Christ in Prophecy New Year 4: "Yearning for Jesus"

© 2009 Lamb & Lion Ministries. All Rights Reserved. For a video of this show, please visit http://www.lamblion.com.

Opening

Dr. Reagan: Are you earnestly looking for the return of Jesus this year, or could you care less? Do you believe Jesus could really return this year, or is that an event you have consigned to the indefinite future? What is your attitude about the return of Jesus? Are you yawning or yearning? Stay tuned.

Program

Dr. Reagan: Greetings in the name of Jesus our blessed hope. I'm Dave Reagan, senior evangelist for Lamb & Lion Ministries. And I am delighted to have with me two experts on Bible prophecy. The first is my associate and co-host, Dennis Pollock. Happy New Year, Dennis!

Dennis Pollock: Well thank you Dave, the same to you. We're a little older and maybe a little bit wiser. If we get much older, I don't know if we can stand it.

Dr. Reagan: Well I don't know that you had to say that! Dennis and I have a very special guest with us for this program, one of our favorite colleagues in the field of Bible prophecy. He is Don Perkins, founder and director of According to Prophecy Ministries in San Diego, California. Don thanks for coming all the way from California to be with us.

Don Perkins: It's a joy to be with you Dave, and to discuss Bible prophecy.

Dr. Reagan: Ok brother. You know folks, every time a new year begins my heart fills with hope that it will be the year of Jesus' return. So, what about this year? Could Jesus really return this year? Or, are there prophecies that must be fulfilled first? And, if Jesus were to return, what would happen? Would time come to an end? Would the Earth

cease to exist? Would you be struck dead or given a new form of life? For the answers to these and other questions related to the Lord's return, stay tuned.

Ok fellows, let's get into our discussion of the return of the Lord in this New Year, and I'd like to begin with a question. And that question is that when we talk about the Lord coming back this year, are we talking about what most people call the Second Coming?

Don Perkins: No. We're talking about the Rapture of the Church. The reason being both events are two different events. The Rapture, there are no prophecies that need to take place for that event. If the Second Coming was to take place, there must be a seven-year Tribulation in front of it.

Dr. Reagan: So you're saying that there is no possibility of the Lord returning to this earth this year.

Don Perkins: For the Second Coming, no way.

Dr. Reagan: Because there are prophecies that have to be fulfilled before that occurs.

Don Perkins: Yes, for the Second Coming.

Dr. Reagan: But nothing that has to be fulfilled for the Rapture to occur.

Don Perkins: Nothing.

Dr. Reagan: So if we're talking about the Lord coming back this year, we're really talking about the Rapture of the Church.

Don Perkins: The Rapture of the Church.

Dennis Pollock: You know, a lot of people don't understand the difference between those two and they use the terms for the same thing.

Dr. Reagan: Yes.

Dennis Pollock: They say, "The Lord's return" they don't really think about the idea of him "snatching the church" as opposed to Him coming back to reign over the earth. So they say, "The Lord's coming back." But if you study prophecy you see two different events going on. You see the Lord coming for the Church and it's a great act of mercy. It's where He snatches us away. Jesus said, "Pray that you may be able to escape all these things that will come to pass and stand before the Son of Man." So it's a tremendous act of the mercy and grace of God taking His people out before judgment falls. But when you see Him coming back, as it's revealed in Revelation 19, it's a tremendous act of judgment and wrath, and Jesus coming to take final control over the earth. So they are two very separate events.

Dr. Reagan: Ok. So that the return of Jesus, you're saying, is going to be in two stages. First would be the Rapture of the Church, where He takes the Church out of the world.

Dennis Pollock: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: The second would be what we call the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. So His return is in two stages.

Dennis Pollock: Two stages.

Dr. Reagan: And, there's going to be a seven-year period of Tribulation before the Second Coming of Jesus.

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: But there's not anything that has to be fulfilled before the Rapture occurs.

Don Perkins: That's right the Rapture is an imminent event.

Dr. Reagan: What do you mean by "imminent?"

Don Perkins: I mean it's an event that could take place at any moment. It's an event

that we must be ready for. We must be living a life walking in holiness, born again.

Dr. Reagan: And that's one of the fundamental teachings of the New Testament, is that

the return of Jesus is imminent.

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: Could occur any moment.

Don Perkins: Any moment.

Dr. Reagan: So therefore, if you only believe in one future coming of the Lord, what we

call the Second Coming it's not imminent is it?

Don Perkins: It's not, that's right.

Dennis Pollock: It couldn't possibly be, because if Jesus were to come at the Second

Coming, right now, it would mean we've been in the Tribulation for the last seven years.

It would mean the Antichrist would have been around for seven years, and all kinds of

misery and death and all the rest, that just hasn't happened.

Dr. Reagan: Well, there may be some who feel like they've been in the Tribulation the

last...

Dennis Pollock: The world has been in some severe tribulation, but not the

Tribulation.

Dr. Reagan: Not the tribulation.

Dennis Pollock: A whole different story.

4

Don Perkins: And Dave not only that, based on the Second Coming passages, the Bible tells me that I'm going to come back with Christ. I want to ride my horse; I want to come back with Jesus, riding one of those horses.

Dr. Reagan: You got a horse?

Don Perkins: I got a horse.

Dr. Reagan: Yeah, that's right it does portray that, that the glorified saints will return on horses with Jesus Christ, following Him on His great white horse.

Dennis Pollock: You like horses?

Don Perkins: I love horses!

Dennis Pollock: Ok. Now what about people who don't like horses? What are they going to do? Maybe they're allergic?

Don Perkins: They will learn, they will learn.

Dr. Reagan: Well fellows, let me ask you this, one of the most common questions I get from people in open forums is they quote Matthew 24 where Jesus says the Gospel will be preached to the whole world, and then the end will come. And they say, "Jesus can not return until the Gospel is preached to the entire world. So therefore He could not come this year."

Don Perkins: Well, that's correct in one sense in regards to the Second Coming, but not the Rapture. Matthew 24, those are signs that point to the Second Coming, the literal return of Christ. The Rapture, there are no events, no signs; no indicators that need to take place prior to that.

Dr. Reagan: Ok, and furthermore we're told in Scripture that the preaching of the Gospel to every person on planet earth is really going to be accomplished during the Tribulation. Right? Not before the Tribulation.

Don Perkins: Right.

Dr. Reagan: Because it says there's going to be the preaching of two witnesses of

God.

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: 144,000 Jews. It talks about a gospel angel who is going to circumnavigate the globe right at the end of the Tribulation and really proclaim the Gospel to every person on planet Earth. God's going to let every person hear the Gospel before the final pouring out of His wrath, right?

Don Perkins: Yes, I believe that.

Dennis Pollock: And you know one thing a lot of people don't take into account it's always, the Rapture has always been imminent, and it's not just that it's imminent now.

Don Perkins: Yes, yes.

Dennis Pollock: Having seen all kinds of signs, and there's all kinds of evidence that Jesus is coming soon. It was imminent 500 years ago.

Don Perkins: Right. Yes.

Dennis Pollock: And so it was just as healthy and right for Christians that lived 500 years ago to look for His return, than it is today. I mean it's always been right. The neat thing is we see so many signs of the Tribulation, so many signs of the Second Coming that it makes it all the more clear the Rapture really is very, very close.

Dr. Reagan: Yes, and I think a point we need to make there is that many people believe that the Rapture is the beginning of the Tribulation and therefore they say, "The Rapture could not have occurred 500 years ago because the Bible says that the Jews have got to be back in the land and back in their city" and so forth. But what they do not

understand is the Rapture is not the beginning of the Tribulation. The Rapture may occur several years before the Tribulation begins.

Don Perkins: That's true, yes.

Dr. Reagan: Because the Tribulation begins when a peace treaty is signed that guarantees the peace of Israel, that the Antichrist negotiates. It is not necessarily the beginning, when the Rapture occurs. So the Rapture, even 500 years ago, the Rapture could have occurred, there could have been a ten-year period where God re-gathered the Jews, and all that, and then the Tribulation would have begun. But your point is very good, and that is that now we're seeing signs that show us that we're right on the threshold of the Tribulation. And brother, when we know that, we know the Rapture's got to be right around the corner. I mean it's like when you see those signs in the mall that they're putting up for Christmas, you know Thanksgiving's right around the corner. They're not pointing to Thanksgiving, but you know Thanksgiving's right around the corner.

Don Perkins: That's right.

Dennis Pollock: It has to be.

Don Perkins: That's right.

Dr. Reagan: Ok, well, do you believe with all your heart that the Rapture could really occur this year?

Don Perkins: I believe with all of my heart Dave. Again, touching on what...

Dennis Pollock: Dennis.

Don Perkins: Dennis said, thank you. Touching on what Dennis said, in regards to the indicators that we are seeing that are pointing to the Second Coming, as we see these signs, Jesus said, "Look up, your redemption is drawing nigh." We are seeing indicators that are pointing to the Second Coming.

Dr. Reagan: Give me an example.

Don Perkins: Wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, pestilence...

Dr. Reagan: But we've always had those.

Don Perkins: The nation of Israel.

Dr. Reagan: Ok, something new.

Don Perkins: The nation of Israel. I mean that's a good one.

Dr. Reagan: Not only the nation of Israel, but the reoccupation of the city of Jerusalem.

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: And the whole world coming together against Israel over one issue the land, Jerusalem.

Don Perkins: Europe.

Dr. Reagan: Yes.

Don Perkins: The one world system coming together before our very eyes. As we are seeing these indicators that point to that Second Coming, it lets us know that the Rapture could take place at any moment.

Dr. Reagan: So you're saying that we're seeing signs today that have never existed before in the history of mankind?

Don Perkins: That is correct. I believe that with all of my heart.

Dr. Reagan: Which indicates that we're living right on the threshold of the Tribulation.

Don Perkins: I believe it.

Dr. Reagan: Which indicates that the Rapture is more imminent than ever before!

Don Perkins: Yes sir and I'm excited about it.

Dr. Reagan: And I begin this year by crying out, "Maranatha, come quickly Lord

Jesus."

Don Perkins: Amen, amen.

Dr. Reagan: Ok, thank you fellows.

Part 2

Dr. Reagan: Before we continue with our discussion of the Lord's return, let's pause for a great song about the Rapture.

Wow! What a great song about the Lord's return. And what a delivery by Jack Hollingsworth! There's nothing quite like an anointed singer who sings about something he believes in with all his heart. Now, before we return to our discussion of the Lord's return, I'd like to give our guest, Don Perkins, an opportunity to tell you how you can get in touch with him and his ministry. Don, tell us.

Don Perkins: You can reach our ministry by our web address www.according2prophecy.org. And if that's too complicated just go to your favorite search engine, type in "evangelist Donald Perkins" and you'll find one of our pages.

Dr. Reagan: Folks, I just want to urge you to contact Don. He has a great ministry and I urge you to get on his mailing list, and invite him to come to your church and conduct a meeting or conference. Your folks will get their socks blessed off. Okay, gentlemen, let's return to our discussion of the Lord's soon return. I'd like to take a look at some of the most frequently asked questions that people have about the Lord coming back

9

particularly about the rapture of the Church that we talked about a few moments ago. And the first one I want to ask is this: there are some people who teach that the Rapture is going to be partial in nature, that only the quote, "super saints" are going to be taken out, those who are holier than others, and all the rest are going to be left here to be purified by the tribulation. What about it? Is it going to be all the saints or just the super saints?

Don Perkins: Dave, I believe it will be all the saints. The blood of Christ takes care of all of that. You know, "super Christians" is not a qualification.

Dr. Reagan: What about it Dennis? Is it going to be the super saints, and if so, are you one of them?

Dennis Pollock: Those that dress like I do and have these particular type of glasses... You know, it's a funny thing because folks have always...there's always been a small group that have suggested that it is a partial Rapture, the real spiritual ones go, and everybody else gets left behind to get purified. The problem with that there's not one iota of evidence of that in the Scripture. I mean the simplest description of who goes is where Paul says, "We who are alive and remain are going to be caught up to be with the Lord." Well, who's the "We who are alive and remain?" Well, it's obviously believers. It's not talking about "we spiritual apostles" or whatever, so you know, if you are a believer, it's real simple. The Holy Spirit is in you, and when the Holy Spirit grabs those who He possesses, and whom He inhabits, to take them up, He gets every last one of them.

Dr. Reagan: I heard a person ask this question one time to John Walvoord, the late great President of Dallas Theological Seminary, and he looked them right in the eye and he said, "Sir, God does not create the Church on the basis of grace and divide it on the basis of works." He said, "By the grace of God everybody's going out." But I'll tell you a Scripture that people use for a Mid-tribulation, I mean for a Partial Rapture, and that is over in Matthew, the story about the ten virgins there with the lamps, and only five are taken. It seems, and five are left behind because they were sleepy and didn't prepare and so forth, so how would you respond to that particular illustration?

Don Perkins: Again, I would say, incorrect. I mean I think it's a wrong interpretation there.

Dr. Reagan: Yes.

Don Perkins: Again, getting back to the point that once you receive Christ that qualifies you. I mean it's the work of Christ, and not something that we have done.

Dr. Reagan: What do you say to those that argue that the Rapture is going to occur in the middle of the Tribulation, and they base that upon the fact that there is a reference over in, I think it's Revelation 11, to the blowing of a trumpet. And they say, "Well that trumpet is the last of the seven trumpets and therefore that's the last trumpet and therefore that's the trumpet of 1 Corinthians 15 where it says we're going to be taken out with the blowing of the last trumpet. Therefore it occurs in the middle of the tribulation."

Don Perkins: It's a different trumpet. I normally tell them, in the Tribulation time, that's a trump of judgment.

Dr. Reagan: It certainly is.

Don Perkins: I mean it's a different trumpet altogether.

Dr. Reagan: It's not aimed at believers.

Don Perkins: It's not aimed at believers.

Dr. Reagan: And furthermore, you know something, that's not the last trumpet, because Matthew 24 mentions there's going to be a trumpet blown at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

Don Perkins: When He comes back, that's right.

Dr. Reagan: Yeah, so it's just not a trumpet that has anything to do with the Church.

Don Perkins: That's right, that's right.

Dr. Reagan: Ok.

Dennis Pollock: And the problem with that, along with the idea of Jesus coming for the Rapture at the end of the Tribulation is simply that if either one of those events were to occur that way, you couldn't look for Jesus today. This whole idea of imminence would be thrown out the window.

Dr. Reagan: Yes, that's right.

Dennis Pollock: It would mean you would wake up in the morning saying, "There is no way Jesus can come today." And that is the most unbiblical stance a person could take.

Dr. Reagan: Well what do you say to people, even pastors, who often will point their finger at you and say, "Let me tell you something, the word Rapture is totally unbiblical, it's not even in the Bible, the concept is out the window. Show me the Rapture in the Bible."

Don Perkins: Well, I tell them "the term Bible is not in the Bible, are you going to throw your Bible away?" But it is there. The Rapture is there.

Dr. Reagan: The trinity is not in the Bible is it?

Don Perkins: That's true, that's true.

Dr. Reagan: Shekinah is not in the Bible is it?

Don Perkins: That's right.

Dr. Reagan: But they express truths.

Don Perkins: Exactly. The term Rapture is there though. I mean the word "caught up," it means rapture; it means to be taken up.

Dennis Pollock: Yeah, and the concept is found very clearly in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 17, so I tell folks, "Hey, if you don't want to use the word rapture, that won't bother me or God, you can just say, 'I'm so excited about the 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 17, I can just hardly wait for the 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 17 to happen.'"

Dr. Reagan: It's a little long winded.

Dennis Pollock: On the other hand you could just say rapture.

Dr. Reagan: Well, and I often point out to them that the word rapture really is there because it's in 1 Corinthians 4 verse 17 where it says that "We will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air." And in the only Bible that the church had for fifteen hundred years was the Latin Bible, it says "Rapture."

Don Perkins: Right.

Dr. Reagan: I mean, it's a biblical word, it's just a word that was in Latin and we use it because it's so much easier than saying, "caught up, snatched out, taken away." because we have to use two words in English to express a concept that you express in Latin with one word, "rapture." So it's a biblical concept, it is a biblical word.

Dennis Pollock: You know, what bothers me, and I find very strange is that anyone would take a stance where they don't want the Rapture, or they don't seem to even appreciate it, don't want you to talk about it. Why would you even make such an argument? I mean, the obvious answer is, "Alright, fine, look at 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 17."

Dr. Reagan: Let's suppose for a moment that somebody's viewing who doesn't even know what the Rapture is. In the simplest possible terms, just one, two, three, four, how would you define the Rapture? What's going to happen when the Rapture occurs?

Don Perkins: I'd say the Rapture is an event where Christ is coming to take up the Church, meaning that He will come to "catch up" the Church from the Earth.

Dr. Reagan: He appears in the Heavens.

Don Perkins: He appears in the Heavens.

Dr. Reagan: He does not come to Earth.

Don Perkins: He does not come to Earth...we will meet Him in the clouds the Bible

says.

Dr. Reagan: The dead in Christ are resurrected.

Don Perkins: We'll be raised from the dead. Christians will actually be glorified at that moment; we'll be caught up to meet Christ. The Scripture says we will forever be with the Lord at that time also.

Dr. Reagan: What about the living?

Don Perkins: The living, those who are alive at that time that are born again, will also be caught up to be with Christ at that time.

Dr. Reagan: And not even experience death.

Don Perkins: Never ever to die.

Dr. Reagan: Be changed on the way up.

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: So there's a whole generation that will not die.

Don Perkins: That's right.

Dr. Reagan: Ok. So Jesus appears there's the blowing of the trumpet, the shout of an archangel. The dead in Christ are resurrected; He brings the spirits of the dead with Him, who have died with Him, puts their spirits back together with their glorified bodies, glorifies them, and makes them immortal. The living in Christ go up to meet Him in the sky and we go back to be with Him and the great Tribulation begins.

Don Perkins: Begins.

Dr. Reagan: Some time after that.

Don Perkins: That's right, the Bible says at the time of the Rapture, those that are raptured, it says, "So shall you ever be with the Lord." And I really love that because the message of the Rapture is a message of hope. And again, it gives us that time where we can breathe that sigh of relief.

Dr. Reagan: And folks, you'll find all that in 1 Thessalonians 4, beginning with verse 13 and going through verse 18, which says, "Therefore comfort one another with these words."

Part 3

Dr. Reagan: Ok, fellows, let's talk for just a few moments about the attitude that seems to be dominating the Church today concerning the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. And I'm sorry to say that the only way I could characterize that attitude is to say - apathy, apathy, apathy, apathy, would you agree, and if so, what do you think is the cause of it?

Don Perkins: I agree Dave. One reason I believe is because of a lack of Bible prophecy being taught, of a lack of this message of the Rapture being taught. You know, the Bible calls the Rapture "The blessed hope." The Scripture says, "Those that have this hope in them purify themselves." I mean, this teaching excites you; this teaching of the Rapture gives you an urgency in your heart to evangelize. I believe because the message is not being properly taught in the churches, people don't have a hope. It doesn't give them any excitement about the Lord's return.

Dr. Reagan: I've often said, "How can you get excited about an event that you know nothing about?"

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dr. Reagan: I mean if you don't know what's going to happen when the Lord comes back, you can't get excited about it. All you can think about is, "Well, it's kind of going to mess up my life you know. I'm trying to write this great novel, or trying to build this business, or whatever, and it's just going to kind of mess it all up."

Don Perkins: Yeah.

Dr. Reagan: Dennis?

Dennis Pollock: Yeah, you know, God has created us that we typically are attracted to that which we have some exposure to.

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dennis Pollock: It's hard to be attracted to something that you've rarely tasted. It's like the first time you ever had your cup of coffee. The first time I did, it was terrible! I thought, "How do these people drink it?" But I was trying to be cool and sophisticated, so you know, I'm trying to get it down and not make too much of a grimace, but you know, you take it a while, and after a while you start liking it. And songs that you hear, the first time that you hear a song, you typically are not that crazy about it - you hear it enough it starts sounding good to you. And there is something about hearing the message of anything, really, that will draw you into it if you give yourself enough exposure. It's true with falsehood; it's also true with truth. And if it's never preached, if it's never taught, if people never hear about it, or just rarely hear about it, they're not going to be very excited. So that's why ministries like ours have been called by God to point out that Jesus really is coming, the Rapture is a reality. And the more we talk about it, the more people hear about it, the more exciting it becomes to them.

Don Perkins: You know, Dave, I want to add, as I travel around the country teaching, I just had an incident a few weeks ago where a lady, I was teaching on the Rapture, and a lady came to me at the close of the service and said, "Why aren't preachers around the country teaching this?" She said, "I've never heard this teaching before." And I was so amazed and I saw this lady's heart, you know, she was so excited about the message, you know, she said, "Why aren't other pastors telling us about this?" and I said, "Well, God is raising up men of God who are going to tell you."

Dr. Reagan: Yes. Well, you know, it reminds me of a statement that Paul makes over in Romans chapter 8 and verse 18. It's a very, very profound statement that I think the average Christian has no concept of what it means. It says, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that is yet to be revealed to us." Now listen folks, you know, there are some people really suffering, suffering terribly, emotionally, suffering from physical diseases, suffering from the grief over the loss of loved ones, the break up of relationships, divorces, and so forth. And this says no matter what you suffer, it is nothing compared to the glory that is yet to be revealed to us. How can a person know that, or even have any sense of it if they don't know the promises of God in the future?

Don Perkins: Right.

Dr. Reagan: Or Paul, over in 1 Corinthians chapter 2 where he says, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has the mind of man even conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." And the next verse says these things have been revealed by His Holy Spirit, but the average Christian does not know what they are. What are the promises of the future? You see?

Don Perkins: Yeah, I mean, if pastors are not teaching it, the people have no hope, they have nothing that they can grasp on in the time of struggle.

Dr. Reagan: You know, I think the two most ignored portions of Scripture in the Church today are the beginning of the Bible and the end of the Bible, the teaching about creation and the teaching about the end times. And those are the two areas that are most

abused. Many have spiritualized the creation story into nothingness. And when you start

spiritualizing that, where do you stop spiritualizing?

Don Perkins: Right.

Dr. Reagan: If it doesn't mean what it says, how do you know what anything in the

Bible means? And so they spiritualize that, then they come over to the end of the Bible

and spiritualize all that and say, "Well, you know, we can't really know for sure what it

really means."

Don Perkins: Yes.

Dennis Pollock: You know Dave, another reason, I believe, that pastors ignore it, I

hate to say this, because I love pastors, and I've been a pastor. I think in some cases it's

actually laziness, because in order to really understand prophecy, it's not going to just

jump into your lap. You're going to have to think a little bit. I know that's a dirty word, but

you're going to have to think...

Dr. Reagan: Even a dirtier word, you may have to study.

Dennis Pollock: Study.

Don Perkins: I believe that.

Dennis Pollock: And there's just no way you're going to get a handle on it with just a

casual approach, so you've got to read, you've got to think, you've got to study, you've

got to pray. But if you do, it pays rich rewards.

Dr. Reagan: Well, in about 30 seconds here, what can people do, Dennis, to prepare

for the Rapture?

Dennis Pollock: Well, I just want to say this. The greatest thing you can do is give your

life to Christ, because He's coming for those that belong to Him. And there are only two

kinds of people in this world, those who belong to Him, those that don't. So ask Jesus to

18

come into your life. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as the Scripture has said. Believe He's the Son of God. Believe He died on the cross for your sins. Believe He rose again, repent of your sins, ask Him into your life, and you'll be born again, you'll be ready when He comes.

Dr. Reagan: Well folks, that's our program for this week. I hope it has been a blessing to you. And I want to thank both Dennis and Don for all the insights they have shared with us. You know folks, if you have any questions about Bible prophecy, please email them to us at the address you see on the screen. And you know what, if we use one of your questions in a future program, we will send you one of our video programs about Bible prophecy. I hope you will be back with us again next week. Until then, this is Dave Reagan speaking for Lamb & Lion Ministries saying, "Look up, be watchful, for our redemption is drawing near!"