

JOHN MACARTHUR'S FUTURIST FALSE PROPHECIES

It should come as no surprise to the diligent student of the Bible that to whom much is given, much is required. MacArthur enjoys the adulation of countless English-speaking disciples. As such, his responsibility to teach the truth is much more grave. Punishment for a leader not carrying out his responsibilities will also be the more severe.

In this short treatise we wish to summarize the heretical positions which MacArthur takes in teaching the *Revelation*. Though he claims to be of the Reformed Protestant school, he blatantly denies the Historic Protestant position of prophetic interpretation. Instead, he drinks from the cup of the Jesuits, spreading their poison worldwide. Sources used for the summary are his *Study Bible* and a sermon, [*A Jet Tour Through the Book of Revelation*](#) .

Despite the promise of the Lord that in the world ye shall have tribulation, (John 16:33), as well as the prayer of the Lord not to take His disciples out of the world, (John 17:15), MacArthur teaches a 'secret' Rapture escape of the saints from tribulation – Rev. 4-19 comprise the last 7 years of the world, neglecting centuries and centuries of essential Church history:

"Now we come to [Revelation] chapter 4 and we leave the church age. People always say, *Well where does the Rapture come in?* It's in the white spaces between chapter 3 and 4. You have the church on earth in chapter 2 and 3. And all of a sudden we appear in heaven." (*Jet Tour*) "[Rev. 4:1] begins the third and final section of the book, describing the events that will follow the church age."
(*Study Bible*)

MacArthur teaches a sealing of a literal 144,000 literal Jews out of literal Israeli tribes, though the Jewish people have inter-married outside their race and religion for centuries upon centuries, negating the possibility of maintaining tribal purity, let alone spiritual purity.

"And we find in chapter 7 that there is in the midst of all of this some protection going on. There's going to be some blessing. There are going to be some people spared from this judgment. And everybody is not going to be under the altar, some believers are going to be spared. Who are they? They're 144 thousand Jews out of every tribe." "You know, this is one of the marvelous

statements about God's sovereignty in salvation. God will choose to be saved 144 thousand Jews and He'll choose 12 thousand out of every tribe of Israel. And only He knows where people connect up with their tribes. They lost all the records in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. but He doesn't lose the records. God will literally elect 12 thousand out of every tribe so there will be 144 thousand redeemed Jews in that second half. And they will be the evangelists. And out of their ministry will come an innumerable number of people from every tribe and tongue and nation and people praising the Lord Jesus Christ." (*Jet Tour*)

MacArthur takes the absurd position that the judgments of God are all literal.....The first trumpet is a judgment on literal vegetation, though plants have done nothing to deserve God's wrath. Furthermore, the Lord promised not to curse the ground anymore for man's sake, (Gen. 8:21):

"So here come the seven trumpet judgments, another way to signify judgment. The Lord has rolled out the seal and at the end of it come trumpets announcing judgment. Verse 6, seven angels, had seven trumpets ready to sound. The first trumpet sounded and there was hail and fire mixed with blood, cast on the earth a third of the trees and all green grass was burnt up. That's a judgment on vegetation. A judgment on vegetation is a judgment on man because he can't live without vegetation in many places, and a judgment on animals because they can't live without vegetation either. And it may be some kind of a judgment on the oxygenation of the world as well...where vegetation is needed." (*Jet Tour*)

Next, he teaches God's wrath upon the literal creatures of the sea and fishes of the rivers, which would ultimately the adversely affect the drinking water, though the Lord has promised not to use water as a means of mass destruction upon the earth, (Gen. 9:8-17):

"And so we see the third part of the creatures that were...the third part and the second trumpet in verse 8, the third part of the sea became blood and the third part of the creatures in the sea that had life died, a third part of the ships were destroyed. God does a judgment...and imagine, one third of all vegetation is gone and one third of the sea becomes blood like and a third part of the creatures in the sea die and you've got floating around on one third of the seas of the world the stinking rotten putrefying mess. In other words, man failed to recognize the gift of God in creation and so God takes it away. Man failed to give God glory for the wonderful things that He had made, the green grass, the plants and the trees, the sea and all the life that's in it. Man wouldn't glorify God and so God takes it away. And then you have the third trumpet in verse 10, and it fell on the third part of the rivers, did the judgment. And the fountain of waters, it was called wormwood. And it became bitter and this is the judgment on the fresh water, all the fresh water sources are struck with bitterness. And a third of them destroyed like the rest." (*Jet Tour*)

Incredibly, he teaches 1/3 part of the literal sun and solar system will disappear, though the Lord promises *seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer*

and winter, and day and night, shall not cease while the earth remaineth, (Gen. 8:22):

“The fourth trumpet blows in 12, a third part of the sun was smitten. Do you know what that will do to the calendar? Do you know what that will do to the schedule? Do you know what that will do to day by day? You lose a third of the sun? I don't know what kind of chaos that will cause in heaven. A third part of the moon is gone, a third part of the stars are gone. A third part of them is darkness and the day shone not for a third part of it and the night likewise. Amazing, the whole calendar is wiped out, it's gone whacko. You've got all kinds of screwball eclipses going on all over everyplace. And I heard an angel flying around in the middle of all this, in verse 13, saying, *Woe, woe, woe*. I can identify with that angel. And what that angel says is, you think this is bad, wait till you hear the next three. You haven't heard anything. *Whew!*” (*Jet Tour*)

MacArthur has been watching too many Hollywood horror films. He now prophesies literal demons bound for thousands of years will be loosed by Satan, who has just fallen from Heaven. But the fallen star cannot be Satan, for he was already fallen in Genesis 3, when he cunningly lied to Eve. Furthermore, Jesus alone holds the keys of Hell, relinquishing them to no one, (Rev. 1:18):

“And then in 9 the fifth trumpet sounds. And a star fall. Oh, who is that? Lucifer. And he got the key to the bottomless pit. You know who is in the bottomless pit? Bound demons, demons that are bound down there by God. There are demons right there bound in the pit, they can't get out. But the key is going to get in the hands of Lucifer in the Tribulation in the fifth trumpet, he's going to go down, unlock the bottomless pit. And you know what's going to happen? All the bound demons that have been bound down there, some of them have been bound for centuries and centuries and thousands of years and finally they're going to get out and they're going to gush out of there and it says in verse 2, “Smoke out of the pit like the smoke of a furnace and the sun and the air darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit,” and they're like locusts, it says in verse 3. Just like a plague, they just sweep the earth. You know why the Tribulation is going to be a terrible time? Because all the bound demons in hell are going to be turned loose to add to the ones that are already running all over the earth..... Have you noticed that the church isn't around all this time?” (*Jet Tour*)

MacArthur admits not knowing the identity of the witnesses which, he swears, are literally two left-behind Christians who did not get raptured with the rest of their brethren. These two mystery men will preach Christ in literal Israel, converting a literal 144,000 Jews to Christianity, though Jesus was only able to convert 120 while He taught and preached there.

“Now before that seventh trumpet sounds, there's another glimpse of God's grace in chapter 11. Oh this is powerful, watch this. These are my two favorite

people in the Bible and I don't even know who they are, apart of course from our Lord. I just think these two guys are terrific. I don't know who they are and if the Lord's looking for volunteers, I volunteer. Now listen. Remember I told you a little while ago that at the mid point of the Tribulation time there would be a 144 thousand Jews who would go to preach the gospel? They would have had to have been converted. Here are the two guys I believe that God will use to bring them to conversion. Now the visions are taking us back again to fill in some more details about the Tribulation. You can ask the question...how did the 144 thousand get saved? Well how does anybody get saved? By believing the Lord Jesus Christ. Well how did they hear? How can they hear except there be a preacher, right, Romans 10. And how can there be a preacher unless somebody gets sent? So who is sent? Here they are, two witnesses. And I believe their ministry is a thousand two hundred and three score days. That's a year...that's three and a half years...1260 days, three and a half years. That is the first half of the Tribulation, I believe." (*Jet Tour*)

MacArthur believes the signs and wonders performed by the two witnesses are literal ---- literal fire emanating from their mouths will kill their enemies. Yet Christ taught us to love our enemies, not burn them to death, or kill them with plagues. MacArthur believes these witnesses will literally control the weather, but Jesus in John 3:8 teaches no man controls the weather or the Holy Spirit.

"But you know what happens? If any man hurts them, verse 5 says, fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies. "Haaah!" I mean, you could get used to that. You're being persecuted and antagonized and they don't believe your message and they try to take your life..."Haaah!" And they have power to shut heaven. In other words, they can go into a place, they want to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and as long as they preach they'll cause a draught to happen. And they can control the weather. They have power over waters to turn into blood, smite the earth with all the plagues as often as they want.

Now what do you think is going to be on the news each night? Next we have our two witnesses report. This week they were in Cincinnati, it didn't rain, all the rivers turned to blood and people were struck with plagues. We've got to do something about these two guys but every time we try....we go up in smoke." (*Jet Tour*)

Although the Israelis have never left the dead in the streets more than a few hours when killed by Palestinian terrorists, MacArthur believes they will gladly leave the corpses of the two witnesses in the streets for three days. He concludes their bodies will be viewed worldwide via television. But due to the drastic change in weather patterns caused by the literal destruction of the heavens and the earth alleged by MacArthur, it is impossible television reception will be normal, or that the people of earth will have nothing better to do than sit at home watching television while all manner of life around them is being destroyed.

“And you know what will happen? Finally the Beast comes right out of the pit, the Beast himself. And he overcomes them and he kills them and their dead bodies, when they die, you know where they are when they die? They're in Jerusalem. That's right. That great city spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, verse 8 says, where our Lord was crucified. So they're murdered in Jerusalem.

Can you imagine what the news will say? Finally, they're dead. And it says they leave their bodies in the street. Now this is in our modern time. You don't leave bodies in the street. They leave them in the street. The people and kindreds and tongues and nations see their dead bodies three days and a half. Now how can a whole wide world see three dead bodies in Jerusalem? Only one way, how's that? Television. It couldn't be true a hundred years ago, they couldn't have seen them all over the world. And they don't permit their bodies to be put in graves. Why? Because they're so excited, they rejoice, make merry and send presents...happy dead witnesses day, here's your gift. That's right, the world is so happy that these guys are dead. And I can just see some reporter standing there saying, "Well, they've been dead now for three and a half days and we are so relieved that these men are removed from the earth..." and then in verse 11 it says, "After three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood on their feet..." And I'd like to see the instant replay on that one. "And fear fell on them who saw them." Don't you imagine it did? And that's what's going to happen." (*Jet Tour*)

MacArthur makes no mention of a papal Antichrist, but looks instead to another, one who in an incredibly short time will rule the world, having risen out of obscurity. He dismisses the idolatry of the Roman Catholic Church, speculating the image to the Beast is a new idol which has an electronic voice or demon literally speaking through it. He speculates the number 6 is the number of mankind, but why not the number ten, representing the number of his fingers and toes; or the number two, representing the number of eyes, ears and legs? He speculates, as do all Futurists, on a cashless society which mandates a chip placed in your literal forehead or right hand and every citizen of the world will acquiesce without a struggle.

“Chapter 13 picks up another detail. It introduces us to the Antichrist, the world ruler. And he's something. He leads all this attack on God's people. In verse 4 at the end it says, "Who is like him? Who is able to make war with him? He has a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies and power was given to him to continue 42 months." That's three and a half years. The last half of the Tribulation again..... He also has a cohort. Chapter 13 verse 11 to the end introduces the False Prophet. The Beast is the Antichrist, the False Prophet is his cohort..... And his job is to point everybody to the Antichrist, tell them all to worship the Antichrist. And he performs some lying wonders and lying signs and he builds a big image to the Beast and makes it come alive through some electronic ventriloquism or whatever it talks about in verse 15, or better yet, he puts a demon right in that idol itself and it becomes a demon-possessed idol....

"..... And then he says in verses 16 to 18 that in this vision he saw that if you didn't have a number you couldn't buy or sell, you couldn't operate in society. And the number was 666. That isn't significant except that it represents man. Man was created on the sixth day, seven is God's perfect number and no matter how hard man tries he's always 666, he's short of perfection. So it's the number of man's system. It's always curious to me that all the taxi cabs in Israel start with the number 666 then a dash and then the rest of the numbers. I don't think that's particularly significant, it's just interesting. But what is significant is...(laughter)...what is interesting and what is significant is that you can't operate in this society unless you have the number on your forehead or on your hand. And we're getting to that, we already have credit cards and numbers. If you have a bank card where you can go stick your bank thing in, punch your number in to the deal, you've already got your number. Connected with your bank card number, they know exactly who you are and they can find out everything about you. And if they decided that you couldn't buy or sell, all they've got to do is remove that number of you have a cashless society. And the problem with a credit card is you lose it, so they're developing ways to put it on your hand and your forehead because in a cold climate those are the two parts of your body that are readily exposed and can be scanned easily. And so Antichrist will rule the world and he'll accommodate it all and he'll control it all because of the power he has.

"I told you last time that they now have developed...and this is incredible to me...they're trying to develop computer chip implants where they can put a chip in an individual, right in your body that's compatible between your brain, the chip and a computer system so that in whatever profession you're in, you can have instant access to all material in a library that will come right from the computer into your chip and into your brain. And if you just did that for a guy like Antichrist, for sure he can control everything." (*Jet Tour*)

In Chapter 17, though the Roman Catholic Church is clearly enumerated in minute detail by the Holy Spirit, MacArthur omits sharing with his disciples the compelling truth that the ancient Christians, Reformer and Puritans all believed and taught it was the Roman Church described and her Pontiff identified as the Antichrist.

"Chapter 17 and 18 are very important. They go back over the second half. And you know what they tell us? The question you ask here is this, "John, what about religion in the Tribulation? Will there be religion?" Chapter 17 describes it. There will be religion. The false church, you know what it's called? If the true church is a bride, what is the false church? A harlot...a harlot. And it talks about the harlot that sits on many waters that drinks wine of fornication, that sits on the beast. The harlot rides the Antichrist. The Antichrist political leader and the false harlot religious world system exist together. But the Antichrist is consumed by his own power so finally he devours the harlot. He just gobbles it up. And he says the whole world will now worship me." (*Jet Tour*)

CONCLUSION

Had John MacArthur's sphere of influence been relegated to a small local church, we would not have taken the time and effort to expose his false teachings. But such is not the case. We pray the honest Christian will consider the contradictions presented in this essay and leave the darkness of his false teachings and enter into the glorious light of truth.

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