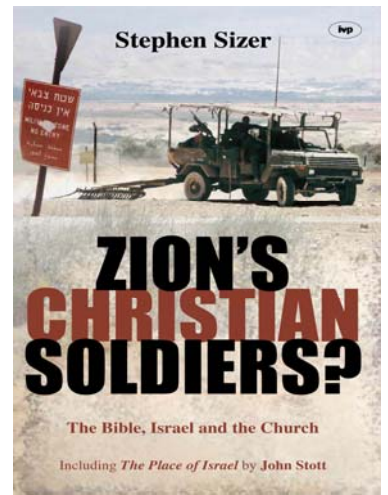


ZION'S CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

Seminar 6: Overture to Armageddon: Want to be Left Behind?

“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. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)



What is the idea behind 'The Rapture'?

What does the Bible say about the Rapture?

The Signs of the Times

Armageddon or 'I'm a geddin out o' here'

The Future Assessed : But which one?

- Amillennialism
- Postmillennialism
- Premillennialism

What does the Bible say about the return of Jesus?

It will be a personal return
It will be a visible return
It will be an unmistakable return
It will be a sudden return
It will be an unexpected return
It will be a glorious return

How should we live in the light of Christ's return?

Be Watchful
Be Faithful
Be Serving

Conclusions: The Last Word on the Middle East?

What have we found?
What difference has Jesus made?
How then does the Old Testament relate to Jesus?
Christian Zionism: Road-map to Armageddon?
Now that you know these things

Summary Points

1. The *Left Behind* phenomenon has created a destructive culture of pessimism and fatalism in Western Christianity.
2. This polarised and apocalyptic world view appears to be shaping US foreign policy in the Middle East and destabilising the peace process.
3. The idea of a secret two-stage Rapture is a recent innovation without biblical foundation.
4. The Signs of the return of Christ are intended to keep us watchful not tell us the time.
5. Armageddon is not necessarily a reference to an apocalyptic nuclear holocaust but the cosmic battle between good and evil.
6. Jesus Christ will return personally, visibly, unmistakably, suddenly, unexpectedly and gloriously.
7. In the light of his imminent return we should be watchful and faithful servants doing his will.

Passages to Review

Matthew 24:23-31; Mark 13:32-36; Luke 21:25-28; John 14:1-6; Acts 1:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Timothy 4:1-8; 2 Peter 3:4-10; Revelation 3:11; 7:9-16; 14:17-20; 16:13-20; 20:1-6.

Questions for further study

1. Why has the *Left Behind* craze gained such popularity?
2. How would you refute the idea of a secret Rapture from Scripture?
3. What are the 'Signs of the Times'?
4. How should we interpret them?
5. How should we live in the light of the Lord's return?