

## Left Behind

In 1990, there was a movie about a young boy, left home alone, when his family went on a vacation. In the movie plot, the family made all of their preparations to go on vacation but the little boy was somewhere else doing something instead of doing his part in being ready to leave. The rest of the family left and, after they were gone, the boy went back to where he thought the family was, but they were nowhere around because they were gone. The movie had a humorous aspect to it but also in the middle of it has a very serious lesson and warning. The lesson and warning is this - there is coming a day when many people will be **LEFT BEHIND**. Who are the people who will be **LEFT BEHIND** and why will they be **LEFT BEHIND**? Please allow me to explain briefly.

The Bible is God's Word that is forever, settled in Heaven {Psalm 119:89} and it is in His Word that we are told that Jesus Christ will come again. When He came the first time, He came as the promised Messiah, the one who would shed His innocent blood and die on the Cross of Calvary. Jesus Christ was **THE** propitiation for our sins! Propitiation means the atonement or atoning sacrifice offered to God to assuage [to soften, in a figurative sense; to lessen the intensity] His wrath and render Him propitious [favorable, kind, to be gracious or merciful] to sinners. {I John 2:1-2; 4:10} Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah {Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:11}. He came as promised, He bled and died on Calvary, He was resurrected {John 19:30; Hebrews 9}, He was buried {John 19:40-42}, and three days later He rose from the grave {John 20; I Corinthians 15:4; II Corinthians 5:15} and at this very moment He is seated on the right hand of God the Father {Hebrews 10:12}. All of this took place when Jesus Christ came the first time. Before He returned to Heaven, He said that He would come again {John 14:2-3} but, exactly when that will be, no human being knows because God the Father has not revealed that to anyone {Luke 12:35-40}. Many false teachers/preachers have tried to predict when Jesus Christ would return and all have been wrong, and they will continue to be wrong because God has said that no man knows the day or hour of His return.

When Jesus Christ comes again, His coming will be two-part. The first will be what we call the rapture. This word does not appear in the Bible; it simply means a catching away. When Jesus comes again, He will come in the clouds to catch away His Church, those who have repented of sin and trusted Him as personal Saviour. We read this in I Thessalonians 4:16-17. Only those who have put their faith and trust in Him will Jesus call out; all others will be **Left Behind** to go through the tribulation; a period of seven years when God judges the world. The judgment of God on this world will be severe, so severe that people will want to die just to escape the destruction that takes place {Revelation 6:16}. People who had heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ but did not, for any reason, repent and trust Him as personal Saviour, will not have another opportunity after the rapture of the church; sealed for eternity will be their fate! {II Thessalonians. 2:1-12} During the tribulation period those who had not heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ will have an opportunity for salvation, and many will repent and trust Him as personal Saviour {Revelation, chapter 7}.

There is one way and one way only to avoid being **Left Behind**. You may ask, "What is that?" The answer is so simple that even a child can understand and believe it. Repent of sin and receive Jesus Christ as Saviour {Acts 3:19}. Jesus has already paid the sin debt and redeemed us from all unrighteousness of the law {I Peter 1:18-19} because of His great love for us {John 3:16} and, it is all of grace by His grace that we receive salvation; our good works did not nor could not have anything to do with it {Ephesians 2:4-9}. As Christians, we are not perfect people in this life; we are just forgiven sinners who have received salvation from the Lord Jesus Christ. This, friend, is why we as Christians will not go through the tribulation; Jesus Christ Himself will take us out of this world. However, what about you friend; will **YOU** be **Left Behind**? People may laugh, and mock and say, "Where is the promise of his coming?" The answer to this question is in II Peter 3:3-12. You do not have to be **Left Behind**! You will not be **Left Behind**, not if you repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour. Will God forgive and save you? Here is what He said, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} He also said, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." {I John 5:11-13}

There is not any prophecy that needs fulfilling before Jesus Christ comes again; it is now just a matter of time and, that could be any moment. As kindly as I know how, I encourage you to repent of sin and by faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, to trust Him as your personal Saviour. Will you do this or will you risk be **Left Behind**? PLEASE, for the sake of your eternal soul, trust Jesus Christ as Saviour **TODAY!**

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2018

All Scripture references are KJV