

## Pre-Trib Conference 2025 Summary

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Pre-Trib Conference was again held at the Sheraton Hotel at DFW airport. Below are summaries of the presentations. The presentations are available at

<https://www.pre-trib.org/2025-conference-papers>

Quotes in this summary are from papers found at that website. Rather than put in numerous footnotes to the same location, I give it once here.

Extended bios are available at

[https://www.pre-trib.org/images/2025\\_Conference/2025-Pre-Trib-Speakers\\_Bios.pdf](https://www.pre-trib.org/images/2025_Conference/2025-Pre-Trib-Speakers_Bios.pdf)

Summaries of the speaker presentations are in chronological order by day

You can look at the videos and audios of previous conferences going back to 2006. I especially like Dr. David Regan's presentation in 2023.

Something that has become clearer to me is that there are issues that divide Christians because of an interpretation of Scripture. Often these divisions are driven by a misunderstanding of what the text of the original languages says. Two of those issues were presented at the conference.

One dealt with the Greek word *apostasia*. It is the source of the English word "apostasy."<sup>1</sup> It can mean apostasy. Just about any word in Hebrew or Greek can have a variety of meanings. Therein lies the problem. If a teacher focuses only on one meaning of a word and ignores a context he will end up with nonsense. The presentation that included the Greek

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/apostasy>

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word *apostasia* shows that it can also mean “removal.” As in the Rapture.

Another tricky word is the preposition “ek.” It means “from” as in “out from.” We often see it used for something that is in something else which is then removed. But as a presenter showed, it can simply mean out from in the sense that it was never in but that it was kept out of. As in the Rapture. The Rapture keeps us out of the Tribulation.

Both of those plus other illustrations of the variety of meanings had the effect of emphasizing the need to understand the meaning of Greek words in their respective contexts. That is part of the job of the pastor-teacher. The pastor-teacher is to study and teach. The study part requires the pastor to investigate to the best of his abilities the meanings of individual words in specific contexts.

Below is presented some summaries and / or excerpts from the presentations in chronological order. They are not given equal weight. “Pastor’s choice.”

### **Monday (Day 1)**

**Author: Dr. J. B. Hixson**

**Title: The Great Last Days Apostasy: How the American Church Has Gone Astray**

<http://www.notbyworks.org>

Slides for the presentation, some of which are copied below are available at <https://www.pre-trib.org/2025-conference-papers>.

**Bio:** “J. B. Hixson serves as the President of Not By Works Ministries. He is the author of the books *Getting the Gospel Wrong*, *The Gospel Unplugged*, *The Great Last Days Deception*, *Freely By His Grace*, and

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What Lies Ahead, as well as numerous theological journal articles. Dr. Hixson earned his B.A. from Houston Baptist University, Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary, and Ph.D. from Baptist Bible Seminary. J. B. and his wife Wendy have been married for 27 years and have six children.”

First question you may ask is what does “J. B.” stand for? I don’t know. Everywhere I search, he is just listed as “J. B.”

“J. B.” presented the case against the church today as being in apostasy. The Greek noun *apostasia* is used in Acts 21:21 to describe the false accusation against Paul that he taught the Jews to forsake the law of Moses. It is used in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 for the departure of Christians in the Rapture. The basic meaning is “to depart” or “remove.” It can be spiritual as in departing from the Law of Moses or sound doctrine or it can mean a physical departure from the earth.

The Greek verb from this root is used 15 times in the New Testament.

Detour:

The Pre-Trib Research Center studies Pre-tribulationism. Inevitably, this leads to various studies on the Tribulation and the Millennium. One topic that frequently appears is a list of the Signs of the Times. We know from various passages in both the Old Testament and the New Testament that there will be signs of prophecy. In our case, we see signs that could indicate the Tribulation is getting near. Since we believe that the Rapture happens prior to the Tribulation, then the Rapture is even nearer. But as is often emphasized, there is no required prophetic fulfillment prior to the Rapture. It could happen at any second.

This was mentioned at the beginning of the Monday night dinner at the conference. Dr. Tommy Ice got up to the microphone and said something like, “You know that the Rapture could happen at any time. It could

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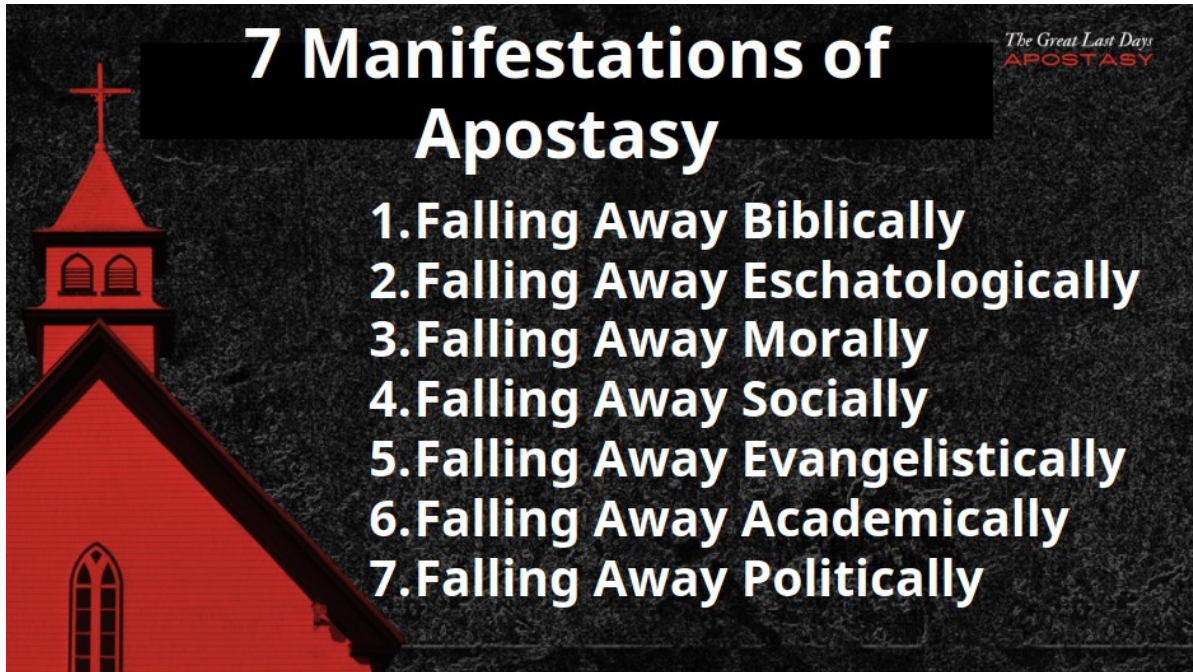
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happen in the next few seconds.” The desert was already on each table even before the main course was served. So Dr. Ice said, “You might want to start by eating the cake.” Of course, the guy sitting next to me immediately started eating his cake.

Dr. J. B. Hixson gave the usual kind of slide that highlighted the signs we see around us now that could indicate a nearness to the Rapture.



Later in his presentation, Dr. Hixson presented a list of manifestations of apostasy in the Church today.

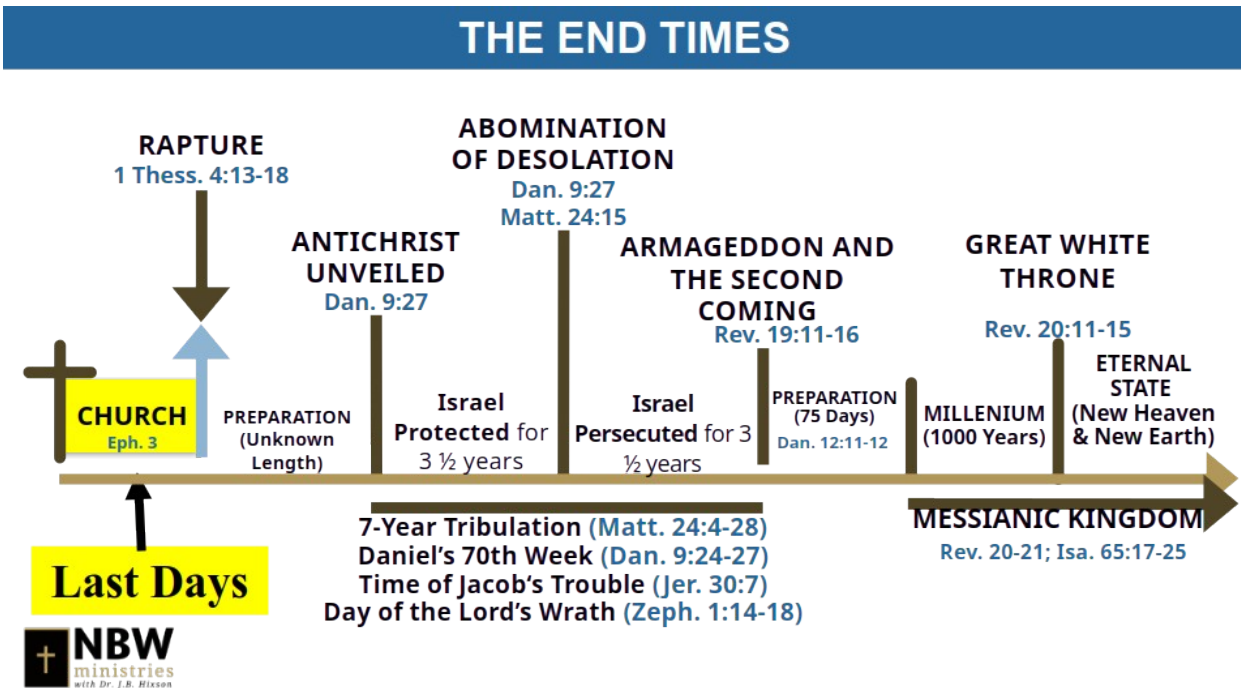


These are included in his book, *The Great Last Days: Apostasy*. He stated that most of his presentation is based upon chapter 9 of that book, “Falling Away Politically.”

One of Dr. Hixson’s slides is one of the End Times which has some info not normally talked about much. That is the period between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation. The official start of the Tribulation occurs when the AntiChrist signs a 7-year peace treaty with the nation Israel. But the Rapture is not tied to that treaty signing. So there is an indeterminate amount of time between the Rapture and the official start of the Tribulation. Again, that is not much talked about. It is not specifically mentioned in the New Testament. Christians will not be in it. The Tribulation starts with the signing of that treaty.



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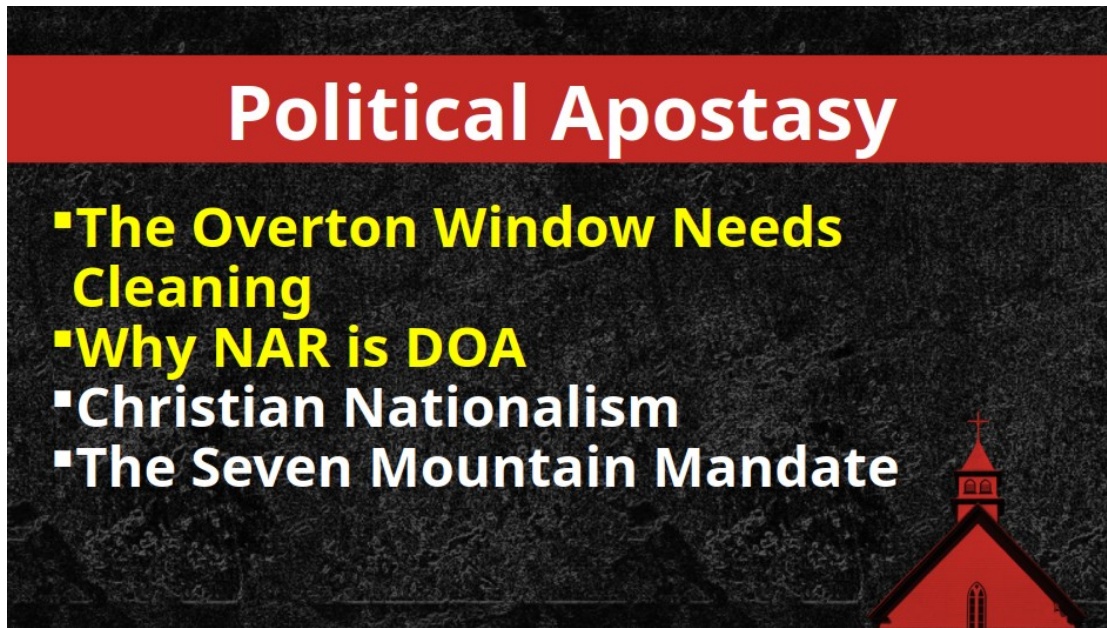
There is a concept included in Dr. Hixson book which he also mentioned in his presentation concerning the “Overton Window.” This has been mentioned from time to time on various news shows. From his book:

“*The Overton window* is named after the American policy analyst Joseph Overton who proposed that an idea’s political viability depends mainly on whether it falls within a range of acceptability by the mainstream public. Legislation has nothing to do with a politician’s principles or moral convictions; it is all about perception. According to Overton, the window delineates the range of policies a politician can recommend or support without appearing too extreme to gain or keep public office given the political climate at the time.”<sup>2</sup>

My comment is that the media would appear to influence people such that the Overton window is changing. There are sins in the Bible that the media today either wink at or enthusiastically endorse and attempt to get you to agree. Just read Romans chapter 1.

As stated, Dr. Hixson’s emphasis was on Political Apostasy.

<sup>2</sup> Hixson, J.B. (2025). *The Great Last Days Apostasy*, page 167



It is my intent to revisit NAR (New Apostolic Reformation), Christian Nationalism and the Seven Mountain Mandate later in 2026. The reason for dealing with these topics is their appearance in today's politics, pushed forward by Christians.

**Author: Dr. Andy Woods**

**Title: A Closer Look at Pretribulationism and Revelation 3:10**

[www.andywoodsministries.org](http://www.andywoodsministries.org)

**Bio:** “Andy Woods became a Christian at the age of 16. He graduated with High Honors earning two Baccalaureate Degrees in Business Administration and Political Science (University of Redlands, CA.), and obtained a Juris Doctorate (Whittier Law School, CA), practiced law, taught Business and Law and related courses (Citrus Community College, CA) and served as Interim Pastor of Rivera First Baptist Church in Pico Rivera, CA (1996–1998). In 1998, he began taking courses at Chafer and Talbot Theological Seminaries. He earned a Master of Theology degree, with High Honors (2002), and a Doctor of Philosophy in Bible Exposition (2009) at Dallas Theological Seminary. In 2005 and

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2009, he received the Donald K. Campbell Award for Excellence in Bible Exposition, at Dallas Theological Seminary. Andy is the senior pastor of Sugar Land Bible Church and is president of Chafer Theological Seminary. In addition, Andy has contributed to many theological journals and written a number of articles.

Dr. Woods deals with Revelation 3:10 and its implication for the time of the Rapture. The issue is the Greek preposition *ek*. Some would say that it always means “out from” indicating that something like Christians are in the Tribulation and then brought out from the Tribulation. That includes the “Mid-Trib” viewpoint. Yet, *ek* can mean to be kept from something. That meaning, if applied to Revelation 3:10 would mean that the Rapture happens prior to the Tribulation. Dr. Woods doesn’t just say what the word *ek* means here. He goes through logically to show that God protects the believer from the suffering in the Tribulation based upon Bible passages. If the Christian were to suffer those terrible times, then what Paul told the Thessalonians wasn’t true. But we know that the Bible is inerrant.

Dr. Woods’ slides are not yet available on-line. Instead, I’ll just give you the conclusion of his presentation which is encapsulated in the conclusion to his accompanying paper.

“The concept of imminency lends further support to the doctrine of the pretribulational Rapture. Not only is the imminent appearing of Christ taught consistently throughout the pages of the New Testament in general, but it also finds specific support in Revelation 2–3, which constitutes Christ's final word to His church. Of these, Revelation 3:10 represents the clearest and most certain promise of Christ's imminent return. While the contribution of other passages to imminency is deserving of careful consideration, they should be touted with more reticence than Revelation 3:10 given the fact that their impact upon



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imminency is based upon certain debatable presuppositions. Given the New Testament pervasiveness of imminency, the church should eagerly await the very next event on the prophetic horizon, which is the Rapture of the church.”

**Author: Robert Dean**

**Title: The Holy Spirit in the Tribulation**

[www.deanbibleministries.org](http://www.deanbibleministries.org)

**Bio:** “Before coming to West Houston Bible Church, Dr. Dean was the Pastor of Preston City Bible Church in Preston, Connecticut. Prior to that he had served churches in both the Dallas and Houston, Texas areas and has over 35 years of pastoral experience. Dr. Dean is a much sought after Bible teacher both in the United States and overseas. He serves on the adjunct faculty of Faith Evangelical Seminary and is the Chairman of the Governing Board and professor for Chafer Theological Seminary. Dr. Dean trained for the ministry at Dallas Theological Seminary where he earned a Th.M. in Hebrew and Old Testament Studies and later returned to pursue a Ph.D. in theological studies with an emphasis in Historical Theology. He also earned an M.A. in Philosophy from the University of St. Thomas (1987) and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Faith Evangelical Seminary (2002). In 1988 he was recognized as an Outstanding Young Man of America, and in 1989 was listed in the Who’s Who in American Christian Leadership. His academic training in Greek, Hebrew, theology, philosophy, and history enables him to study the Bible in the original languages and show how these eternal truths are as vital today as always.

The activity of the Holy Spirit in the Tribulation was something that is not often addressed in Bible teaching. Christians will not be there. But, it is interesting in the study of the Holy Spirit. When Christians with the

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Indwelling Holy Spirit and the Filling of the Holy Spirit are removed, what then?

Dr. Dean started by stating some assumptions that we often take for granted. We believe these but not everyone does. So, it is important to be reminded.

1. “Verbal, plenary inspiration, thus each participle, particle, verb tense, number, person, noun or pronoun case, number, or gender, every synonym change is assumed to be significant until demonstrated to be otherwise.”
2. “The HS is fully God with all of the attributes of God including omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence, love, truth. He is immutable, eternal, righteous, just, and sovereign.”
3. “The HS is a person, with all the attributes of personhood and personality.”

“Six Ministries of the Holy Spirit Will Be Examined

- 1) His role in revelation and inspiration;
- 2) regeneration and salvation;
- 3) Baptizing;
- 4) Indwelling;
- 5) Sealing;
- 6) Filling.”

### **In the Old Testament:**

#### **1. Revelation/Inspiration**

“a. The Holy Spirit was the agent of revelation “in” the prophets and through the process of inspiration breathed out or exhaled the Scripture through them; (2 Sam 23:2; Psalm 110 (stated by Jesus in Matt 22:43-44

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to be “David in the Spirit”) Micah 3:8; Psalm 41 (in Acts 1:16-17), Psa 2 (Acts 4:25); Isa 6:9-10 (Acts 28:25-27) among others.”

b. “Both Nehemiah (Neh 9:20, 30) and Peter made it clear that the Holy Spirit was “in them” (1 Pet 1:11-12) carrying them along the process of speaking, teaching, and writing (2 Pet 1:20-21). Though it well could be that both the Hebrew and Greek prepositions could indicate means: “through the prophets.””

### **2. Indwelling**

“Craftsman, Leaders (Kings, Priests), Prophets, writers of Scripture, all had the Holy Spirit in them. This indwelling was limited and should not be confused with what is described as the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Church age believer. This internal “dwelling presence” was task centered, and in some it was a one time or short-term temporary event, and for David, Saul, and some of the other prophets it was a longer term event, and in some circumstances might be taken away. This indwelling was not in relation to either their spiritual life, or to make them a “temple,” a dwelling place for God bodily.”

### **3. Regeneration**

a. “Definitions of regeneration abound due to differences in theological presuppositions. For the purposes of this paper a combination of Walvoord and Ryrie’s definition fits our purpose: “It is the work of God, ‘ascribed to the Holy Spirit’[1], that gives new life to the one who believes.”[2]”

b. “Theologically, the unbeliever is born spiritually dead, “alienated from the life of God” (Eph 2:1, 4:18), and must be regenerated by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), made spiritually alive (Eph 2:5) even in the time before the Cross, as seen in Jesus’ expectation that Nicodemus should have understood this (John 3:1-5).”

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c. “Regeneration is seen in young Saul when he prophesied among the prophets and become “a new man” [1 Sam 10:6; 28:19]. Samuel said they would be together that day.”

“[1] John F. Walvoord, The Holy Spirit: A Comprehensive Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1991), 130.”

“[2] Charles Caldwell Ryrie, Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1999), 376.”

#### **4. Sealing**

“There does not appear to be any reference to the Spirit being the “seal” of a person’s salvation in the way this is described in the New Testament related to the Church Age believer. What we can say is that their salvation was secure, and thee (sic.their salvation) certain. However, attempts by several writers to argue for a sealing by the Spirit based on the security of the Old Testament saints salvation fall short.”

#### **5. Baptizing ministry of the Holy Spirit.**

There is nothing in the Old Testament about an Israelite or any Gentile being baptized by the Holy Spirit. That is a distinctive of only Church Age believers and is the unique sign of the Church Age.

### **In the Tribulation**

1) “His role in revelation and inspiration: The Holy Spirit will provide direct revelation through the two witnesses during the Trib. The will prophecy for 1,260 days.”

2) “Regeneration and salvation: Innumerable Gentiles and Jews will be regenerated and saved during the Tribulation.”

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- 3) “Baptizing: There is no baptism by means of the HS.”
- 4) “Indwelling: No indwelling to make the believers’ bodies a temple for the dwelling of God.”
- 5) “Sealing: and The sealing will only be for the 144,000 and by God.”
- 6) “Filling: There is no specific emphasis on the role of the Holy Spirit in the spiritual life of the believers, as there is no BHS, or FHS, or WHS type of command.”

The following chart is my summary of the presentation in chart form.

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>Church Age</b>	<b>Tribulation</b>
<b>Revelation and inspiration</b>	Prophets & Writers of Scripture	Apostles & Prophets (until NT canon complete)	Two Witnesses
<b>Regeneration and salvation</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Baptizing</b>	No	Baptism of the Holy Spirit	No
<b>Indwelling</b>	No*	Yes	No
<b>Sealing</b>	No	Yes	Only the 144,000
<b>Filling</b>	No	Yes	No special emphasis

\* There was selective empowerment of individuals for specific tasks.

There was another question that Dr. Dean answered in his presentation. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is the restrainer?

Dr. Dean identifies the Holy Spirit as the “restrainer.” “Whatever else is said, if the Holy Spirit is the restrainer, He is restraining the revealing of



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the antichrist, “the lawless one.” It is only this one ministry of the Holy Spirit which is removed. This does not preclude the Holy Spirit from other roles such as empowerment for specific tasks, or giving special revelation. “

**Author:** Jeff Solwold

**Title:** Saved in Hope Romans 8:18-25

Skipped for now.

Monday Night Speaker Dr. Max Lucado

**Tuesday (Day 2)**

**Author:** Paul Miles

**Title:** The Divine Default: Social Structures in Genesis 1–11 as a Framework for Political Discernment

Skip for now

**Author:** Col. Tim Moore

**Title:** The Battle for Israel—God’s Promised Victory

Skip for now

As a sidenote, Col. Tim Moore replaced Dr. David Regan at the Lion & the Lamb ministries.

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**Author: Dr. Wayne House**

**Title: Answering the Objections to ἀποστασία as a Reference to the Departure of the Church**

The slides/notes for this presentation were not and still are not available. This topic, the use of *apostasia* in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 is often touched on. Here Dr. House went in depth on why this Greek word means departure as in a physical departure rather than a spiritual departure from doctrine.

**Author: Dr. Peter Goeman**

**Title: Implications for the Kingdom from Acts 3:19–21**

Skipped for now.

**Tuesday: night current events**

**Bill Koenig & Tom Hughes: Discussion of current events**

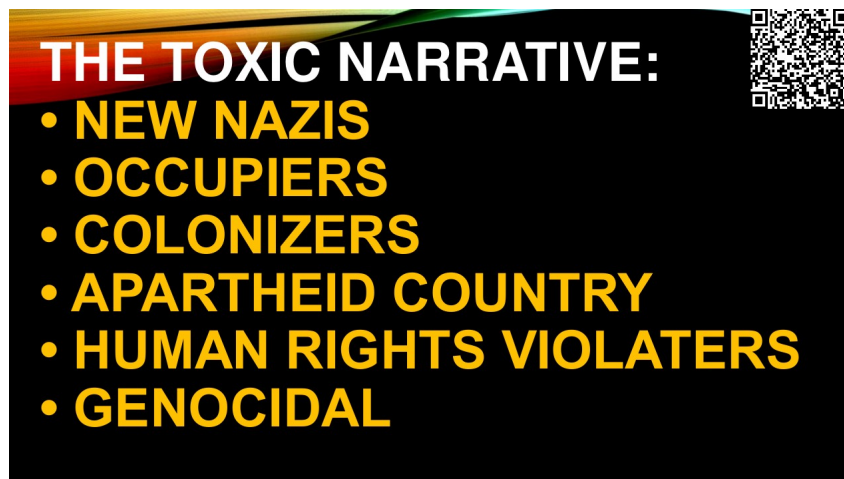
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**(Day 3)**

**Author: Olivier Melnick**

**Title: A Jewish Takeover or a Jewish Makeover?**

The point of Olivier Melnick's presentation is current anti-semitism. The Jews are being characterized as evil people out to take over the world.



He quotes from several leftist politicians who rant against Israel.

**Author: Dr. Jim Sibley**

**Title: The Undercover Messiah and His Coming Kingdom**

The Pre-Trib conference was founded to research the entire Bible to illuminate the truths around the Rapture, Tribulation and Millennium. In their words:

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### Why the Pre-Trib Research Center?

The Pre-Trib Research Center (PTRC) is committed to the study, proclamation, teaching, and defense of the pre-tribulation rapture (pre-70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel) and related end-time prophecy. PTRC desires to impact pastors, leaders, and individual Christians with the central role and importance that Bible prophecy, especially the any-moment possibility of the rapture, should play in the life of the church. The PTRC stresses three practical implications that flow from the rapture teaching:

- Pretribulationism leads to **godly living** in an unholy age.
- This New Testament teaching promotes a **strong emphasis upon evangelism** of the lost.
- When believers come to understand this eternal perspective, it leads to a **zeal for worldwide missions**.

The presentation by James Sibley gave a presentation that challenged the notion that the offer of the kingdom in the New Testament was a real offer. As he says, “...the Messianic Kingdom could neither have been inaugurated in some hidden form, nor could it have been offered to Israel in the first century.”

There was much disagreement over his conclusions. But as stated by organizers of the conference, the Pre-Trib Research Center is not looking to impose a single viewpoint on all details of the Pre-Trib view. It is to explore. In 2023 there was another presentation that ruffled some feathers.