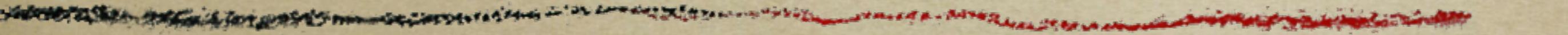


# Revelation - Questions



# Revelation 20:4-5

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- *Irwin Baxter says that he changed his view from pre-tribulation because of Revelation 20:4-5.*
- *The verses teach that those beheaded during the tribulation period are in the first resurrection.*

# Revelation 20:4-5

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*Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.*

# Revelation 20:4-5

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- *Since the verse says this is the “first resurrection” how could there be a resurrection before the “first” one?*
- *This is a misunderstanding of the idea of a first resurrection. It is the first in type, but not necessary the first in order of time.*

# Revelation 20:4-5

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- *It is obviously not the first resurrection since that honor goes to Jesus.*
- *He is called the “first fruits of the resurrection” (1 Corinthians 15:20-25).*
- *The second stage occurs when Jesus returns (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, 1 Corinthians 15:51).*

# Revelation 20:4-5

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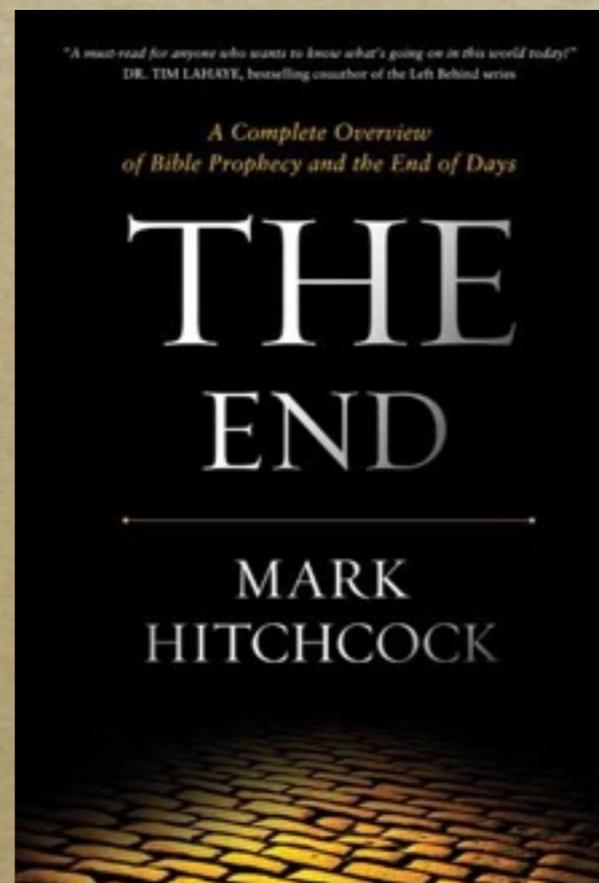
- *There is another resurrection during the tribulation: the two witnesses (Rev. 11).*
- *There is also the resurrection of the tribulation saints (Rev. 20:4-5).*
- *The second resurrection applies to the Great White Throne Judgment.*

# Revelation 20:4-5

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- *Paul teaches that Jesus will rescue New Testament believers from the coming wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10).*
- *Paul teaches that believers will not suffer wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:4-9).*
- *Jesus says He will keep us from the hour of trial (Revelation 3:10).*

# *Seven Reasons for a Pre-tribulation Rapture*



# 1. Place of the Church

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- *If the church is to experience any or all of the tribulation, then we would expect it to be mentioned in Revelation 4-18.*
- *There is silence about the church in this section of Revelation. The word for church (ekklesia) appears 19 times in the first 3 chapters of Revelation*

# 1. Place of the Church

## *Use of the Word Church in Revelation*

<i>Rev 1-3</i>	<i>Rev 4-18</i>	<i>Rev. 20-22</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>

## 2. Rapture vs. Return

---

- *The New Testament describes two facets of Christ's second coming:*
- *First, He comes for His church.*
- *Second, He comes with His church.*

## 2. Rapture vs. Return

The Rapture	The Return
<i>In the air</i>	<i>To the earth</i>
<i>For His saints</i>	<i>With His saints</i>
<i>Claims His bride</i>	<i>Comes with His bride</i>
<i>Comes to reward</i>	<i>Comes to judge</i>
<i>No signs - imminent</i>	<i>After many signs</i>
<i>Blessing and comfort</i>	<i>Destruction and judgment</i>
<i>Believers only</i>	<i>All humanity</i>

# 3. Exemption from Wrath

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- *Christ did warn us that believers would face tribulation (John 16:33) but also promised we would NOT experience God's wrath upon the earth:*
  - *1 Thessalonians 1:9-10*
  - *1 Thessalonians 5:9*
  - *Revelation 3:10*

# 4. Time Gap

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- *The Bible teaches there is a time gap between the rapture and the second coming:*
  - *Judgment seat of Christ*
  - *Preparation of Christ's bride*
  - *Life in the millennial kingdom*

# 5. Removal of Restrainer

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- *Paul explains that there is a restrainer that is holding back the AntiChrist (1 Thessalonians 2:1 and 3:8).*
- *The restraining element is the Holy Spirit working through the believers.*
- *When the church is removed at the rapture, the Holy Spirit goes with them.*

# 6. Imminency

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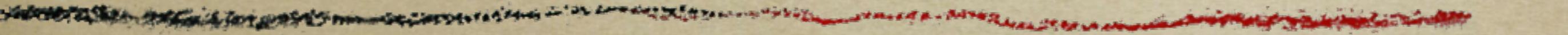
- *Paul taught that the rapture could happen without warning:*
  - *1 Cor. 1:7 - awaiting eagerly*
  - *1 Cor 16:22 - Maranatha (Lord come)*
  - *Phil 3:20 - eagerly awaiting*
  - *1 Thess. 1:10 - to wait (present tense)*

# 7. Blessed Hope

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- *The rapture is intended to comfort and bless the Lord's people.*
- *It is the sure hope that God's people anticipate (John 14:1-3, Titus 2:13).*
- *Paul wrote a second letter to the Thessalonians to provide hope to those who were shaken (2 Thess. 2:1-2).*

# *The Numbers in Revelation*



# TWO

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- *Two is the number of witness.*
- *Disciples sent out by twos (Mark 6:7).*
- *Testimony of two men is true (John 8:17).*
- *Two testaments bear witness to the truth.*
- *Two angels at the ascension of Jesus.*
- *Two witnesses Tribulation (Rev. 11:3).*

# THREE

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- *Three is the divine number.*
- *Revelation 1:8 - Alpha and Omega: which is, was, and is to come.*
- *Matthew 28:19 - Father, Son, Holy Spirit.*
- *Isaiah 6:3 - Holy, Holy, Holy.*
- *Genesis 1 - 3 days (form), 3 days (void).*

# FOUR

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- *Four is the number of earth.*
- *Isaiah 11:12 - four corners of the earth.*
- *Four points of the compass.*
- *Ezekiel 7 - four corners of the land.*
- *Four seasons of the year.*

# FOUR

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- *Revelation 7:1 - four angels, four corners of the earth, four winds of the earth.*
- *Beast - four living creatures around throne.*
- *Multiply by ten and you get 40 - which is the number of testing (Flood - 40 days/nights, Jonah - 40 days before Ninevah destroyed, Jesus was tempted for 40 days).*

# SIX

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- *Six is the number of man.*
- *Man was created on the sixth day.*
- *Revelation 13:18 - count the number of the beast for it is the number of man.*
- *Mark of the beast is 666 (man number 6 repeated 3 times God number). Man pretending to be God.*

# SEVEN

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- *Seven is the perfect number.*
- *The world number 4 added to the divine number 3 expresses perfection/completeness.*
- *It means fullness or completeness as in seven days of the week.*
- *God rested on the seventh day.*
- *Joshua marched around Jericho seven times.*

# SEVEN

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- *Jesus sent out 70 to preach the perfect gospel.*
- *There are 70 weeks in the book of Daniel.*
- *The number seven is used 55 times in Revelation.*
- *Seven lampstands, menorah (seven candles).*

# SEVEN

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- *If you cut seven in half, that means danger and tribulation*
- *Elijah shut up heaven for 3-½ years.*
- *Anti-Christ will make covenant for 3-½ years and then break covenant.*
- *Revelation 13:5 - 40 and 2 months (3-½ years).*

# TWELVE

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- *Twelve is the number for government of God.*
- *There were 12 tribes of Israel.*
- *Twelve is used to signify the church (there were twelve apostles).*
- *Shall sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28).*

# TWELVE

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- *The woman (Rev. 12:1) with a crown of twelve stars on her head represents the Old Testament people of God*
- *The new Jerusalem has twelve gates and on the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel ( Rev. 21:12).*

# TWELVE

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- *The wall of this city has twelve foundations.*
- *On them are the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (Rev. 21:14).*
- *Also associated with the New Jerusalem are the numbers 144 (12 times 12) and 12,000 (12 times 1000).*

# *Revelation - Book Outline*

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# Background

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- *Author: Written by Apostle John (mentioned five times as the author).*
- *Location: Written from island of Patmos (Aegean Sea), where the Roman Empire under the Emperor Domitian exiled troublemakers.*
- *Position: John was the bishop over the seven churches of Asia Minor.*

# Background

---

- *Name: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”*
- *This is the unfolding of Christ’s redemptive program.*
- *Date: Written in AD 95 – Irenaeus (discipled by Polycarp who was discipled by John).*
- *We know that Emperor Domitian went out of power in AD 96.*

# Book Outline

---

- *Book of Revelation is in three parts.*
- *Write the things that you have seen (chapter 1), things that are (chapter 2-3), things that will take place after these things (chapters 4-22).*
- *Answers the question about the destruction of Jerusalem.*

# Book Outline

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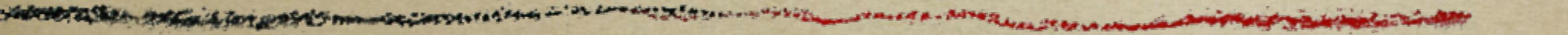
- *Three judgments (chapters 4-19) – seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments.*
- *Do not take place concurrently but are a chronology of judgments. Similar to what God did with Pharaoh (judgments got worse).*
- *Telescoping (seventh seal unleashes the trumpet judgments, seventh trumpet judgment unleashes the bowl judgments).*

# Why It Is Written

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- *The book of the Revelation was written to comfort oppressed churches in Asia Minor by reminding them that God will be victorious.*
- *Shows that God is faithful to the nation of Israel (blessed with land, seed, blessing). That is why the book looks so Jewish (fulfillment of the covenant in Genesis 15).*

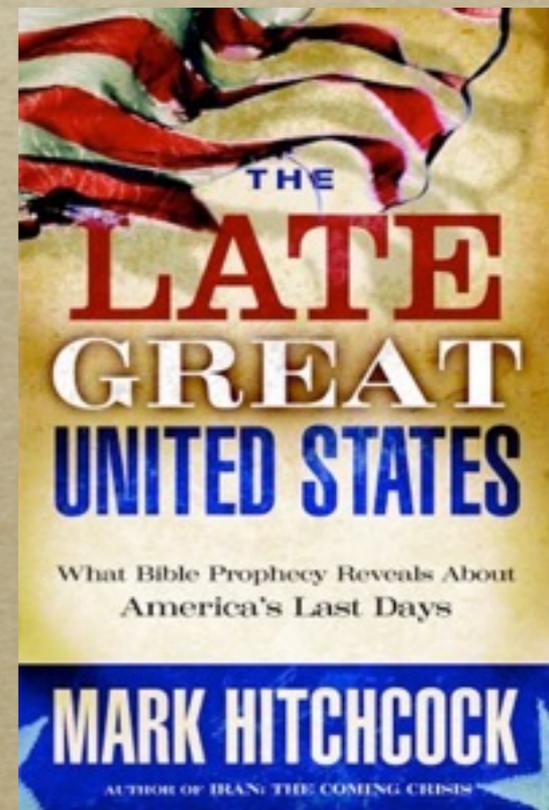
*America in Prophecy?*



# America - Prophecy?

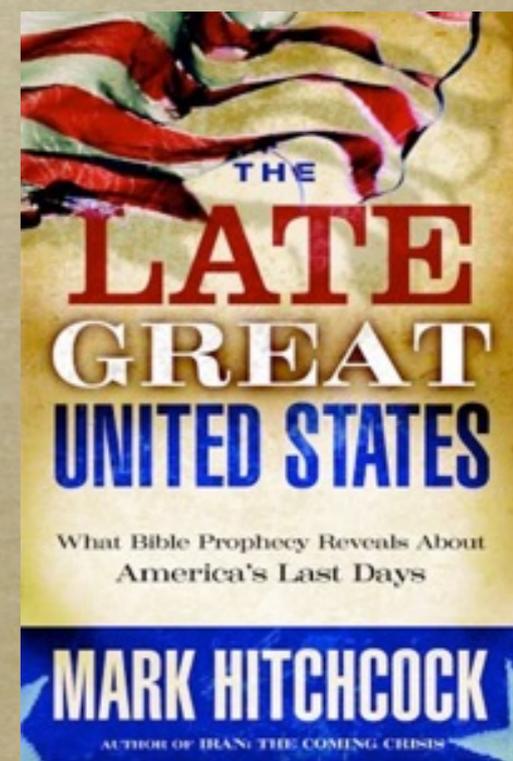
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- *At least fifteen nations are mentioned in the Bible (Israel, Egypt, Persia, Babylon, Greece, Libya, etc.).*
- *America is not mentioned in the prophecies about the end times.*
- *Some believe that it is mentioned.*



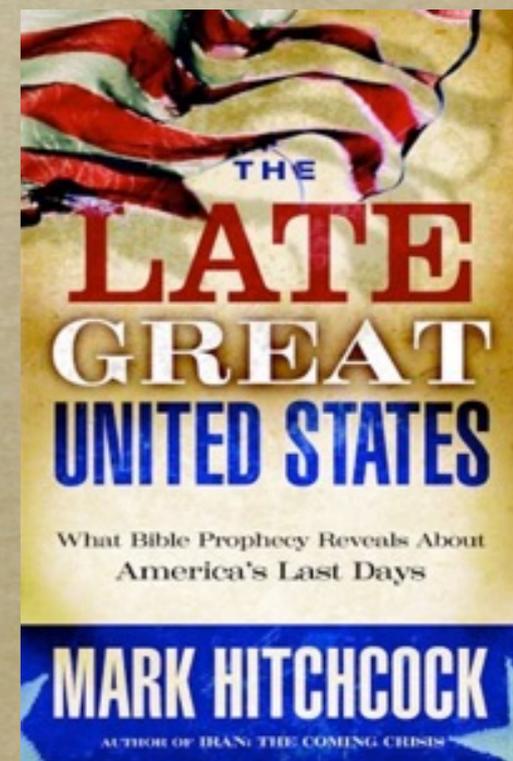
# 1. America = Babylon

- *Is America actually Babylon the Great found in Revelation 17-18?*
- *Jeremiah 50-51 - last of the superpowers, the world's policeman, wealthy, immigrants.*
- *New York City - United Nations, stock markets, Jewish population.*



# 1. America = Babylon

- *No reason to believe that Babylon is a code for any other city (New York, Rome, Jerusalem).*
- *Euphrates River mentioned twice in conjunction with Babylon.*
- *Parallels with Zechariah 5 and also with Jeremiah 50-51.*



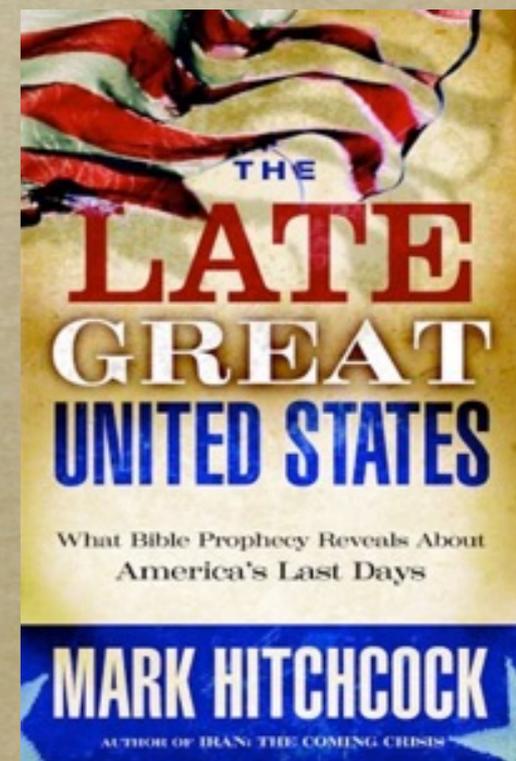
# 1. America = Babylon

<b>Zechariah 5:5-11</b>	<b>Revelation 17-18</b>
<i>Woman sitting on basket</i>	<i>Woman sitting on beast</i>
<i>Emphasis on commerce</i>	<i>Emphasis on commerce</i>
<i>Woman: Wickedness</i>	<i>Woman: Babylon the Great</i>
<i>False worship</i>	<i>False worship</i>
<i>Woman taken to Babylon</i>	<i>Woman is called Babylon</i>

## 2. Unnamed Nation

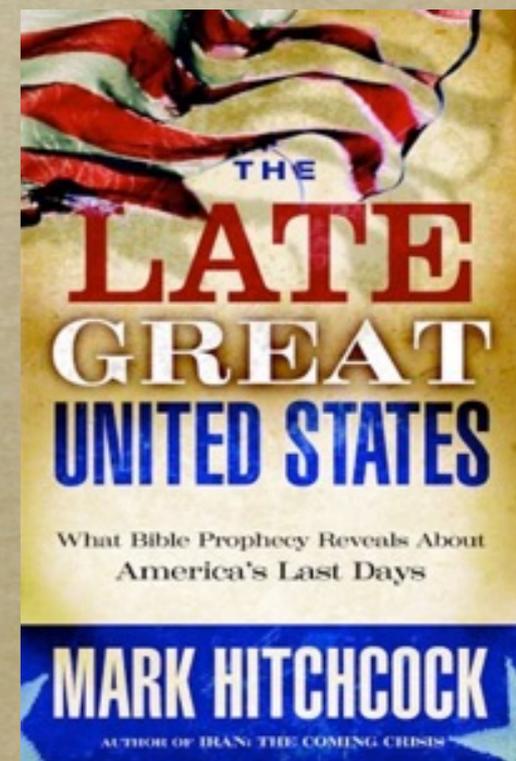
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- *Is America is the unnamed nation in Isaiah 18?*
- *The country is a great maritime power, it spreads wide its wings, it is west of Palestine.*
- *A big river divides this country.*



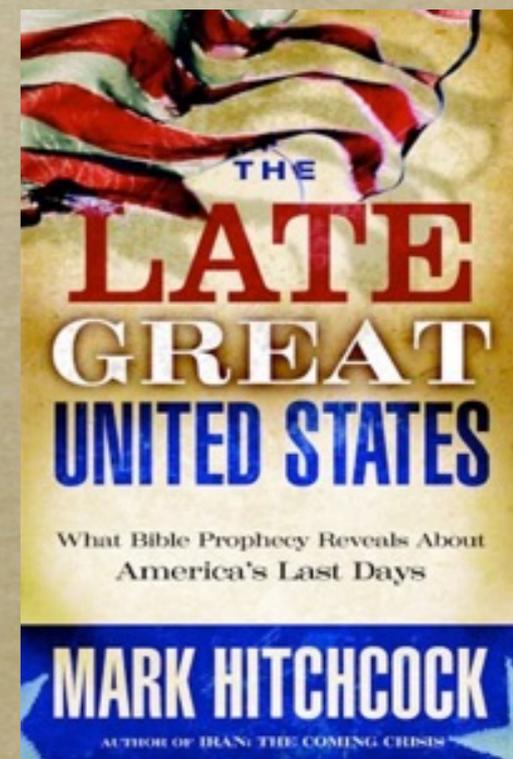
## 2. Unnamed Nation

- *The prophecy relates to the ancient nations of Cush (Sudan, Ethiopia) and Egypt.*
- *The river that divides the nation is the Nile River.*
- *The wings are wings of insects found in the Nile valley.*



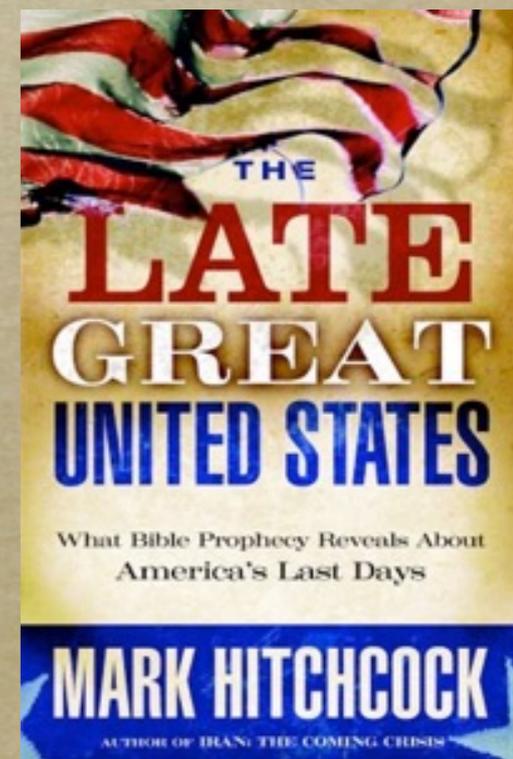
# 3. Ten Lost Tribes

- *British Israelism is the belief that many inhabitants of Britain are direct descendants of the ten lost tribes of Israel.*
- *Some argue that some of the tribe of Dan sailed west through Mediterranean and landed in Ireland.*
- *America is tribe of Manasseh (13).*



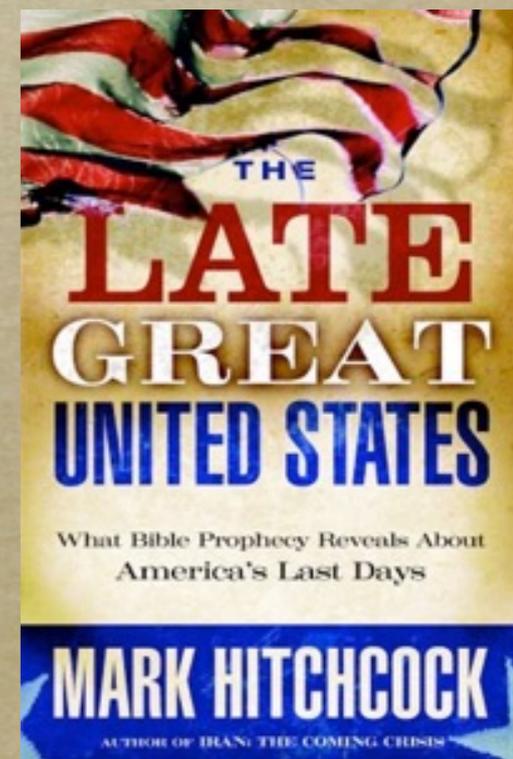
# 3. Ten Lost Tribes

- *The Jews returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity, the tribes were not lost.*
- *Even in New Testament times, the ten tribes are not lost (Luke, James).*
- *Jews will be regathered in their ancient homeland in the end times.*



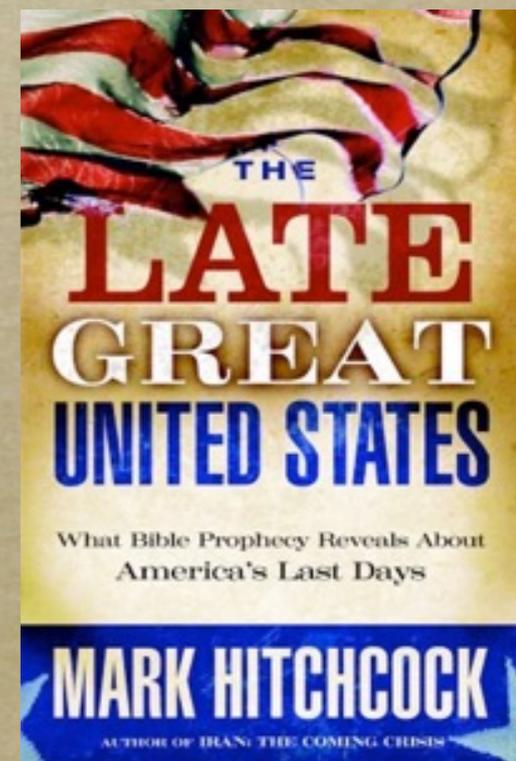
# 4. Young Lions

- *Is America “the Young Lions of Tarshish” in Ezekiel 38?*
- *This nation challenges Russia and its coalition’s attempt to attack Israel.*
- *Young lions = young rulers, that are past Tarshish (Spain).*



# 4. Young Lions

- *In Ezekiel's day Tarshish was the farthest west region of the known world.*
- *Tarshish could have been used by Ezekiel to represent the nations of Western Europe.*
- *Young lions could be a reference to colonies of Europe.*

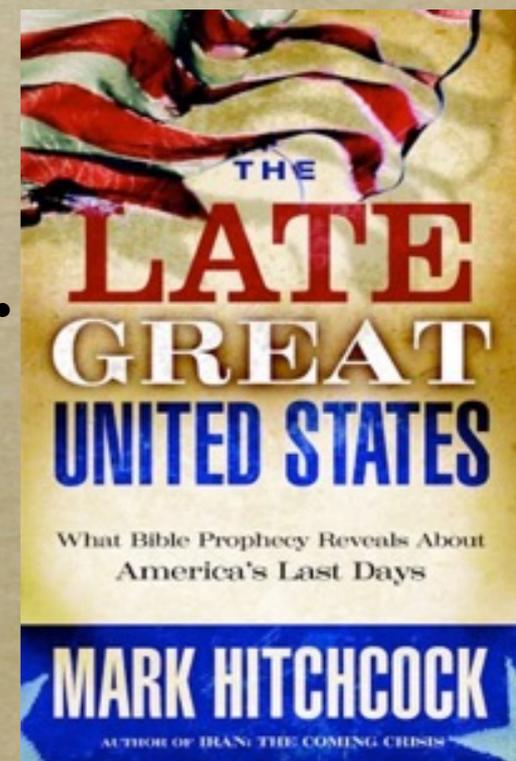


# 4. Young Lions

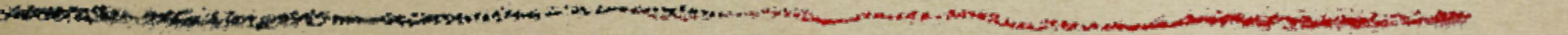
<b>Ancient Nation</b>	<b>Modern Nation</b>
<i>Magog</i>	<i>Central Asia</i>
<i>Meschech</i>	<i>Turkey</i>
<i>Sheba and Dedan</i>	<i>Saudi Arabia</i>
<i>Persia</i>	<i>Iran</i>
<i>Cush</i>	<i>Sudan</i>
<i>Put</i>	<i>Libya</i>
<i>Gomer</i>	<i>Turkey</i>

# 4. Young Lions

- *The young lions could be the United States or could be coalition of Western powers.*
- *Either way, they appear to be the only ones challenging Russia and the Middle East countries that descend on Israel.*
- *The young lions don't seem powerful.*

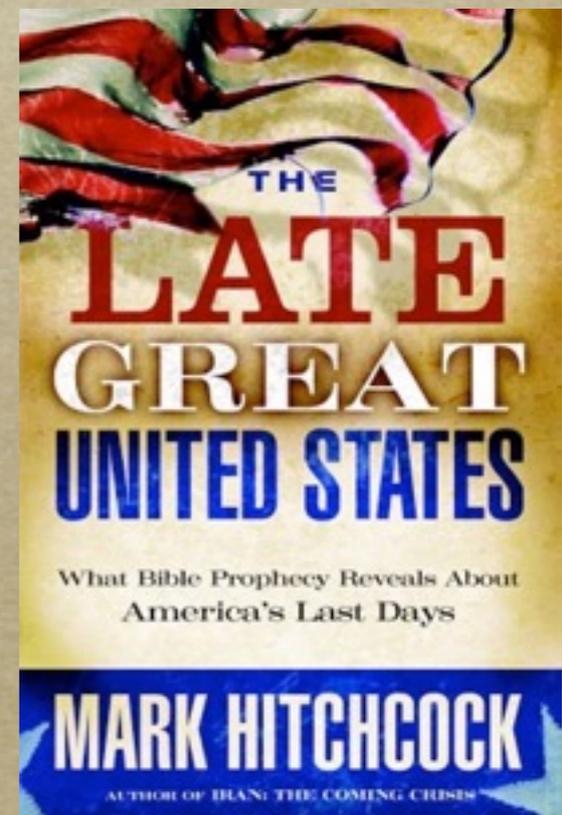


*America At Tipping Point?*



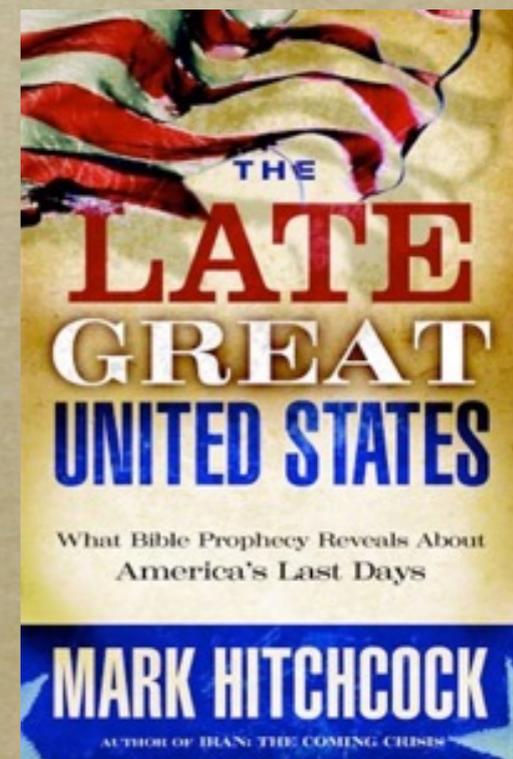
# Impact of Rapture

- *About 42 percent of Americans claim to be “born-again Christians.”*
- *Barna puts the percentage of evangelicals around 8-10 percent.*
- *Using that figure, we are talking about the sudden disappearance of 25 million Americans.*



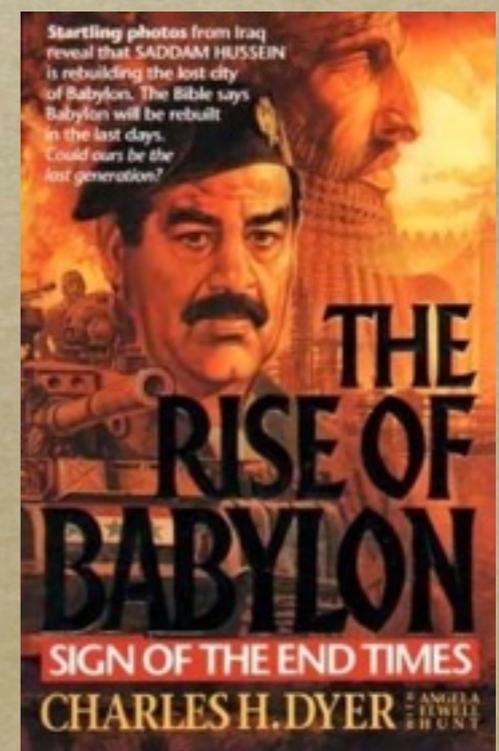
# Impact of Rapture

- *“The stock market will free fall. The NASDAQ will plummet. And talk about a mortgage meltdown. Millions of mortgages will plunge into irrecoverable default. America will be left reeling.”*
- *“Military personnel by the thousands permanently AWOL. Factory workers never show up for work again.”*



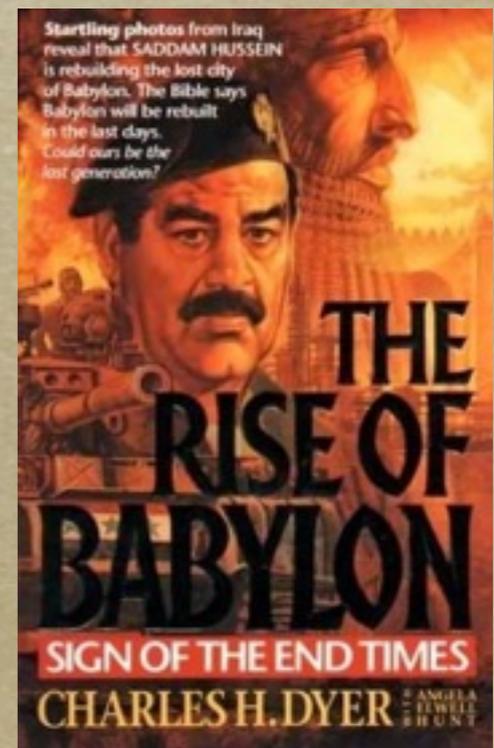
# Charles Dyer

- *“Over 28 million Americans will suddenly disappear when God removes his church from the earth.”*
- *“Can you imagine the effects on our country if over 28 million people - people in industry, government, the military, business, education, medicine and communications - disappear?”*



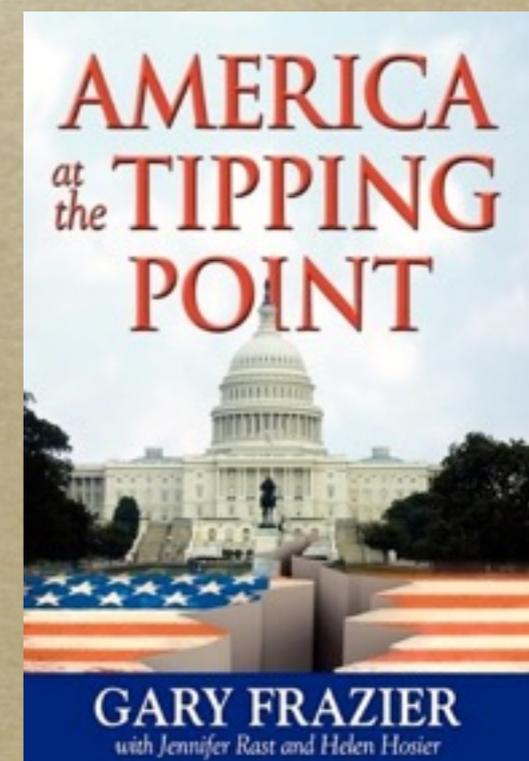
# Charles Dyer

- *How much are 28 million people?*
- *“That is approximately double the population of New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Houston all rolled together!”*
- *Society will also lose all the people who have been “salt and light.”*



# At a Tipping Point?

- *This is a country meant for greatness, but over the last few decades we have made the wrong choice in moral areas.*
- *Education, moral relativism, greed, a culture of death, and a war on Christianity.*
- *Can we reverse the moral decline?*



# At a Tipping Point?

*“Our institutions graduate technocrats with empty hearts, MBAs who can run companies, but not their own lives, and lawyers who can argue before judges, yet they have no fear of the Judge who one day will decide their eternal fate.”*

