

Prophetic Fulfillment before the Rapture and in the Gap

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Soli Deo Gloria!

I do not believe any O.T. prophecies will be fulfilled before the Rapture of the Church, for the following reasons:

- 1) According to the Apostle Paul, the Church and everything associated with it, including the entire parenthetical Dispensation of Grace (i.e., the Church Age), was a "mystery" not foreseen by O.T. prophets (cf. Rom16:25-26; 1Cor15:51-53; Eph3:3-6). Thus, the prophetic revelation they received applied to events that would occur before the birth of the Church on the Day of Pentecost or following the completion of the Church Age at the Rapture. They foresaw nothing that would occur during the parenthetical Church Age.
- 2) The N.T. presents the Rapture as an **imminent** and sign-less event (cf. Matt24:36-42; 1Cor15:51; 1Thess4:17). If there is a prophetic event that must occur prior to the Rapture, whether revealed as such or not, the Rapture cannot be imminent.

I believe very few prophecies will be fulfilled during the gap between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation, for the following reasons:

- 1) Since the Antichrist will not be revealed until after the Rapture of the Church (2Thess2:1-3), the only thing that must happen in the gap is the rise of the Antichrist to assume leadership of the 4th Gentile Kingdom (i.e., the revived Roman Empire; cf. Dan7:24) in order for him to be in position to make the Daniel 9:27 covenant with Israel.
- 2) Certain types in Scripture seem to imply that little or no time passes between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation (cf. Gen19:22-24; Luk17:28-29). The stated purpose of the Rapture is to deliver the Church from the coming wrath of God (cf. 1Thess1:10; 5:9; Rev3:10), which is consistent with the view that the Tribulation will occur very **soon** after the Rapture takes place, leaving little time during which major prophetic events might transpire.
- 3) The O.T. prophets seem to have seen two wars in the end times: Gog-Magog in the first half of the Tribulation (cf. Ezek38-39; Joel2; Rev6:3-4), and Armageddon in the second/half (especially near the end of the Tribulation; cf. Joel3; Rev16:16). There is not a lot of time left to add in other "wars", such as Psalm 83 (which I view more as a lament psalm), the destruction of Damascus (which is listed in Isaiah 17:1-3 in association with other events that occur "in that day", which is generally a designation for the Day of the LORD; cf. Isa17:4,7,9,11), and the desolation of Elam (cf. Jer49:34-39). Such events are likely to be particular aspects of the two obvious wars, Gog-Magog and Armageddon.