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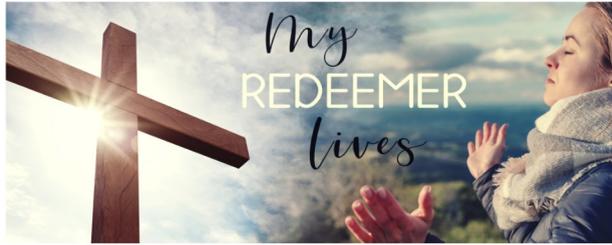
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Spring 2021



Plan of Salvation:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever shall believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

The Significance & Historical Facts of Easter

The biggest celebration within Christianity may be Christmas, but the most important celebration is Easter. The entire basis for the Christian faith is based on the events that occurred on the first Easter weekend. While Christmas is about how Jesus came to earth as a baby, Easter is about the reason he came. Christians believe the whole reason he came was to die and to rise again.

Most historians agree on these facts, which are the foundational events of Christianity:

- Jesus Christ was executed by crucifixion on the Friday during the Jewish Passover.
- He was buried in a tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea.

- Guards were posted to keep watch over the tomb.
- On the third day, the tomb was found to be empty. His body could not be found, nor could the Roman or Jewish authorities explain what had happened to it.

- Over the next forty days, his disciples plus hundreds of other people claimed to have seen Jesus, spoken with him, eaten with him, and listened to his teachings.

These disciples (and others) went to their deaths—some through torture—maintaining that their claims of seeing a resurrected Jesus were true.

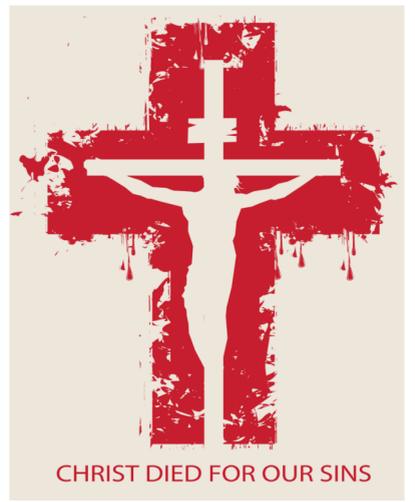
Those are the historical facts. The significance is found in the interpretation of those facts. Christians maintain that the tomb was emp-

ty and that there were post-crucifixion sightings of Jesus because Jesus had physically risen from the dead. This, combined with the apparent fulfillment of centuries-old prophecies contained in the Jewish Scriptures, firmly established the belief that Jesus was God in the flesh and that he had power and authority over life and death.

This belief in the resurrection of Jesus spread rapidly throughout the Roman Empire and it continues to spread today. For nearly 2000 years, Christians have placed their faith in this resurrected Jesus, believing his promise that he will someday return to take his followers to be with him throughout eternity.

Palm Sunday

March 28



How the date of Easter is determined

The day you celebrate Easter is the result of ancient calculations involving the spring equinox, the full moon, and the date of the Jewish Passover.

Easter always occurs the Sunday after the first full moon after March 21. It always falls between March 22 and April 25. This year, the first full moon in March 2021 was March 28, which means the next Sunday is April 4, the date of Easter in 2021.

What does March 21 have to do with it? That is the date set, for simplicity's sake, by the

church in 325 AD as the spring equinox. It isn't actually the same as the astronomical equinox, which can occur on different days.

What does Easter have to do with the Passover? Jesus instituted Christian communion at the Jewish ritual meal, the Seder. Celebrated by Jews for more than 3,400 years, the Seder is part of Passover, when Jews celebrate the Biblical account of the Israelites' escape from 400 years of slavery in Egypt. Easter is intended to be set in accord, or even be part of Passover -- called Pesach

in Hebrew and Pascha in Greek. Most western languages use a variation of Pascha as the word for Easter, but English is an exception.

Because the Jewish lunar calendar and the Christian solar calendar don't coincide, Easter and Passover often occur at about the same time, but rarely on the exact same day. In 2021, Passover began March 27.

The date of Easter is currently calculated to the year 2299. It won't be on April 4 again until 2083.



"We have it easy? Your generation didn't have to worry about having to document every minute of your life."

31st Annual 'Just Pray NO!' to Drugs Worldwide Weekend of Prayer and Fasting

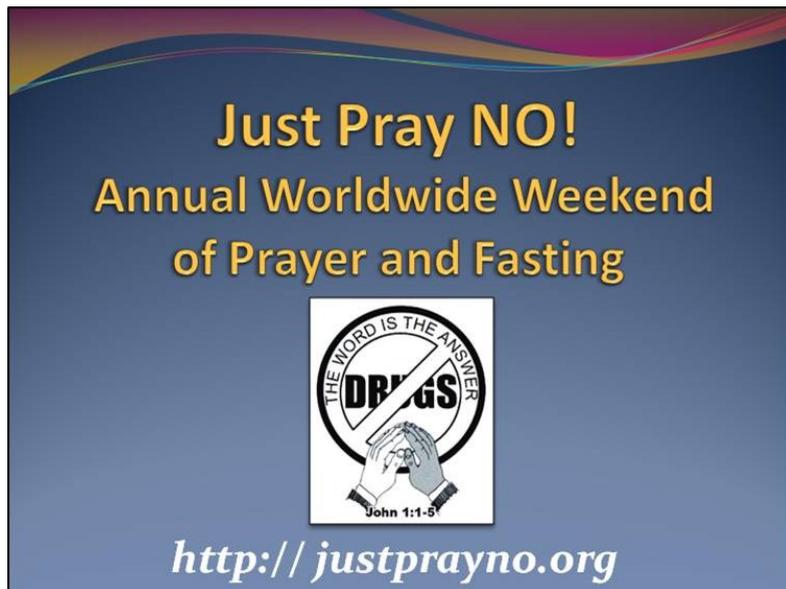
The weekend of April 10th – 11th, 2021 has been designated as the 31st Annual "Just Pray NO!" to drugs Worldwide Weekend of Prayer and Fasting for the addicted and their families.

Since April 7th, 1991 "Just Pray NO!" has united Christians around the world in intercessory prayer on behalf of those bound by alcoholism, drug addiction and life controlling compulsions.

According to the University of

While synthetic opioids, such as illicit fentanyl, continue to be the primary cause of these deaths, there has also been an alarming increase in the number of deaths involving illicit stimulants, particularly methamphetamine. Overdose deaths connected to meth increased almost 35 percent in 2020, exceeding the number of cocaine-related deaths.

Addiction in America is an ever increasing national crisis!



Michigan's Department of Psychiatry, COVID-19 related social isolation and stress can increase susceptibility to substance misuse, addiction, and relapse. Substance abuse use can lead to immune system, respiratory, and pulmonary changes and may increase susceptibility to COVID-19 as well as other complications.

According to recent data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 81,000 people in the United States died of a drug overdose between May 2019 and May 2020. The number of overdose deaths accelerated significantly during the pandemic, resulting in the largest monthly increases documented since provisional data calculations began in 2015.

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." –James 5:16

Not only is substance abuse America's number one health problem, the devastation of alcoholism and other drug addiction has impacted families and communities worldwide. Substance abuse has been directly linked to violence and sexual immorality and is a major source of income for organized crime and terrorist activities.

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the

What is Good Friday?

Good Friday is a holiday celebrated by the Christian Church in commemoration of the day Jesus died on a cross. Christians believe that the death of Jesus as a willing sacrifice paid the penalty for the sinfulness of humanity. As a result, we can receive forgiveness today.

Christians around the world consider Jesus to have been God in the flesh—the second member of the Trinity. (The Trinity is the understanding that God is one in essence but exists with three centers of personhood.) Seeing the hopeless and sinful condition of humanity, he chose to enter into Creation in the form of the man, Jesus Christ.

Arriving as a baby born to a virgin named Mary, Jesus grew up among us. At about the age of 30, Jesus began his public ministry of teaching, healing, and proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven.

Three years later, the Jewish religious leaders (who felt threatened by Jesus' rising popularity) conspired against him. The Bible describes how they paid people to give false accusations against Jesus, implying that Jesus was rebelling against the Roman authorities that were ruling over Israel at the time.

Jesus was subsequently arrested, put on trial, and sentenced to execution by crucifixion. After verifying that he was dead by thrusting a

sword through his side, the Romans allowed the body to be taken down and down and buried in a tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. Guards were stationed to watch over the tomb to ensure that no one, especially the disciples, tried to do anything to the body.

The Bible reveals that this was all part of God's plan from the beginning. Several Old Testament prophecies written centuries earlier foretold the crucifixion of Jesus in detail—even before crucifixion became a common form of execution.

So why was the death of Jesus necessary? According to Christian teaching, God is a God of love as well as a God of justice. His love desired to offer forgiveness to all of humanity for its sinful rebellion against him. But his justice demanded that wrongs be punished, and the punishment for rebellion against God is death. So the solution was for God to become a man and pay the penalty in our place.

However, Christians also recognize that Jesus' death was only temporary. On the third day—the day we know as Easter—his tomb was found empty. Over the next forty days, hundreds of eyewitnesses reported seeing Jesus alive. He had walked with them, taught them, and eaten with them. Their conclusion: Jesus had risen from the dead.

and fervently pray in spirit and in truth. We are seeking to enlist millions of prayer warriors from around the world to join us in battle!

"We are not only praying for the release of those bound by substance abuse but also for people to be delivered from pornography, gambling, obesity and smoking," said Steven Sherman, "Just Pray NO!" founder. "We seek individu-

als and groups which are willing to commit to pray weekly on behalf of the addicted and their families, and then join with multitudes of other committed Christians from around the world in prayer and fasting April 10th –11th, 2021."

If you believe that God is calling you to intercede for the addicted please contact us. To find help for addiction through prayer and Christian ministries log on

The women at the tomb: Jesus has risen

Rejoice! He is Risen

Very early on Sunday morning, the women went to Jesus' tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared.

They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly two angels in bright shining clothes stood by them. Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground as the angels said to them, "Why are you looking among the dead for One who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful men, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.'"

The women remembered His words, returned from the tomb, and told all of these things to the disciples and all the rest.

The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary, the mother of James. They and the other women told these things to the apostles. But the apostles thought that what they said was nonsense and they did not believe them.

Peter got up and ran to the tomb. He bent down and saw the grave cloths, but nothing else. Then he went back home, amazed at what happened.

From the Good News Bible

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Spring Day Sudoku

How to solve sudoku puzzles

To solve a sudoku, you only need logic and patience. No math is required.

Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has a number 1 through 9 with only one occurrence of each number.

Each column and row of the large grid must have only one instance of the numbers 1 through 9.

The difficulty rating on this puzzle is easy.

6	1				5			
	7			1		2		8
					3	4		
	8	6						9
2	3						4	7
9						6	8	
		7	1					
5		4		7			1	
			3				2	4

A Biblical Perspective on the Border Crisis

NEWS PROVIDED BY
[Truth & Liberty Coalition](http://www.truthandliberty.net)

OPINION, -- The following is submitted by Richard Harris, Executive Director of the Truth & Liberty Coalition:

Illegal immigrants are streaming through our nation's southern border by the thousands. In the two short months of the Biden-Harris Administration, illegal immigration has reached a 20-year high. Smugglers and human traffickers are pouncing on the opportunity. More than 13,000 children are being detained in facilities after crossing the border from Mexico to the United States. Some as young as six years old entered unaccompanied by a parent.

This crisis is a direct result of the Biden-Harris Administration's dangerous and destructive immigration agenda.

Although radical leftists would say the Bible has no relevance to issues of national debate, the truth is it actually offers balanced wisdom that can light the way forward, not just as individuals, but as a country.

On the one hand, the Bible teaches that we must provide equal justice, protection and compassion for all immigrants who have come to our nation legally. Leviticus 19:33-34 makes this clear:

"And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

On the other hand, the Bible recognizes our inherent power to defend our borders and exercise our sovereignty.

God, "hath made of one blood

all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation" (Acts 17:26). Borders and walls are found throughout the Bible, from God setting them around the Garden of Eden after the fall (Genesis 3:24), to the establishment of Israel (Exodus 23:31), to the city of New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:10-21). If there will be nations, walls and governments in the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:23-24), how much more do we need them in this life!

Individual autonomy and self-defense are unalienable rights that go hand in hand. This is no less true for a nation than for an individual. Every day we secure our private information with passwords and unique usernames. We lock our cars in the parking lot and our front doors at night. In fact, you might even say responsible parents owe a duty to their children to secure the home. Likewise, nations have the natural right and duty to protect the borders of the country. Leaving your doors unlocked exposes you to theft and other crimes. Similarly, national policies that break down boundaries and disrespect national sovereignty, put the lives and property of the citizens at risk. Such laws are a breach of trust between the government and its people.

America can avoid this craziness by following the simple wisdom of the Bible. Let's show compassion and equal justice to all who immigrate here lawfully, while consistently defending our borders against those who seek to come here unlawfully. In the end, it's nothing more than common sense.

SOURCE Truth & Liberty Coalition

Related Links

<https://truthandliberty.net>

TBN Set to Air Full Slate of New Programming to Celebrate Easter Weekend

LOS ANGELES, March 29, 2021 /TBN, the world's largest religious broadcaster, announced today a special Easter weekend lineup of fresh programming. Stemming from the success of last year's programming to which 15 million people tuned in, the network is offering more content than ever before beginning Thursday, April 1 through Easter Sunday, April 4.

"I am excited TBN is able to provide millions of Christians an opportunity to celebrate Easter again this year with new programming all weekend long," said Matt Crouch, Chairman of TBN. "We saw great success last year and are thankful to be able to provide more new content to our viewers."

Programming will begin on Thursday, April 1 at 8 p.m. ET with the network partnering with the Museum of the Bible to present "The History of Easter" narrated by Matthew West. Filmed in Israel, Italy and at the Museum of the Bible, the program has a vast perspective on the history of Easter, presenting the origin of many of its traditions that have grown through the ages, ending with a presentation of the original Easter week.

Following "The History of Easter" is "Because He Lives: An Easter Celebration" in partnership with Gospel Music Association at 9 p.m. ET. Hosted by Danny Gokey and Blanca, the one-hour program will include a short spoken word segment from Rabbi Jason Sobel and feature musical guests such as Amy Grant, Anthony Brown & Group Therapy, CeCe Winans, Ellie Holcomb, Jekalyn Carr, Karen Peck & New River, Natalie Grant & Bernie Herms, Nicole C. and Zach Williams.

On Friday, April 2, TBN will present a one-hour special, "Good Friday Worldwide"

hosted by Chris Tomlin and Max Lucado at 8 p.m. ET. The special will include a sermon from beloved pastor and New York Times bestselling author, Max Lucado, worship led by Grammy Award Winning, Chris Tomlin, along with recording artists Pat Barrett, We The Kingdom and a chart-topping surprise guest.

Concluding the weekend of programming on Easter Sunday, April 4 includes Resurrection-themed messages from TBN teachers, as well as the "Global Easter Celebration" hosted by Chris Tomlin and Max Lucado at 8 p.m. ET. This special will feature worship from Chris Tomlin, Pat Barrett and We The Kingdom.

Additional Easter programming will air on the network throughout the weekend.

For more information and the promotional trailer, visit: <https://e.tbn.org/this-easter-weekend-on-tbn>

About Trinity Broadcasting Network:

Trinity Broadcasting Network is the world's largest and most watched faith-and-family broadcaster, reaching over 175 nations across the earth with inspirational and entertaining programming 24 hours a day in 14 languages and on 32 global networks. As the world's most influential non-profit religious broadcaster, TBN has led the way in expanding the impact of faith-based television across the earth through the creation of innovative content designed to reach every viewer demographic with the life-changing message of hope and grace. To find out more about the TBN Networks, visit us at tbn.org.

Myanmar Massacre: GFA World Calls for Prayer Amid Military Coup



'Nowhere in Myanmar is safe,' Texas-based humanitarian agency says

MYANMAR MASSACRE, GFA WORLD CALLS FOR PRAYER: Texas-based GFA World -- one of the largest humanitarian agencies in Asia -- is calling on Christians to pray for Myanmar's suffering people in the throes of the South Asia nation's bloody military coup.

NEWS PROVIDED BY GFA World

WILLS POINT, Texas, -- One of Asia's largest humanitarian agencies is calling on Christians to pray for Myanmar's suffering people in the throes of the South Asia nation's bloody military coup.

In the past few days, at least 114 people -- including children -- were killed across the country as protests continue against the military takeover, according to CNN. It brings the death toll so far to more than 400 since the coup began and the military seized control Feb. 1.

"As with any crisis, it's the innocent that suffer the most," said K.P. Yohannan, founder of GFA World. "At GFA World, we're asking people everywhere to join us in praying for peace, justice and God's protection over the people of Myanmar during the current turmoil."

Yohannan also urged people to pray for the release of the leaders and protesters who've been detained by the military.

"Nowhere in Myanmar is

safe right now," he said. "Every single night is spent with fear, and dawn seems so hard to reach. The people are restless, and they're exhausted physically and mentally. Many businesses have been burned down."

World leaders have condemned the coup and the military's violence against the protesters. Hundreds have been arrested and detained, including members of parliament, doctors, and government officials.

"Myanmar's people need our prayers and support more now than ever," said Yohannan, whose Texas-based organization helps millions of children and families across Asia through its child-sponsorship program and clean water "Jesus Wells."

GFA World is a leading faith-based global mission agency, helping national workers bring vital assistance and spiritual hope to millions across the world, especially in Asia and Africa, and sharing the love of God. In GFA World's latest yearly report, this included thousands of community development projects that benefit downtrodden families and their children, free medical camps conducted in more than 1,200 villages and remote communities, over 4,800 clean water wells drilled, over 12,000 water filters installed, income-generating Christmas gifts for more than 260,000 needy families, and teaching providing hope and encouragement available in 110 languages in 14 nations through radio ministry.

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God Gives us Hope in a Crisis

By Rev. John B. Sorensen

Let's face it. This past year has been a difficult one. While some of us may be doing okay, others are struggling – financially, physically, and perhaps, even spiritually. As believers, we know that our hope is in Jesus. But how do we keep that hope in the midst of troubled times? when we are tired and ready to give up?

First of all, God has given us hope through the gift of salvation. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave to secure a place in Heaven for us. We can know that whatever happens here on earth, we can spend eternity with our Creator. Paul writes in Philippians 1:21, *“to live is Christ and to die is gain”* (NIV). That is our eternal hope.

The Bible also assures us that our trials are for a purpose. In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, he writes that *“our light and momentary troubles are achieving an eternal glory that far outweighs them all”* (4:17, NIV). This changes our perspective. Whatever we are going through today is temporary. Our troubles will last only for a moment. They will pass. And as we endure them, those troubles grow perseverance, character, and hope in us (see Romans 5:3-4). They can make us stronger in the end.

But what about the here and now? How do we endure when we are in the midst of the trial? When life gets hard and overwhelming, it's natural for us to withdraw and want to hide. But although this feels right, it's exactly the opposite of what we need to do. Not only do our trials have a purpose (in growing us), but we have a purpose in the midst of those trials. We have hope because we have a job to do.



Every person who has the hope of salvation through Jesus has also been called to a ministry – specifically the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:1) – reconciling the world to God. We are His ambassadors. Our job is to plead to the lost on Christ's behalf...to share the Good News to a world who needs to hear that there's hope, to people who need that hope in their personal crisis.

We cannot have hope today without God's mercy and salvation, and we can't have God's mercy without His ministry. He has given us a task to do because He's merciful. As we minister hope to others, we are strengthened. We are made whole. We find our meaning and purpose. That keeps us going because it gives us hope.

You see, our hope has nothing to do with our present circumstances – a virus, our finances, or how we feel. Our hope doesn't change when we're in a storm. Our hope is in God and God alone. That hope is so critical. With it, we can endure against all odds. It makes us brave to share that hope with others. Time is short, so let's make today the day of reconciliation.

Rev. John B. Sorensen, D.D. is the President/CEO of Evangelism Explosion International, headquartered in Arden, N.C. EE has been a leader in equipping Christians to share their faith for more than 55 years. For more free tips and resources, visit evangelismexplosion.org or follow John on Twitter @JBSorensen. If you need to experience hope during this crisis, we invite you to visit

www.hopeinacrisis.com.

Christian Leaders ask President Biden to Support Israel and Combat Anti-Semitism

-- On Wednesday, March 3, 2021, American Christians Leaders for Israel (ACLI), representing hundreds of Christian leaders, sent a letter to President Biden proposing a number of guiding principles that ACLI sees as significant for his administration regarding the security of the United States, Israel, and the Jewish people.

The guiding principles include: not re-entering the Iran nuclear deal; requiring bilateral negotiations to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; honoring the Abraham Accords; adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism across all Executive Branch agencies; and, committing to work to combat anti-Semitism at all governmental levels here and abroad, in particular to oppose the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement (BDS).

Dr. Susan Michael, Director, ICEJ USA & ACLI commented, "ACLI is deeply concerned with the rising incidents of anti-Semitism in the United States and around the world. We want to ensure this administration works to combat this evil and also keep the United States' relationship with Israel strong."

Last month ACLI sent a letter to the full Senate encouraging Senators to ask Biden nominees if they are familiar with, and will adhere to, the working definition of anti-Semitism



developed by IHRA in the performance of their duties.

About ACLI

American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI) was founded in 2015 to be a unified voice of truth to the American public in support of Israel and the Jewish people. Through a series of initiatives, ACLI leaders have shown a consistent, principled effort to ensure that when making key decisions on Israel, the leaders of this nation are informed of the position held by the many American Christians represented. ACLI is a project of the US Branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

Mission: On behalf of the tens of millions of American Christians that we collectively represent, we the members of ACLI seek to provide a unified voice of truth to the American public in support of Israel and the Jewish people. Learn more at <https://acliforisrael.com/>

What is the Pretribulation Rapture?

by [RR@admin2](#) Category: [Pretribulation Rapture](#), [Todd Strandberg](#)

The rapture is an event that will take place sometime in the near future. Jesus will come in the air, catch up the Church from the earth, and then return to heaven with the Church. The Apostle Paul gave a clear description of the rapture event in his letters to the Thessalonians and Corinthians. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thess, 4:16-18).

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality" (1 Cor. 15:51-53).

The timing of the rapture is not known. From the Word of God and from sound reasoning—something Jesus used quite frequently—I hope to prove the reality of the pretribulation rapture.

The word "rapture" comes from Paul's "caught up" remark in verse 17. The words "caught up" are translated from the Greek word *harpazo*, which means "to carry off," "snatch up," or "grasp hastily." The translation from *harpazo* to "rapture" involved two steps: first, *harpazo* became the Latin word *raptus*; second, *raptus* became the English word "rapture."

Scriptural Evidence for the Pretribulation Rapture The Unknown Hour

When we search the Scriptures and read the passages describing the Lord Jesus' return, we find verses that tell us we won't know the day and hour of that event. Matthew 25:13 says Jesus will return at an unknown time, while Revelation 12:6 indi-

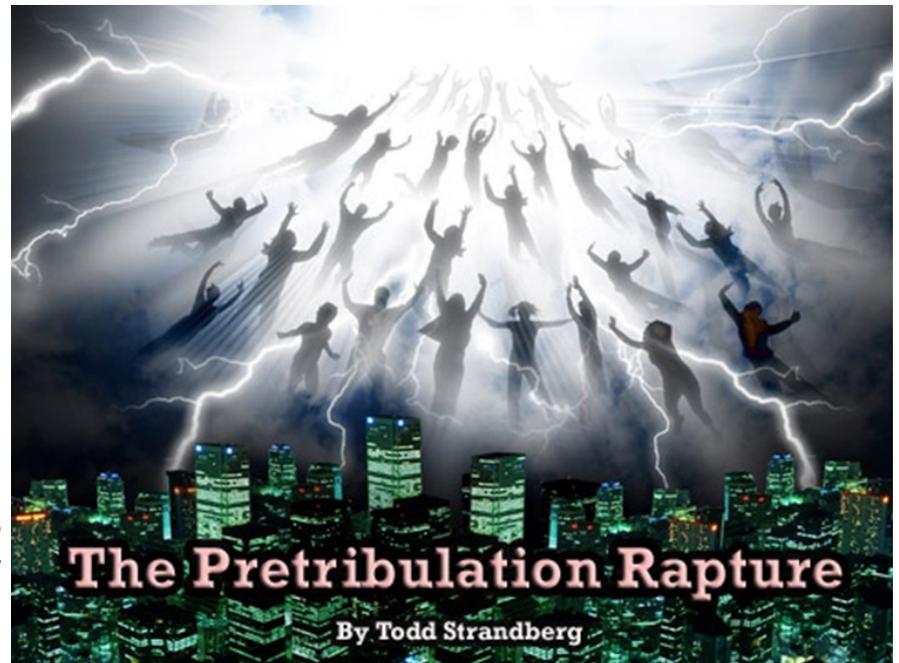
cates that the Jews will have to wait on the Lord 1,260 days, starting when the Antichrist stands in the Temple of God and declares himself to be God (2 Thes 2:4). This event will take place at the mid-point of the seven-year tribulation ([Dan 9:27](#)). Note that some people only see a three-and-a-half-year tribulation. In a way, they are correct because the first half of the tribulation will be relatively peaceful compared to the second half. Nonetheless, peaceful or not, there still remains a seven-year period called the tribulation. When the Jews flee into the wilderness, they know that all they have to do is wait out those 1,260 days (Mat 24:16). There is no way to apply the phrase "neither the day nor the hour" to this situation. The only way for these two viewpoints to be true is to separate the two distinct events transpiring here: 1) the rapture of the Church, which comes before the tribulation; and 2) the return of Jesus to the earth, which takes place roughly seven years later.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

In Luke 12:36, the Word states that when Christ returns, He will be returning from a wedding. In Revelation 19:7-8, we read about the marriage itself. The marriage supper takes place before the marriage. According to Jewish custom, the marriage contract, which often includes a dowry, is drawn up first. The contract parallels the act of faith we use when we trust Jesus to be our Savior. The dowry is His life, which was used to purchase us. When it's time for the wedding, the groom goes to the bride's house unannounced. She comes out to meet him, and then he takes her to his father's house. This precisely correlates with the events according to the pre-trib scenario. Jesus, the Groom, comes down from heaven and calls up the Church, His Bride. After meeting in the air, He and His Bride return to His Father's house, heaven. The marriage supper itself will take place there, while down here on earth the final events of the tribulation will be

playing out. After the marriage supper of Jewish tradition, the bride and groom are presented to the world as man and wife. This corresponds to the time when Jesus returns to earth accompanied by an army

The People of the Millennium
If Christ were to come back after the tribulation, rapture all the saints, and slay all the ungodly, who would be left to populate the earth during the millennium? Only the pre-trib viewpoint



"clothed in fine linen, white and clean" (Rev 19:14).

What They Didn't Teach You in History Class

Many groups try to discredit the pre-trib rapture by saying most of the end-time events in the Bible have already taken place. A group of people called preterists claims that the Book of Revelation was mostly fulfilled by 70 AD. If the events described in the Book of Revelation took place in the past, I'm at a loss to explain some of the current situations I see around us: the rebirth of Israel, the reunification of Europe, the number of global wars that have occurred, and the development of nuclear weapons. During history class, I must have slept through the part where the teacher talked about the time when a third of the trees were burned up, 100-pound hailstones fell from the sky, and the sea turned into blood (Rev 8:7-8, 16:21). I think several people would have to question their opposition to the pre-trib rapture doctrine if they knew that the evidence provided to them was based on the understanding that most tribulation prophecies have already occurred.

can account for this post-trib problem. The Church is raptured before the tribulation, a vast number of souls are saved during this seven-year time frame, and those who make it through the tribulation go into the millennium while the unsaved are cast into hell.

The Saint U-Turn

In the pre-trib scenario, after we rise to meet the Lord in the air, we will go to heaven and abide there seven years. At the end of that period, Christ will come down to earth, defeat the Antichrist, and cleanse the temple. In a post-trib rapture, we would rise in the air to meet the Lord, then do a 180-degree U-turn and come back down to earth. Revelation 1:7 states that Christ will appear out of the clouds and come down to earth. Zechariah 14:4 says that His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives. If He's already headed our way, why would we need to be caught up to meet Him?

"Come Up Hither"

Many pre-trib writers cite Revelation 4:1, which says, "come up hither," as a prophetic reference to the rapture of the Church, leaving Revelation

Pretrib rapture cont'd chapters 1 through 3 as a description of the Church Age. After the shout to "come up hither," the Church is not mentioned in Scripture at all. The attention of Scripture switches from the Church to the Jews living in Israel.

Armies in Fine Linen

When Jesus returns (Rev. 19:18), an army follows Him. The army's members are riding on white horses, and they are clothed in fine linen that is white and clean. In Revelation 19:8, we are told that the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. If the saints of God are returning with Christ to wage war on the Antichrist, then it is not possible to have a post-trib rapture without us running into ourselves as we are coming and going.

The Time of Jacob's Trouble

In several passages, the Bible refers to the tribulation as a time of trouble for the Jews. The phrase "Jacob's trouble" pertains to the descendants of Jacob. Jeremiah 30:7 says that this time of trouble will come just before the Lord returns to save His people. The final week of Daniel's 70th week is yet to take place. An angel told Daniel that, "70 weeks are determined unto thy people" (Dan 9:24). Scripture never mentions that the tribulation is meant to be a time of testing for Christians. However, some post-tribbers try to claim that they are the ones being tested during the tribulation. To make this so, they need to spiritualize the 144,000 Jewish believers in Revelation 7:2-8 who receive God's protective seal. Placing the Church dispensation into the same time frame as the seven-year Jewish dispensation, as the post-tribbers do, raises one good question: Can two dispensations transpire at the same time? In the past, God has only dealt with one at a time. Having both present during the tribulation would have to be an exception.

"He" That is Taken Out of the Way

Before the Antichrist can be revealed, Paul said a certain "He" must be taken out of the way. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:7, the "He" that must be removed is widely thought to be the Holy Spirit. It has been promised that the Holy Spirit would never leave the Church, and without the working of the Holy Spirit remaining on earth, no one could be saved during the tribulation. The removal of the Church, which is indwelt by the Holy Ghost, would seem the best explanation for this dilemma. The working of the Holy Spirit could go on during the tribulation, but His influence would be diminished because of the missing Church.

War or Rapture

(Rev 19:19-21) When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, He will

be coming for battle. For those who believe in a post-trib rapture, it would be strange to meet your Lord and Savior just as He's rushing into battle. The idea that war and rapture could occur together is difficult to imagine, especially since they transpire at the same moment.

The Five Foolish Virgins

The wedding story that Jesus gave in Matthew 25:2-13, I believe, is a parable of the rapture of the Church. It explains how some will not be ready. Jesus clearly states that a group of people will miss out on an event, and will cry out to God to let them into the place where He resides, heaven. Although some try to put this parable in a post-trib context, it doesn't fit very well. The ones left behind in a post-trib rapture will not need to seek the Lord because they'll immediately be confronted by Him and His army of angels.

God Hath Not Appointed Us to Wrath

In 1 Thessalonians 5:9, Paul assures us that God has not appointed His people to wrath. This wrath is plainly God's anger that will be poured out during the tribulation. Pre-trib believers interpret this as meaning that Christians will be removed from the earth. Post-trib believers tell a different story. They describe this as meaning that God will protect Christians during the tribulation and pour this wrath out on the unbelievers only. This idea runs against the statement made in Revelation 13:7, in which the Antichrist is given power to make war with the saints and to overcome them. A post-trib view would make God's promise of protection from wrath into a lie. In years past, it was possible to think of being protected from the guns and swords of that day. Today, when any major war would involve nuclear and chemical weapons, it's impossible to expect that same kind of protection. When Nagasaki, Japan was bombed during World War II, the bomb exploded over a Catholic church. Everyone who was in the center of the explosion died—both Christians and non-Christians. The only way to validly interpret God's promise of protection from wrath is by viewing 1 Thessalonians 5:9 as the bodily removal of the Church from this world.

The Salt of the Earth

Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13). When the believers are suddenly removed, the earth will be plunged into spiritual darkness. When this happens, the Antichrist will then be free to control the world.

God Takes an Inventory

In Revelation 7:3, an angel descends to earth and seals the servants of God. Two bits of information about this sealing highly disclaim a post-trib viewpoint. The first item is the number of people sealed:

144,000. The second one is that all those who are sealed are from the 12 tribes of Israel. For the events in Revelation 7:3-8 to be true in a post-trib interpretation, either the Church has turned against God or God has turned against the Church. A post-tribber could write a thousand-word commentary about why the Church doesn't need to be sealed. Instead of trying to argue about why the Church is not mentioned or sealed, a pre-trib proponent could just say, "We're already in heaven."

Noah and Lot as Examples

The tribulation period is compared to the times of Noah and Lot by Jesus in Luke 17:28. Most people argue over whether the time frame Jesus was talking about in that passage was pre-trib or post-trib. In doing so, they miss an important point. The two circumstances that the Noah and Lot situations have in common are the removal of the righteous and the judgment of the unbelievers. From these two accounts, we see that God prefers to remove His own when danger is involved.

Common-Sense Reasons for Believing in the Pretribulation Rapture

The World Test

One way to check the soundness of a doctrine is to see how the world reacts to it. One company put out a questionnaire that was used to screen prospective employees. One of the questions was, "Do you believe in the rapture?" If you answered "yes," your chances of getting hired would not be good. Some internet sites do not allow the topics of Rapture or Second Coming. They do allow topics such as sex, gays, and drugs. The only time the news media mentions the rapture is when someone sets a date and is proven to be wrong.

That Old-Time Religion

It used to be a rule of thumb that when one was visiting a church or listening to a preacher, one could assume the preacher believed in repentance, prayer, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost if he taught the rapture doctrine. It was also true that the churches on fire for God worshipped out of storefronts. Today, many of those storefront churches have moved into marble palaces and have strayed from their principal doctrines.

Birds of a Feather Flock Together

Whenever I look at all the groups that teach false doctrine and are highly focused on end-time

events, I cannot find any that support the rapture theory. Some organizations, the Jehovah's Witnesses, for example, teach a false gospel and are heavily into Bible prophecy. Why, then, don't Jehovah's Witnesses teach a false doctrine that would be right up their alley? Could it be that the demonic forces that influence these groups know something that Christians opposed to the rapture don't know? The list of prophetically minded cults that reject the idea of a rapture goes on and on. Here are some more: the Mormons, the Worldwide Church of God and the Moonies, as well as leaders like Jim Jones and David Koresh.

The Church Would Rebuke the Antichrist

If the Antichrist came to power with the Church still here, I do not see how he could operate. When Hitler was fighting to take over England, a number of Christians were praying for victory. Hitler made mistake after mistake, and England outperformed its enemy at every stage of the conflict. It is difficult to measure the impact of intercessory prayer in physical warfare. Little is known of how great a role praying saints played in the defeat of Nazi Germany. If the Church were to reside on earth during the tribulation, I am sure she would give the Antichrist fits. In Revelation 11:3, the two witnesses alone give the Antichrist enough headaches. Millions of Christians who know their Bibles well would recognize the man of sin and pray fire down on his head. The post-trib view would have to plan on the Church just rolling over and playing dead the whole seven years.

We should all remember one thing: Knowing the Antichrist's mother's maiden name isn't the primary goal. Knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and having your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life should be your number-one priority. The jailer asked Paul, "What must I do to be saved?" The answer was, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:30-31).

— Todd Strandberg

Serengeti animals

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Remote work has dramatic implications

Apple spent \$5 billion on its spaceship campus in Cupertino, but it sat mostly empty in 2020 while work continued from employee homes.

Business forecasters say remote work is here to stay, and the consequences of this realignment will shake up cities, real estate prices, and life choices.

Although considered a slow-moving trend of the future, remote work accelerated during the 2020 pandemic. According to McKinsey Global Institute, about 20 percent of the global workforce could work remotely and still remain effective in their jobs.

According to a survey of 1,000 CEOs by FirstbaseHQ, companies are planning a 40 percent to 60 percent cut in office space, with about 30 percent going entirely remote.

The impact of this realignment from commercial office space to home-based work has wide-ranging consequences -- not just for employees, but for the makeup of cities, companies and neighborhoods across the country.

For companies, the economics are easy. It costs companies about \$20,000 per employee per year to have them work in office space, while remote work costs about \$2,000 per employee.



"And I'll huff and I'll puff until you give me your Netflix password!"

Companies have yet to assess the impact of remote work on company culture, performance and effectiveness, according to FirstbaseHQ. In addition, some employees may prefer to work in an office, especially after the isolated months in lockdown.

For cities, the trend is clear, for now at least. Commercial leases are down, empty office space is abundant and sales of city housing like condominiums are way down, while sales of suburban housing is up. What happens to the cities may depend on tax structures changing and amenities reopening, experts say. Meanwhile, remote workers are taking their families out of oppressively expensive city apartments to buy homes in middle American communities with lower taxes and simpler lifestyles.

For Apple, Microsoft and Uber, who spent big on work space with elaborate benefits from food to child care and game spaces, offices may remain a big draw, according to CNET.

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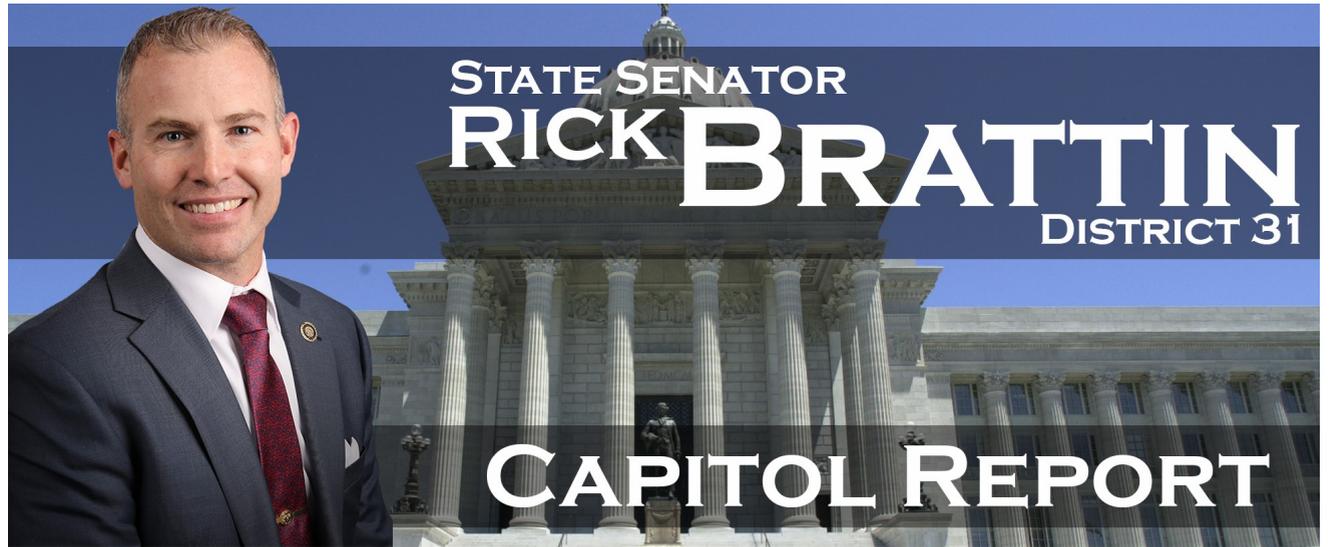
Sen. Rick Brattin's Capitol Report for the week of March 29: Saying "No" To Vaccine Passports

NEWS PROVIDED BY
Missouri Senate

April 02, 2021, 06:36
GMT

You may have read about or watched a report recently about the state of New York creating the first-in-the-nation "vaccine passport." For those who don't know what this is, it's a written record or electronic app that shows proof of vaccination against COVID-19. Without such proof, someone could be prevented from moving freely about or engaging in activities like getting on a plane, going into a movie theater or eating dinner at a restaurant. New York isn't alone in this. Hawaii is requiring COVID-19 tests be given to all travelers and is considering using an app that would display a person's vaccination status, and the nation of Denmark has begun implementing a vaccine passport as well. Before it's all said and done, other countries and states in our country will likely follow suit.

Now, I don't have a problem — nor do most Missourians — with anyone getting the COVID-19 vaccine. That's a decision each person can make for themselves in a free and open society where personal liberty and individual rights are the overriding and guiding force of our laws. But, vaccine passports are the opposite of free and open. These passports prevent people from moving freely, from doing the things we have always been able to do. In my opinion, these passports are a violation of our rights and individual liberties, and instead of taking the wait-and-see approach only to have this done under



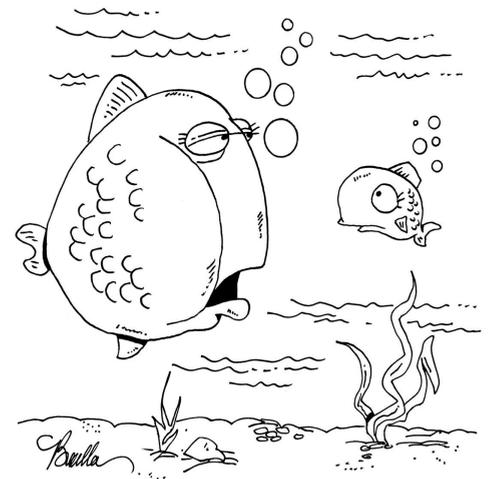
our nose, we need to fight it now. We need to fight proactively, before it is imposed on us by big business and others who think government is the answer to every problem. We should heed President Reagan's advice that "the most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help."

Beyond the concerns of government asking us to "show your papers," what does government intend to do with all the information they'll collect from a vaccine database? Will they sell it to businesses so they'll know who to let in their doors or will it go into a government database that will be turned against the people like the IRS did during the Obama administration? That's a scary thought and one that all Missourians, regardless of how they feel about the vaccine, should be ready to fight back against.

The Missouri Senate took a big first step in that fight this week. During debate on a [transportation bill](#), an amendment was added that would prevent any Missourian from being required to receive a vaccine or prove they've received a vaccine before getting on a plane, riding a bus or taking any

other form of public transportation. I rose to speak on this amendment and strongly encouraged my colleagues to pass it. As I mentioned above, free movement is an essential component of a free society and ensuring our citizens can continue that free movement is the first and arguably most important step toward stopping these vaccine passports. The amendment was added and the bill will soon be voted out of the Senate and will head to the House of Representatives. This amendment is by no means the last or only step though. As more bills come before the Senate, I'll be looking for any opportunity to prevent these vaccine passports, especially when it comes to doing things like going freely in and out of businesses such as restaurants and sporting venues. These vaccine passports smack of totalitarianism and run completely counter to the Constitution upon which this country was founded. People can decide for themselves if they should be vaccinated

and whether they do or don't is none of the government's business. We'll beat this virus and we'll come back stronger than ever. It won't



"I have put on a few pounds, but it's mostly water weight."

be because government decides where you can go and what you can do but because we remember what has made this country the greatest on Earth, our God-given right to life and liberty.

If you have any ideas, questions and concern, please feel free to contact me at the State Capitol: (573) 751-2108, rick.brattin@senate.mo.gov or by writing to Sen. Rick Brattin, Missouri State Capitol, Room 331, Jefferson City, MO 65101. God bless and thank you for the opportunity to work for you in the Missouri Senate.

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THERE'S A LOT THAT CAN GO WRONG WITH 'VACCINE PASSPORTS'

NEWS PROVIDED BY

[ACLU](#)

April 01, 2021, 01:59 GMT

With COVID-19 vaccination rates accelerating, governments around the world have begun to consider implementing a standardized credential or “vaccine passport” that would let people prove that they’ve been vaccinated. And the idea became more real when the Washington Post [reported](#) on Sunday that the Biden administration was working with companies to develop such a structure.

Our nation’s primary push right now should be equitable vaccine distribution that gets as many people as possible vaccinated and reaching herd immunity. If we can do so, epidemiologists say, we’ll reach a point where COVID no longer has enough vulnerable hosts to circulate within our communities. This means that most people most of the time — even those who can’t get vaccinated — won’t have to worry about the disease.

When that happens and COVID comes to resemble other dangerous diseases where there are occasional flareups but little spread, such as measles, the need for a COVID passport will seem much less urgent. Nobody is demanding we provide proof of measles vaccination everywhere we go. And in the limited circumstances where such proof is required (school enrollment, some medical jobs, and some overseas travel), it’s far from clear that the existing system of paper documents is somehow deeply broken and in need of fixing. That’s especially true given that creating a passport system would be a herculean task.

As privacy advocates and civil libertarians, there are several factors to consider on vaccine passports.

There is a difference between a *standardized* system for presenting proof of vaccination, and a *digital* system for doing so. With more and more of our credentials being displayed through apps on our phones — from airline boarding passes to concert tickets to gym memberships — it strikes many people as an obvious and overdue step to create a similar digital credential for those

occasions when a person has to prove that they’ve been vaccinated. But digital credentials present a number of new potential problems, and we would oppose a vaccination credential system that does not meet three crucial criteria:

1. It is not exclusively digital. A system that is exclusively digital, whether by design or as a practical matter, would be a nonstarter because it would increase inequality. Many people [don't have smartphones](#), including disproportionate numbers from some of our most vulnerable communities, such as people who are low-income, have disabilities, or are homeless, as well as more than 40 percent of people over age 65. As a result, any vaccine credential system would need to include a paper-based version for those who don’t have a smartphone or simply don’t want to use one. The paper option should not be a difficult or disadvantageous afterthought; a standardized credential should be primarily a paper-based system with an optional digital component, not the other way around. Our health care system is already ridden with inequities from top to bottom; we don’t want to worsen that situation by closing off even more societal benefits from those who can least afford it, or who have reason to fear such a system — including immigrant communities and communities of color who are already subject to over-policing and surveillance.

2. It is decentralized and open source. The quest for a digital identity and credentialing system has become an entire field unto itself. Numerous companies, technologists, and academics have already generated a variety of concepts, standards, and products that would let us use cryptographic files or “tokens” on our phones to prove things about ourselves across our lives. The best of these schemes — and the only ones that should be considered for any digital elements of a vaccine credential system — take a decentralized and open source approach that puts individuals in control of their credentials and identity data, which they would hold in a digital wallet. But given the difficulty of creating a digital vaccine passport, we could see a rush to impose a COVID creden-

tial system built on an architecture that is not good for transparency, privacy, or user control. That could lock us into a bad standard as other parties that need to issue credentials piggyback upon it to offer everything from age verification to health records to hunting licenses to shopping accounts, memberships, and web site logins.

3. It does not allow for tracking or the creation of new databases. Unless a vaccine credential system is completely decentralized and user-centric, it creates the potential for amassing new personal data. If some big company is getting notified any time someone reads one of your credentials, that would let them track your movements and interests — the stores, concerts, and transportation venues you visit, and much more. In the absence of airtight legal protections for privacy, any such information could then be sold for commercial purposes or shared with law enforcement. That would affect all of our freedoms, but will have a particular chilling effect on communities of color, including immigrant communities, that are already over-policed. Fear of tracking could lead people to opt out of participation, resulting in further marginalization as they are denied access to certain public spaces. Worse, without privacy protections strong enough to create public confidence, it could even deter people from getting vaccinated in the first place. Although those are the three most significant issues we see now, the devil is often in the details, and any proposed system will have to be examined closely. Another issue is the handling of people who can’t get vaccines because, for example, they have certain medical conditions or simply don’t have access to the vaccine. Will the system distinguish between such people and those who have simply decided they won’t get vaccinated? If so, how will people obtain a certification that they are medically contraindicated? One of the reasons it’s important to reach herd immunity is precisely because there are some people who can’t get vaccines that protect them personally. Those people shouldn’t get shut out of full participation in our society.

We also worry that a vaccine passport will encourage over-

use. The issues around passport design are separate from the question of where and when people can be required to furnish proof of vaccinations, but if a passport system makes it very easy to ask for and to provide proof of vaccination, it’s likely that such requests will become over-used as people get asked for credentials at every turn. While there are legitimate circumstances in which people can be asked for proof of vaccination, we don’t want to turn into a checkpoint society that outlasts the danger of COVID and that casually excludes people without credentials from facilities where vaccine mandates are not highly justified. We were heartened to see that the Biden administration appears to be aware of many of these concerns: White House coronavirus coordinator Jeff Zients [declared](#) earlier this month that “any solutions in this area should be simple, free, open source, accessible to people both digitally and on paper, and designed from the start to protect people’s privacy.” The administration has also repeatedly [stated](#) that vaccines must be accessible to people regardless of immigration status, and therefore any unintended deterrence must also be considered. Such statements show a thoughtful awareness of the landscape here.

We don’t oppose in principle the idea of a requiring proof of vaccination in certain contexts. But given the enormous difficulty of creating a digital passport system, and the compromises and failures that are likely to happen along the way, we are wary about the side effects and long-term consequences it could have. We will be closely watching developments in this area.

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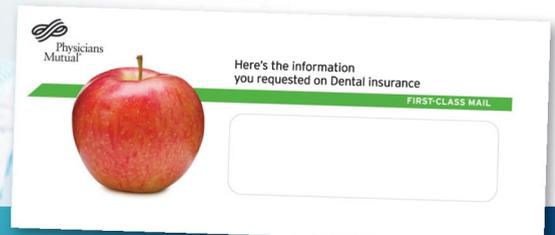
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When will you ditch your PC for a QC?

How long will it be before you run down to Walmart to pick up a new quantum computer?

Consider the timeline of the classic computer. In 1946, the first computer (ENIAC) occupied an 1,800 square foot room. In 1976, hobbyists could buy an Apple or Microsoft computer that fit comfortably on a desk. In 1987, Bill Gates became a 31-year-old billionaire.

So let's say from first computer to Bill Gates' billion, we have roughly 40 years. By that reckoning, the kids could have QCs in 2060. Maybe.

It would be hard to put a QC on the shelf at Walmart right now. For example, qubits do the calculations but they operate in temperatures about 100 times colder than

outer space -- about -400 centigrade. The multiple cooling systems required for that make a lot of noise.

On the other hand, QCs can do amazing things. As Google recently demonstrated, in just 3.5 minutes, a QC can solve a math problem that would take a supercomputer 10,000 years to solve, according to Live Science.

It's tempting to wonder why anyone would want a computer so powerful. Maybe it could run Star Trek-like holograms or artificial intelligence, and solve vast scientific problems.

One thing is for sure, though -- we find uses for our tools. In 1947, an American engineer said the world needed six computers. In 2021, there are 2 billion.

¹ "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B).
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Romans Road To Salvation

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 10:9,10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth

unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Pray this Prayer: if you want to be Saved: Lord Jesus, forgive me for all of my sins. I believe that you died on the cross. And that you were buried, and on the third day, God the father raised you from the dead. And I ask that you come into my heart and be me Lord and Savior. Thank You Jesus for Saving me. Amen.

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