

## Responding to Robert Gramacki's "Where is the Church in Revelation 4-19? A Pre-Tribulation Argument, the Appearance of Sin

Introduction

Heretical Foundation

Heretical Foundation (Messianic Confirmation)

Outrageous Premise, Intimating that Jesus is Lying

Heretical Foundation (The Term Saints)

We have viewed the arguments supporting the Church not in Revelation 4-19: As a writer and Biblical Researcher who has studied the topic and wrote my first term project in 1975, this writer never witnessed or heard of an argument where the Church is not present in Revelation 4-19. Simply to show some common ground, you are a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary. Among countless others, this writer has studied works on this topic by DTS stalwarts John Walvoord and Dwight Pentecost Pentecost (circa 1975, 1987 respectively). This writer accepts that your efforts are to the Pre-Tribulation knowledge base.

Here is a summary of what you have presented to support your position to demonstrate the Church is not present in Revelation 4-19:

The Mention of the Church

The Admonition

The Wife of the Lamb

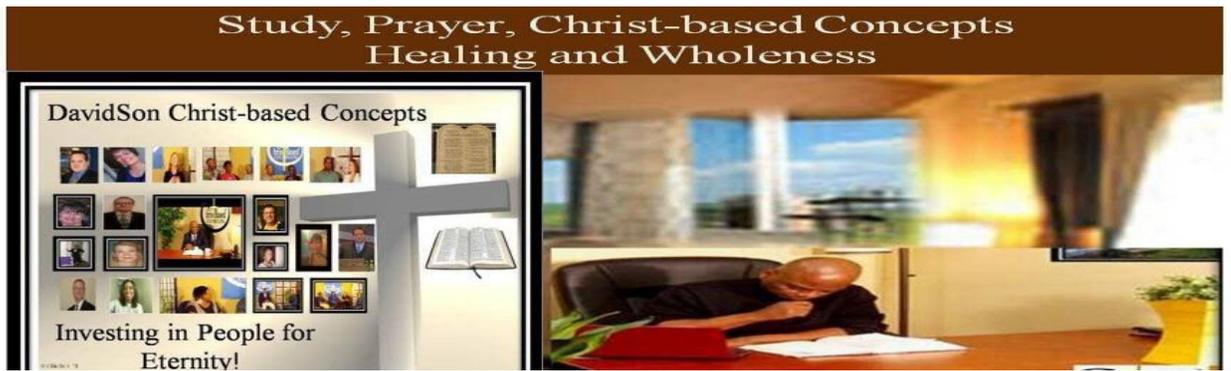
Christ's Activity

24 Elders

Heaven Dwellers

Others...

As you know, one could go point counter point endlessly. This document is presented with simplicity carpenters, tax collectors and fishermen could grasp to the degree possible. Please do not misunderstand, we understand the rigors of a scholarly document. However, academia is not



our principal concern other than ensuring that it does not poison masses any more than has already happened. The response:

Heretical Foundation (The Term Saints)

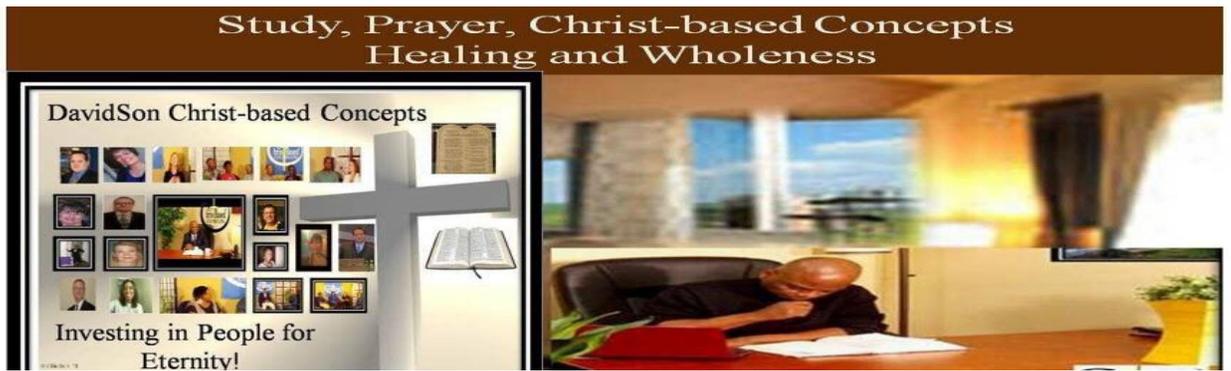
Suffice it to say, all the arguments in the document rely on a foundation. The foundation is what this writer will call here, Rapture with an 'unsubstantiated' time metric. Your view is the Church is not here (Revelation 4-19) because the Church is already caught-up (Rapture). There is no argument Rapture will happen. We agree. However, If we removed 1 Thessalonians 4:17 from the equation, all you have said would be moot. That is, there is nothing so clearly and specifically stated representing being caught-up as 1 Thessalonians 4:17. Clearly no metric is provided concerning 'when' this occurs.

The response to this 'what if' 1 Thessalonians 4:17 did not exist is, 'it does exist.' Yes, and there is no passage in all of Scripture so aligned with this text than 2 Thessalonians 2. It has the same writer, same church, same conditions, same content. He returns to the topic and provides more clarity. He addressed the Church at Thessalonica. His introduction is clear (2 Thessalonians 2:1). The Church! During the passage (2 Thessalonians 2) he reveals that he told them orally while with them, but they obviously continued with the same behavior associated with unsubstantiated expectation of the gathering and coming. This is what caused him to write this passage as a reminder (vs. 5). Here is an outline of Apostle Paul's reiteration of what precedes the Coming and Gathering:

The Coming and Gathering vs 1  
 Don't Be Disturbed or Deceived vss 2-3a  
 Events Preceding the Coming and Gathering 3b-4  
 Details of the Man of Lawlessness 5, 9-10  
 Other...

As opposed to expectation of the Lord's return, the Church technically and universally is told events that must precede the Lord's Coming and Gathering.

Apostate Church: We ask, since sinners cannot fall away, they are already in a fallen state, this indicator has bearing on a Church that is present on earth. Moreover the apostate condition makes this abundantly clear. People in mass who have claimed the faith, have fallen from the truth of the faith. This does not mean they are not religious. Therefore, as with 1 Thessalonians 4:17, all that the Apostle states in 2 Thessalonians 2 is for the Church.



## Heretical Foundation, Messianic Confirmation

We recognize those who view Revelation as a piece of the Eschatological puzzle. We view the Book of Revelation as a stand-alone document. That is, Jesus is the author with John functioning as an amanuensis and observer. No book in the Bible has these distinguishing characteristics. Perhaps you agree it is the final book written. Our view is no apostle, prophet, scribe, priest or preacher can compare with Jesus from any perspective we choose (Daniel, Zechariah, Paul, John, etc.). They are His servants in every aspect of the word. The Book is not a puzzle-part of Eschatology. Revelation is the Book filtering all other apocalyptic literature. We do not shape the opinion of Revelation with any other book. We shape our view on other books through the lens of the Great Author Jesus in His Revelation.

Paul's words to the Church in Thessalonica (1&2) are confirmed by Jesus, but Jesus provides more detail (Revelation 13). He reveals the same personality (Anti-Christ forces and person), same events (representing Satan vss 1-3, blasphemies vs 5, deceiving prophets vss 12-14). Uniquely, Jesus adds, the saints (hagios) are overcome and it is a time for them to demonstrate their faith and perseverance (vss 7-10).

There is no greater confirmation than what Jesus provides. If the Church is Paul's audience in Thessalonica, and it is, Jesus confirms the universal Church is in Revelation 13, and they are enduring persecution by the same forces Paul revealed in 2 Thessalonians 2. The Church is in Revelation 4-19.

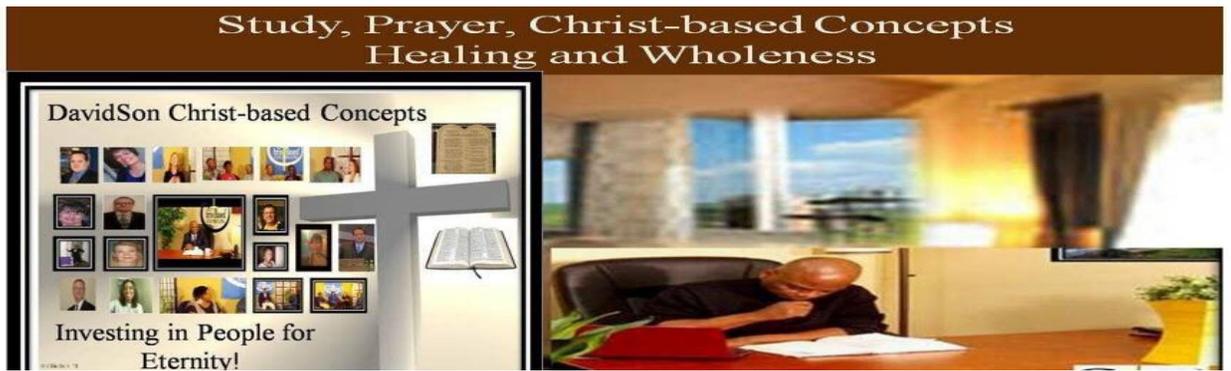
## Heretical Foundation (The Term Saints):

The proponents of pre-Tribulation Rapture parse saints as those pre-and-post the Great Tribulation.

The term saints in Revelation 13:7 is the same term used for the Church throughout the New Testament (Acts 26:10, Romans 15:31, 1 Corinthians 14:33, Ephesians 4:12, et al). Jesus Himself, does not make any distinction because there is not one. The Church is in Revelation 4-19.

## An Outrageous Suggestion, Intimating that Jesus is a Liar

Asking a Pre-Tribulation believer where is Rapture in Revelation, they could not answer. So, in 2016 or there-about here comes, 'the Church is not present in the Revelation (4-19) (because the



Church is already with the Lord (Rapture). Not one prophet, no apostle and surely Jesus did not make such a statement. The suggestion pre-supposes that a watershed event in Biblical history and eternity the 'Rapture of the Church' would be omitted by Jesus Himself in His Revelation.

It is so diabolical it places in question Jesus' veracity where He reveals he will disclose events of the First Century past, First Century present and First Century future (Revelation 1:19). Yet, apparently He missed or omitted the Rapture of the Church if we believe this suggestion the Church is not in Revelation 4-19. We respond no! He did not miss the Rapture of the Church. The Church is present in Revelation 4-19.

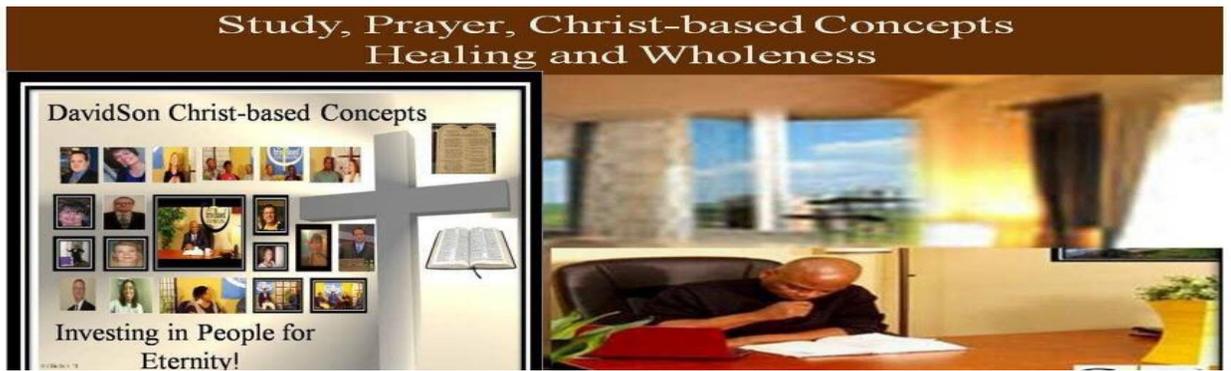
Jesus confirms Great Tribulation Rapture

Jesus reveals the saints are taken 'out of' Great Tribulation (7:15). The two witnesses (persecuted by the beast) are 'called or taken up' (11:11-12). These terms 'taken out, taken up' are the confirmation of 1 Thessalonians 4:17 where the saints are caught-up. Each of these are actions taken by Jesus. The evidence is that they happened at the same time. How do we know? There is only one 'calling-up' or resurrection of the saints the First Resurrection (20:1-7). The Church is in Revelation 4-19.

There is no greater confirmation than what Jesus provides. If the Church is Paul's audience in Thessalonica, and it is, Jesus confirms the universal Church is in Revelation 13, and they are enduring persecution by the same forces Paul revealed in 2 Thessalonians 2.

Heretical Foundation (Exploitive Exegesis):

The support for Rapture before any encounter with Great Tribulation is based on book-verse, hop-scotch. Recall, no time metric or indicator is provided for when 1 Thessalonians 4:17 happens. One writer on the cults called this book-verse hop-scotch, 'night-jump exegesis' (Anthony Hokema, 5 Major Cults, 19). It is the method used extensively by cults to exploit Scripture. It is done because there are no extensive passages in Scripture supporting or explaining pre-Tribulation Rapture. There is more on Rapture as shown in the context of Jesus' Revelation, but it does not support the Pre-Tribulation premise. So, the need for all we see in attempting to defend Pre-tribulation rapture. However, the effort with this topic is beyond the pale. Truth simply requires a simple statement of truth. The more mechanizations all over Scripture, and referring to names of persons with the same mind may satisfy scholarly standards, but Jesus is our standard.



## Cursed, Marginalizing the Book of Revelation

Given twelve Christian jurors, what would their conclusion be concerning whether it changes the Book of Revelation, if 16 of 22 chapters were redacted from the Book of Revelation? Or what would be their conclusion if statements were made that a significant part of the book was less important? Or what would they think if it was implied that other than esoteric reasons 16 chapters did not even apply to all or a significant part of the Church? Better yet, if a pastoral leader stood before his congregation and declared about this book like none other in Scripture (Jesus' Revelation) that the substance of the book did not apply to them, would they view the book differently? There is no question what the suggestion that Revelation 4-19 does not apply to the Church, diminishes the prophecy. Or adds that the Church is not there in a massive unprecedented way. It further challenges Jesus' veracity.

We attempt to give all due consideration, but developing and publishing this kind of work under the guise of academic discovery or whatever is representative of Jesus' warning about deceivers and deception in this Age.

## Anticipating Scripture Tampering

False teaching happens through ignorance, innocence and by intention. The arguments pre and post are acceptable dialog, but attacking Scripture no matter how vicariously is attacking Scripture. Moreover, it is the only book with a specific statement warning no to do so. It is sin. Clearly, it was anticipated that such an effort would happen. Just as this writer discovered this and witnessed a pastor sharing parts it in a nationally televised broadcast no question, hundreds if not millions know this. Subsequently, we have persons seeing our social media presentations referring to this, 'Church' is not in Revelation 4-19 teaching.

We will do our part to widely distribute our response. It will have a link to your original document. We do not expect that you will have any change in your perspective. We are not requesting nor do we expect a response.

That is between you and the one directing your life...

By grace through faith  
Dr. Steven B. DavidSon

Study, Prayer, Christ-based Concepts  
Healing and Wholeness

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Eternity!

