

ABATT
From Here to Eternity Part 2
Christian Life Assembly
Jim Hoffman

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“God judged it better to bring
good out of evil than to suffer
no evil to exist.”
St. Augustine

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From Here to Eternity

Men’s Breakfast
Thursday – Denny’s @ 9:00 AM

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10 SIGNS *the* TRIBULATION IS NEAR

<p>1 DECEPTION Many will say "I am the Christ" (Matt 24:5)</p> <p>2 DISSENTION Wars (Matt 24:6-7)</p> <p>3 DEVASTATION Famines (Matt 24:7)</p> <p>4 DISEASE Pestilences (Matt 24:7)</p> <p>5 DISASTERS Earthquakes (Matt 24:7)</p>	<p>6 DEATH Hated for my name's sake (Matt 24:9)</p> <p>7 DISLOYALTY Betray, hate one another (Matt 24:10)</p> <p>8 DELUSION False prophets (Matt 24:11)</p> <p>9 DEFECTION Turn away from God & each other (Matt 24:12)</p> <p>10 DECLARATION Gospel preached in all the world (Matt 24:14)</p>
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- The disciples are not asking about a 2nd coming – they were asking about when he would take over!
- When they were asking about his coming Matthew used the Greek word, "**Parousia**" ("Coming in Matt 24:3) – this has to do with presence, or his full manifestation as king. **(not his coming, but his Messianic presence)**
- When Jesus died they were completely bewildered, but they should not have been, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." Luke 9:22 ESV

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- The questions of the disciples were more oriented to "**when are you (Jesus Messiah) coming in your full glory?**"
- Jesus will reset their expectations – he will give them some things to expect to happen before his second coming.
- This "signs" he lists are for his second coming – remember, Matthew 24 ignores the rapture.

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The signs Jesus gives will all happen before he returns in his glory – but not necessarily before the rapture.

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- Matt 24:4 And Jesus answered them, “**See that no one leads you astray**. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.

- The biggest lie of all happens after the rapture – the rider on the white horse in Revelation 6 is Antichrist bringing a false peace.

- Rev 6:2 “I looked, and behold, a **white horse**, and he who sat on it had a **bow**; and a **crown** was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.”

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- The signs Jesus lists are by there very nature ones that will take some time to occur.

- Wars and rumors of wars Kingdoms rising against kingdoms Famines and earthquakes in all sorts of places And these would be but the first of the birth pains.

- And since these have to occur before his 2nd coming we know he is not speaking about the rapture. (imminency)

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Historical False Messiahs

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- Matt 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you.** For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. KJV

- Most translations render this verse as “do not be misled” or something similar, but the word is actually “plan-ah’-o” and **means to lead away from the truth.**

- I like “deceive” because it integrates more easily to Satan’s tactics where he is constantly disguising his plans because otherwise no one wants them! 😊

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- 2nd Thes 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming. 9 **The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.** ESV

- Let’s deal with verse #7 first – lots of confusion here.

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- 2nd Thes 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is **out of the way**. ESV
- Col 2:14 "by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he **set aside**, nailing it to the cross." ESV
- "out of the way" and "set aside" come from the same Greek word – think of "standing down" or "moved away" with respect to restraint, but not removed.

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- You've probably heard it said that the one who "restrains" is the Holy Spirit and that is true.
- But not in the respect most teach this – many teach the Holy Spirit will be withdrawn from the earth during the tribulation, but if that is so then how are people saved?
- John 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. ESV (John 16 He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment, also Lydia whose heart the Lord opened)

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- "The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and **false signs and wonders**, 10 and **with all wicked deception** for those who are perishing".
- Satan's end-time activities through Anti-Christ will have many of the supernatural happenings that so many crave.
- "false signs and wonders" and "wicked deception" – he will put on a big show and capture a big audience.

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• Matt 24:6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are but the beginning of the **birth pains**. ESV (all of these are common in our day)

• What do we know of birth pains? We know they grow in intensity and in velocity – the closer to delivery the worse they get and the faster they come.

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The Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls fit the “birth pains” analogy perfectly – as they are released, they get worse and worse and come faster and faster.

The seals take roughly 3.5 years, the trumpets take about 2 years, and the bowls may be delivered as rapidly as all 7 in one week.

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• **With respect to deception** think about Israel early in the Great Tribulation – Antichrist actually gets a peace treaty done between Israel and the world.

• Daniel tells of this great deception - 9:27 **And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering.** ESV

• This is the “White Horse” in Revelation 6 – false peace.

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- Matt 24:7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ESV
- In Revelation 6 when the seals are broken the **Red Horse is war**, the **Black Horse is famine**, and the **Pale Horse is death**.
- Notice how Matthew 24 parallels Revelation chapter 6.

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<p style="text-align: center;">False Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt 24: 4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many." <p style="text-align: center;">War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt 24:6 You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. 	<p style="text-align: center;">False Peace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev 6:2 I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. <p style="text-align: center;">War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev 6:3 When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come." 4 And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.
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<p style="text-align: center;">Famine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt 24:7 and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. 8 But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. <p style="text-align: center;">Death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt 24:9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another." 	<p style="text-align: center;">Famine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev 6: When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine." <p style="text-align: center;">Death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev 6:7 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come." 8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him.
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• Matt 24:9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. 10 And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” ESV

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- Next, we see persecution listed and the phrase, “deliver you up” has to do with official state persecution where one’s own government is at work.
- In Iran, China, and even in parts of India it is a crime to convert or even try to convert the lost to Christ.
- As for Jesus’ disciples, they were but years from the time that Rome would crack down on Christians, torture, and execute them.

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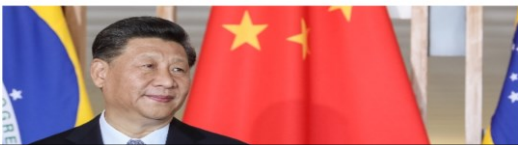
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China’s New Measures for Religious Groups 2019: From Bad to Worse

12/31/2019 MASSIMO INTROVIGNE

A+ | A-

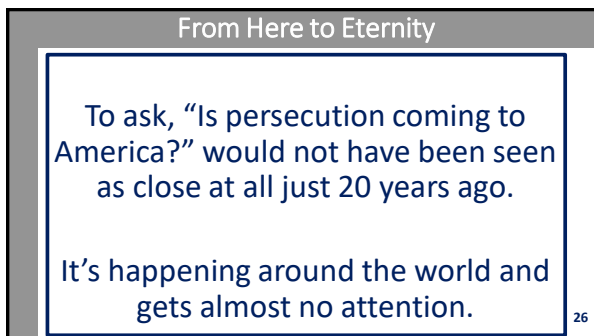
The new provisions will be in force from February 1, 2020. They reinforce the already restrictive regulation of 2017 and order all religions to “spread the principles of the CCP.”



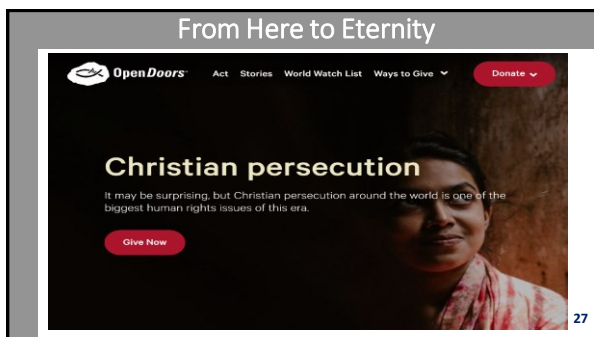
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- “And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.”
- Snitching often comes along with state activities to oppress groups of people – we’ve seen evidence of this with COVID restrictions.
- I think the most likely avenue through which persecution of the church will begin in America is through “hate speech” laws.

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- Sooner or later the church will have to engage the American left – leftists and liberals are not the same.
- The left likes to form a brand that no reasonable person can object to and then use the sympathy for the brand to do something totally different.
- Examples are, “BLM”, “No Human is Illegal”, “Science is Real”, “Women’s Rights are Human Rights”, and “Love is Love”.

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- I wish what I am about to say could be called out as hyperbole – persecution of the church is coming to America.
- I don’t think we are ready for it, but then who in history has been ready for persecution – and how would we know if we are ready?
- It is likely that in America we will soon see laws passed, and attitudes embraced that we’ve not seen before and may even be unconstitutional – but it won’t matter.

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