



— LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY? —



LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY?

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The Official Website for Left Behind or Led Astray?

A website dedicated to taking a closer look at the history of the secret pre-tribulation rapture doctrine, pre-trib



Left Behind or Led Astray? Trailer

View the trailer for the documentary that has been hailed as one of the most compelling and thoroughly researched projects examining the origins of the pre-tribulation rapture doctrine! Don't forget to order your copy today!

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Joe Schimmel's Hollow Words?



Joe Schimmel – “the sordid history of the Pre-Trib Rapture theory”



Dave MacPherson – “Dishonesty” best sums up the history of the Pre-trib Rapture

Dave MacPherson – “Thomas Ice, rabid pre-trib defender and promoter”



Joe Schimmel – “Tim LaHaye’s bulldog, Tommy Ice”



Questionable Integrity



----- Original Message -----

From: [colinle noury](mailto:colinle.noury)

To: lisa@blessedhopechapel.org

Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2014 1:18 AM

Subject: DVD

Dear Lisa

I am contacting you directly in case my first email to your info email hasn't reached Joe Schimmel and I would ask you to pass this on to him.

I am aware of a new DVD that it is being brought out by yourselves on the rapture issue in which I am being very much misrepresented as a result of film taken on a visit to the UK.

I must say to you in the strongest possible terms that you DO NOT HAVE MY PERMISSION TO USE ANY OF THAT FILM MATERIAL IN THIS DVD. Consequently I seek your assurance that all references to myself and clips of myself will be removed from this production.

Sincerely in Christ

Rev Colin Le Noury

----- Original Message -----

From: [colinle noury](mailto:colinle.noury)

To: steve@blessedhopechapel.org

Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 10:37 PM

Subject: Left Behind DVD

Hi Steve

I have now seen the trailer of the above film which includes a clip of an interview I did with Joe Schimmel. The clip is edited in such a way as to distort what I said. This is dishonouring and deceitful.

I would be grateful if you would inform Joe Schimmel that I DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION FOR ANY OF THE FOOTAGE TO BE USED IN ANY OF YOUR PRODUCTIONS and I would very much appreciate his assurance that all references to myself be removed from the film before the official release.

I look forward to a response on this.

Sincerely in Christ

Colin Le Noury

LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY?

EXAMINING THE ORIGINS OF THE SECRET
PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

JOE SCHIMMEL



JACOB PRASCH



JOEL RICHARDSON



“The body of evidence you present in ‘Left Behind or Led Astray’ is insurmountable and... it will knock the Pre-Trib camp for the proverbial six.” **Jacob Prasch**

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EXAMINING THE ORIGINS OF THE SECRET
PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

JOE SCHIMMEL



JACOB PRASCH



JOEL RICHARDSON



“This is one of the most important videos to come out in the past 20 years... this is a watershed product.” **Joel Richardson**

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EXAMINING THE ORIGINS OF THE SECRET
PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

JOE SCHIMMEL



JACOB PRASCH



JOEL RICHARDSON



“In my view, your examination of the development of the pre-trib teaching in the 19th century is **ABSOLUTELY DEVESTATING** to the pre-trib view....” **John Haller**



— LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY? —



Claim

The Church Fathers are excellent
witnesses against a pre-trib
Rapture

Joel Richardson – The Church Fathers “give us an excellent witness regarding what the early Christians believed”

**“If this is what was taught by the Apostles,
we would see it in the writings of the early
Church writers; it doesn’t exist.”**



Jacob Prasch – “Irenaeus is probably the single most important of the Church fathers”



Joe Schimmel – “Irenaeus, the greatest of the early Church Fathers”





Irenaeus

Bishop of Lyons
(c.AD130-200)

“their own Scriptures... show that they who boast themselves as being the house of Jacob and the people of Israel, are disinherited from the grace of God.”

Against Heresies III, 21

Cyprian

Bishop of Carthage
(c.AD195-258)

“the Jews... had departed from God, and had lost God’s favour... while the Christians had succeeded to their place....”

*Three Books of Testimonies
Against the Jews*

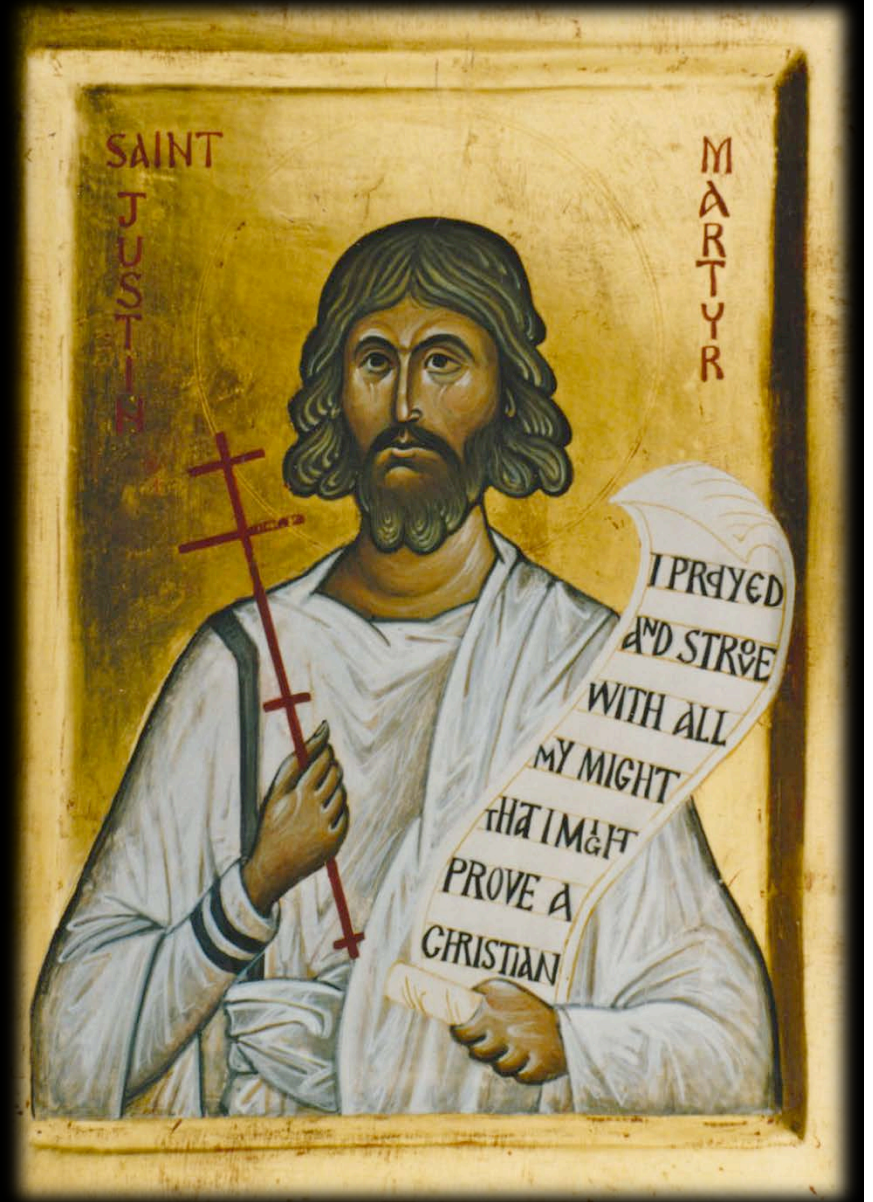


Justin

'Martyr' (c.AD100-165)

“For the true spiritual Israel, and descendants of Judah, Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham... are we who have been led to God through this crucified Christ... we... are the true Israelite race.”

Dialogue with Trypho, a Jew



John Walvoord – Most of the Church Fathers
“considered themselves already in the
great tribulation.”





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Claim

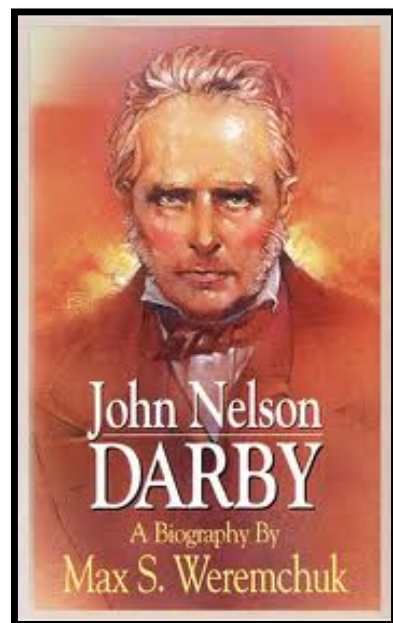
Schimmel's witnesses are
unbiased

**Joe Schimmel – “unbiased” and “respected
Darby historian Max Weremchuk”**



MAX S. WEREMCHUK

JOHN NELSON DARBY: BICENTENNIAL REFLECTIONS



1. IS DARBY STILL RELEVANT?

MAX S. WEREMCHUK



It is a sobering experience to come to the realisation that the man you devoted many years of study to because you felt he had made a vital contribution to the Church is not known by the majority of Christian believers today. This was my experience in regard to John Nelson Darby.

I was raised in an Exclusive Brethren context and was convinced of the rightness of the Brethren position over against other Christian groups. I felt Brethren teachings and viewpoints to be the most obviously biblical ones. Then I woke up to reality. A modern comparison could be made to Jim Carrey and his role as Truman in the movie 'The Truman Show' (1998) when he

From: [Max Weremchuk](#)

Sent: Monday, October 27, 2003 6:41 PM

To: [Paul Wilkinson](#)

Subject: reply

Hi Paul,

The Darby quotations you use prove nothing. He deals with the subject matter abstractly....

What is all this nonsense talk of the Lord loving the Jewish people?? All the Christ-rejecting Jews from the cross till the second coming are lost and damned along with all other Christ-rejectors! But you talk of them as enjoying God's everlasting love!! Don't you realize how absurd that is!...

The Israel of today, the Jews of today, are not the ones of the Old Testament or from Christ's time....

Do you honestly believe that Jews have a special relationship to God?... It is grotesque to talk of God loving Israel and then seeing that the greater majority of them are lost.

Yours,

Max



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Claim

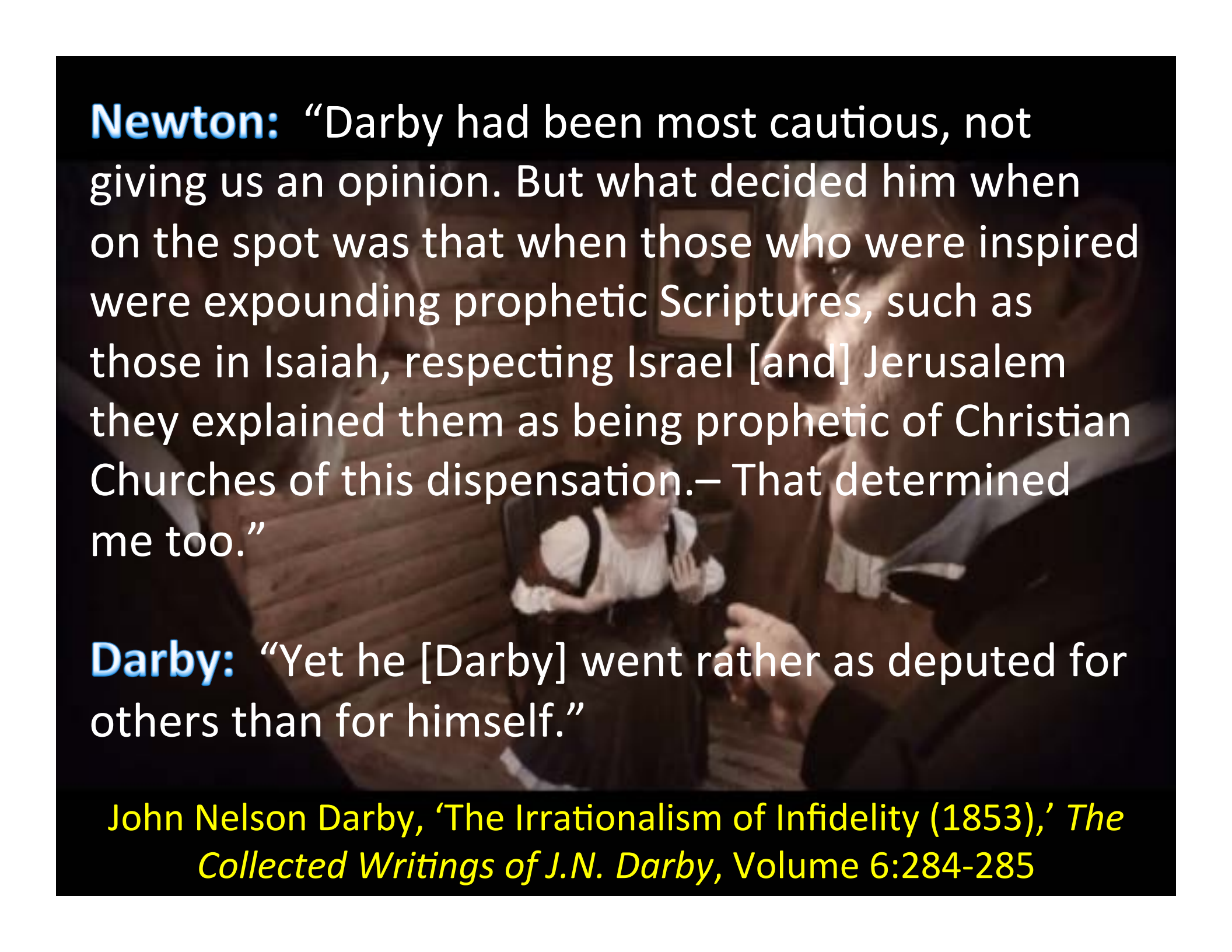
J.N. Darby and B.W. Newton
heard Margaret MacDonald's
utterances in Port Glasgow,
Scotland

Walter Martin – “a fifteen-year old girl had a revelation... [that] was picked up by J.N. Darby”



Joe Schimmel – “Darby spent several days listening to Margaret MacDonald’s prophetic utterances”



A historical photograph showing a group of men in a room with wood-paneled walls. One man in the foreground is gesturing with his hands while speaking. Another man is seated in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

Newton: “Darby had been most cautious, not giving us an opinion. But what decided him when on the spot was that when those who were inspired were expounding prophetic Scriptures, such as those in Isaiah, respecting Israel [and] Jerusalem they explained them as being prophetic of Christian Churches of this dispensation.— That determined me too.”

Darby: “Yet he [Darby] went rather as deputed for others than for himself.”

John Nelson Darby, ‘The Irrationalism of Infidelity (1853),’ *The Collected Writings of J.N. Darby*, Volume 6:284-285



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Claim

Darby engaged in a witch hunt
against B.W. Newton

Joe Schimmel – “Darby... looking for the thinnest thread on which to hang [Newton]”

“Wherever this is enfeebled, Satan is at work...He who awaits Christ’s appearing, as the time in which he is to go to be with Him, has denied the proper hope and proper relationship of the Church with Christ. On this point there can be no compromise. Ignorance of privilege is one thing...the denial of it another.”

Darby, John Nelson

“The Rapture of the Saints and the Character of the Jewish Remnant”
Collected Writings, Prophetic IV, Vol. II, p. 154

Newton: “I have been led... to see that I was distinctly in error, in holding that the Lord Jesus came by birth under any imputation of Adam’s guilt, or the consequences of such imputation.... And I hereby withdraw all statements of mine, whether in print, or in any other form, in which *this error, or any of its fruits, may be found.*”

Darby: “If Mr. N were restored, it would be the joy of my heart.”

John Nelson Darby, ‘Notice of the Statement and Acknowledgement of Error circulated by Mr. Newton,’ *The Collected Writings of J.N. Darby, Volume 15:117-123.*



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Claim

The pre-trib Rapture can be traced back to the Jesuits

Joe Schimmel – “While we cannot draw a direct line from [the Jesuit] Ribera....”



... we will draw the line for you anyway!



Joe Schimmel – “Irving wrote a preface of Lacunza’s book... ‘to stir up the soul to look daily for the coming of the Lord’”

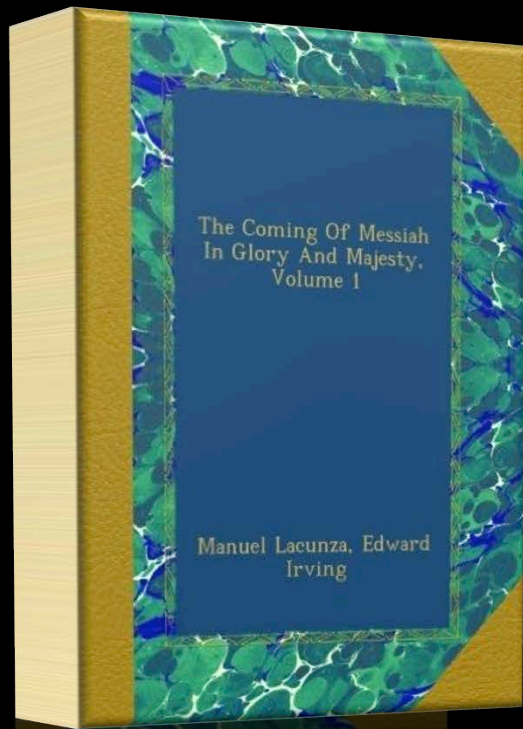
The image shows the front cover of a book. The cover is a solid teal color with a subtle, embossed geometric pattern. A decorative border, also in teal, frames the central text area. The border consists of a repeating, interlocking geometric motif. The text is centered within this border in a light-colored, serif font.

The Coming Of
Messiah In Glory
And Majesty,
Volume 1 -
Primary Source
Edition

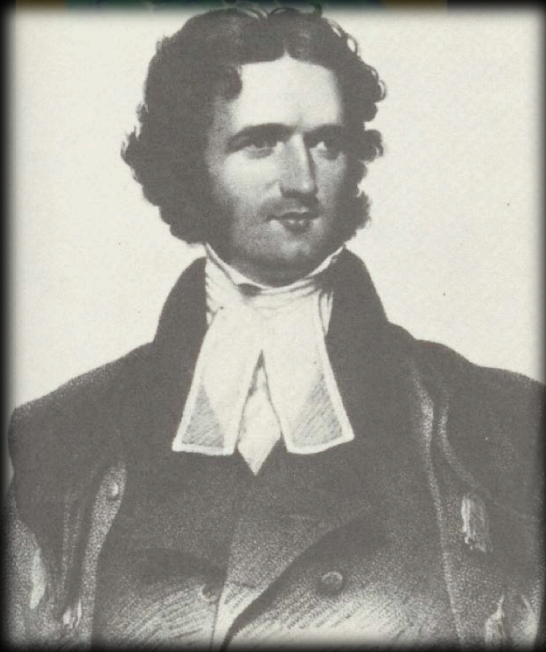
Historical Note

Lacunza was a native of Chile who had joined an order of the Jesuits in 1747. When his order had been exiled from the Spanish colonies of South America, he found refuge in Italy. His book, which was written to address the corruption he saw within the Roman Catholic priesthood, was first printed in Spain in 1812 in three volumes, but was suppressed and withdrawn from circulation by the Inquisition. The work found its way into England in 1816.

LA
VENIDA DEL MESIAS
EN
GLORIA Y MAGESTAD.
OBSERVACIONES
DE
JUAN JOSAFAT BEN-EZRA,
DIRIGIDAS AL SACERDOTE CRISTÓFILO,
SE DEDICAN
MESIAS, JESUCRISTO,
HIJO DE DIOS, HIJO DE LA SANTISIMA VIRGEN MARIA, HIJO DE DAVID,
HIJO DE ABRAHAM,
EN TRES TOMOS.
LONDRES:
J. P. COCKERMANN, STRAND,
Y EN SU ESTABLECIMIENTO EN MEXICO:
ASIMISMO
EN COLOMBIA, EN BUENOS AYRES, CHILE, PERU, Y GUATEMALA.
1826.



“My soul is greatly afflicted because of the present unawakened and even dead condition of all the churches, with respect to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, which draweth nigh, and which, as I believe, is close at hand...”



Edward Irving, ‘Dedication,’ *The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty* (London: 1827), Vol.1, i.

Mark Patterson – “the influence of Ribera, Lacunza, while uncertain... got Irving’s creative juices going”



Joe Schimmel – “on p.63 [of Lacunza] Edward Irving uses the word ‘dispensations’ over a dozen times”



ΠΟΛΥΠΟΙΚΙΛΟΣ ΣΟΦΙΑ.
A
Compleat HISTORY
Or SURVEY
Of all the
Dispensations and Methods
OF
RELIGION,

From the beginning of the World to the
Consummation of all things;
As represented in the OLD and NEW Testament.

SHEWING
The several Reasons and Designs of those dif-
ferent Administrations; and the Wisdom and
Goodness of God in the Government of his
Church, through all the Ages of it.

In which also

The Opinion of Dr. Spencer concerning the Jewish
Rites and Sacrifices, is examin'd: And the Certainty
of the Christian Religion demonstrated, against the
Cavils of the Deists, &c.

By JOHN EDWARDS, B.D.

LONDON,
Printed for Daniel Brown, Jonath. Robinson, Andrew Bell,
John Wyat, and E. Harris. M. DC. XC. IX.

THE
HARMONY
OF ALL THE
RELIGIONS

Which GOD ever prescribed:

CONTAINING
A Brief SURVEY of the several Publick
DISPENSATIONS of GOD
toward Man, or his Appointment of
Different Forms of RELIGION
in successive Ages.

HUMBLY PROPOSED
As an Easy CLEW to lead us through many
Difficulties of the *Old Testament*, and the
New; and particularly to Explain and
Reconcile the several Parts of St. Paul's
Epistles on these Subjects to every Ca-
pacity.

LONDON,
Printed for JAMES BRACKSTONE, at the
Globe in Cornhill.

M. DCC. XLII.

M'DCC'XLII'



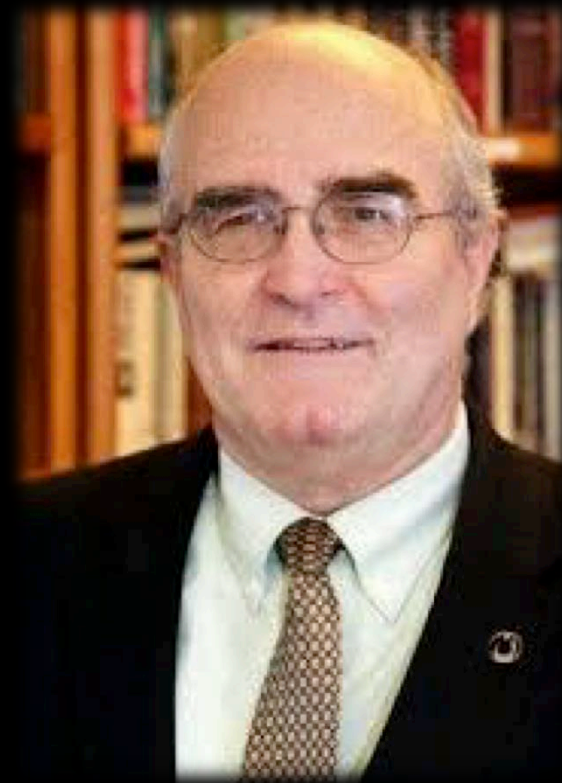
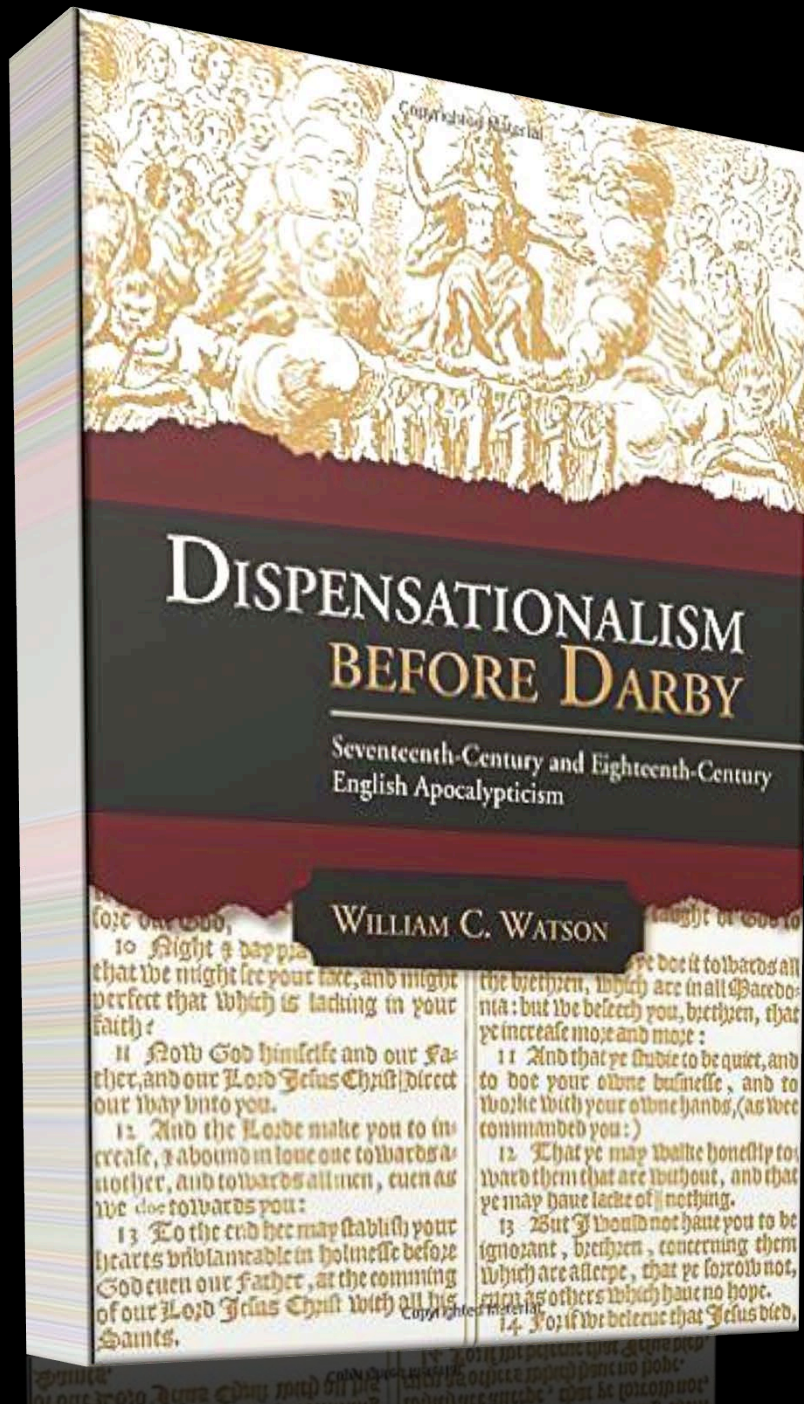
LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY?

Claim

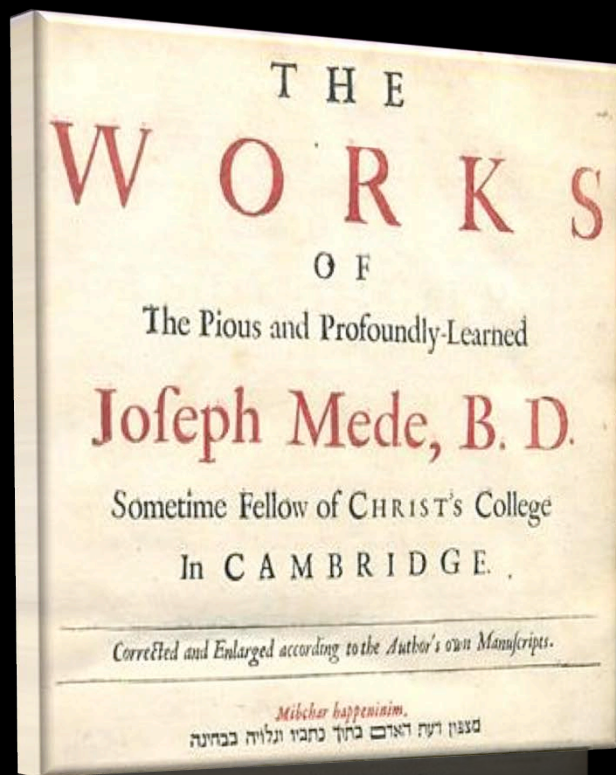
The “gap theory” was introduced by Lacunza

**Joe Schimmel – Lacunza’s 45-day gap
“that will eventually stretch to...
the entire 7 year Tribulation”**





William Watson
Professor of History
Colorado Christian University



Joseph Mede (1586-1639)

“I will add... what may be conceived to be the cause of this **Rapture** of the Saints on high to meet the Lord in the Clouds....

What if it be, 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** be lift up in the Clouds unto their *Ark, Christ*, to be preserved there from the *deluge of fire...?*”

“The place whither he shall come, is the earth... **though he shall not descend upon it at once...** he shall descend into the air, and there **stay some time...** for the righteous dead... and the living saints... will be caught up together into the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and will be carried up far enough to be out of the reach of the devouring flames....”

A Body of Doctrinal Divinity (1767)



John Gill
(1697-1771)

“Rapt”

Vernon Manuscript 14th

John Lydgate 15th

William Bond 16th

Thomas Draxe 17th

Barton Holyday 17th

George Walker 17th

William Sherwin 17th

Joseph Hall 18th

“Rapture”

Joseph Mede 17th

Nathaniel Homes 17th

Capt. John Browne 17th

Increase Mather 18th

Cotton Mather 18th

John Norris 18th

Philip Doddridge 18th

John Gill 18th

Thomas Broughton 18th

Max Weremchuk – “Darby’s views were somewhat different than the Jesuits,” but we must still connect them!

"The Catholic influence may go further than suspected. Who did Darby converse with during his Catholic phase? How much teaching did he hear? These questions become important for the development of Darby's prophetic views later. There are very many Catholic (Jesuit) elements involved in it."

Weremchuk, Max S.
"J. N. Darby Research Papers - Part 2"

Research Paper 9 "Rome; Darby and the Roman Catholic Church"

Lacunza on 1 Thessalonians

“...the main object of his epistle... was to draw them out of the error in which they were actually involved, of expecting every moment the coming of the Lord.”

Juan Josafat Ben-Ezra [Manuel Lacunza], *The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty* (London: 1827), Vol. 1:263



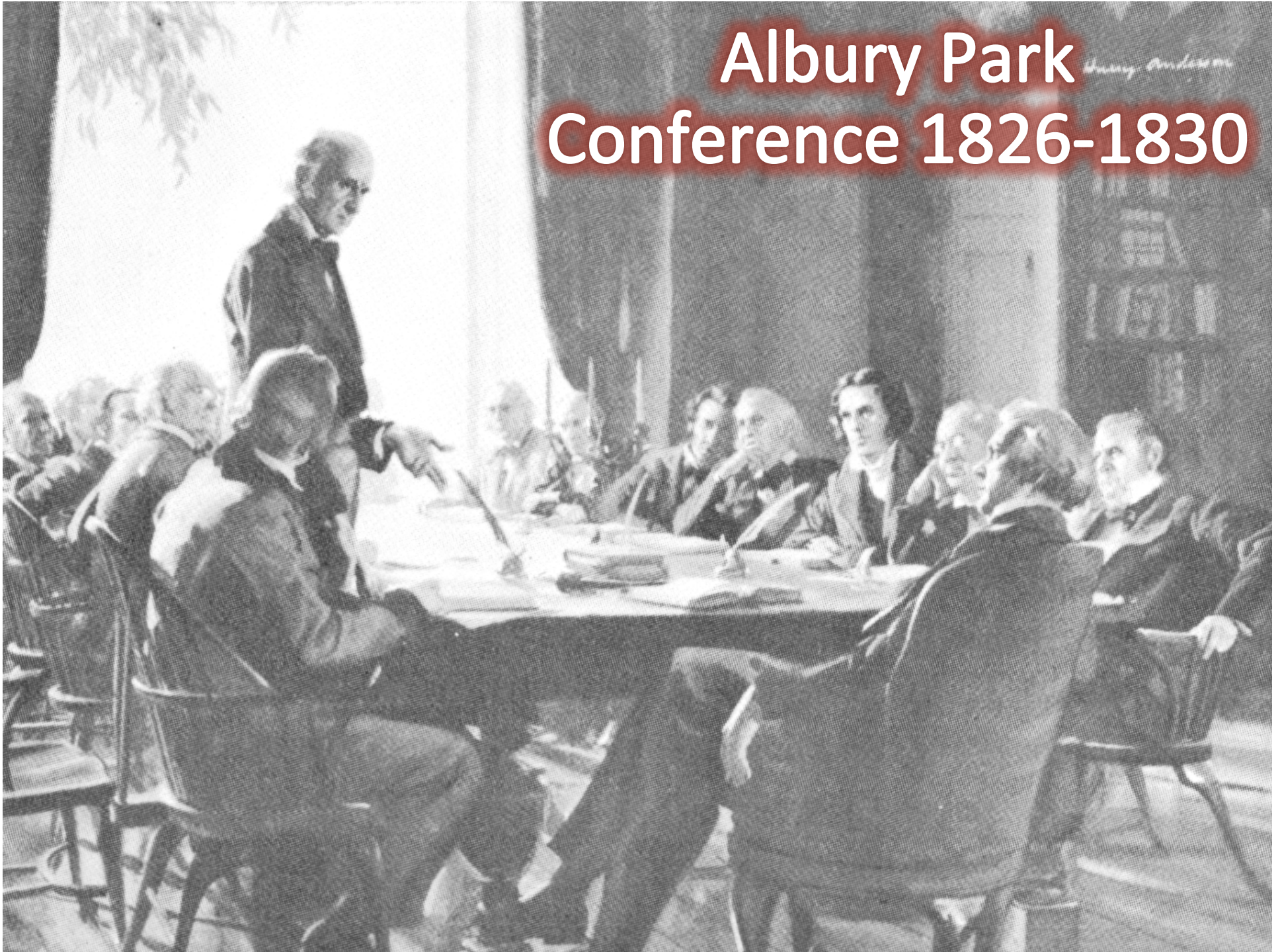
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Claim

Albury Park was the real
birthplace of the pre-trib Rapture

Albury Park Conference 1826-1830





“the perspective held by the Albury Circle is essentially identical to that found in contemporary dispensationalism and known today as pretribulational premillennialism”

Mark Patterson, *Designing the Last Days: Edward Irving, the Albury Circle, and the Theology of The Morning Watch* (PhD: University of London, 2001), p.26.



Edward Irving's report, 1st Albury Conference 1826:

“...all being agreed that the 1260 and 1290 days of Daniel were accomplished, and the remaining 45 begun, at the conclusion of which the blessedness will be fully arrived. And that during the judgment, which may open upon us any day, we are to look for the second advent of the Lord in person, to raise the dead bodies of his saints, and with them to reign upon the earth.”

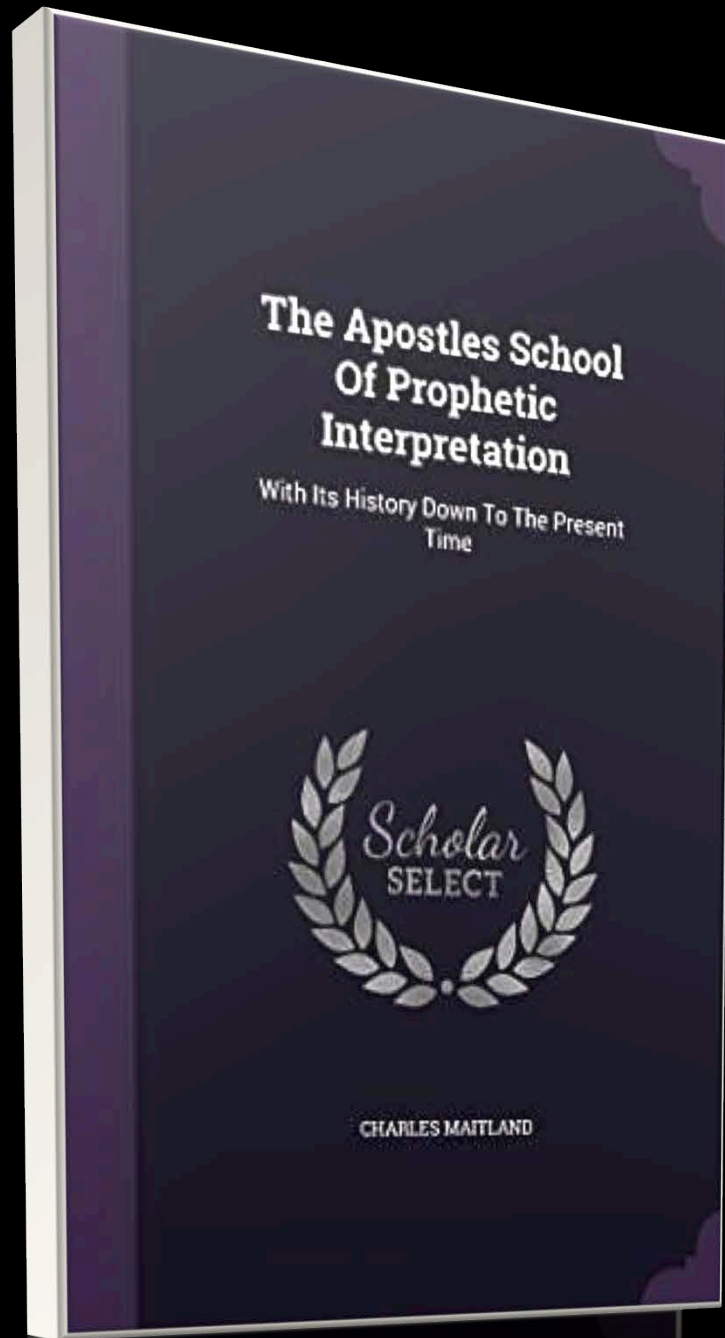
Edward Irving, 'Preliminary Discourse,' in *The Coming of Messiah in Glory and Majesty* (London: 1827), pp. clxxxix-cxc.

Mark Patterson – “who knows how it was swirling about the air at that time”



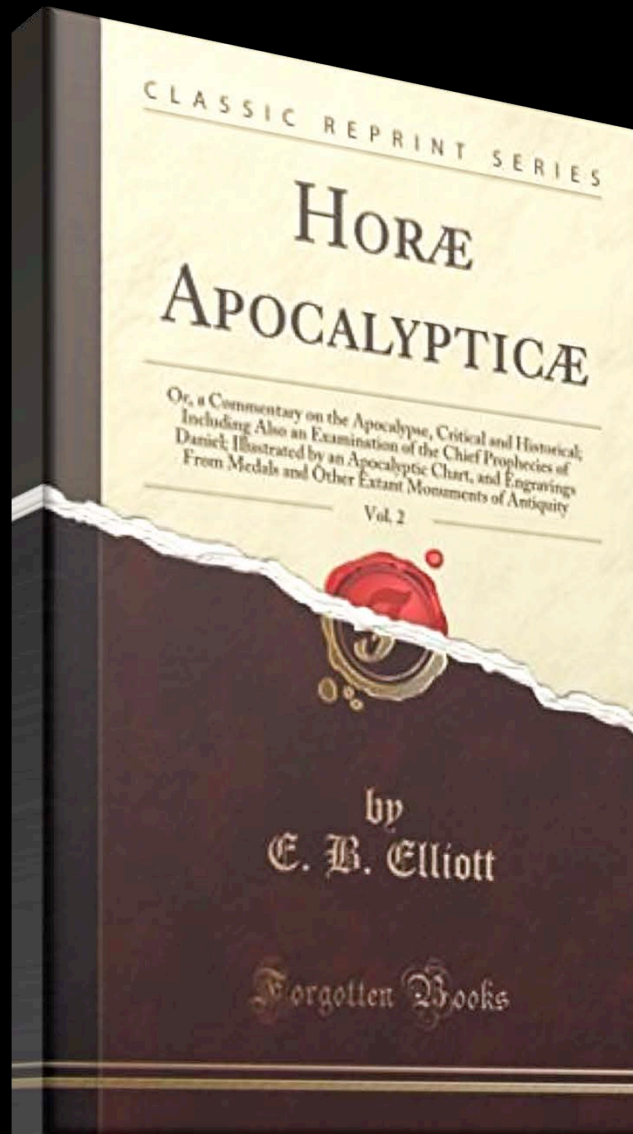
“Where did he get it? The reviewer’s answer would be that it was in the air in the 1820s and 1830s among eager students of unfulfilled prophecy....”

F.F. Bruce, ‘Book Review of *The Unbelievable Pre-Trib Origin*’, *Evangelical Quarterly*, 47 (1975), 58.



Charles Maitland denounced the historicist school in favour of the futurism being espoused by its “rather quiet pioneers,” including William and Thomas Witherby, and by Samuel Roffey Maitland, William Burgh, and Joseph Tyso

Charles Maitland, *The Apostles' School of Prophetic Interpretation*, 1849



Samuel Maitland's futurism "had begun to make an evident impression on prophetic investigators... and had caused considerable doubt in the minds of many as to the correctness of... the prophetic year-day theory, generally received in England since the Reformation."

E.B. Elliott, Horæ Apocalypticæ, 1844



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Claim

Margaret MacDonal changed
everything in 1830

Joe Schimmel – “What changed from the June 1830 issue of the Morning Watch...?”

...From that point, this "new breed" (plus many pure historicists and pure futurists) would all begin to issue commentaries and articles advocating a two-stage coming and a pre-trib escape."

Faust, Joey

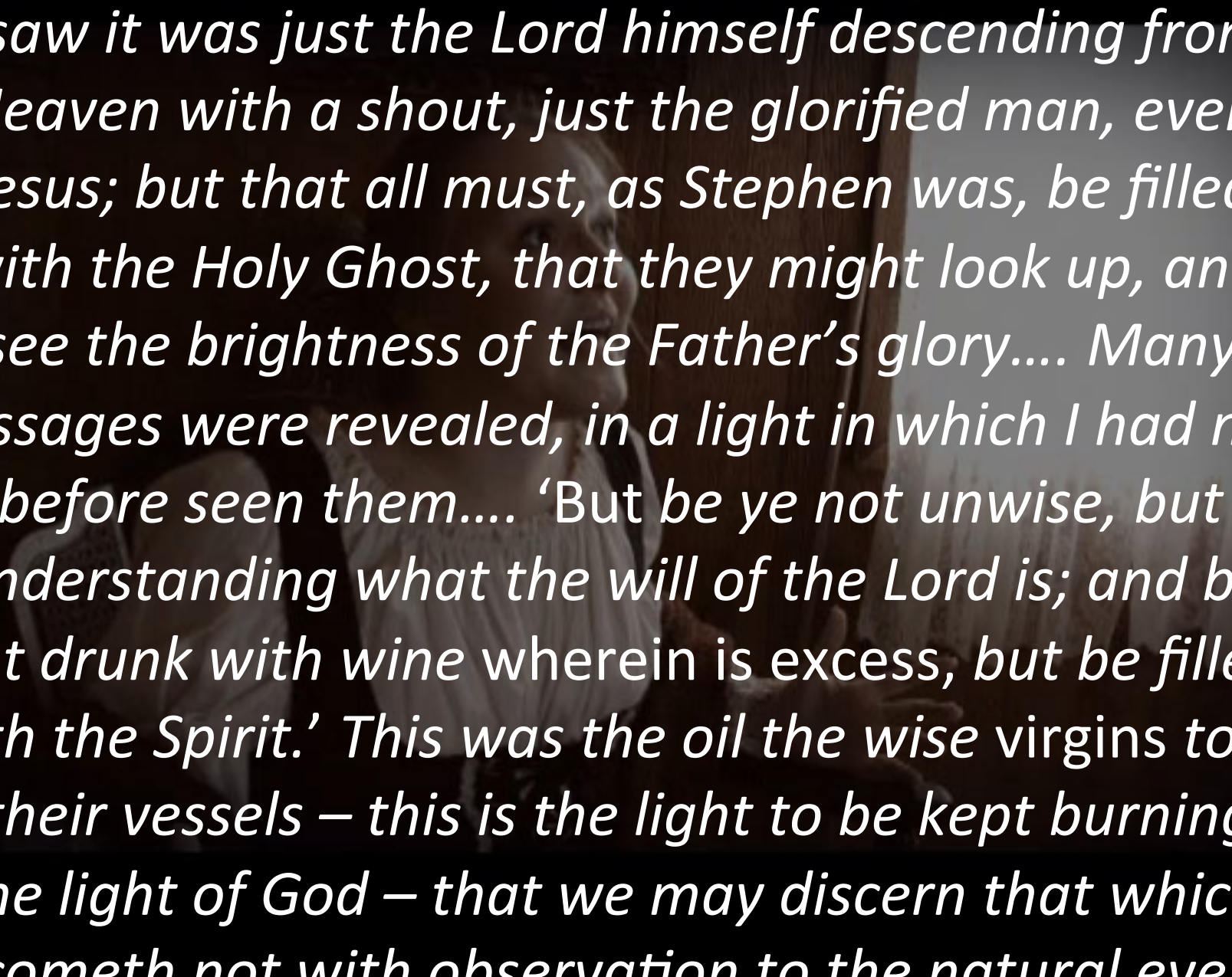
"The Pre-Trib Rapture in History-Not of Demonic Origin (Pt. 1)"
The Kingdom Alert, #117, June 9, 2001 [commentary added]

Answer: The Irvingite “Poster Girls”

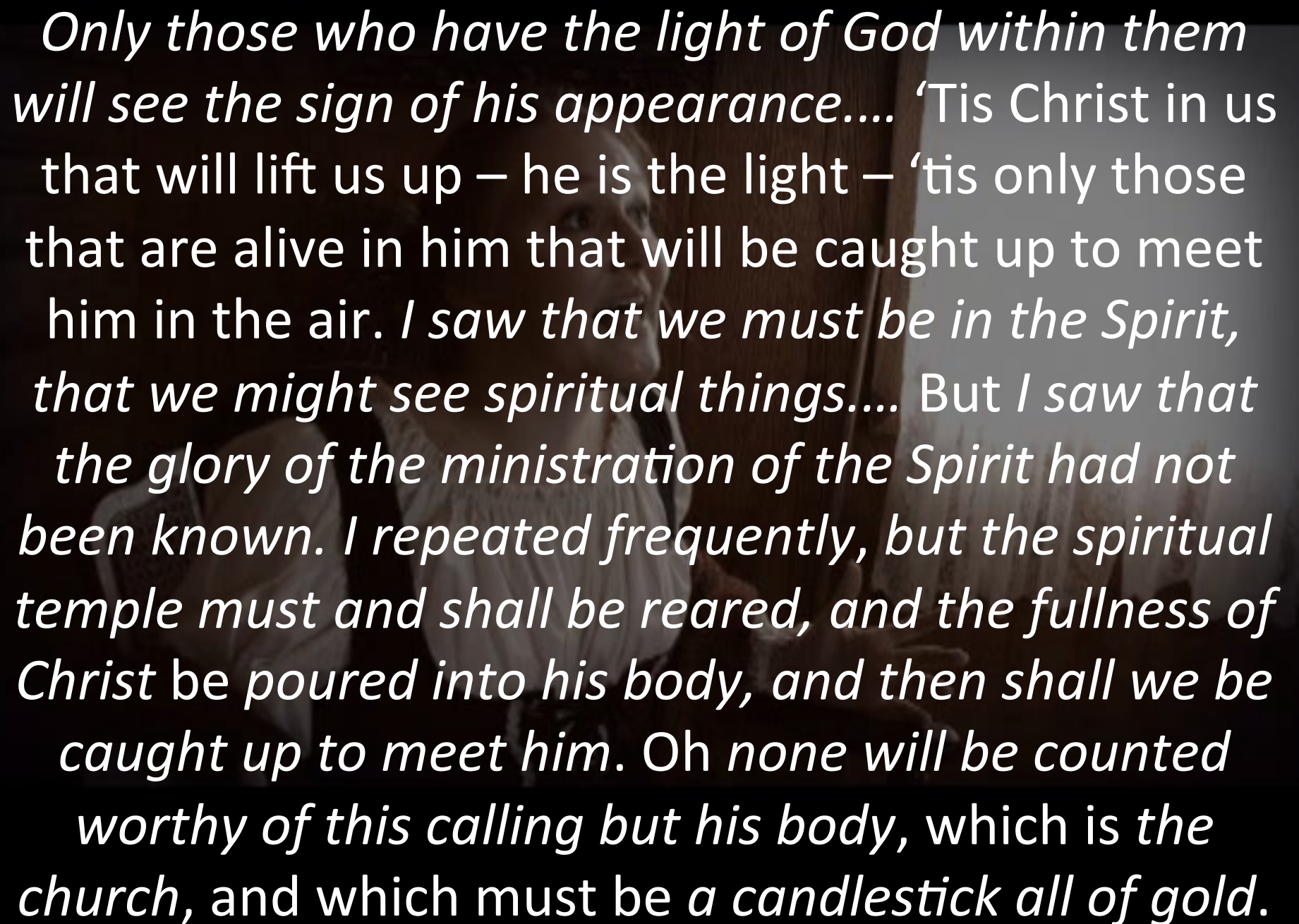


MacDonald's 1830 "Utterance"

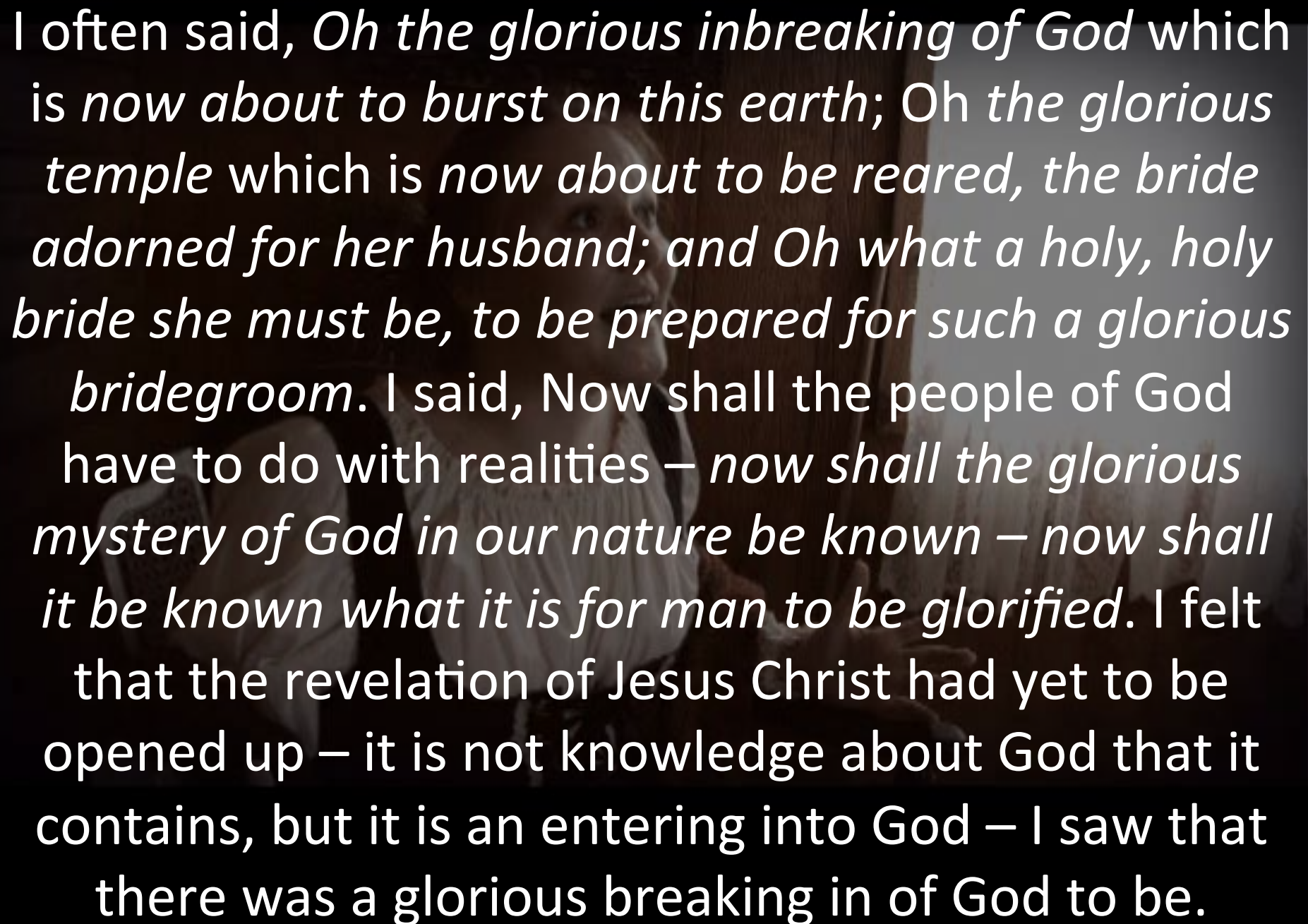
"It was first the awful state of the land that was pressed upon me. I saw the blindness and infatuation of the people to be very great. I felt the cry of Liberty just to be the hiss of the serpent.... I repeated the words, Now there is distress of nations, with perplexity, the seas and the waves roaring, men's hearts failing them for fear – now look out for the sign of the Son of man. Here I was made to stop and cry out, O it is not known what the sign of the Son of man is; the people of God think they are waiting, but they know not what it is. *I felt this needed to be revealed, and that there was great darkness and error about it; but suddenly what it was burst upon me with a glorious light.*



I saw it was just the Lord himself descending from Heaven with a shout, just the glorified man, even Jesus; but that all must, as Stephen was, be filled with the Holy Ghost, that they might look up, and see the brightness of the Father's glory.... Many passages were revealed, in a light in which I had not before seen them.... 'But be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is; and be not drunk with wine wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit.' This was the oil the wise virgins took in their vessels – this is the light to be kept burning – the light of God – that we may discern that which cometh not with observation to the natural eye.

A woman in a white dress is speaking, her face partially visible on the left side of the image. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, italicized font.

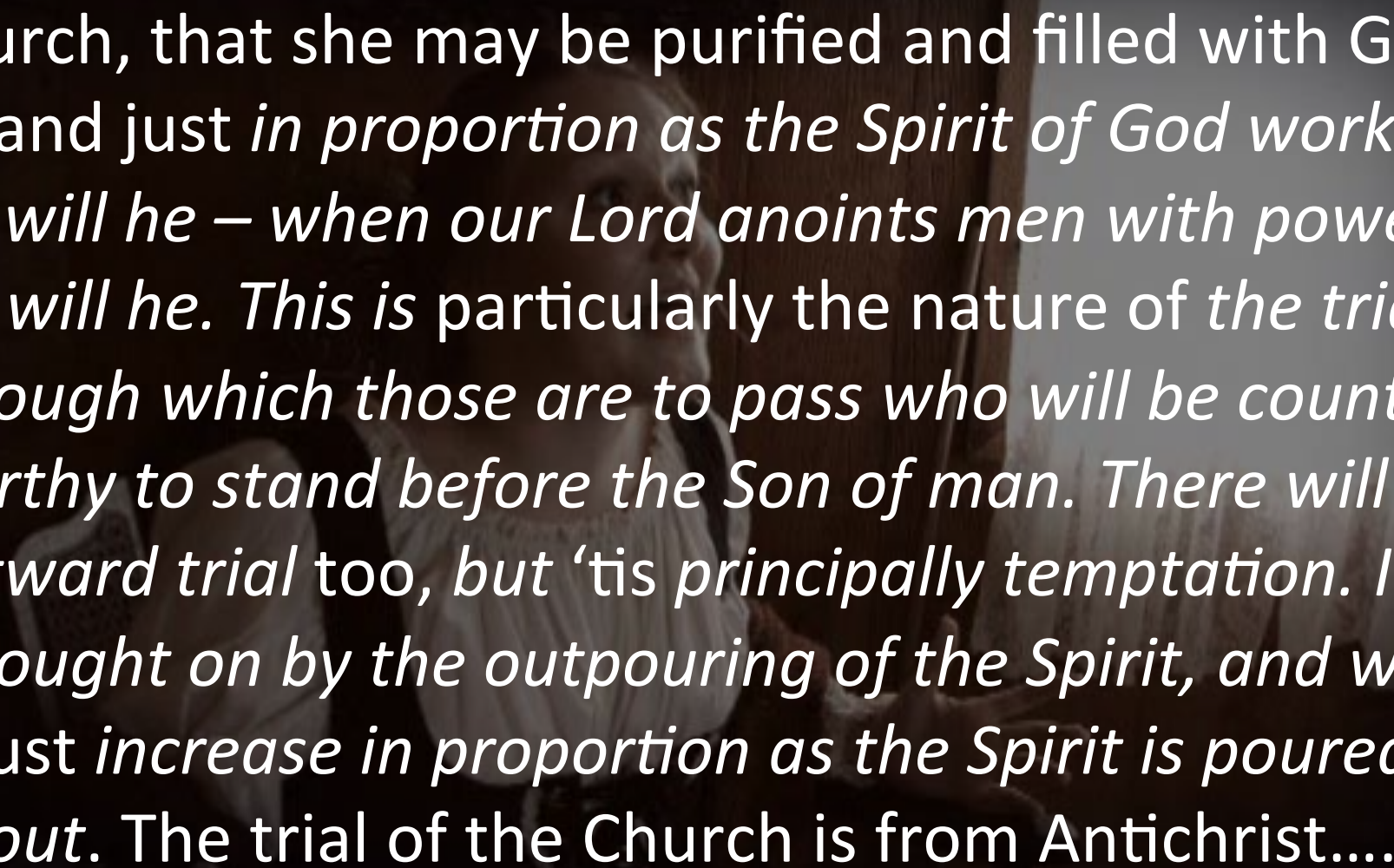
Only those who have the light of God within them will see the sign of his appearance.... 'Tis Christ in us that will lift us up – he is the light – 'tis only those that are alive in him that will be caught up to meet him in the air. I saw that we must be in the Spirit, that we might see spiritual things.... But I saw that the glory of the ministration of the Spirit had not been known. I repeated frequently, but the spiritual temple must and shall be reared, and the fullness of Christ be poured into his body, and then shall we be caught up to meet him. Oh none will be counted worthy of this calling but his body, which is the church, and which must be a candlestick all of gold.

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white dress, is shown from the chest up, speaking. She is positioned in the center-left of the frame. The background is dark and out of focus. Overlaid on the image is white text in a serif font, which is the main content of the image.

I often said, *Oh the glorious inbreaking of God which is now about to burst on this earth; Oh the glorious temple which is now about to be reared, the bride adorned for her husband; and Oh what a holy, holy bride she must be, to be prepared for such a glorious bridegroom.* I said, Now shall the people of God have to do with realities – *now shall the glorious mystery of God in our nature be known – now shall it be known what it is for man to be glorified.* I felt that the revelation of Jesus Christ had yet to be opened up – it is not knowledge about God that it contains, but it is an entering into God – I saw that there was a glorious breaking in of God to be.

*I felt as Elijah, surrounded with chariots of fire. I saw as it were, the spiritual temple reared, and the Head Stone brought forth with shoutings of grace, grace, unto it. It was a glorious light above the brightness of the sun, that shone round about me. I felt that those who were filled with the Spirit could see spiritual things... while those who had not the Spirit could see nothing.... I saw the people of God in an awfully dangerous situation, surrounded by nets and entanglements, about to be tried, and many about to be deceived and fall. Now will **THE WICKED** be revealed, with all power and signs and lying wonders, so that if it were possible the very elect will be deceived.— This is the fiery trial which is to try us.—*

It will be for the purging and purifying of the real members of the body of Jesus; but *Oh it will be a fiery trial. Every soul will be shaken to the very centre.* The enemy will try to shake in every thing we have believed....*The stony-ground hearers will be made manifest – the love of many will wax cold. I frequently said that night, and often since, now shall the awful sight of a false Christ be seen on this earth, and nothing but the living Christ in us can detect this awful attempt of the enemy to deceive – for it is with all deceivableness of unrighteousness he will work – he will have a counterpart for every part of God's truth, and an imitation for every work of the Spirit.*



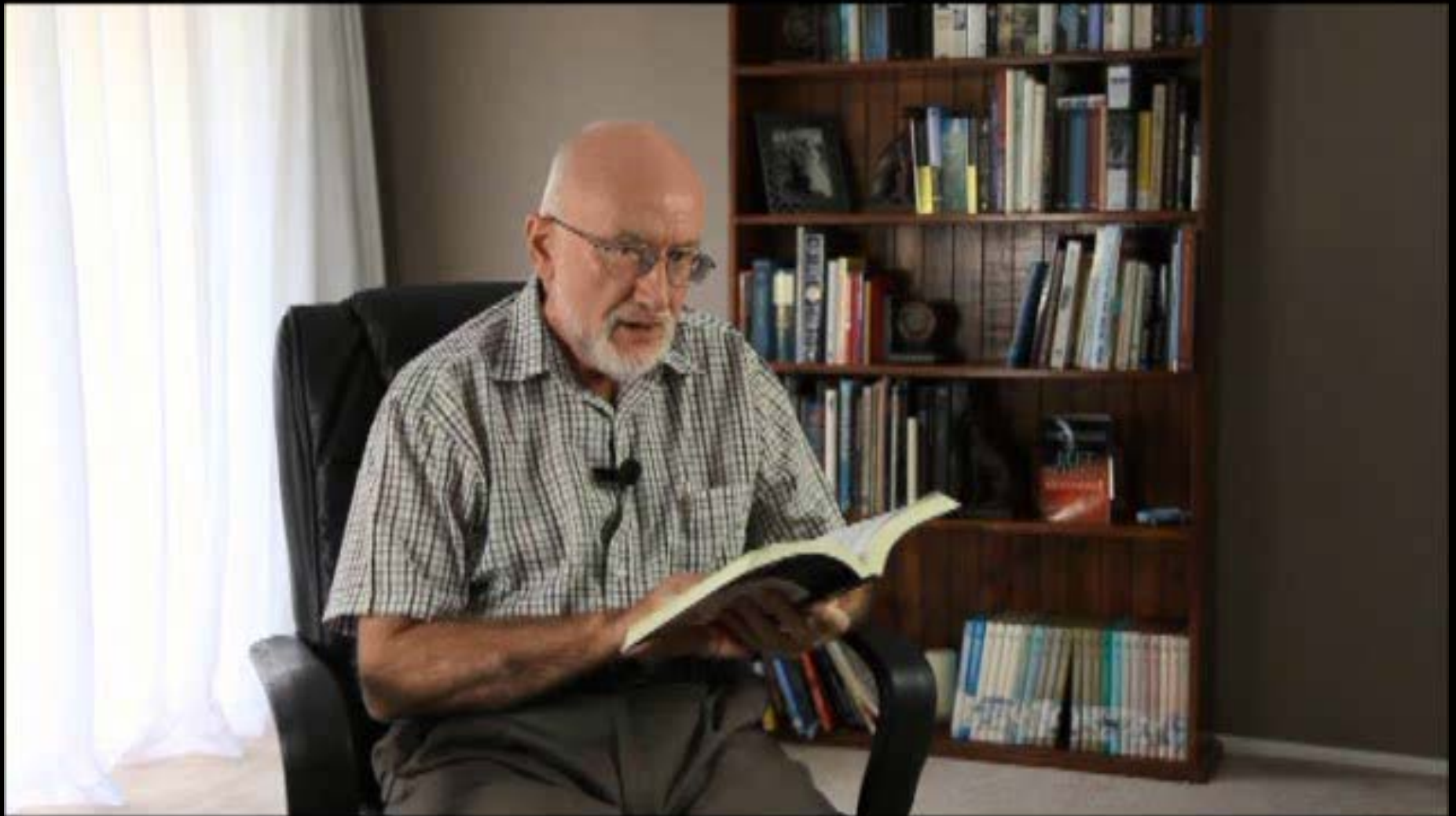
The Spirit must and will be poured out on the church, that she may be purified and filled with God – and just *in proportion as the Spirit of God works, so will he* – when our Lord anoints men with power, so will he. This is particularly the nature of the trial, through which those are to pass who will be counted worthy to stand before the Son of man. There will be outward trial too, but 'tis principally temptation. It is brought on by the outpouring of the Spirit, and will just increase in proportion as the Spirit is poured out. The trial of the Church is from Antichrist....

I frequently said, Oh be filled with the Spirit – have the light of God in you, that you may detect satan – be full of eyes within – be clay in the hands of the potter – submit to be filled, filled with God. This will build the temple....This will fit us to enter into the marriage supper of the Lamb. I saw it to be the will of God that all should be filled. But what hindered the real life of God from being received by his people, was their turning from Jesus, who is the way to the Father....They were passing the cross, through which every drop of the Spirit of God flows to us. All power that comes not through the blood of Christ is not of God....

I saw that night, and often since, that there will be an outpouring of the Spirit on the body, such as has not been, a baptism of fire, that all the dross may be put away. Oh there must and will be such an indwelling of the living God as has not been – the servants of God sealed in their foreheads – great conformity to Jesus – his holy holy image seen in his people.... This is what we are at present made to pray much for, that speedily we may all be made ready to meet our Lord in the air – and it will be. Jesus wants his bride. His desire is toward us. He that shall come, will come, and will not tarry. Amen and Amen. Even so come Lord Jesus.”

Quoted in Dave MacPherson, *The Incredible Cover-Up* (2001), 151-154.

David Bennett – MacDonald’s “kind of pretribulation Rapture, a little bit different from what is generally taught today”



“But you’re dealing with two very different men...
John Nelson Darby, by contrast, didn’t accept them,
didn’t like them, he wasn’t enthusiastic
about them at all”



**Good Fight Ministries – “convoluted,”
“we can’t say for sure,” “one can dispute”**



Joe Schimmel – “Tommy Ice’s statement in trying to distance Margaret MacDonald from... any possible influence on John Darby is patently false”



Joe Schimmel – “How many people Margaret MacDonald actually influenced... besides her own husband... and perhaps Edward Irving... is still unclear”

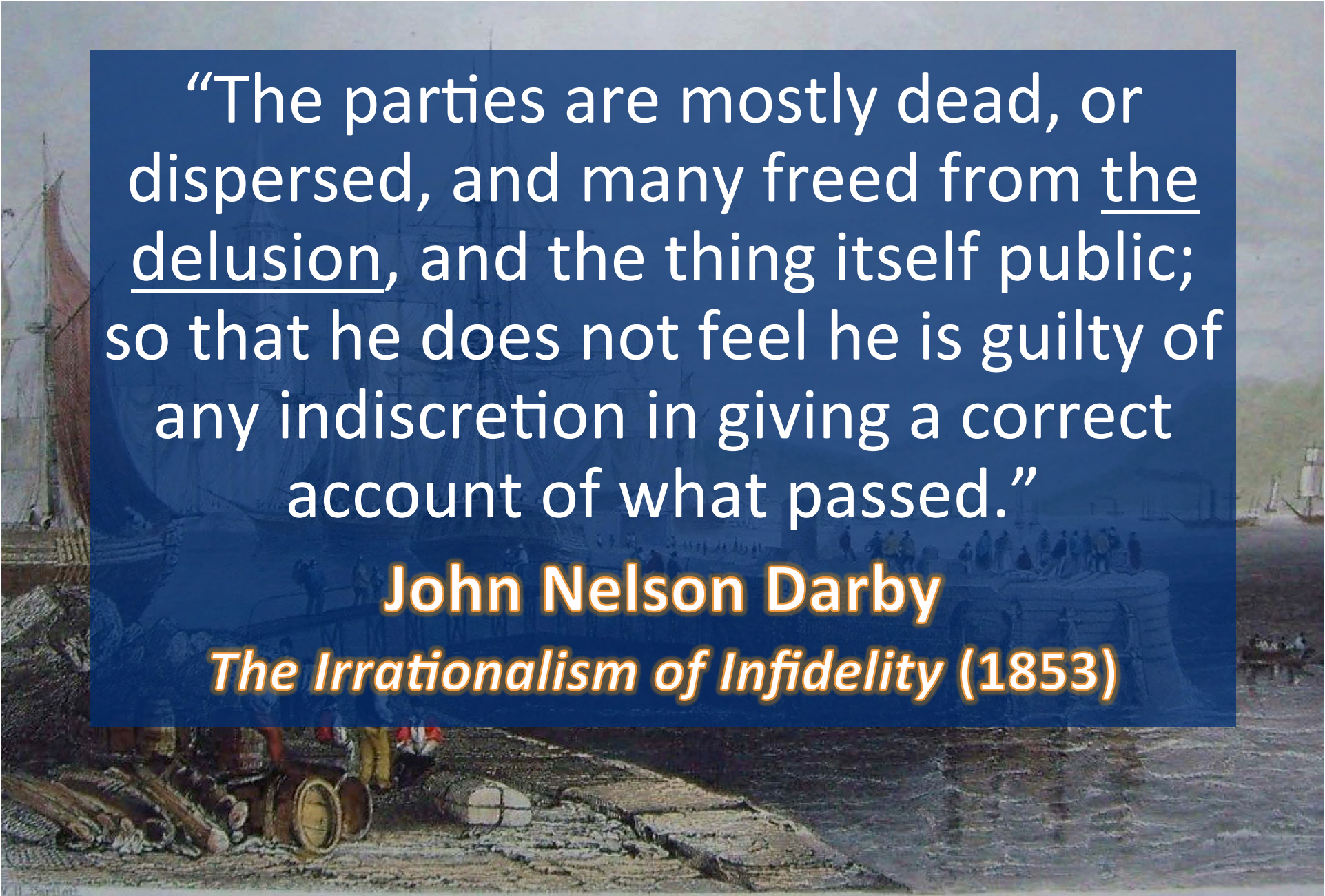
✦ — LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY? — ✦

Chapter 10

The Not So Secret Rapture

Joe Schimmel – “the Irvingites, and later Darby, were left standing with a smoking gun as though over Margaret MacDonald’s corpse”





“The parties are mostly dead, or dispersed, and many freed from the delusion, and the thing itself public; so that he does not feel he is guilty of any indiscretion in giving a correct account of what passed.”

John Nelson Darby
The Irrationalism of Infidelity (1853)

Port Glasgow (c. 1842)



— LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY? —



Claim

Darby was an opportunist who
plagiarised Irving and the
Morning Watch

Joe Schimmel – “Max Weremchuk would rebuke Thomas Ice and other pre-trib leaders who would dare to read pre-trib into Darby before the Irvingites”



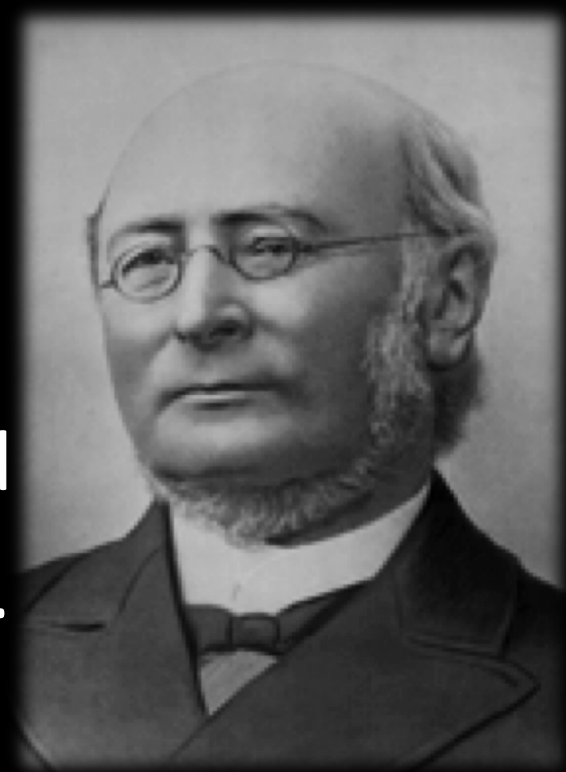
Max Weremchuk – Darby was a plagiarist



**Dave MacPherson – John Nelson Darby
“was an opportunist”**



“I knew the latter [Darby] to be generous in acknowledging readily any debt of the kind he owed to other brethren, having experienced it in my own case and in that of Mr. [John Gifford] Bellett.... Indeed, it was very touching to observe that one, to whose richly suggestive help so many were indebted, was himself so frank to own any fresh thought of value in another....”



William Kelly
*The Rapture of the
Saints: Who
Suggested it, or
rather on what
Scripture? (1903)*

Joe Schimmel – “John Darby quotes favourably from Irving’s prophetic views”



John Nelson Darby referred to...

- “the positive work of the enemy” in Irving’s church
- Irving’s doctrine of the Incarnation as “plainly wicked and evil”
- “all poor Irving’s heresies and wanderings”
- “passages in this preface [Irving’s *Preliminary Discourse*] highly injurious to the work and honour of Christ”
- the “extreme neglect of Scripture and *even* prophecy itself” in his handling of Isaiah and Daniel



**Edward Irving
(1792-1834)**



— LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY? —

Claim

Samuel P. Tregelles

– key witness, case closed!

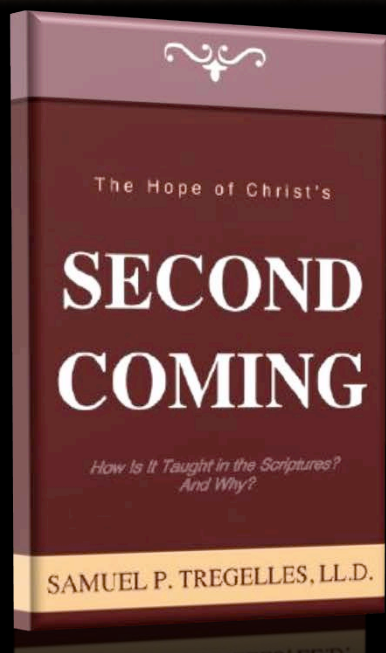
Joe Schimmel – “Samuel P. Tregelles... claiming that the doctrine [of the pre-trib Rapture] was both unbiblical and of demonic origin”



“When a bitter adversary [Tregelles] of the Christian’s heavenly hope sought many years ago to stigmatise it as having a foul and even Satanic origin, there were questions, in which he was compromised, too serious for any who weighed their import to notice so unworthy an insinuation.”



William Kelly
The Rapture of the Saints: Who Suggested it, or rather on what Scripture?



“Now it so happens that, during a visit to Plymouth in the summer of 1845, Mr. B.W. Newton told me that, many years before, Mr. Darby wrote to him a letter in which he said that a suggestion was made to him by Mr. T. Tweedy... which to his mind quite cleared up the difficulty previously felt on this very question. No one was farther from lending an ear to the impious and profane voices of the quasi-inspired Irvingites than Mr. T., unless indeed it were J.N.D. himself who had... judged their peculiar heterodoxy on Christ’s humanity as anti-christian and blasphemous.”



William Kelly
*The Rapture of the
Saints: Who
Suggested it, or
rather on what
Scripture?*

“But I willingly bear my testimony to Mr. N. that he never to me thought of attributing the source of the so-called doctrine, the rapture of the saints, to that seducing spirit. It was new, however, to hear that Mr. Tweedy... was the one who first suggested, as a decisive proof from scripture, 2 Thess. 2:1, 2. I so implicitly believed in his telling me the truth as conveyed in Mr. D.’s letter to himself, that it did not occur to me to question Mr. D. about it. I knew the latter to be generous in acknowledging readily any debt of the kind he owed to other brethren, having experienced it in my own case and in that of Mr. Bellett, if not of more still.”



William Kelly
*The Rapture of the
Saints: Who
Suggested it, or
rather on what
Scripture?*

“Now it is one [Tregelles] fully implicated in his kinsman’s [Newton’s] heterodoxy who dared to impute to an Irvingite spirit the doctrine of the church’s rapture!...

[U]nbroken deep regard to a great and good man [Darby], an uncompromising champion for Christ’s glory and God’s truth, makes it an imperative duty to expose so low an effort of polemical rancour. If there had been no letter from Mr. D to Mr. N. stating the actual source, it was a rash and wicked surmise to say or think that ‘it was from that supposed revelation that the modern doctrine and the modern phraseology respecting it arose.’”



William Kelly
The Rapture of the Saints: Who Suggested it, or rather on what Scripture?

“On the face of it, the ‘supposed revelation’ [among the Irvingites] declared that, within three years and a half, the saints would be caught up to the Lord, and the earth wholly given up to the days of vengeance. The power came upon another at the same time confirming the rapture of the saints within three years and a half.... This betrays a source and character totally different from Mr. Tweedy’s suggestion, or Mr. Darby’s letter, for the doctrine [pre-trib Rapture] which became a factor of force not only among brethren so-called but among saints of God largely throughout the world.”



William Kelly
*The Rapture of the
Saints: Who
Suggested it, or
rather on what
Scripture?*

“That a vexed and vindictive spirit might thus imagine under a lamentably sad temptation, one can readily understand. But can any fair mind in God’s presence, if he knew no other facts, conceive a greater improbability than J.N.D. adopting the utterance of what he believed a demon as a truth of God?”

William Kelly

*The Rapture of the Saints:
Who Suggested it, or rather
on what Scripture?*





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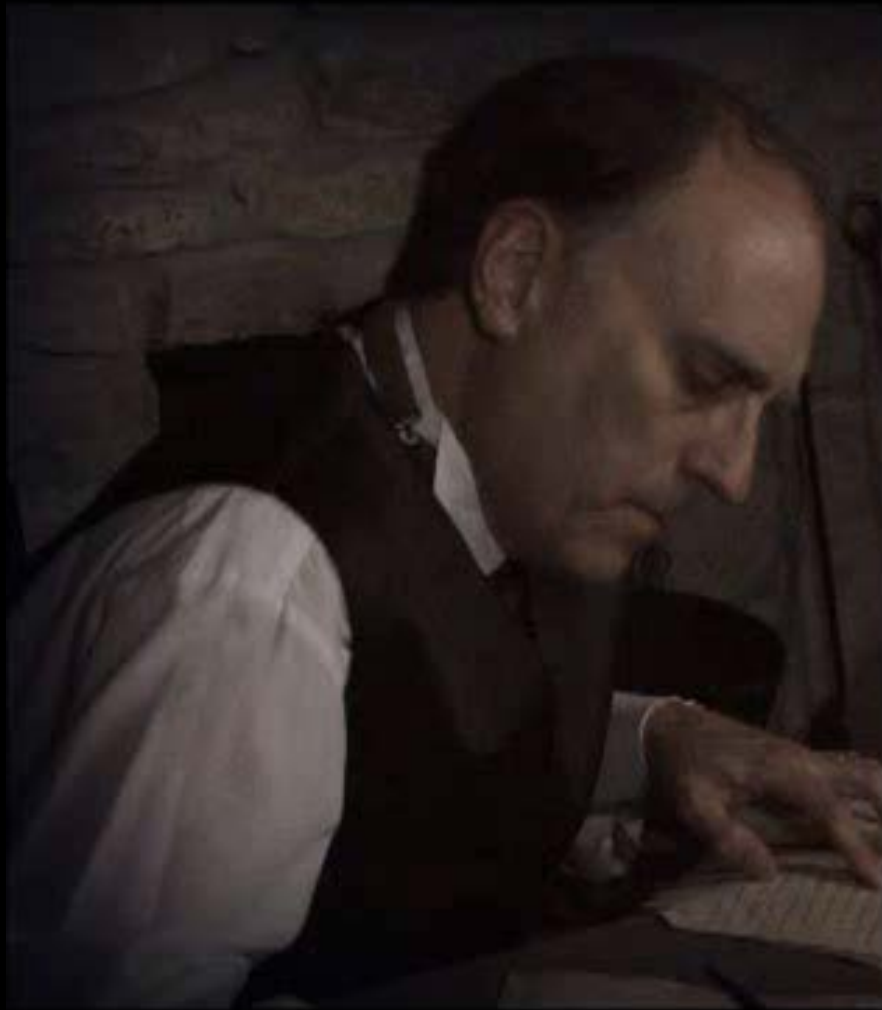
Claim

The “secrecy” of the Rapture is
MacDonald’s greatest legacy

Joe Schimmel – “one element of pretribulationism that Margaret MacDonald most certainly espoused... is the idea that the nature of the Rapture would be secret”



Joe Schimmel – “the secret aspect... which Darby would later refer to as ‘great and vital truth’”



“A point connected with this [the Rapture and the Second Coming] has been insisted on by the adversaries of the truth, to which I advert here only to leave it aside, as not touching the main point, even if true, and used by them to obscure the great and vital truth of the rapture of the church – I mean the secrecy of the rapture.... The great object of the enemy in denying the rapture of the saints before the appearing of the Lord [i.e. a pre-tribulation Rapture]... is to deny and destroy the proper faith of the church of God, and to set the church itself aside.... They are deceived by the enemy, though far from intending to deceive with him.”

John Nelson Darby, 'The Rapture of the Saints and the Character of the Jewish Remnant,' *The Collected Writings of J.N. Darby*, Volume 11:120-122.

Joe Schimmel – MacDonald’s “secret Rapture is not clearly pre-trib, which is true”





— LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY? —

Claim

There is no evidence that Darby held to a pre-trib Rapture before 1833

**Mark Patterson – Darby not pre-trib until
September 1833**

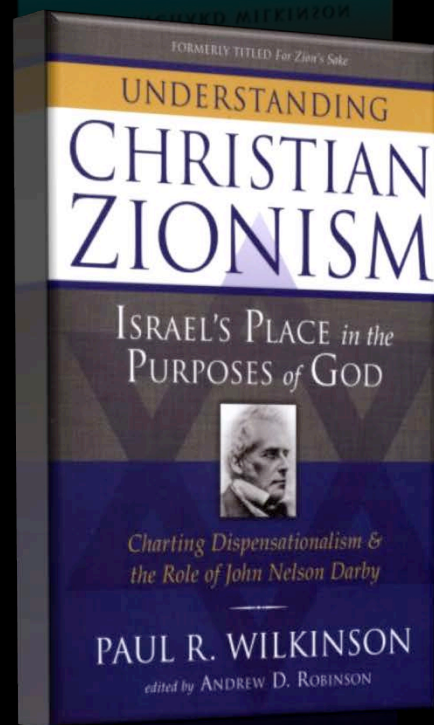
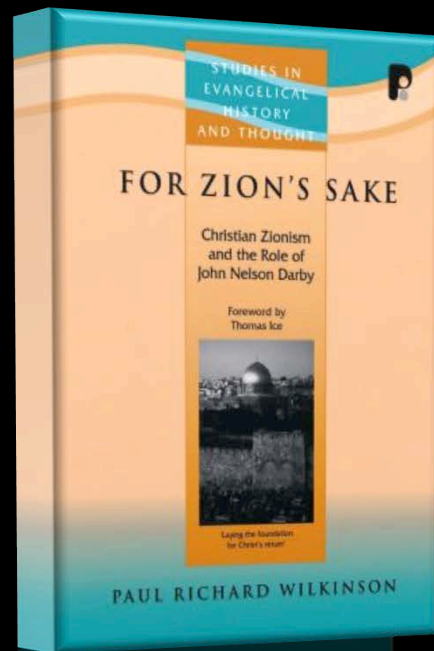


Mark Patterson – Darby “reminisces many years later that he first thought of the Rapture around 1827, but there’s not a single piece of evidence”



**Dave MacPherson – In 1832 Darby is
“disagreeing with William Burgh’s futurism”**





“Darby found much of Burgh’s views ‘exceedingly consistent’ with his own, and suggested that ‘on all prophecy that is properly Jewish,’ Burgh had been ‘favoured’ with ‘great clearness of apprehension’. Darby described his [Burgh’s] claim that Antichrist would one day ‘place his abomination’ in a literal Temple in Jerusalem as ‘a very important truth’.”

John Nelson Darby, ‘Review of “Lectures on the Second Advent”,’ *The Collected Writings of J.N. Darby*, Volume 33:1-3.

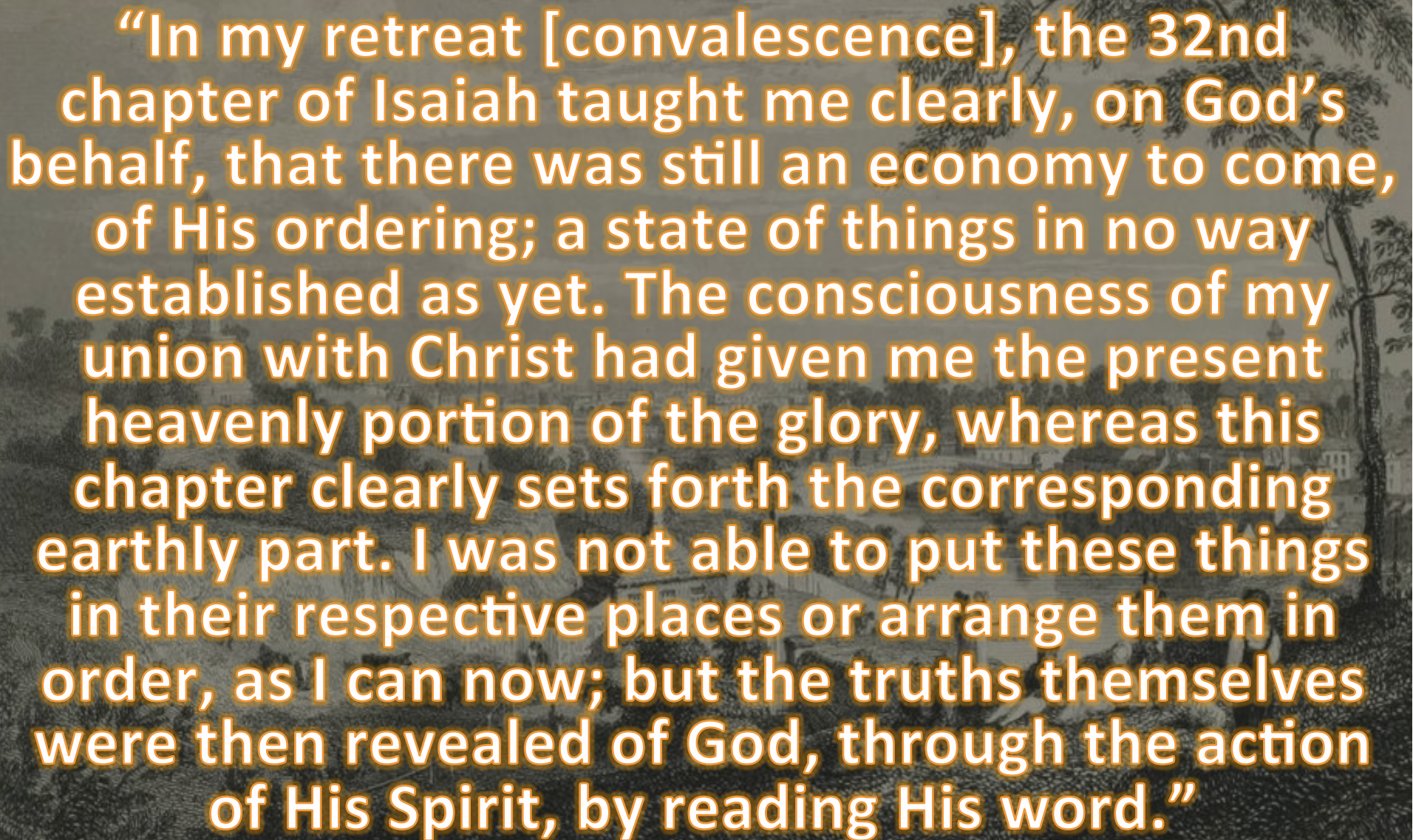
from the scene of conflict, and this, *before* the Vials of wrath are poured on the Beast and his kingdom.

I look then to the analogy of Scripture, and I find that in every instance when the judgments were about to be inflicted, which were most plainly typical of those by which the advent of the Lord is ushered in (as here revealed,) the faithful servants of God were *previously removed from the scene of judgment*. I may mention the deluge—the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah—the judgments on Egypt—and even the destruction of Jerusalem, on which occasion the fact of the christians having been providentially enabled to effect their retreat from the city is well authenticated. Of these types, the Deluge and Exodus were the most remarkable, and it will be remembered,

“I am daily more struck with the connection of the great principles on which my mind was exercised by and with God, when I found salvation and peace, and the questions agitated and agitating the world at the present day: the absolute, divine authority and certainty of the Word... personal assurance of salvation in a new condition by being in Christ; the church as His body; Christ coming to receive us to Himself; and collaterally with that, the setting up of a new earthly dispensation, from Isaiah xxxii...; all this was when laid aside at E.P.’s [Edward Pennefather’s] in 1827.”

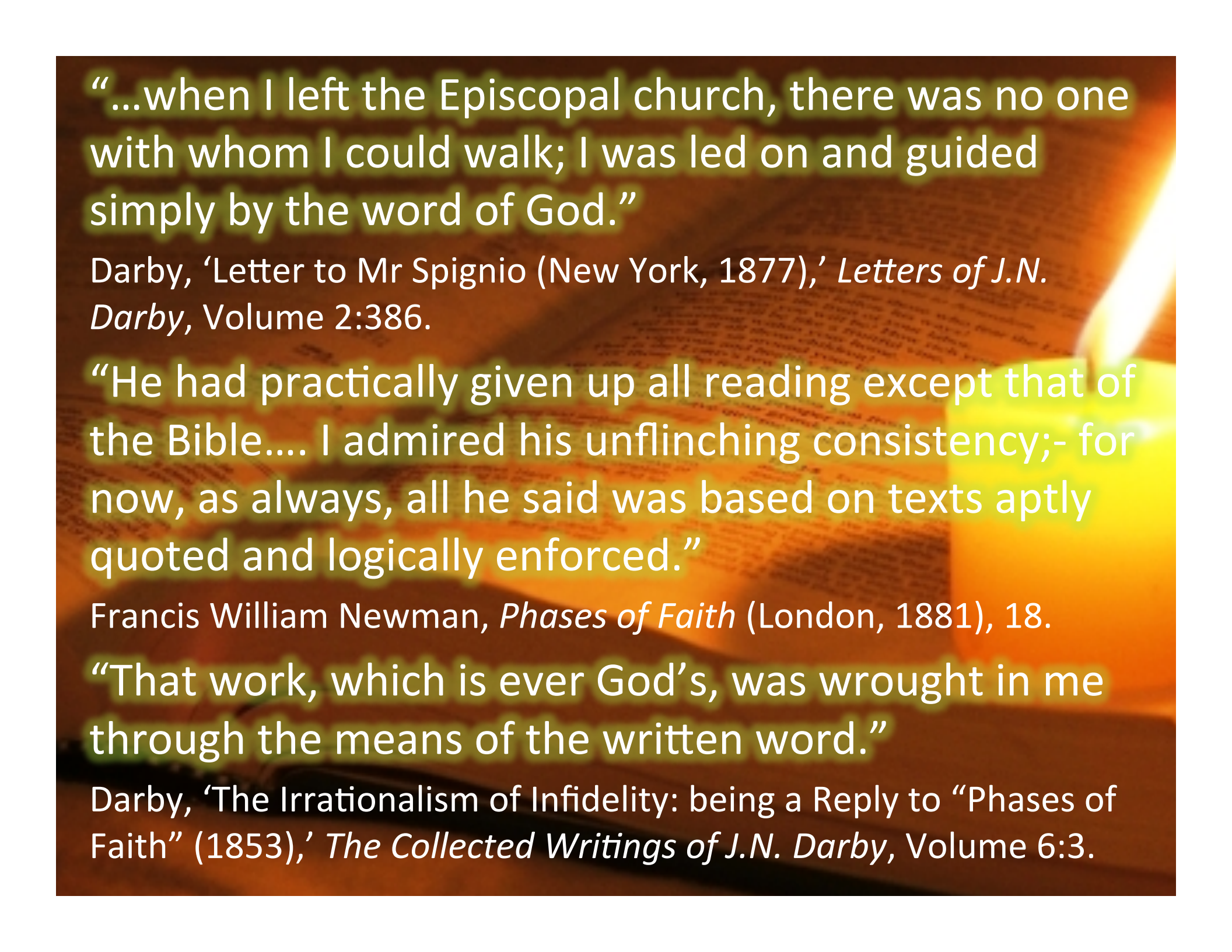
John Nelson Darby, ‘Letter to C. McAdam (Guelph, February 10, 1863), in *Letters of J. N. Darby*, Volume 1, 344-345.

Dublin, Ireland (1827)



“In my retreat [convalescence], the 32nd chapter of Isaiah taught me clearly, on God’s behalf, that there was still an economy to come, of His ordering; a state of things in no way established as yet. The consciousness of my union with Christ had given me the present heavenly portion of the glory, whereas this chapter clearly sets forth the corresponding earthly part. I was not able to put these things in their respective places or arrange them in order, as I can now; but the truths themselves were then revealed of God, through the action of His Spirit, by reading His word.”

John Nelson Darby, ‘Letter to Prof. Tholuck (185-),’ *Letters of J.N.D.*, Volume 3:298-299.

A lit candle sits on an open book, casting a warm glow. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly the cover of the book or a wall. The candle is yellow and orange, with a bright flame. The book is open, showing pages with text. The overall scene is warm and intimate.

“...when I left the Episcopal church, there was no one with whom I could walk; I was led on and guided simply by the word of God.”

Darby, ‘Letter to Mr Spignio (New York, 1877),’ *Letters of J.N. Darby*, Volume 2:386.

“He had practically given up all reading except that of the Bible.... I admired his unflinching consistency;- for now, as always, all he said was based on texts aptly quoted and logically enforced.”

Francis William Newman, *Phases of Faith* (London, 1881), 18.

“That work, which is ever God’s, was wrought in me through the means of the written word.”

Darby, ‘The Irrationalism of Infidelity: being a Reply to “Phases of Faith” (1853),’ *The Collected Writings of J.N. Darby*, Volume 6:3.

“...it... struck my own mind long before the detail of millennial views opened themselves to it... [that]... There is not an epistle in the New Testament in which the coming of the Lord Jesus is not made the prominent object of the faith and hope of believers....’
Darby, ‘Reflections upon the Prophetic Inquiry,’ *The Collected Writings of J.N. Darby* (1829), 2:25.

“In general, I like better reading what is not according to my own thought, because one always gains (if there is piety, and the foundations are solid) something by reading it.... So that it does not trouble me to find in your own work ideas different from my own. Besides, if the foundations are well maintained, I like that there should be great breadth amongst brethren, and not a party formed upon certain views....”

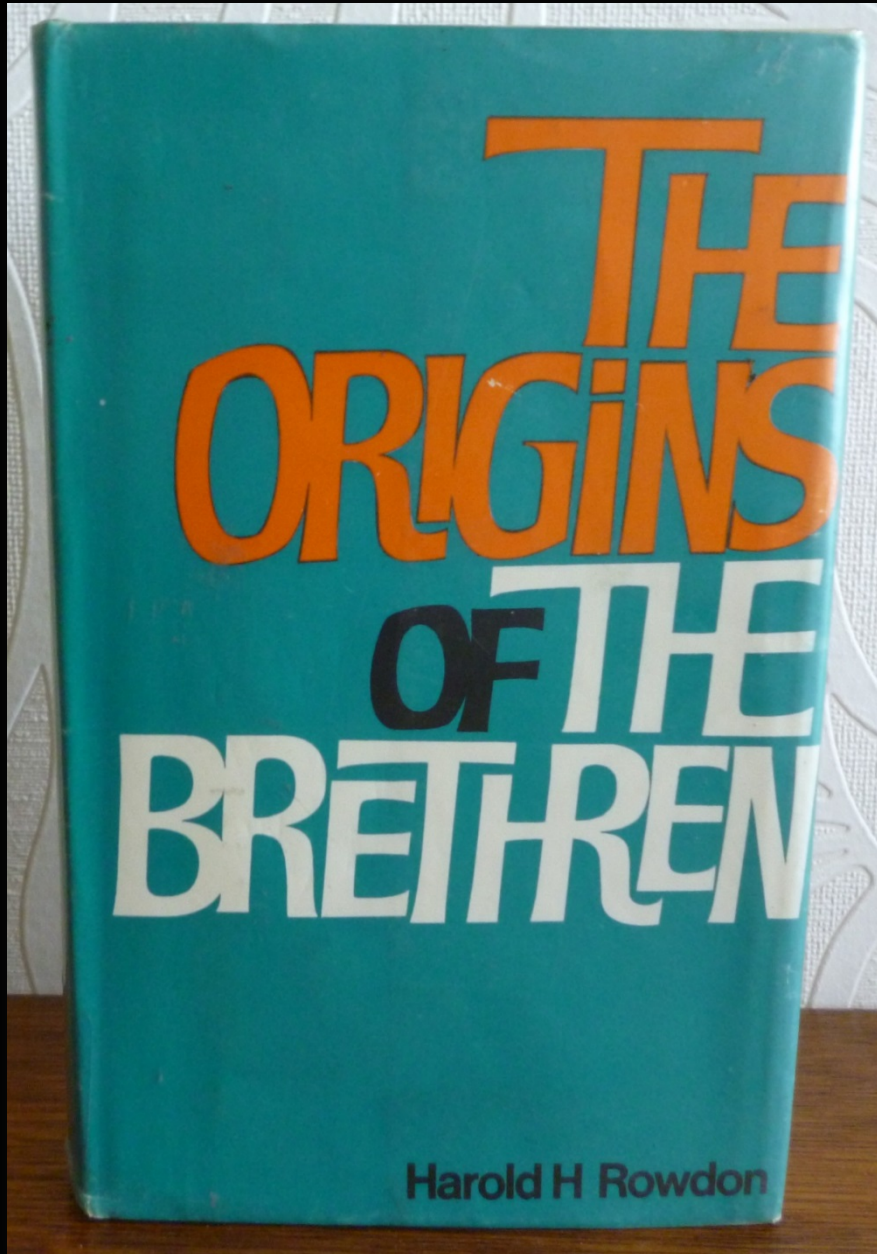
Darby, ‘Letter to T.K. Rossier (1850),’ *Letters of J.N. Darby*, 3:255-259.

“In the beginning of 1828 I had occasion to go to London, and then I met and heard in public those who were warm and alive on prophetic truth.... In my letters to J.N.D. at this time, I told him I had been hearing things that he and I had never yet talked of, and I further told him on my return to Dublin what they were. Full of this subject as I then was, I found him quite prepared for it also, and his mind and soul had travelled rapidly in the direction which had thus been given it.”

John Gifford Bellett, *Interesting Reminiscences of the Early History of “Brethren”*: with Letter from J.G. Bellett to J.N. Darby
(London: Alfred Holness, n.d.), 3.

“Some of the earlier publications would require a note or two, where clearer light was acquired, but had better not be altered.”

John Nelson Darby, ‘Letter to W. Kelly’ (Toronto, 1865),
Letters of J.N.D., Volume 1:397.



J.N. Darby's 1832 critique in the *Christian Herald* of William Burgh's 'Lectures on the Second Advent' and 'The Apocalypse Unfulfilled'

"I confess I find it more profitable to learn from scripture than to frame a system"

(Rowdon, p.239)



LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY?

Claim

Darby set the date for the Rapture... and grew disillusioned thereafter

Joe Schimmel – “Darby... went too far for many people because he set a date for the Rapture of the Church [1842]”



Joe Schimmel – “Darby himself held to a partial Rapture view as late as 1843”



he described as the Clifton Meeting, he had talked Newton out of the very idea that Newton here asserted that Darby held. *Collected Writings*, XX. 66–69. This may indicate not only the fluid nature of their ideas in the eighteen-thirties but also the lack of understanding between the two men.

47. 'Letter to a Friend on the Subject of Prophecy', *Christian Witness*, II. 345, 346.
48. *Five Letters*, pp. 69, 70.
49. *Ibid.*, pp. 24–41, 59–71.
50. *Ibid.*, pp. 42–58.
51. J. N. Darby, *Collected Writings*, XX. 25–28.
52. *Fry Letters*, 1845, folio 1.
53. 'The influence of your mind and the love of influence has always been your snare. . . . It is the snare of every strong mind, as yours is in many respects, to like a circle of persons round itself, who receive its views and statements.'
54. 'Your strong expressions of condemnation (which have occurred from time to time during the last ten years frequently) have always been connected with a particular subject . . . it has only been when I have been silent on the subject in question that I have escaped the severe expression of your condemnation.'
55. *Fry Letters*, 1845, folio 1. The particular allusion was to Darby's statement that Matthew 24 was addressed to persons 'ignorant of a resurrection Saviour' (*Christian Witness*, V. 270).
56. *Collected Writings*, XX. 26.
57. *Fry Letters*, 1845, folio 1. Even as late as 1843, Darby's mind was not fully made up. *Letters of J. N. D.*, I. 71.
58. *Ibid.*, I. 55, 56.

much. My mind has opened out to many wider views and details. I find many more classes of saints and glory in the Apocalypse than heretofore, though all blessed. It may be some will pass through, but I am more than ever confirmed that it is not presented to our faith, but the contrary, and that the faithful will be kept from it. If some pass through it, it would make a difficulty for those who could not separate the signs of special blessing there, from the evidence of greater faithfulness which made us escape it. This, I believe, happens often. Lot experienced mercies not manifested to Abraham in the same way, and the proofs of righteousness are occasions of sorrow if we go far enough. He vexed his righteous soul; and the Lord knew how to keep. Does this identify his case with Abraham? But farewell. May the brethren pray for me, for I am a very weak vessel, that feel often my want of discernment in the midst of, for me, an arduous responsibility. Grace, mercy and peace be with you. Salute all the brethren. May they be kept in lowliness and peace.

Your affectionate.

Lausanne, 1843.



— LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY? —

Claim

Darby taught another Gospel &
two ways of salvation

Joe Schimmel – “Darby was introducing another Gospel and two ways of salvation”



when Messiah reigns over them. Jesus died "for that nation; and not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad." His death will avail for both purposes: the time and order of applying it is another question. In fact, we know that Israel refused the message, and hence the blessing remains in abeyance till the fulness of the Gentiles is come in. Then, and when the Redeemer shall come to Zion and out of Zion (for both are true), "all Israel shall be saved." Of course, all the efficacious value for Israel then, as for us now, is in the blood of the Lamb. If Israel will have sacrifices, as well as an earthly temple and priesthood, they will be only commemorative signs of the one great offering of Christ. The epistle to the Hebrews excludes these *for the Christian*. The question of the Jew by-and-by is answered by their own prophecies.

**John Nelson Darby, 'Letter (1860),'
*Letters of J.N.D., Volume 3:325***

Lastly, if anyone doubts, after twenty years that I have been preaching, whether I teach the necessity of redemption through the blood for all and every redeemed soul, I could hardly expect to disabuse him by telling him the contrary twenty times over. In the end such assertions always recoil on the head of him who asserts them.

John Nelson Darby, 'Answer to "A Second Letter to the Brethren",' *The Collected Writings of J.N.D.*, Volume 8:369



LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY?



Claim

The origins of the doctrine of the pre-trib Rapture are not biblical, but occultic



— LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY? —



Chapter 9

Demon Deception



— LEFT BEHIND OR LED ASTRAY? —



Chapter 11

Pre-Trib, the Occult, and the 20th-21st Centuries

Dave MacPherson – “the Irvingites were prone to dabble a little with the Occult”



Jacob Prasch – “I don’t question that it may have begun as an authentic move of the Holy Spirit”

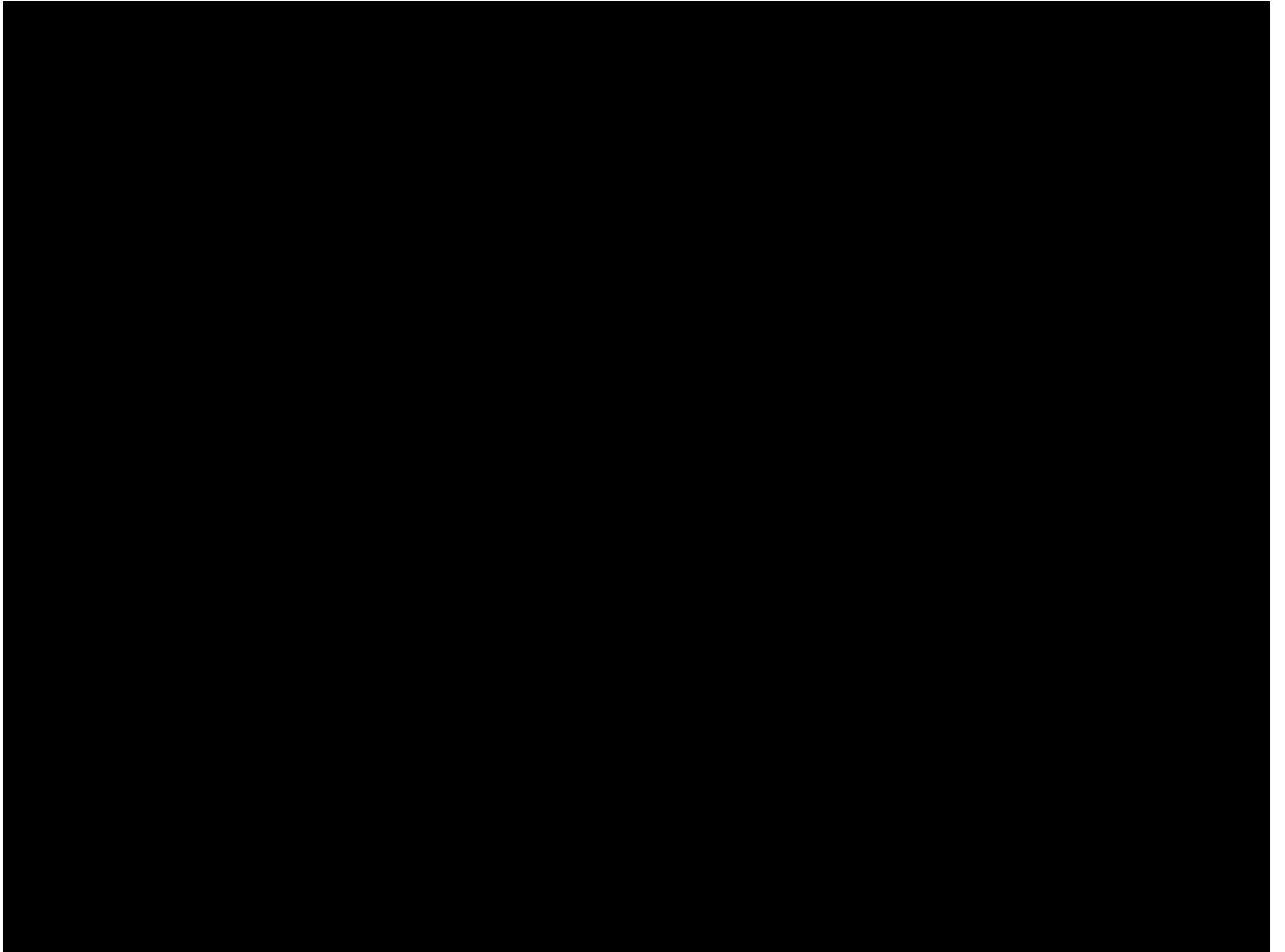


Joe Schimmel – “the new pre-trib Rapture theory’s origins came from demonic origins”



Marvin Rosenthal – “the pre-trib Rapture was... of Satanic origin”

Joe Schimmel – “many pre-trib leaders have sought to use occult evidence to teach the pre-trib Rapture”



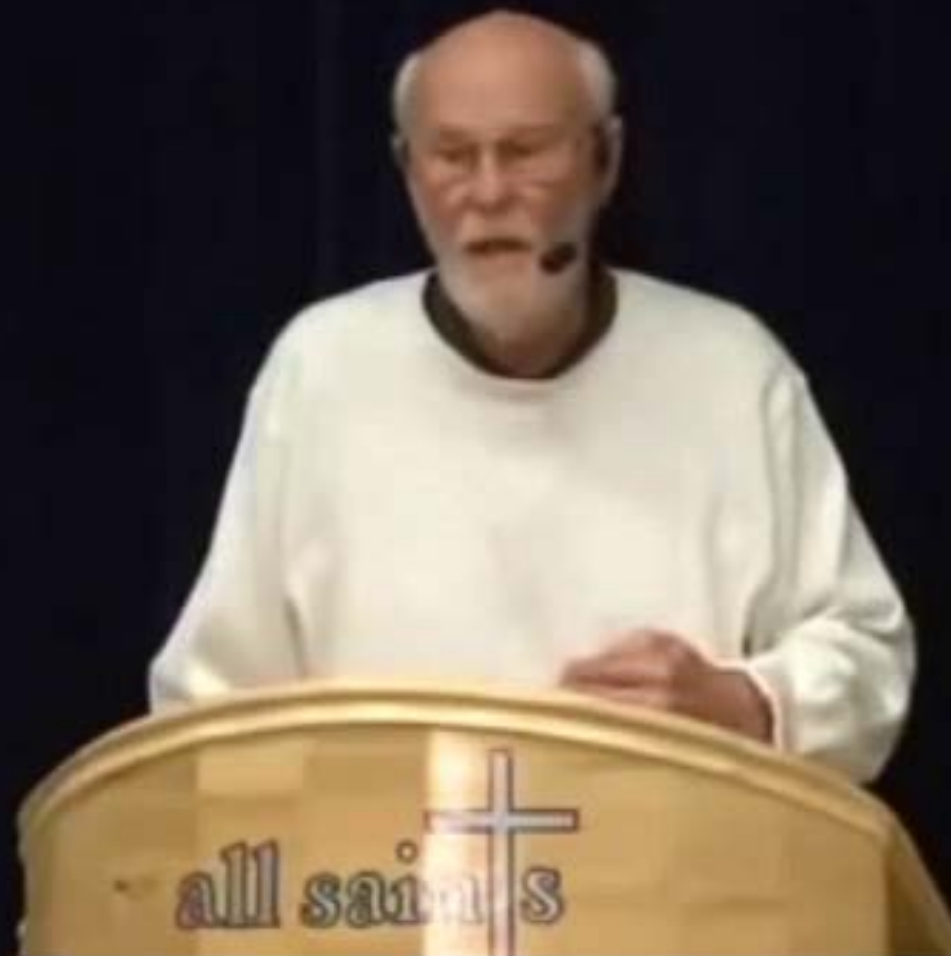
Joe Schimmel – “Occultic mentality”



Joe Schimmel – Darby “espoused a socially cultic mentality that was similar to that of Charles Taze Russell... and Joseph Smith”



Joe Schimmel – “Dave Hunt... missed the occult history of the secret Rapture that he himself vigorously promoted”



Mark Patterson –
Did he really mean to say this?

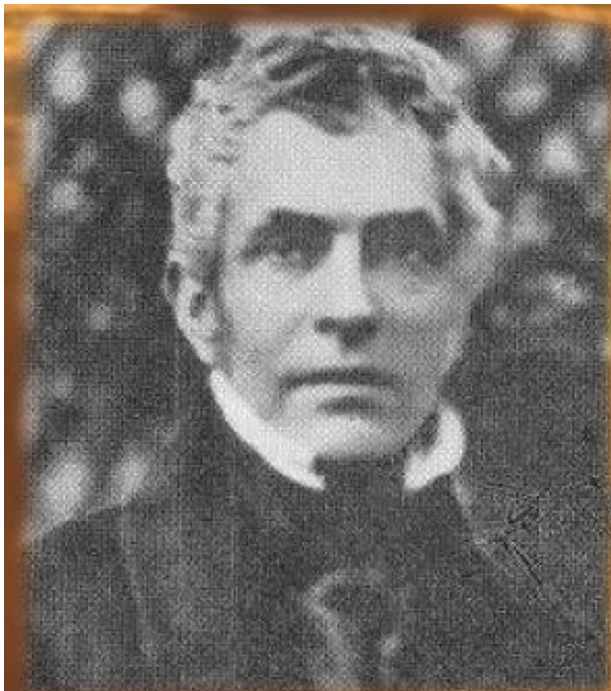


Joe Schimmel's Hollow Words

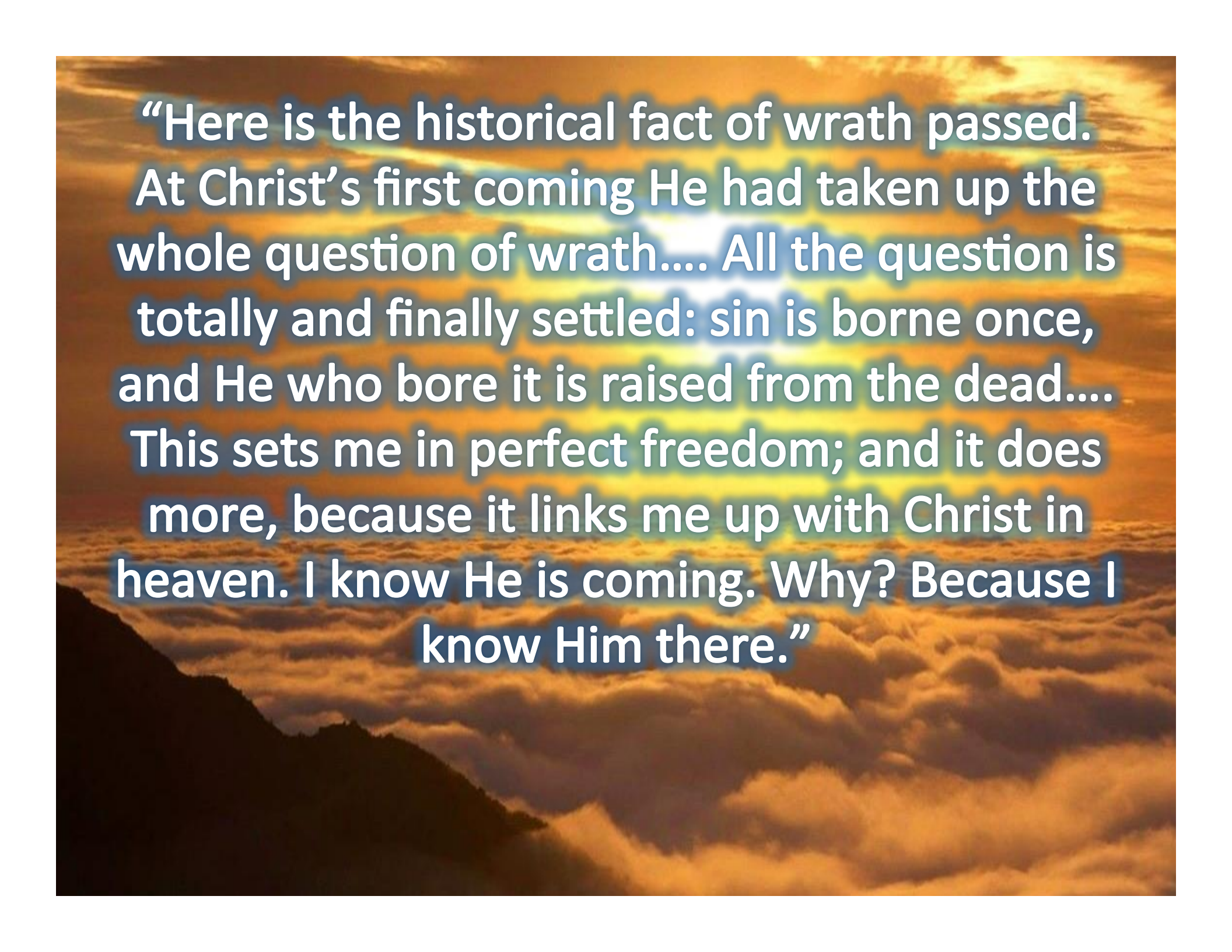


A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a sea of clouds, with a dark mountain silhouette in the foreground. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright glow across the sky and illuminating the clouds below. The text "A Most Extraordinary Thing" is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font with a blue glow.

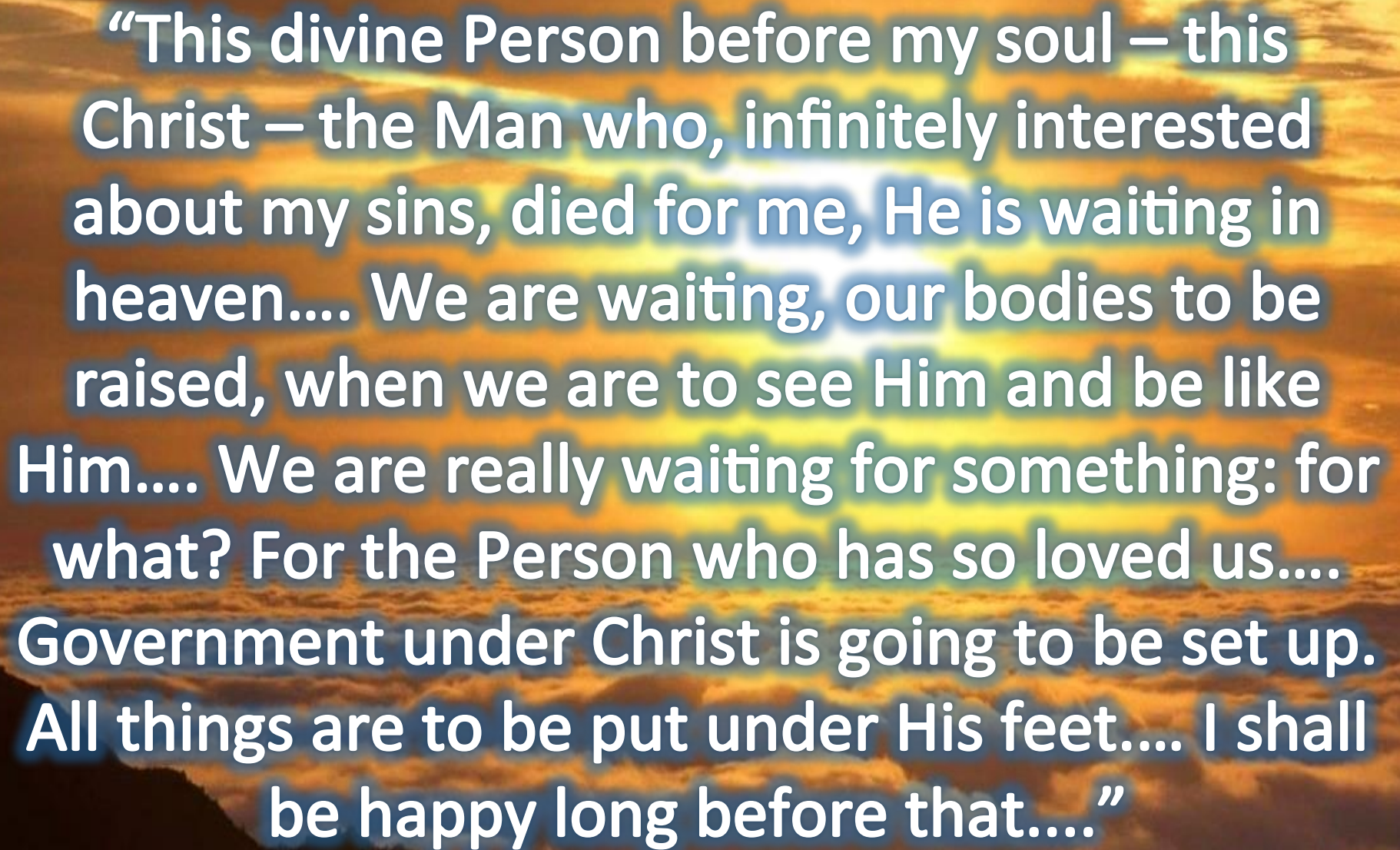
A Most
Extraordinary Thing



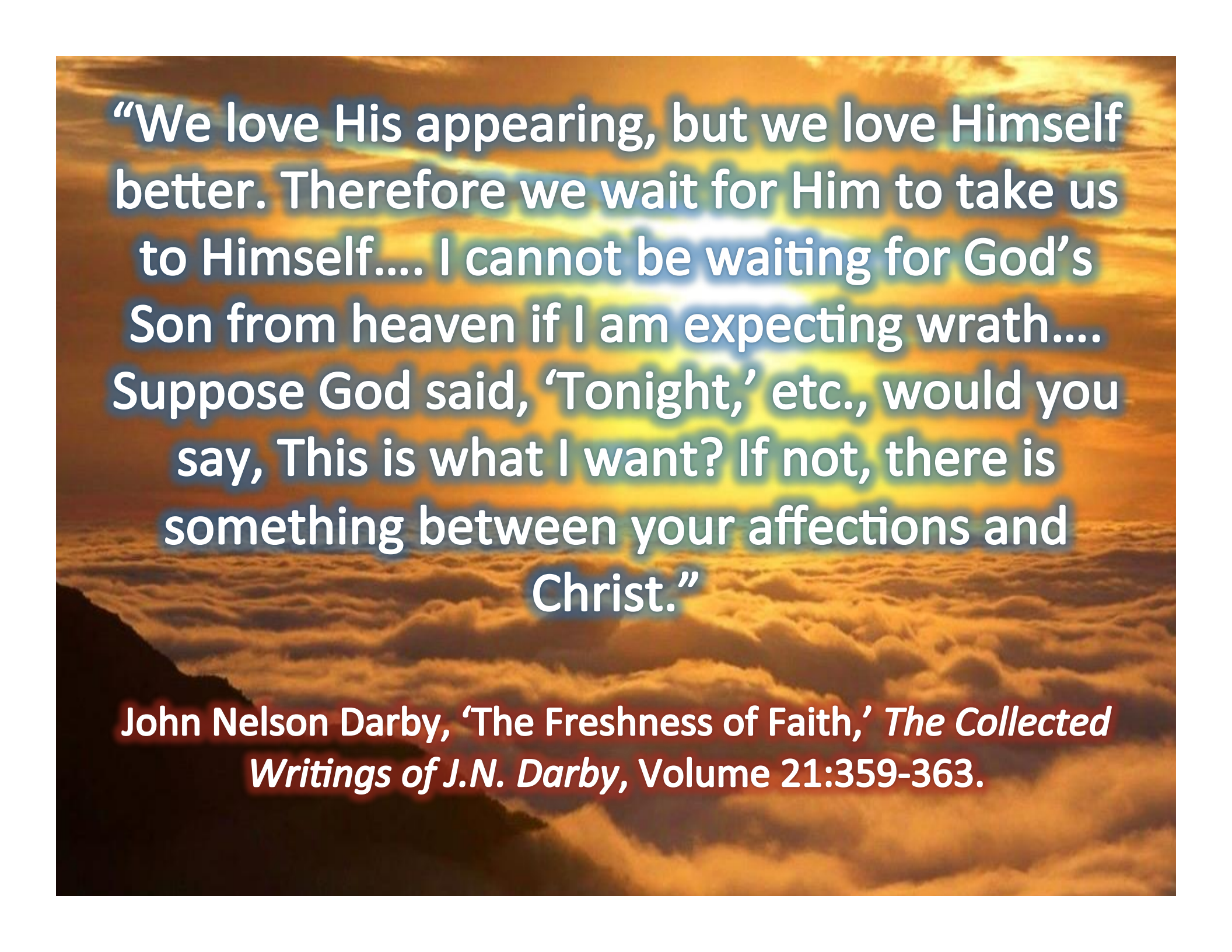
“A most extraordinary thing to do! Waiting for God’s Son! that is, all our hopes are clean out of this world. Do not expect anything from earth, but look for something from heaven, and this God’s Son Himself, ‘even Jesus which delivered us from the wrath to come’ Those who were looking for Christ were entirely delivered ‘from the wrath to come.’ This gives a very distinct position to the Christian....”



“Here is the historical fact of wrath passed. At Christ’s first coming He had taken up the whole question of wrath... All the question is totally and finally settled: sin is borne once, and He who bore it is raised from the dead... This sets me in perfect freedom; and it does more, because it links me up with Christ in heaven. I know He is coming. Why? Because I know Him there.”



“This divine Person before my soul – this Christ – the Man who, infinitely interested about my sins, died for me, He is waiting in heaven.... We are waiting, our bodies to be raised, when we are to see Him and be like Him.... We are really waiting for something: for what? For the Person who has so loved us.... Government under Christ is going to be set up. All things are to be put under His feet.... I shall be happy long before that....”



“We love His appearing, but we love Himself better. Therefore we wait for Him to take us to Himself... I cannot be waiting for God’s Son from heaven if I am expecting wrath.... Suppose God said, ‘Tonight,’ etc., would you say, This is what I want? If not, there is something between your affections and Christ.”

John Nelson Darby, ‘The Freshness of Faith,’ *The Collected Writings of J.N. Darby*, Volume 21:359-363.

“The Lord is coming, dear brother; the time for the world is passing away. What a blessing! May God find us watching, and thinking only of one thing...

**Jesus, our precious
Saviour.”**

J.N. Darby, Letter from Elberfeld, Germany
(October 23, 1861)

IN DEFENSE OF THE PRE-TRIB RAPTURE

English
SDH
DVD
VIDEO



Dr. Tim Lahaye
Author. Left Behind Series



Pastor Andrew
Robinson

(1951 – 2016)

“Are you loving
Jesus’
appearing?”