A Short Survey of the Kingdom of Christ here on Earth with his Saints* (London,1699, 9-11, 14-15.

Oliver Heywood (1630-1702) Camb, ej1662, Presbyt

“the Souls of the glorified Saints shall descend and be united to their own Bodies, and then ascend to meet the Lord in the Air, and the wicked are **left behind** on their dunghill the earth...the dead shall rise, before the living are **rapt up**... These congregated Saints shall be admitted into one place, and state of Glory: They are *before the throne of God*...there is room enough **in heaven** for all the saints, *In my Father’s house*, saith Christ, *are many mansions.*” [no mention of return to earth or millennium]

Oliver Heywood, *The General Assembly: or, a Discourse of the Gathering of all Saints to Christ* (London,1700), 15-16,19-20.

Increase Mather (1639-1723) Boston Puritan



“Believers should long for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Pet.3.12

Looking for and Hastening to the Coming of the Day of God. You must not only Look for, not only Believe that such a Day will come, but you must Hasten to it, that is by earnest desires, by longing wishes; we should Pray for the coming of this Day. Thus Christ has taught us to Pray, *Thy Kingdom Come.*”

The Blessed Hope, and the Glorious Appearing of the Great God our Saviour (Boston, 1701), 135.

Increase Mather: Saints raptured into Heaven, before returning to earth with him to Judge the World

“When Christ comes, Believers shall see the King...in all his Glory, and shall go with him **to the Land that is very far off. Heaven** is the Land that is very far off. Christ has assured believers it shall be thus, John 14.2 *In my Fathers House are many Mansions*; that is **in Heaven**...He will not go back to Heaven and leave them behind him. No, they shall sit with him in Heavenly places.

“**The Armies of Heaven will follow him. When He shall come to judge the world, the Saints in Heaven will come with him...**

“We are as sure to be **raised up together in that Blessed day, when the Great God our Saviour Christ shall appear, and as sure then to ascend into Heaven...**

“all the holy Angels shall come with him. Not some only, but all of them. And yet more, all the Saints in Glory shall then come down from Heaven to wait upon him. Zach.14.5 *The Lord thy God shall come, and all his Saints with him. ...*

“For he will cause all that are Dead to come forth out of their Graves in that day, but **every one in his own order**. He shall no sooner Appear, but **Believers shall rise out of their Graves**: 1 Cor.15.23 ... **before the dispensation of judgment**, which begins with the Glorious Appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ shall be finished...

“They shall be **with him when he comes to Judge** the World: they shall come with him and never be separated from him any more. 1Thes4.17 *So shall we ever be with the Lord.*”

Increase Mather: more than pre-conflagration?

“The Living Saints at Christ’s coming shall be caught up into the Air, that they may **escape that Deluge of Fire** which will be the Perdition of ungodly Men... But before this **Rapture** of the living, the dead Saints shall be raised. ... They, as to their Bodies, shall not be with Christ before the Bodies of Saints asleep in the Grave shall be with him... As when the Flood came, there was a Difference make between Noah’s family and the rest of Mankind: Thus when the World shall perish by Fire, no Saint shall be hurt by that Fire, but Sinners shall. ...we **may not determine how long the Conflagration shall last**. Noah’s Floud continued for many Days and Months, he was a whole Year in the Ark. The Weapons of **Ezekiel’s Gog are Seven Years** in burning, Ezek.39.9.”

-Dissertation Concerning the Future Conversion of the Jewish Nation (1709), 15.

THE BLESSED
H.O.P.E.

And the Glorious Appearing of the
Great GOD our SAVIOUR,

Jesus Christ.

Opened & Applied,
In Several
SERMONS.

By Increase Mather,

Præfident of Harvard Colledge in *Cambridge*
and Preacher of the Gospel, at *Boston*, in *N.E.*

- 2 Tim. 4. 8. *Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord the Righteous Judge, shall give me at that Day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His Appearing.*
- 1 Pet. 1. 13. *Wherefore gird up the loyns of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end, for the Grace that is to be brought unto you at the Revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Boston, Printed by *Timothy Green*, for *Nicholas Boone*, at his Shop over against the Old-Meeting-House. 1701.

A
DISSERTATION

Concerning the

Future Conversion

OF THE

Jewish Nation.

Answering the Objections of the Reverend and Learned Mr. *Baxter*, Dr. *Lightfoot*, and others.
With an Enquiry into the first Resurrection.

By INCREASE MATHER, Præfident
of *Harvard-Colledge*, at *Cambridge*, in
New-England.

Hear the Word of the Lord, O ye Nations, and declare in the Isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, Jer. 31. 10.

L O N D O N :

Printed by *R. Tooke* for *Nath. Hillier*, at the *Prince's Arms* in
Leaden-ball-street. M DCC IX.

Jane Leade (1623-1704) mystic, founded Philadelphians

Rapture to heaven, glorified & installed, marriage supper, tribulation, descend to rule

“The Heavens do open, and the bright Cloud breaks, as the open Gate for Ascension, to receive the Spirit of the Soul, that hath put on its risen Body; it is now parted from the Earth, and carried up...a soul all restless, till it comes to its own prepared mansion! ... the **Ascended and Glorified, are again to Descend...**to serve their Lord and Master’s appointment...have passed through the **ten days Tribulation...**to lay the Foundation for the Mount-Sion Glory. ...New Jerusalem will open and descend; then shall the Priestly Kingdom be revealed, and its Government be known, and managed by the Saints of the most High, who after Ascension must have **some space of Time for their Instalment...** For as the Heavens have received the Lord Christ out of the visible sight, so it will these ascended Angels, till they be confirmed for Kingly Dominion...their inward transformed Spirits, Souls and Bodys are translated out of sight, and are taken into the Heavens.”

The Heavenly Cloud Now Breaking: or, the Lord Christ’s Ascension-Ladder, Sent Down (London,1701, 36, 43-45, 49-50)

“The Reign of Christ upon the Earth in his Saints is drawing near; and for this End...to make ready an Espoused Bride, that may be found all fair and clear without blemish; ...the Lord is coming to appear in his Saints, and to set them over the Earth. For the Davidses of Sion the Dominion shall be restored, through Marriage with the Lamb of God...he will Reign Personally in his Saints...the Thousand Years Reign Prophetied of.”

The Enochian walks with God, Found by a Spiritual Traveller, Whose Face towards Mount-Sion (London,1702),22,45-46

M. Marsin (ca. 1690s) obscure female (Quaker?)

these last days, Rapture, Israel's last days, Canaan, great plagues poured out, Gog & Magog

“1 Thessalonians 4:16-17: For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout’ these are those that are said will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...one shall be taken and the other shall be left...

After the Lord’s coming most of the great plagues mentioned in the revelations will be **poured out upon the Earth and the Wicked**. That Beast and the False Prophet will be then taken alive...be prepared for the Lord’s Coming...the Signs of the Times” earthquakes & wars.

-The Near Approach of Christ’s Kingdom, Clearly proven by Scripture (London, 1696), 7.

Difference between “the latter Days of this time, and the Latter Days of Israel’s troubles [for after the Saints are caught up] the time to come will be Israel’s...God will make good the great and glorious promises He hath made to Israel. [Calling of Jews after] the Coming of the Lord... The Battle of Gog and Magog is not till after Israels Glorious reestablishment, and after the Resurrection of the Dead and after Canaan is made like the Garden of Eden.”

-An Answer to Dr Whitby, proving the Jews are not to be called into the Gospel of the Christian warfare...till after the Lord, with Messiah’s Second coming... (London, 1701), 2, 30.

Robert Fleming 'the younger' (1660-1716)

Mid- & Post-Trib Raptures

Presbyterian minister London

He taught a post-tribulation rapture for all Christians:

“full and compleat deliverance of the church, and the destruction of her bloody persecuting Popish enemies; which held forth in a two-fold type: the first of which is that of an harvest, which seems directly to refer to Christ’s gathering in his church, to the happy state of the Millennium; which follows directly after the pouring out of the seventh vial. ...the winepress of God’s wrath... that final and decisive battle...” –Apocalyptical Key, Published in 1702... (London, 1793), 32-33.

Yet a earlier one during the tribulation only for “Eminent” Christians:

“Prior and Special Resurrection...a Reward for the most Eminent Christian Witnesses during the Rage of Paganism and Antichristianism ...this special prize...appropriated to none but the first Christian Worthies, and the most Eminent Saints and Martyrs...the appropriate Reward only of a few.”

-First Resurrection (London,1708), title page, 65.

Robert Prudom (d. 1708) Baptist minister Yorks

Rapture from Tribulation before 2nd Coming to Marriage Supper, Armageddon

“a little before the second appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ [which] will bring with it exceeding great Misery on part of the Christian World, so that by the Marriage of the Lamb, and by those that are called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, is to understood, the saints glorified in their Souls, when Christ brings with him to be united to their Bodies, and the Saints changed, caught up to meet the Lord. [Then the return of the Jews stirs up] the Fourth Monarchy in its last form, in conjunction with this little horn, considered both as Papal and Mahometan, to destroy the Jews returned to their own Land, and to the Obedience of the Gospel.”

A New World Discovered... Concerning the Latter Days (London, 1704), 93, 97-98, 101,107-108, 93,97-98.

John Hildrop (1682-1756) Saints taken out of Antichrist's wrath

“God will preserve a Remnant; who, as they have by his Grace **escaped the Infection and Contagion of the Antichristian Spirit**, so shall **they also escape** their Punishments. This is the Promise to the Church in Philadelphia, Rev.3.10.

Because thou hast kept the Word of my Patience, I also will keep thee from the Hour of Temptation, which shall come upon all the World, to try them that dwell upon the Earth. ... by setting his Mark and Seal upon them, and so

preserve them from the Great Desolation. Thus under the sounding of the Seven Trumpets, Rev.7. God took special Care for **the Protection and**

Preservation of his Servants; ... *Saying, Hurt not the Earth, neither the Sea, nor the Trees, till we have Sealed the Servants of God in their Foreheads.*

Accordingly they were sealed and **preserved from the Judgments**, which upon the sounding of the Trumpets fell heavy upon the rest of the World. ...whilst the rest of the World are groaning under the Miseries and Confusions of Battle, *They*

shall dwell in peaceful Habitations, in sure Dwellings, and in quiet resting

places, Isa.32.18. [God] shall save their Lives by a wonderful Deliverance; that they shall survive those dreadful Times of Vengeance. ...and so we find in Holy

Scripture, that Vengeance cannot be powered out till the Servants of God are safe and out of Danger. So the Angel that was commissioned to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, advises Lot to make haste to escape... They shall survive the

Afflictions of those Days, and come forth triumphantly in the Glories and Powers of the New World.”

A Treatise of the Three Evils of The Last Times: I. The Sword, II. Pestilence, III. (London, 1711), 28-29,32,39,70.

John Floyer (1649-1734) Oxford grad physician (pulse)

Rapture to Heaven, sealed in Marriage, Armegeddon, Return of Christ & Saints, Millennium

citing 2 Esdras 2:38:

“Arise up and stand; behold the Number of those that be sealed in the Feast of the Lord, to be **removed from this World into Paradise** above”

Floyer saw this as a reference to:

“those that be sealed in the Feast of the Lord, to be **removed** from this World into Paradise above...**sealing or confirming** the Just, and sealing them to a Feast. ... The Saints, or Christians, are said to be sealed when they are baptiz’d, and when they depart this World, and when they come into Christ’s Kingdom. To these three Sealings this Prophecy relates but most evidently, to the sealing in the Feast of the Lord, which is called in the Revelations, the *Marriage-Supper of the Lamb*, in the beginning of the Millennium.”

-The Prophecies of the Second Book of Esdras Amongst the Apocrypha, Explained and Vindicated (London, 1721), 9.

“Then **the Mahometan...Gog is conquer’d**, and **the Jews converted**, by **seeing their crucified Saviour**. ... The Jews refer this to the time of Gog; and this may be **the time of Trouble** in Daniel, Ch.12. And this may be the slaying of the Two Witnesses, Rev.11. when this War is to last **three Years and a half**; or, this Slaughter three Days and a half. ... Christ comes from Heaven with his Saints on white Horses, to destroy the Beast and his false Prophet.” *ibid.*, 112-114.

Joseph Perry (fl. 1720s) dissenting minister in Surrey
Mid-trib? Rapture to Heaven, then back to Earth for Millennium

“When **Anti-christ, reigning 3 Years and 6 Months**, shall have wasted all Things in the World...then shall the Lord come from Heaven in the Clouds... **A Kingdom again is promised us on Earth, but before that in Heaven**, and in another State; to wit, after the Resurrection, for a thousand Years, in...Jerusalem brought down from Heaven...provided of God, for the receiving of the Saints at the Resurrection...we all look for a greater pouring down of the Spirit of God; for Anti-christ to be destroyed, and the Jews to be converted; A greater Glory... before his coming to Judgment. ... We all believe that **at this Time of his Coming the dead Saints shall be raised and the living Saints shall be changed** in a Moment, in the Twinkling of an Eye, and the Sound of the Last Trumpet. ... And that they shall be caught up in the Clouds to meet the Lord in the Air, and so shall be for ever with the Lord.”

-The Glory of Christ's Visible Kingdom in this World, Asserted, proved, and explained, in its two-fold Branches; First Spiritual, Secondly Personal (Northampton, 1721), vii-viii.xiv.

John Asgill (1659-1738) London lawyer, MP

Not just pre-conflagration: phased Rapture; then Satan and his angels wreck havoc

“Till all the Servants of God are Arked and Zoard [allusion to Noah and Lot], shipped and housed, sealed and safe, the destroying Angel cannot proceed. ...the Moment that the last of the second Classis of the first Resurrection shall be drafted out of the World; *Wo! wo! Wo! To the Inhabitants thereof that are left. ... Every man in his own Order. ... Two women at a Mill, the one taken and the other left. Two Men together in the Field, the one taken the other left...* But this will not be done all together in any one Night, or any one Day or Year, but everyone in his own Day, and his own Place. ... The rest will be left to the Devil and his Angels.” That Resurrection which is to be had by Attainment only.”

-The Metamorphosis of Man, by the Death and Resurrection of Christ from the Dead (London, 1727), 194-99. I Corinthians 15:23; Matthew 24:40-41, Philippians 3:11.

Nathaniel Markwick (1664-1735) vicar Somerset
time of trouble shortened for elect, escape slaughters for 3 ½ years

“The Scripture in Daniel, chap. xii.1. saith, *There shall be a time of Trouble, such as never was since there was a Nation even to that same Time: and at that Time thy People shall be delivered.* Our Blessed Saviour on the other Hand alluding, as is most probable, to this Text saith, Mar. xiii.20. *And except that the Lord had shortened those Days, no Flesh should be saved: but for the Elects Sake, who he hath chosen, he hath shortened the Days.* **Jerusalem’s Destruction...was a picture in little...of what should be in the latter Days, at the second...Coming of the Son of Man in the Clouds of Heaven,** Dan. vii.13. ...shortening the Days to these latter Times; **they are to be cut shorter by 30 Years,** for the Sake both of the Elect, Jew and Gentile, since the former, with a small Remnant of the latter, **will escape and be saved out of the universal Wreck, the Deaths, the Slaughters, the Distractions, and the most violent Comotions, which arising out of a Multiplicity of Causes,** will be in their Height **for...three Years and a half.**”

-*Calculation of the LXX. Weeks of Daniel, Chap.IX. Ver.24.* (London, 1728), 142-143.

Sayer Rudd (-1757) physician & vicar Kent

Christ will descend twice, once for rapture, again for kingdom

“I explain the **first resurrection of the saints** in general, so that I suppose all the saints will be raised at one and the same time. The present reason which I offer for it, is, that, I think, we cannot upon any other principle keep in a consistency with scripture, when it declares, That Christ, upon **his second descent, shall bring *all the saints with him***, that at the same time the lamb’s wife shall be made ready, and that **New Jerusalem shall descend from God out of heaven, which must include**, not a part only, but the whole of Christ’s mystical body. ... The descent of the new Jerusalem; which is nothing else, but **the whole collective body of the saints**, gathered together to Christ after the resurrection. Now it is affirmed in respect of this new Jerusalem, it came down out of heaven from God...to the earth...they shall all reign with Christ on the earth.”

-Essay towards A New Explication of the Doctrines of the Resurrection, Millennium and Judgment(London,1734),272,411.

Moses Lowman (1680-1752) dissenting minister of Clapham

Mid-Trib: Antichrist rages, Gentiles trod Holy City, Woman flies to safety, 2 witnesses prophesy

“-Power was given unto him [the Beast] to continue forty two Months...

-the Gentiles are to tread the holy city under foot, forty two months.

-the Woman was persecuted by the Dragon [till] given two Wings of a great Eagle, that she might fly into the Wilderness, unto her Place, where she is nourished **for a Time, Times, and half a Time...**

-my two Witnesses...shall prophesy a Thousand, two hundred, and threescore Days, clothed in Sackcloth...”

-The church as the newborn child: “**caught up** to God and his Throne, to intimate God’s Care & **Protection of the true Christian Church**, and the Safety of the Church in God’s Protection.”

-The church as the woman protected: “by flying into a Wilderness, where she found a Place provided for her Retreat, and where she was taken care of, by the Protection of divine Providence, during this time period.”

-Moses Lowman, *Paraphrase and Notes on The Revelation of St. John* (London,1737), vii-viii,ix,104; from Revelation 13:5, 11:3, and 9:3. Cites Thomas Waple as also tying these events together; *Ibid.*, 113, note k; *Ibid.*,xi; from Revelation 9:2. This theme continues throughout Lowman’s work: 121, 124-126,130,143,205. *Ibid.*, 121; from Revelation 12:5-6.

Morgan Edwards (1722-1795) student, Bristol Baptist Seminary
Rapture to heaven 3½ years for judgment, return to earth (later a founder of Brown U)

“The dead saints will be raised, and the living changed at Christ’s “appearing in the air” (I Thes. iv,17); and this will be about three years and a half before the millennium, as we shall see hereafter: but will he and they abide in the air all that time? No: they will ascend to paradise, or to some one of those many “mansions in the father’s house” (John xiv.2), and so disappear during the foresaid period of time. The design of this retreat and disappearing will be to judge the risen and changed saints; for “now the time is come that judgment must begin “at the house of God” (I Pet. iv.17)...”

-Two Academical Exercises on Subjects Bearing the following Titles; Millennium, Last-Novelties (Philadelphia,1788; written ca.1743),7; in Thomas Ice, “Morgan Edwards: Another Pre-Darby Rapturist” The Thomas Ice Collection in www.raptureme.com/tt3.html

Grantham Killingworth (1699-1778) Norwich Baptist

Rapture, withdraw to be judged/rewarded, 2 witnesses, abomination, tribulation

“The dead in Christ, who shall rise first at our Lord’s second appearing, **a little before the commencement of the glorious Millennium. ...the Millennium will not commence till some years after the first resurrection**; and this resurrection will be at our Lord’s second appearance... when this *sign of the son of man shall appear in heaven, then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the son of man coming in the clouds of heaven... Then shall two men be in one bed, the one shall be taken, and the other left... then our blessed Lord and his vast retinue, will withdraw for a season*, from the region of the air, beyond sight of the mortal inhabitants of the earth, who will be **left behind** : I say he will withdraw for a season, in order to judge the then raised, and changed saints; to acquit and justify them... And upon this withdrawing...the two witnesses...will again appear upon the earth in their mortal bodies...one of these...must be the prophet Elijah... long before this time, the Tribe of **Judah will be gathered together, from their various dispersions, returned into Palestine**...they will build therein a most magnificent temple, according to...the prophet Ezekiel... And in this temple of God, will the great **Anti-Christ**, or man of sin, the son of perdition sit, to **shew himself, and be worshipped as God**. And because the Jews...cannot be seduced to won him for their Messiah, and to worship him as God, in their own temple, he will raise the most severe persecution, and resolve to extirpate their whole race...*When ye therefore shall see the **abomination of desolation**, spoken of by Daniel the prophet...then shall be great tribulation...but for the elects (Jews) sake these days shall be shortened...*” -*The Immortality of the Soul, Proved from Scripture* (London, [1761]), 87,95-96.

Killingworth's length of the Tribulation

3½ years of 2 witnesses, 3 ½ days of lying dead, time for Armageddon & 45 days to clean up

“At the commencement of the above mentioned persecution, both against Jews and Christians, Elijah the prophet, and John the evangelist will appear to vindicate the truth of each dispensation; to comfort and encourage the professors of each; ... These two witnesses shall now enter upon **their prophecy of 1260 days**, clothed in sackcloth, having received power from God to work miracles... The time which their prophecy will continue is **a time, times, and a half time, or 1260 days; about three years and a half, or forty two months...during which time, the raised and changed righteous will be judged and a suitable reward** for the virtue and piety of each will be assigned them; to be entered upon when they descend with their glorious Lord, to take possession of his kingdom...And **when the two witnesses shall have finished** their testimony, and the **1260 days are expired**...they shall be overcome and put to death. Greatly terrified before, at seeing our blessed Lord's *appearing in the clouds of heaven*; but after his withdrawing to judge the saints, they will still be deluded by Anti-Christ, who may perhaps pretend ...that what they saw...he had caused to shew his power... And when the two witnesses...are killed ...he will not suffer the dead bodies of the witnesses to be buried... But **after three days and a half**, the spirit of Life from God shall enter into them, and they shall stand again upon their feet to the terror of their enemies...they shall ascend up to heaven in a cloud in the sight of their enemies...

Ibid., 100-103. Much of this is repeated verbatim in his 1772 work *Paradise Regained*, 16-17.

Weaker sources not as clearly pre-Trib

- Pre-conflagration Rapture
- Hints at before beginning of Millennium
- Separate Raptures, perhaps both pre-mil.

Joseph Mede (1586-1639) Cambridge professor

pre-conflagration rapture



“After this, our gathering together unto Christ at His coming...The saints being translated into the air...and they may be **preserved during the conflagration** of the earth, and the works thereof: 2 Pet. 3.10. that as Noah and his family were preserved from the deluge by being lifted up above the waters in the ark, so should the saints **at the conflagration be lifted up in the clouds**, unto their ark, Christ, to be **preserved there from the deluge of fire**, wherein the wicked shall be consumed.

- Mede, *Works*, III, 611. [Cited in H. Orton Wiley; *Christian Theology* (Nazarene Publishing, 1940); also cited by Thomas Ice, “The History of the Doctrine of the Rapture”

T.M.'s *Treatise of the New Heavens and New Earth*

In 1680 T.M. tied the calling of the Jews to the rapture, both preceding the conflagration:

“first Christ appears, then the Tribes mourn at the sight of him; then the dead are raised, then the living saints are changed, then all (of them) caught up to the Lord in the air; then the Earth is to be burnt up, &c. then begins the Judgment...for the Dead Saints are raised by a Word, quickly, and the living Saints changed in the twinkling of an eye.”

He distinguished between this event and the later resurrection of humanity to judgment:

“the bodily Resurrection...at the last day, the Saints, and none but, they shall be raised first...None but the faithful then living shall be spiritually Reviv'd to reign with Christ (spiritually) a Thousand Years, and the rest of the Dead lived not again till afterwards. And this is the first Resurrection.”

He equated the rapture to the rescue of Noah and Lot before their catastrophes:

“The Righteous being caught up before; as Noah and Lot were taken out of the places to be destroyed.”

Treatise of the New Heavens and the New Earth. Proved to be Perpetual and Eternal (London,1680), 4,7,10.

Benjamin Keach (1640-1704) pastored church of Gill & Spurgeon



“this Resurrection of the Saints shall be some time before the Resurrection of the Wicked, that the Saints shall...be **first in order, and time (I say nothing on how long)...which must take up a long space of time even more than 1000 Years...”**

-Preface to Prudom's *The New World Discovered in the Prospect-Glass of Holy Scripture* (London,1704)3.

John Marshall (ca. 1710s) vicar London

Pre-conflagration or more?

“the righteous are taken away from the evil to come...till the Righteous are removed out of its way and reach. Even Sodom was not destroyed, till righteous Lot was gotten into a Place of Safety.”

John Marshall, *Sermon Preach'd in the Chapel of Ormond-street...*(London, 1715).

Thomas Ice, “The History of the Doctrine of the Rapture”, Part II: “History of the Pre-Conflagration Rapture.”

John Webb (fl.1720s) Boston Puritan pastor

Rapture in stages: Martyrs rise & reign before other Christians

could be pre-trib for martyrs, post-trib for other saints (Beverly), or only martyrs pre-mil

“the Dead in CHRIST shall be raised next in Order to CHRIST, and that their rising will be in the Morning of the great Day. *In his own Order* here may have respect either to Time or Dignity, or to both. ... Whether there be any difference in this respect among the Righteous, and **some arise before the rest, (as some of great Name have conjectured, that all the **Martyrs will rise & reign with CHRIST some considerable Time, before the rest of their Brethren in CHRIST will arise**) is a Question, I shall not pretend positively to give any Answer unto.”**

-John Webb, *Practical Discourses on Death, Judgment, Heaven & Hell*. (Boston, N.E., 1726), 122

William Lowth (1660-1732) prebend Winchester Cathedral

Could be pre-conflagration: Saints/Martyrs raptured out of the Great Tribulation

Tied 3 passages related to saints rescued from the Tribulation:

- Daniel 12:1 “*there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation*”,
- Matthew 24:21 “*then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall*” and
- Revelation 7:14 “the Saints are said to have ***come out of great Tribulation.***”

He concluded from Daniel 12:1 “*at that time thy People shall be delivered, every one that shall be written in the book,*” whom he described as “the Martyrs” who have “a share in the first Resurrection”

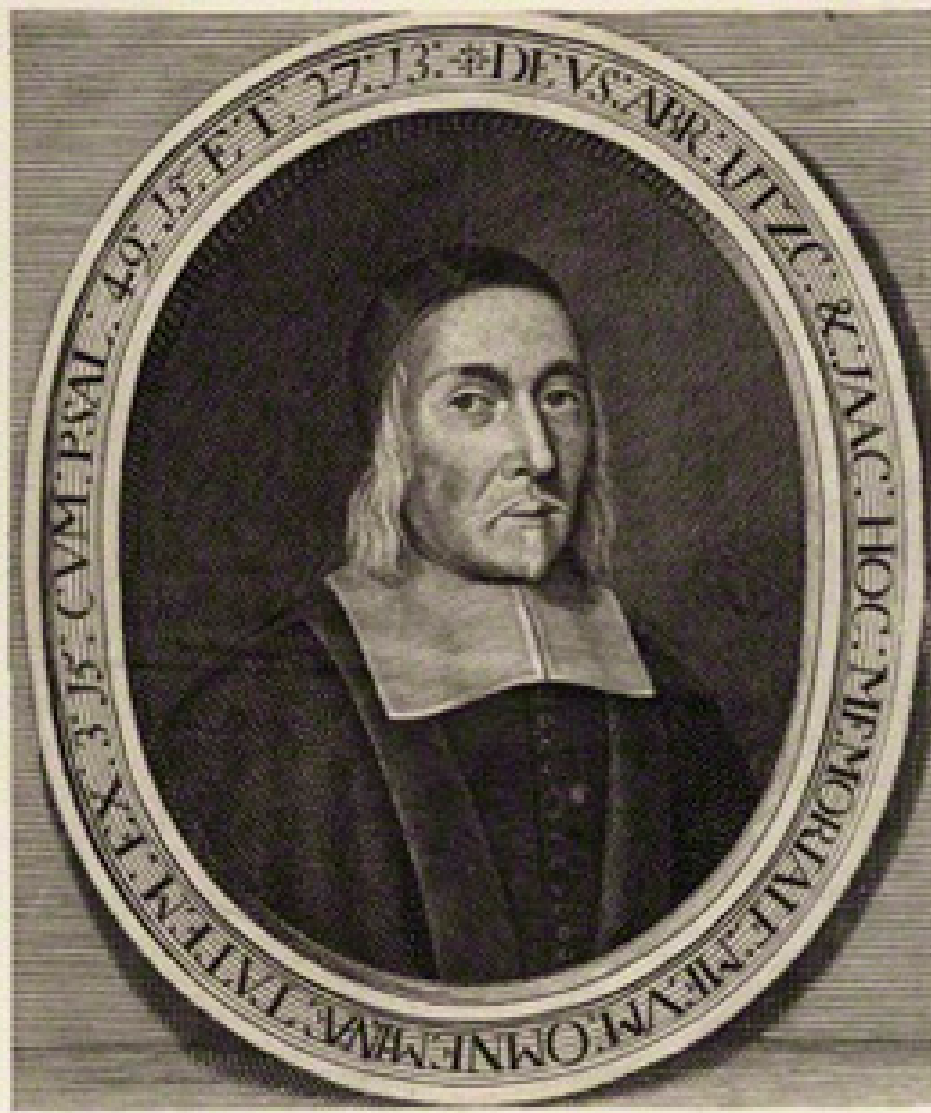
William Lowth, *A Commentary upon the larger and lesser Prophets* (London, 1727), 392.

Henry Taylor (1711-1785) rector Sussex

Order of End Time Events

1. Tribulation (by Antichrist, but worthy escape ‘all these things’)
2. Desolation (of the temple by Antichrist)
3. Days of Vengeance (upon nations who invade land)
4. Dominion of the Gentiles ended
5. Second Coming (Parousia and Gathering of Elect)
6. Millennium

Wm Sherwin's conclusion for all Christians



“The Time is short, the great and terrible Day draws near, ...the Signs given by our Lord, in part come to pass, *viz.* The great Wars and Rumours of Wars in the World, and the great Earthquakes in divers places... May we not now conclude, that *this generation shall not pass before all these things shall be fulfilled? ...lift up your Heads, for the Day of your Redemption draweth nigh... Surely I come quickly, Amen, Even so come, Lord Jesus.*”

-*The Glorious Kingdom of our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ on Earth Rightly Timed* (London 1693).