



7

REASONS
THE **SECRET**
RAPTURE
ISN'T BIBLICAL



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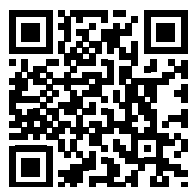
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Hide God's Word in Your Heart

Memorize:

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

Never before have so many voices competed for our attention as they do today.

Turn on the television, scroll through social media, browse YouTube, or open a podcast app, and you'll find countless people confidently claiming to explain current events through a biblical lens—or even predict the future. Some are sincere but mistaken. Others are intentionally deceptive. Yet they all ask for the same thing: your trust.

Jesus warned that this would happen. Speaking about the last days, He cautioned, “Beware of false prophets” (Matthew 7:15). His warning wasn't limited to the openly dishonest. False teachers often appear convincing. They may sound biblical, speak persuasively, or even make predictions that seem remarkably accurate. But God doesn't want us to accept someone's claims at face value.

Instead, Scripture gives us the only reliable standard. Every teaching, every prediction, and every claimed revelation must be tested against God's Word. Does it agree with the Bible? Does it exalt Jesus Christ? Does it produce the fruit of a godly life? Does it faithfully point people to worship and obey the true God? These biblical

tests protect us from deception in an age overflowing with religious confusion.

Bible prophecy itself is one of God's great safeguards. Unlike human speculation or fortune-telling, it reveals that God knows the end from the beginning. Fulfilled prophecy strengthens our confidence in Scripture's trustworthiness and helps us recognize counterfeit teachings. When it's properly understood, prophecy builds faith, encourages obedience, and keeps our eyes fixed on Christ.

In this issue, Pastor Doug investigates one of the devil's most effective end-time deceptions: the Secret Rapture. Could a sincere but mistaken understanding of Christ's return leave millions vulnerable to Satan's final counterfeit? By examining seven biblical reasons this popular teaching falls short, you'll gain confidence in what Scripture actually says about the Second Coming—and learn how to avoid being deceived when the greatest spiritual impersonation in history unfolds.

In a world filled with competing voices, whose word will you trust? There is no safer guide than the unchanging Word of God. 



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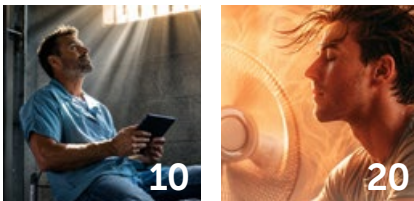
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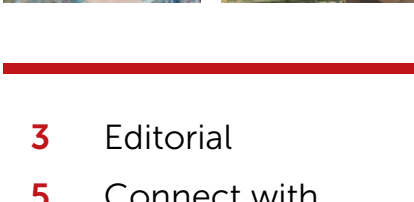
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From the Mail Bag

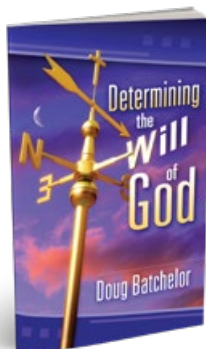


A Cure for Emptiness

I grew up Christian, attending church faithfully and feeling assured I knew the truth. But after about 10 years as a Pentecostal, I began to feel a deep emptiness. Though active in the church, I found it all shallow, and I longed for something more. Then a manager invited me to what she described as an “intellectually stimulating meeting,” without saying it was a church event. It turned out to be a Revelation seminar featuring Pastor Doug. From the first meeting, I knew I had found the cure for my emptiness. I attended every night, absorbing truth after truth, and was baptized. Today, I serve as an elder and support mission work in Nigeria. Your faithfulness is one reason I am a Sabbath-keeper. —Cyril, Nigeria

Determining God's Will

I was born into a nice Sabbath-keeping family, the second of three children. My childhood was good, but I was not a perfect child. Still, I had a perfect God who was always watching over me. My first real struggle came during my junior year at college, when anxiety forced me to take a break from school. I returned the next year as a theology major, but uncertainty about whether I was truly in God's will led me to leave again. Then I came across Pastor Doug's book *Determining the Will of God*. Reading it changed the trajectory of my life. I no longer felt uncertain; I knew what God had called me to do. I returned to college, graduated, and now share that book with anyone willing to receive it. —Michael, Ohio



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7 REASONS THE SECRET RAPTURE ISN'T BIBLICAL

By Doug Batchelor

AN AMAZING FACT: *In the early 1500s, the Aztec Empire was among the most powerful civilizations in the Western Hemisphere. Yet within a few years, this vast nation of approximately 5 million fell to a small force of about 500 Spanish soldiers led by conquistador Hernán Cortés. How? Cortés had learned of an ancient Aztec belief—that a legendary feathered deity named Quetzalcoatl would one day return from the east. When Spanish ships appeared off Mexico's coast in 1519, many indigenous people wondered if that prophecy was being fulfilled. By the time they recognized the Spaniards' true intentions, their empire was already primed to fall. A mythic prophecy, subtly exploited, had proved more devastating than any weapon.*

I believe Satan will soon utilize the very same playbook that Cortés used against the Aztecs.

In the near future, according to Scripture, he will attempt to impersonate Jesus Christ and counterfeit His return to Earth. But to pull this deception off, he needs Christians to embrace a distorted picture of what the Second Coming actually looks like.

Enter the doctrine known as the **Secret Rapture**.

A comparatively new interpretation, it has become one of the most widely accepted teachings in evangelical Christianity, popularized by novels and films like the *Left Behind* series. Its basic claim is that faithful Christians will suddenly and silently vanish from the earth, but life will continue for a seven-year tribulation before Christ's public return.

It sounds and feels comforting. But it isn't biblical.

When the disciples asked Jesus about the signs of His return, the first thing He said was: "Take heed that no one deceives you" (Matthew 24:4). That warning belongs at the top of any discussion about the Second Coming. The Bible gives us a wealth of detail about how He would return—not to satisfy curiosity, but so that no one would be fooled by an imitation.

With that in mind, here are seven reasons the Secret Rapture doesn't hold up to Scripture.

1



Every Eye Will See Him

The word rapture comes from a Latin word meaning “to be caught up or carried away,” and in that sense, yes, there will be a rapture. When Jesus returns, the righteous will be caught up to meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

However, the Bible does not support the idea that this event will be quiet, local, or invisible to the rest of the world:

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and **every eye** will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him (Revelation 1:7, emphasis added).

The phrase “every eye” leaves no room for a private appearance, does it? This isn’t a regional event or a news story carried by a local network. It’s a worldwide, simultaneous unveiling. The scale of it will be impossible to miss. Jesus described it this way:

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be (Matthew 24:27).

Lightning doesn’t slip in quietly. It doesn’t appear only to a select group of people. It splits the sky from horizon to horizon. Jesus chose that image to describe His return—a flash visible across the entire world.



The angels who appeared to the disciples at Jesus’ ascension reinforced this idea. As Jesus was taken up into the clouds, they said: “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

Jesus left visibly. He will return visibly. He left in the clouds. He is coming in the clouds. He was real when He left; He will be real when He returns. It’s the same physical reality.

A secret rapture would require Christ’s return to be hidden from most of humanity. But how does that reconcile with every eye shall see Him? The two ideas cannot occupy the same theology.

2



The Loudest Event in Human History

The Bible not only tells us that people will see Jesus come; it also describes it as a staggering sonic event. No one will be sleeping through the Second Coming:

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

This is not the soundtrack of a quiet event. The Old Testament also describes similar divine events in equally booming terms:

- “The LORD will roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold” (Jeremiah 25:30).
- “Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous all around Him” (Psalm 50:3).

The God of the Second Coming is not tiptoeing back to Earth.

The trumpet imagery also goes back to Sinai, when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Before Moses ascended

the mountain, the Israelites gathered at its base to hear God speak, and what they encountered terrified them:

Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled (Exodus 19:16).

That same trumpet, Scripture tells us, will sound when Jesus descends from heaven. The saved will rally to it; the wicked will flee from it—but not a single soul on the earth will miss it.

The secret rapture theory requires a Jesus who comes quietly and without fanfare. The Bible describes a Jesus whose return will be the most audible moment in history.

3



No Second Chances

One of the most appealing aspects of the Secret Rapture theory is the comforting idea that even if you miss the rapture, you'll have seven more years to get right with Jesus. It sounds merciful, but it directly contradicts what Scripture teaches about the finality of Christ's return:

For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works (Matthew 16:27; see also Revelation 22:12).



Notice that His reward is with Him when He comes. The writer of Hebrews doubles down on the urgency: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (4:7)—not during a future tribulation. The window for decision is the present moment, and Scripture never suggests that the window remains open past the Second Coming.

This aligns with one of Jesus' most sobering parables: the ten virgins in Matthew 25. Five were prepared when the bridegroom arrived; five were not. When the unprepared five returned and knocked, the door was shut. There was no



extension, no second opportunity. "Watch therefore," Jesus concluded, "for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming" (v. 13). The point of the warning is not to make you anxious; it's to prepare you.

God's mercy is vast, His patience is long, but the Bible never portrays the return of Christ as the beginning of another opportunity. It portrays it as the final conclusion of this one.

4



Sudden, Not Secret

Of all the biblical passages used to support the Secret Rapture, 2 Peter 3:10 carries the most water. The argument goes like this: Jesus described His return as coming "as a thief in the night," and since thieves operate quietly and unseen, the rapture must also be quiet and unseen.

It sounds logical on the surface, but it falls apart the moment you read the full passage:

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.



The first half of this verse is the one you'll hear quoted from Secret Rapture pulpits. The second half is almost always omitted. Why? Because Peter is not describing a quiet disappearance. He is describing a cataclysmic dissolution. The thief metaphor is there, yes, but so is the inferno.

So what does the "thief" image actually mean? Jesus explained it Himself:

If the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect (Luke 12:39, 40).

Jesus is making a point about surprise, not stealth. A thief doesn't announce his arrival. He comes when you least expect. That is what Jesus is drawing attention to: The wicked will be caught off guard.

Let's compare this to what Paul says: "You, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief" (1 Thessalonians 5:4). Paul's point is that Christians, who are to be watchful and prepared, will not be blindsided the way the wicked will be. The thief metaphor says nothing about the event being invisible or silent. In fact, as we've already seen, in this very same book, Paul tells us Christ will descend with a shout and the trumpet of God.

A thief in the night is unexpected. The Second Coming will absolutely be unexpected for those who aren't watching. But unexpected and secret are two different things, and conflating them has led millions of Christians to build a doctrine on a misread metaphor.



5



Two Destinies

If the "thief in the night" is the most misquoted passage in the Secret Rapture debate, Luke 17:34–36 is a close second:

I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.

Rapture theorists read this as a description of Christians suddenly vanishing while the rest of the world carries on—pilots disappearing from cockpits, drivers from cars, believers from their beds. It's a dramatic picture, but it's also a misreading of what Jesus was saying.

You see, Jesus was a master of symbolic language, and each of these three images carries a meaning that His first-century Jewish audience would have recognized.

- **The two men in one bed:** In Scripture, sleep is used as a symbol of death. When Lazarus died, Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up"—and then clarified, "Lazarus is dead" (John 11:11, 14). The bed, then, points to the resurrection. On the last day, the graves will give up both the saved and the lost. Two will have been sleeping in death; one will be raised to eternal life, the other to judgment.
- **The two women grinding:** In biblical prophecy, a woman represents a religious body (Jeremiah 6:2). Grain represents the Word of God. Two women grinding side by side pictures two kinds of churches doing outwardly similar work, both

(Continued on page 18.)

AMAZING FACTS EXPANDS PRISON MINISTRY

By Shenalyn Page

Amazing Facts is expanding its ministry to incarcerated individuals through a new partnership with Edovo, a leading online educational platform used in correctional facilities across the United States.

Currently serving more than 1,500 facilities and approximately 60 percent of the incarcerated population, Edovo provides educational content to more than 1.2 million prisoners. Amazing Facts officially went live on the platform on May 18, which significantly expanded our ability to share biblical resources with inmates nationwide, especially in facilities that restrict physical mail.

Incarcerated individuals can now access a variety of faith-building resources, including *Bible Answers Live* programs, the *Kingdoms in Time* documentary, and Pastor Doug's "Cold Confession" and "Five Steps to Eternity" sermons. Each resource includes contact information for our correspondence team and encourages viewers to reach out with questions or requests for additional resources.

God has been working mightily through this new partnership. In the first two months, inmates viewed over 31,000 hours of truth-filled content from Amazing Facts. Over 3,700 inmates have signed up for the introductory Bible course, and more than 350 have already graduated.

These are just a few of the comments we have received:

- "This kind of content is exactly what's been missing on Edovo. We need way more documentary-type courses such as this to stay engaged and continue on a path of growth" (an inmate in Tennessee regarding the *Cosmic Conflict* documentary).
- "Keep these apps coming. They are so very helpful to us locked up. They change lives in here" (an inmate in California regarding the *Kingdoms in Time* documentary).
- "Thank you for caring enough to bring this to me" (an inmate in North Carolina).
- "This really helped me in my new life that's in Jesus. Thanks for everything!" (an inmate in Wisconsin regarding the *Amazing Facts Study Guides*).



Accredited Bible Lessons

One of the most exciting developments is that the Introductory Course (the first 14 lessons) of the *Amazing Facts Study Guides* successfully passed Edovo's rigorous screening and accreditation process—a significant achievement that reflects the course's quality, educational value, and alignment with Edovo's mission. As an accredited course, participants can complete lessons and assessments online and earn an Edovo-issued certificate of completion that is independently verifiable.

"This accreditation is significant," explains Cathy Bauer, Bible School director. "The approval of Amazing Facts Bible courses provides inmates with documented evidence of their learning and achievement."

When an inmate completes the Introductory Course, they will receive credit on their official transcript, which will be available to attorneys, judges, correctional personnel, family members, and friends. These records may serve as valuable resources during parole hearings and other rehabilitative evaluations.

An Important Move for Access

Placing Amazing Facts' materials on platforms like Edovo is becoming increasingly important. In an effort to protect inmates and facility personnel from harmful contraband, the Department of Corrections has put many restrictions on who can send physical mail to inmates.

"There are about 465 facilities where we are not allowed to send physical copies of our Bible lessons," explains Daniel Raullerson, Amazing Facts Prison Ministry coordinator. "Getting approval to send materials into these prisons is a lengthy process. Although we have received permission to send materials to prisoners in several states over the past couple of years, it is clear that we need to make our materials available online to reach as many inmates as possible. This is a big reason we have been working so hard to get our materials on Edovo."

Amazing Facts plans to grow its presence on Edovo by providing additional Bible lessons and video content as part of its certificate-approved course offerings. Future resources will also include digital materials such as books,

magazines, and booklets, as well as standalone content such as sermons, documentaries, and testimonies. "Our goal is to give inmates access to rich, well-balanced biblical content produced by Amazing Facts, especially those who cannot receive physical mail," says Daniel.

Rescuing Inmates with Truth

Amazing Facts has been actively sharing truth with prisoners for decades. Ever since the Bible school began in 1969, a significant percentage of our students have been incarcerated. Today, about 24 percent of our Bible School students are inmates.

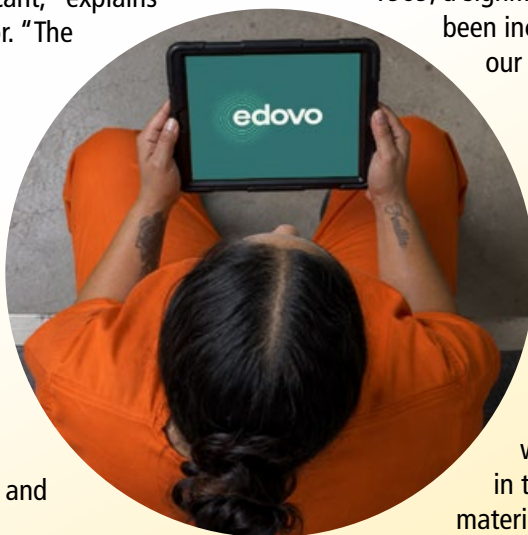
In 2000, Amazing Facts' prison ministry began offering inmates four free items per month. Many took advantage of this offer while completing the *Amazing Facts Study Guides*. In 2022, Amazing Facts further expanded its prison ministry by partnering with Pando App, a nonprofit ministry, to make programming available on its app, which reaches over 600,000 inmates in the United States. Amazing Facts materials have been viewed 17 million

times, and over 16,000 prisoners have expressed their desire to become Christians!

Each time an inmate finds our material and meets Jesus, their transformed life has an exponential effect. An inmate named Gary writes the following from Illinois:

I would truly like to say Thank You for all you do and have done. Your Bible studies have begun to reach a little over a hundred prisoners here at the facility where I am incarcerated. I have watched the men change and grow in front of my eyes, largely from your Bible course. Out of a hundred men in my wing, a little over 30 of us honor and keep the Sabbath! I truly believe many will take it home with them! I thank you and pray our Creator bless you!

If you would like to learn more about Amazing Facts' prison ministry or get involved with reaching inmates in your area, please visit amazingfacts.org/prison-ministry or email us at prisonministry@amazingfacts.org.



When the Market Wins, Let **Souls** **Win** **Too**

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." —Matthew 6:21

Do you have stocks that have grown in value?

Giving appreciated securities to Amazing Facts International may be one of the smartest and most effective ways to advance the everlasting gospel.

By transferring appreciated stock directly to Amazing Facts, you may be able to:

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News to Note

AMAZING FACTS

Where in the World Is Pastor Doug?

September 24–27: **Dallas, Texas**
 October 22–25: **North England**
 October 27–November 2: **Germany**
 November 3–8: **Sweden**
 December 15–22: **Japan**



New AI-Bible Study App Now in Beta

Ezra, Amazing Facts' new AI-powered Bible study app, is nearing completion. Ezra is being developed to use conversational AI to help people explore the Bible through the *Amazing Facts Study Guides*, answer Bible questions, and grow in their understanding of God's Word. It is built exclusively on trusted biblical resources, including the Bible and Amazing Facts materials. Please join us in praying for the team that is developing Ezra and that God will use it to connect people to Christ through His Word.



First International AFCOE Summit Meets in Thailand

AFCOE leaders from Indonesia, India, Europe, Oceania, the United States, and the Philippines gathered in Thailand, April 4–10, 2026, to pray, learn, and strategize ways to reach more souls for Christ. Leaders participated in training workshops, revival meetings, and evangelistic brainstorming sessions.

The Amazing Facts team in Thailand is also working to launch the new AFCOE Thailand Evangelism Training Program in the near future. The team has also translated the *Amazing Disciples* training manual and our *Study Guides* into Thai.

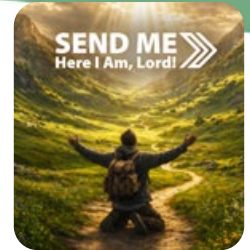
New AFCOE 3-Month Course Launches

The newest Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (AFCOE) session began at the W.O.R.D. Center in Granite Bay on August 16. Please pray for our staff and the many students, that the Lord will teach and guide them to become effective fishers of men.



"Send Me" Conference Inspires Youth

Walking up to complete strangers to share your faith can cause anxiety in even the most confident person. But that's exactly what more than 200 youth did during the Amazing Facts Youth Conference held June 17–20 at the W.O.R.D. Center. About 500 youth attended during the week; more than 1,300 came on Sabbath. Pastor Doug, Cami Oetman from AWR Ministries, and Justin and Charissa Torossian from Australia gave inspiring messages on boldly sharing your faith.



VBS Program Reveals Jesus as Center of Prophecy

Amazing Facts hosted the *Amazing Revelation of Jesus* Vacation Bible School in conjunction with the Granite Bay Hilltop Church July 13–17. Over 200 children attended, learning essential truths about prophecy through an engaging, hands-on program. The recorded material is now in post-production for a new VBS program featuring lessons taught by Pastor Doug.

Check out the VBS kit, *A Journey Through the Wilderness*, which takes children through the Exodus story with a five-part video series featuring Pastor Doug, Bible lessons, songs, crafts, games, and other resources needed to host a Christ-centered VBS experience. Available at afbookstore.com.

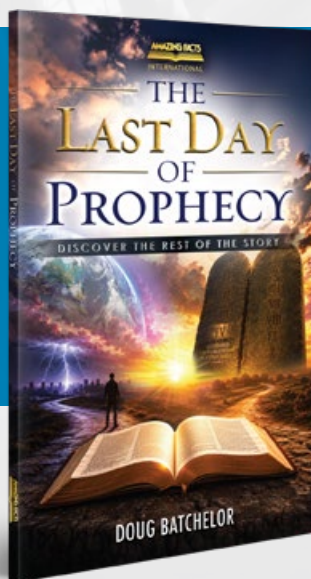


Freedom 250 Literature Distributed at the Capitol

Amazing Facts staff and friends distributed 25,000 bags of truth-filled literature in Washington, D.C., during the Rededicate 250 and Fourth of July events. Despite extreme weather and long hours, the missionaries found many receptive hearts. Please pray that thousands will accept the truth because of this outreach.



CHRISTIAN

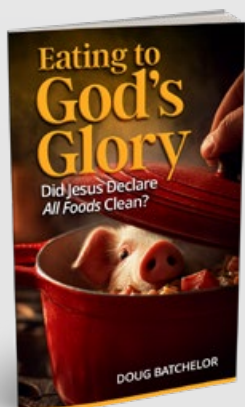


The Last Day of Prophecy

Doug Batchelor. Discover how ancient prophecies speak with striking clarity to today's crises—and the forgotten truth at the center of Earth's final conflict. In the last days, everyone will choose between loyalty to the Creator of all things—or to the world's false religious institutions. This book will prepare your heart for true worship when it matters most!

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OFF THE
PRESS**



War in Heaven: The Origin of Evil

Amazing Facts. Explore the origin of evil and the cosmic conflict between Christ and Satan in this compelling, Bible-based journey that traces the story from heaven's rebellion to the final restoration of all things. Along the way, you'll discover clear answers to life's hardest questions about suffering, justice, and God's character.

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Eating to God's Glory

Doug Batchelor. Pastor Doug explores whether Jesus declared all foods clean, examining key passages like Mark 7 and Acts 10. With Bible-based insight, this guide reveals God's design for diet, health, and spiritual strength—helping you understand Scripture and make thoughtful, faith-informed choices.

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TV & RADIO Broadcast SCHEDULE



▶ Amazing Facts With Doug Batchelor

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AFTV	10:00 AM PT 10:00 PM PT	3:00 PM PT	8:00 AM PT 8:00 PM PT			8:00 AM PT 8:00 PM PT	5:00 AM PT
CHARGE!	8:00 AM ET/PT 7:00 AM CT 6:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	
COMET	8:30 AM ET/PT 7:30 AM CT 9:30 AM MT						
COWBOY CHANNEL	9:00 AM ET						
DAYSTAR TELEVISION NETWORK		3:30 PM ET					
fetv		5:30 AM ET	5:30 AM ET	5:30 AM ET	5:30 AM ET	5:30 AM ET	
GEB	12:30 PM ET						
great entertainment television	9:30 AM ET						
HISTORY		6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	6:00 AM ET/PT 5:00 AM CT 4:00 AM MT	
Hope CHANNEL							6:00 PM PT
TBN inspire	11:30 AM PT 8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT	8:30 PM PT
ion TELEVISION						6:30 AM ET/PT 5:30 AM CT 4:30 AM MT	
lifetime	8:00 AM (All Time Zones)						
the Nest	9:00 AM ET/PT 8:00 AM CT 10:00 AM MT						
NEWSMAX	6:30 AM ET						
POSITV	7:00 AM ET						

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ROAR	9:00 AM ET/PT 8:00 AM CT 10:00 AM MT						
TBN	3:00 PM ET 10:30 PM ET				10:00 PM PT		
3ABN Three Angels Broadcasting Network	9:00 PM CT		10:00 PM CT		1:30 PM CT		
THE WORD Network	2:00 PM (All Time Zones)						
W WORLD HARVEST TELEVISION		9:00 AM ET 8:30 PM ET	9:00 AM ET 8:30 PM ET	9:00 AM ET 8:30 PM ET	9:00 AM ET 8:30 PM ET	9:00 AM ET 8:30 PM ET	



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	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AFTV	7:00 PM PT LIVE			9:00 AM PT 9:00 PM PT	6:00 PM PT	4:00 PM PT	8:00 AM PT 8:00 PM PT
3ABN Three Angels Broadcasting Network					7:00 PM CT		
Sirius Family Talk Channel 131	7:00 PM PT						8:00 PM PT
Hope CHANNEL	7:00 PM PT LIVE						

(Continued from page 9.)

appearing to spread the gospel, but only one holding the truth. When Christ returns, the faithful church and the false one will be separated at last.

- **The two men in the field:** Jesus identified the field elsewhere: “The field is the world” (Matthew 13:38). Two laborers working side by side in the world—missionaries, pastors, teachers—one true, one false. Jesus warned that many would come to Him on that day saying, “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name?” only to hear, “I never knew you; depart from Me” (Matthew 7:22, 23).

In each image, Jesus makes the same simple yet sobering point: At the end of time, all of humanity will be divided into two groups—the saved and the lost. Side by side in life, separated forever at His coming. The meaning of “one taken and one left” is about one of two final destinies, not a blueprint for a silent mass disappearance.



70 consecutive weeks, not 69 weeks followed by a mysterious gap of thousands of years before the seventieth arrives.

The first half of that final week points to Jesus. It describes a period of three and a half years during which the covenant is confirmed, corresponding to Christ’s ministry. It ends with these words: “He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering” (Daniel 9:27). This is not a future antichrist canceling temple rituals. This is Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29), whose death on the cross rendered the entire sacrificial system complete. The veil of the temple was torn in two the moment He died. The animal sacrifices had served their purpose.

The second half of that final week covers the three and a half years following the resurrection, the period of the apostles’ ministry to Israel, which concluded with the stoning of Stephen and the subsequent turning of the gospel toward the Gentile world. The seventieth week is not a future event. It has already been fulfilled.

Sound doctrine cannot be built on a single isolated verse. It must be established by the consistent witness of multiple passages across Scripture. Doctrines such as

6



The Tribulation

Of all the pillars of the Secret Rapture theory, this one is the most precarious. The concept of a seven-year tribulation period, during which those who missed the rapture receive a second chance at salvation, traces back to the 70-week prophecy given in Daniel 9:24–27 by the angel Gabriel.

Secret Rapture theorists take the final week of that prophecy—the seventieth week, representing seven years—and amputate it from the preceding 69 weeks, and then float it down to the end of time. Those seven years, they argue, are the tribulation period that follows the secret rapture.

But read the prophecy in its full context, and that interpretation unravels. Gabriel told Daniel, “Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city” (Daniel 9:24). The prophecy concerns Israel and Jerusalem. It is a unified, continuous timeline—

salvation, the love of God, the resurrection, and the return of Christ are woven throughout dozens of books. The seven-year tribulation, by contrast, rests entirely on one passage that, read in context, isn't describing what Secret Rapture theorists claim it does.

of Scripture. He is Emmanuel, God with us, in whatever tribulation lies ahead. "But he who endures to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

The Stakes Are High

God's people misunderstood the prophecies of the Messiah's first coming, and many were unprepared and even rejected Jesus because He did not come as they expected. The devil is now doing the same thing again for Christ's second coming. Satan has been perfecting the art of deception for thousands of years, and the Secret Rapture is one of his most effective strategies. It doesn't ask Christians to abandon their faith; it asks them to hold a distorted picture of how the story ends. And that distortion, Scripture warns, could prove fatal.

The deception Jesus warned about in Matthew 24:24 will not be crude or obviously false. It will be sophisticated, compelling, and superficially biblical. It will look like the real thing.

The antidote is preparation. God has given us everything we need to recognize the genuine Second Coming. It will be visible to every eye on Earth. It will be accompanied by sounds that shake the heavens. It will bring judgment with no extensions. And when it comes, the righteous will be caught up to meet Him in the air, in a moment so magnificent and unmistakable that no counterfeit could come close.

The Secret Rapture asks you to watch for a Jesus who slips in quietly. The Bible asks you to watch for a Jesus who splits open the sky. Know the difference, and you will not be deceived. 📖



7



Through the Tribulation

There is one more deeply practical problem with the Secret Rapture interpretation: It has no precedent. The idea that God removes His people from Earth before a period of intense tribulation runs contrary to virtually every major narrative in Scripture about how God works.

When the ten great plagues fell on Egypt, God did not relocate the Israelites to Canaan ahead of time. He kept them in Egypt and delivered them through the plagues. God will likewise deliver His people through the seven last plagues in Revelation. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into Nebuchadnezzar's furnace, God did not prevent them from being cast in. He met them

inside the flames. When Noah faced the destruction of the world, God did not transport him to safety before the flood came. He carried him through it on the ark.

The pattern is unmistakable: God's method is not extraction, it is preservation:



When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you (Isaiah 43:2).

The Secret Rapture theory attempts to offer Christians a false security—a second chance or a way to step out of the story during the greatest test. But that is not the God

Beating the HEAT

Avoiding Heat-Related Illness

By Laurie Lyon

Did you know that heat kills more Americans each year than hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods combined? Tragically, almost all these heat-related deaths are preventable.

Consider three unfortunate older people who died hiking in the Grand Canyon.² They had been hiking in the Inner Canyon, where midday temperatures can spike to 109°F—in the shade! It bears repeating: Not being prepared can easily cost lives.

But you don't have to be in the wilderness to succumb to heat-related illness. Nor do you have to live in the South. Often, people fall ill on their own property during heat waves, even in northern cities. And in homes that lack air conditioning, fans won't help if temperatures exceed 90 degrees.³

It's easy to be ambushed by heat. In the U.S., hundreds end up in the ER with heat-related illness each summer. Heat exhaustion or heat stroke can sneak up on someone who isn't alert to the signs.

While we can't control the weather, we can lessen our risk for heat-related illness. Here are some steps you can take to make the hottest days of the year safer for you and your loved ones:



Keep track of the weather! The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a Heat Risk Tracker that shows the current risk for your area, so you can plan accordingly.⁴



Stay hydrated! Drinking water helps regulate body temperature. It provides liquid for sweat, which cools the body, and you probably won't overheat as quickly.⁵ After excessive sweating, electrolyte drinks can help you rehydrate as well.



Avoid outdoor exercise or yard work during the hottest part of the day. Work early in the morning or after the sun sets in the evening, when temperatures are lower.



Know the signs. If heat exhaustion isn't treated, it can turn into heat stroke—a medical emergency. With heat exhaustion, the body can't cool itself enough, resulting in a temperature of 101 to 104 degrees. Frequently, it can cause nausea or vomiting. In heat stroke, the temperature rises above 104, and sweating often stops. Both can cause headache and dizziness, but heat stroke can progress to slurred speech, confusion, fainting, and seizures.⁶



Look out for others. During heat waves, check on elderly neighbors and family members. Also, make sure pets and other animals have access to air conditioning or full shade and plenty of water.

Scorching temperatures remind us how deeply we need refreshment—both physical and spiritual. To beat the heat, we can avoid exposure to the hottest parts of the day and stay hydrated. And for spiritual rejuvenation, Jesus has promised, "Whoever drinks

of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14). Now, that sounds refreshing! 



1 <https://weather.com/2026/06/30/safety/heat/americas-deadliest-weather-heat-waves>

2 <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/elderly-hikers-die-on-grand-canyon-inner-trails/>

3 <https://www.cdc.gov/heat-health/about/index.html>

4 <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/Applications/HeatRisk/>

5 <https://www.uclahealth.org/news/article/hydration-only-one-factor-critical-heat-safety>

6 <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/heat-exhaustion-vs-heat-stroke>

Volunteer Spotlight

By Shenalyn Page

Jan Novotny works long hours six days a week. But that doesn't keep her from working on her "side-hustle"—grading student lessons as a volunteer for the Amazing Facts Bible School. She shares, "I'm happy to help because I don't want my focus to just be on myself and my problems. I feel like that is easy to do in the times we live in."

Each week, Jan picks up a packet of 20 completed lessons from the school. She carefully reviews each Summary Sheet to make sure the questions were answered accurately. The school is grateful for her dependable help. "Jan wears a smile naturally, and she does not make a big deal of the help she does for Amazing Facts," says Cathy Bauer, Bible School director. "She is a true servant of the Lord."

Jan began volunteering at Amazing Facts in the fall of 2020. Initially, she graded student lessons at the office. She enjoyed the camaraderie of working with likeminded people and the friendships she made, but then she had to start working six days a week. Instead of quitting volunteer work, she started taking the lessons home.

Though her life is full, Jan still finds the work rewarding. "Time is short, so it's exciting to know that there are people who are searching for truth," she says. "Also, I've always wanted to do prison ministries, but didn't know how to get involved. Now I can, because many of our students are inmates."

Sharing her faith has not always been a big part of Jan's life, but she was motivated by the examples of people around her. For example, Jan's mother regularly passed out literature during the last decade of her life. "I went with her and my sister several times, and it was really fun," remembers Jan. "I've also had friends who have been active in ministry. They motivated me to do more."



Jan has often felt unsure about witnessing on her own. "I don't feel like I can go door to door or give Bible studies by myself," she explains. "But I knew there had to be a way to share." So she decided to take advantage of the volunteer discount on Amazing Facts materials and has found unique ways to distribute them. Sometimes she fills a wagon with literature and offers people a free gift outside the grocery store. She has also sponsored mailings. "I know not everyone will read the literature, but I know God can get it to the right people."

Should you volunteer at Amazing Facts? Jan is encouraging. "Volunteering here is great. It's rewarding to help with an outreach that teaches Bible truth. It fills my heart with joy to do things for others. Plus, it's a great feeling of accomplishment each time I finish grading a packet of lessons." 

Don't Be Fooled!

By Laurie Lyon



How would you feel if someone walked up and handed you a crisp, new \$50 bill? That would be very exciting, wouldn't it? But what if you found out later that the \$50 bill was fake? That would be super disappointing!

Well, government officials say that up to \$200 million in fake bills are circulating in our money supply. That's why people who work in banks always keep their eyes open for counterfeit money. But how do they tell the real from the fake? By learning about all the special features that are found on real money. Then, when a fake comes along, they can spot it easily.

We know that Jesus is coming soon to take all the people who love Him to heaven to be with Him forever. It will be the greatest event we've ever seen!

Sadly, many people have mixed-up ideas about Jesus' return. For example, some think it will happen secretly. And Jesus said that before He returns, some people will try to trick others into thinking they are Jesus! Even Satan will create a counterfeit Second Coming. Tragically, many will be tricked into thinking these things are real.

But we don't need to be fooled because God gave us plenty of details about the real Second Coming. We just need to know our Bibles! So what does God's Word say will happen when Jesus comes back?

It tells us that every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7) and that He will come in the clouds (Acts 1:11). Scripture also says that Jesus' return will be noisy—shouts, a loud voice, and trumpets—and the people who have died loving Jesus will come back to life (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). And

in 2 Peter 3:12 we learn that when He returns, Jesus "will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames" (NLT).

Jesus compared His return to something commonly seen in nature. Solve the puzzle below to find out what it is. **Circle every fourth letter** and then write them in order in the blanks below. The first one is circled for you:



H	U	M	L	E	W
P	I	B	N	T	G
S	V	O	H	L	Y
X	T	A	R	Q	N
E	Z	V	I	D	H
B	N	W	O	F	G

Think about that! It's something that gets your attention, isn't it? Jesus' return will be so loud and so bright that no one can miss it.

Jesus loves us very much—more than anyone else does—and He doesn't want us to be confused about His second coming. Keep reading your Bible, talk with Jesus every day, ask Him to help you be ready, and He will!

Answer: LIGHTNING

Bible Answers

with Pastor Doug Batchelor



Who Are the “Sons of God” in Genesis 6?



“Now it came to pass . . . that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose” (Genesis 6:1, 2). Some believe that the “sons of God” here refers to fallen angels—or even extraterrestrial beings—who took human women as wives and fathered a race of giants. On the surface, this might seem reasonable. But a closer look at Scripture quickly clears up any confusion.

The term “sons of God” appears eleven times in the King James Bible, and it is never used to describe a fallen angelic being. Angels are spirits (Psalm 104:4), not flesh. They aren’t depicted as going to school, holding jobs, or raising families. They exist to “minister for those who will inherit salvation” (Hebrews 1:14). Even if angels wanted to have children, they couldn’t; they have no human DNA or plumbing.

Jesus also says angels do not marry (Matthew 22:30; Luke 20:36). Marriage is a human institution. Jesus also draws a clear distinction between angels and “sons of God,” treating them as two separate categories. The angel interpretation simply does not hold.

Instead, the consistent use of “sons of God” in Scripture refers to humans renewed by God’s Spirit. “Blessed are

the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9)—clearly, these are people made righteous, not angels. “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). Notice the term used here in NKJV includes both men and women.

Thus, in Genesis 6, the “sons of God” are the righteous descendants of Seth, those who “began to call on the name of the LORD” (Genesis 4:26). The “daughters of men” are the unrighteous descendants of Cain, who was banished to build cities east of Eden (Genesis 4:16–18).

As long as these two lines stayed separate, the sons of God remained faithful. Trouble came when they began to intermingle. Perhaps the sons of Seth ventured into the cities for trade and found the daughters of Cain attractive. Perhaps some even hoped to win them to the Lord. Whatever the motive, the result was spiritually disastrous. God’s counsel is clear: “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 6:14), regardless of how charming, kind, or sincerely religious the other person may be.

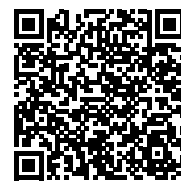
But why were their offspring called “Nephilim,” mighty men or giants? This is a simple law of genetic vitality that occurs when a group of mammals reproduces with an outside group; the offspring can be more robust, with greater physical size or strength.

The inescapable conclusion is that Genesis 6 describes not a supernatural invasion, but a very human failure—God’s people compromising their faith through mixed marriages. The wickedness that followed was the fruit of that compromise, not the offspring of angels. 



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