

WHAT'S THIS WORLD COMING TO?  
REVELATION 19-22

INTRODUCTION:

- Outdoor adventure writer and climber, **Jon Krakauer**, says that there are *some ten thousand extant religious sects—each with its own cosmology, each with its own answer for the meaning of life and death.....None of the ten thousand has yet persuaded me to make the requisite leap of faith. In the absence of conviction, I've come to terms with the fact that uncertainty is an inescapable corollary of life....the essential inscrutability of existence.* (Jon Krakauer, *Under the Banner of Heaven*, Doubleday/Random House, 2003, 339)
- Atheistic author Quentin Smith writes, *The most reasonable belief is that we came from nothing, by nothing, and for nothing.* (Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2004, 99)
- Physicist Stephen Hawking said, *We are such insignificant creatures on a minor planet of a very average star in the outer suburbs of one of a hundred thousand million galaxies. So it is difficult to believe in a God that would care about us or even notice our existence.* (Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2004, 118)
- That all sounds pretty hopeless to me. Now if there is no hope, so be it. But if there is a credible word of hope out there somewhere, I'm going to check it out.
- That's exactly why I'm so interested in the prophetic voice of the Bible.
- I desperately want to know if anybody is in control of the agenda for this planet.
  - It matters to me to know whether or not there is any ultimate significance to my life.
- So we turn to the last book of the Bible which tells us that Jesus is coming back someday. Getting to that event is going to be like hell on earth, but the Bible says *He is coming.*

*"The Book of Revelation is the Jurassic Park of biblical interpretation." Two thousand years after it was written it can still startle the living daylight out of a casual reader—or even a lifelong student of the book.* (J. Nelson, Kraybill, "Apocalypse Now, CT, October 25, 1999, 31)

***Let's take a look at WHAT THIS WORLD IS COMING TO!***

**I. RELAX, PERFECT JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL**

- **Michael Crowley** writes a special *Reader's Digest* article every month called, "**That's Outrageous!**" In the May issue he covered how major US Universities fraudulently mispend millions of dollars of federal medical research money. In April he tells how unscrupulous lawyers stack the jury to get huge damage awards. The consistent theme of his stories is the miscarriage of justice. Some months I don't have the stomach to read his stories because they make me so angry.
- KVI's Kirby Wilbur got hot under the collar this week at the juxtaposition of two local stories:
  - **Crash that killed three near Marysville results in \$538 ticket** 05/29/2006 *Associated Press* A driver blamed for a crash that claimed the lives of a couple and their adopted son has been issued a \$538 traffic ticket, disappointing relatives who believe the offense was more serious.
  - **Judge pays city \$ 618,000 for cutting 120 trees.** By Susan Gilmore, *Seattle Times* staff reporter. Federal Court Judge Jerome Farris has paid the city more than \$600,000 for cutting trees in Colman Park. According to Seattle City Attorney Tom Carr and Ken Bounds, head of the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, Farris paid \$500,000, plus interest, he owed for damages done to 120 trees cut down in the park in 2002.
  - Kirby did the math and pointed out that the human lives were priced at \$179 each and the trees at \$5,100 each. He asked the listeners if that bothered them? Sure, the numbers are not the whole story—but do stories like that bother you?

**Revelation 6:9**, *When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. 10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"*

- There is something deeply planted in the human soul that cries out for justice.

- That yearning will never be satisfied until Jesus comes back. But it will be satisfied. You can take that to the bank!
- The progress of evil...
  - Rise of the Antichrist-- *He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods.*—Daniel 11:36
  - Worldwide deception. *To deceive even the elect-- if that were possible.*--Matthew 24:23
  - The Abomination of Desolation--Daniel 9:27. A classic passage of double meaning. 1) In the Intertestamental Period Antiochus Epiphanes sacrificed a pig on the Jewish altar in the temple. 2) In the future Tribulation Period the Antichrist will usurp the place of God.
  - The Fall of AntiChrist--Daniel 7:23-25
  - Satan released--Daniel 12:11 After the 1000-year reign of Jesus.
  - Deceives the nations--Revelation 20:8, Great army from the east.
  - Assault on Jerusalem—Revelation 20:9
  - Devil cast into the Lake of Fire—Revelation 20:10
  - Great White Throne Judgment—Revelation 20:11
- Three Sets of Twin Prophetic Truths:
  - Set #1: Two Deaths**
    - Physical/Temporal Death
    - *I don't want to achieve immortality through my work, I want to achieve it through not dying. (Woody Allen) Sorry, Woody. That's not an option.*
    - **George Bernard Shaw:** *The statistics on death are quite impressive: One out of one people die.*
    - Spiritual Death
      - *This is the second death*—Revelation 21:8
      - Jesus to Martha: *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will **never die**. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25)*
      - Revelation 21:6, *Blessed and holy are those who have part in **the first resurrection**. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will **reign with him for a thousand years**.*
  - Set #2: Two Resurrections**
    - The First Resurrection: **to Life**
      - **Phase 1: Rapture.** I Thessalonians 4:16, *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the **dead in Christ** will rise first.*
      - **Phase 2: End of the Tribulation**  
*I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God....They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.-- Revelation 20:4*
        - *Blessed and holy are those who have part in **the first resurrection**. The **second death** has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.)-- Revelation 21:6*
      - **Phase 3: End of the Millennium**  
*(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the **first resurrection**.-- Revelation 20:5*
    - The Second Resurrection: **to Death**  
*The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.—Revelation 20:13*
      - Everybody gets resurrected. The idea that death is eternal sleep is a deception. Everybody will one day stand before His Maker in a resurrected body!
  - Set #3: Two Books**
    - **The Lamb's Book of Life**

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the **book of life**—Revelation 20:12, 15

- You won't find this book on the New York Times bestseller list. You can't order it through Amazon.com. But it's the hottest book in Heaven—and people need to know about it.
- **The Book(s) of Ungodly Deeds**  
*12 The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.-- Revelation 20:12, 14 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*
- Nobody is a nobody. Your name is recorded in heaven in one of two books. Your resume is on file. It is kept up to date. Nothing is missed.
- *What's in a name?* My name stands for all that I am inside and outside—my deeds, my motives, and ultimately, my connection or disconnect with Jesus Christ.
  - **NOTE:** that the crux of condemnation is disbelief in Jesus
    - **John 3:18**, *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*
- **Is this all a big mistake?**
  - Some Bible scholars think so. Two professors at my alma mater, **Moody Bible Institute**, published a book called *Doomsday Delusions*. In it they argue that *...preachers [like me] often misinterpret and misapply biblical prophecies by ignoring their historical contexts. They note that apocalyptic texts such as the book of Revelation and some of the Old Testament prophecies were a common literary genre in New Testament times and were often written during periods of oppression to reassure persecuted believers of God's faithfulness.*  
*"The Antichrist in Revelation, for example, says Pate, was no doubt intended to signify Nero, a persecutor of Christians who committed suicide by falling on a sword. ("Most Americans anticipate second coming, opinion poll finds," The World Christian Report, February 1995. Quoting from a U. S. News and World Report article, December 19, 1994)*
  - Another article claims that **it's silly** to believe that the mark of the Beast in Revelation 13 is actually a physical mark, but rather it is a metaphor for allegiance. He says Revelation should be read like a sanctified political cartoon. *Think symbol. Think metaphor. Think poetry. Don't get trapped with wooden literalism—unless you really expect to get to heaven and find that Jesus is a sheep.* (J. Nelson Kraybill, "Apocalypse Now," *Christianity Today*, October 25, 1999, 32, 36)
  - Now here's one of my objections to this. Metaphor doesn't give me much reassurance. I want facts that I can stake my destiny on. Example: During WWII **Murdough McDonald** was in a Nazi POW camp. He and his buddies had a secret little homemade wireless radio and on it one day they heard *that the German high command had surrendered and the war was over. No guards knew of this because all of the communication had broken down in Germany. McDonald said, "I took that news to the fence that day and gave it to my friend, and that day I stood at the fence while my friend went into the British barracks. I waited for what I knew would happen. There was a thunderous roar of celebration from the British barracks. And then the most amazing thing happened. For three days prisoners of war walked around camp singing and shouting. We were gloriously happy! We didn't complain about the food, we waved at the guards; no guard knew what was happening....We were set free four days before by news that the war was over."* (Quoted in Ray Bakke, *A Theology as Big as the City*, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1997, 137)
  - The Preterist Position: Here's an ad in a Christian magazine advertising a book by John Noe called, *Shattering the Left Behind Delusion*. The ad declares—*While millions of people have flocked to devour the hugely successful Left Behind books by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, John Noe is the first Christian leader to publicly describe the rapture theory they espouse as "tragically unbiblical."....[He] uses Scripture to explain that the "last days" preceding*

*Christ's return in judgment are actually behind us, not ahead of us (Hebrews 1:1-2). Here's more of what you'll find in this provocative new book:*

- *How all "rapture" Scriptures have been fulfilled*
- *...all prophecies related to Christ's return were fulfilled exactly as and when Jesus said they would be—within then lifetime of some of his first disciples. [ad specifies that this is Preterist theology]*
- These ideas are part of what is called **Preterist** theology, from a Latin word, *preter*, meaning "Past." *Preterism holds that most, if not all, of the prophetic events of the Old and New Testaments have already been fulfilled. As moderate preterist Kenneth L. Gentry, Jr., explains, "Matthew 24:1-34 (and parallels) in the Olivet Discourse was fulfilled in the events surrounding the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. (Randall Price, "A.D. 70: Preterism's Prophetic Dead End," Israel My Glory, January/February 2005, 21).*
  - But look at Matthew 24:21-22, *For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again. 22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.*
- The Key Players:
  - Satan (aka the Dragon) --The invisible power behind the *unholy trinity*
  - AntiChrist --A great and charismatic world leader who campaign son a platform of world peace.
  - False Prophet --He is to the AntiChrist as the Holy Spirit is to Jesus. He is the spokesman and the promoter of the AntiChrist.
  - The Lamb—Against this unholy alliance, Jesus, the Lam of God unleashes cataclysmic judgment. And He wins decisively and forever.
- The Vocabulary:
  - Rapture—The next event the people of God are looking for. It is the Resurrection of all dead Christians and the catching up of all living Christians to meet Christ in the air.
  - Tribulation—The next event following the Rapture. Seven years of hell on earth as God turns up the heat on a wicked world. These are the days of the AntiChrist. Daniel called it *The Time of Jacob's Trouble*. It ends with the Battle of Armageddon.
  - Millennium—Right after Armageddon, Jesus sets up a 1,000-year kingdom centered in Jerusalem. Satan will be bound and out-of-play.
  - Bema Seat—Raptured Christians stand before Jesus to receive their rewards for faithful service.
  - Great White Throne—Resurrected non-Christians stand before God to be judged before they are assigned to Hell.
  - Abomination of Desolation—Limited fulfillment in the temple desecration of 169 BC. Ultimate fulfillment by the Antichrist in the Tribulation with some notable act of desecration of holy things..
  - Hell/Lake of Fire—The place of final and eternal judgment. A place God originally created for the punishment of the Devil and his evil angels. But also the place where all who reject Jesus go.
  - Armageddon—The great battle at the end of the Tribulation described so vividly in **Revelation 16**. Used in our culture as a moniker for a dreaded future nuclear war.

## II. REJOICE, YOU'LL LIVE IN A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

- Daniel 9:20-24, The Seventy Weeks (cf. Jeremiah). Note the **ultimate achievements** listed:
  - To finish transgressions
  - To put an end to sin
  - To atone for wickedness
  - To bring in everlasting righteousness
  - To seal up vision and prophecy

- To anoint the Most Holy Place
- **Isaiah 65:25**, *The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.*
- **No more CCR's. Jesus is in charge!!!**
- **Surprisingly, this doesn't appeal to some people!** "Heaven is perfect. Who wants to go to a place that's perfect? Boring, boring. [Where we're going] we'll have a chance to make things better because hell is supposed to be a mess."-- Ted Turner
- **But most Americans do believe!** 59% of Americans say events in the Book of revelation will come true.--Barna Research Group, 2002
- Without this hope of heaven, there is no hope--Short-story writer, *O. Henry (real name William Sydney Porter) lay dying. A friend was there to bid him goodbye. O. Henry quoted to his friend the chorus of a popular song of his day, "Don't turn out the light—I'm afraid to go home in the dark."* (Brendan Gill, *Late Bloomers*, Artisan, 1996, 102)
- Who is there in this great new "neighborhood"? *But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.-- Hebrews 12:22-24*
- **C. S. Lewis:** *Five months before he died, C. S. Lewis wrote to a woman who feared that her own death was imminent. Lewis said, "Can you not see death as a friend and deliverer?...What is there to be afraid of?...Your sins are confessed....Has this world been so kind to you that you should leave it with regret? There are better things ahead than any we leave behind....Our Lord says to you, 'Peace, child, peace. Relax. Let go. I will catch you. Do you trust me so little?'...Of course, this may not be the end. Then make it a good rehearsal.*  
[signed] *Yours (and like you, a tired traveler, near the journey's end).*"-- C. S. Lewis<sup>1</sup>
- **Ronald Reagan's** daughter, Patti, had a little black fish that died when she was a kid. Her dad threw a fish funeral for her complete with two twigs tied with string into a cross and a prayer. *I asked, 'I know he's in the ground but where is he now, where is his soul?' "And he said, 'In heaven. Where he can swim and swim and swim, and he can see all these other fishes, and nothing will ever eat him, and he'll live forever there in this clean blue water.' And it was this beautiful picture that he painted. So I wasn't sad for the fish. I had so much fun at the funeral I thought, can another one die? Maybe we can kill one!* (Peggy Noonan, *When Character Was King*, NY, Viking, 2001, 155)

### III. RECYCLE, OR PEOPLE WILL PERISH FOREVER

- No disrespect or flippancy intended here. What I'm trying to say is that people who are destined for eternity's landfill can be rescued from destruction and put to eternal and valuable use. Jesus came on a rescue mission. The church is sent on a rescue mission.
- Jesus' Olivet Discourse on the End of the Age  
**THE CONTEXT** of the Sheep and the Goats.  
*As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be **the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?**"--Matthew 24:3*
  - Enemies can become brothers  
*"The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."*— Galatians 1:23
  - Goats can become sheep
    - **31**, *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on*

<sup>1</sup> [for ref see Alcorn p447]

his left...41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.—**Matthew 25:32-33, 41**  
46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

- Now I realize that what I'm saying may be offensive to some of you who are listening. I understand—It's not very nice to call someone a goat. By, if it helps, we are all goats unless Jesus makes us into sheep. This is the crux of the scandal of Christianity. It even offends **some preachers**. One said, *I don't think that anything has been done in the name of Christ and under the banner of Christianity that has proven more destructive to human personality, and hence counterproductive to the evangelistic enterprise, than the unchristian, uncouth strategy of attempting to make people aware of their lost and sinful condition.* (Robert **Schuller** quoted in *Milk and Honey*, December 1997, page 4)
  - OK, call me uncouth. But I'll stick with the Bible, *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
- There's room for more names in the Lamb's Book of Life
  - Friend, we are all on death-row. We all face eternal execution in the Lake of Fire.
  - **Revelation 20:14, 15** *Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*
  - But there is a message of release. There is a way of escape.
  - "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."—Luke 19:10

#### CONCLUSION:

- **Howard Hendricks**, *Suppose you come to me and say, "Prof, I hate to tell you this, but I'm suffering from a terminal disease."*  
*We talk about it for a while, and after learning more about your situation, I say, "Hey, I've got fantastic news. I've got a doctor friend in Houston who's just come up with a proven cure for that disease. If you go see him, I guarantee you'll be fully cured."*  
*You say, "That's wonderful."*  
*"Do you believe it?" I ask.*  
*"Oh, certainly."*  
*So I reach out and shake your hand and say, "You're cured."*  
*Naturally, you'd think I was one brick shy of a load! No amount of information concerning a doctor in Houston who has a cure for your disease will do anything to bring healing to your body. You've got to go there. You've got to submit yourself to his treatment. You've got to benefit from the medicine that he prescribes.* (Howard and William Hendricks, *Living by the Book*, 231-232)
- Everything I've been talking about this morning is about a cure for the cancer of sin. Jesus isn't a doctor in Houston. He's a lot better than that. He's got a sure-fire cure for sin. But, *You've got to go there. You've got to submit yourself to his treatment. You've got to benefit from the medicine that he prescribes.*
- Three simple steps:
  - I'm a sinner
  - Jesus died for sinners
  - Jesus, please forgive my sin and save my soul. Make me a sheep instead of a goat. Put my name in your Lamb's Book of Life.
- I started with **Jon Karkauer** and I'll end with him as well. He concludes his book with these words: *Most of us fear death. Most of us yearn to comprehend how we got here, and why—which is to say, most of us ache to know the love of our creator. And we will no doubt feel that ache, most of us, for as long as we happen to be alive.*
  - That ache can go away, right now!

Timothy G. Walton  
Snohomish Community Church  
June 11, 2006

# Crash that killed three near Marysville results in \$538 ticket

05/29/2006

Associated Press

A driver blamed for a crash that claimed the lives of a couple and their adopted son has been issued a \$538 traffic ticket, disappointing relatives who believe the offense was more serious.

On Thursday, nearly a year after the death of Darrell Knapp, 41, his wife Sandra, 42, and their adopted son Noah, 7, William M. Murphy, 62, of Olympia, was charged with second-degree negligent driving.

Marla Ringen, whose son is married to an older daughter of the Knapps, told The Herald of Everett the family is relieved that the investigation is over but dissatisfied with the outcome.

"Three people lost their lives and he gets cited with an infraction," Ringen said. "We're not surprised. Disappointed, yes."

Murphy was driving at least 65 mph and as fast as 76 mph in a 60-mph zone on Interstate 5 near Marysville last May 30 when his pickup and the 37-foot motor home he was towing southbound careened across the median and crashed into the Knapps' Ford Taurus and three other vehicles in the northbound lanes.

According to the State Patrol's investigation report, Murphy told troopers he thought he was going 55 and veered to the left to try to avoid a collision when a car darted in front of him.

Murphy was using the left lane illegally in an oversize vehicle, and witnesses told investigators he was accelerating to pass slower vehicles before losing control upon running into traffic congestion, troopers wrote.

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Judge pays city \$ 618,000 for cutting 120 trees Full story:  
<http://archives.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/cgi-bin/texis.cgi/web/vortex/display?slug=farristrees27m&date=20060527>

By Susan Gilmore  
Seattle Times staff reporter

Federal Court Judge Jerome Farris has paid the city more than \$600,000 for cutting trees in Colman Park.

According to Seattle City Attorney Tom Carr and Ken Bounds, head of the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, Farris paid \$500,000, plus interest, he owed for damages done to 120 trees cut down in the park in 2002.

Farris said he asked his gardener to cut down some trees on his Lake Washington view property along a fence bordering the park, in the Mount Baker neighborhood, but, he said, the gardener misunderstood his directions.

Farris, a judge on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, told a jury in December that his gardener mistakenly clear-cut nearly an acre of the park. The gardener, Duc Huynh, said Farris ordered him to cut down the trees.

The jury ordered Farris to pay the \$500,000 restoration bill, which he did this week.

According to the city officials, Farris originally made three payments, totaling \$200,000, which were used to plant replacements for the lost trees.

On Monday, after the sale of the judge's Mount Baker home closed, the city received a check for the remaining \$300,000, plus 12 percent interest, bringing the total payment to more than \$618,000.

"The city's ultimate goal was to ensure that Judge Farris paid a significant penalty for the damage to Colman Park and to deter others from cutting down city trees to improve their views," Carr said. "This payment demonstrates that the city takes such acts seriously and will seek penalties from anyone who damages our precious city parks."

Susan Gilmore: 206-464-2054 or [sgilmore@seattletimes.com](mailto:sgilmore@seattletimes.com)

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