

RECLAIMING THE BOOK OF REVELATION IN THE FACE OF CURRENT EVENTS:

A CRITIQUE OF EMPIRE AND CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM RUN AMOK

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Saint Mark's Cathedral

September 2025



THREE WEEK SERIES

Revelation as Misguided
Nexus: Christian
Nationalism, the Holy Land
War and Christian Zionism

14 Sep.

Critique on Empire in
Revelation:
The Rapture Exposed

21 Sep.

The Trajectory of
Revelation:
Toward a Theology of Hope
for the End Times

28 Sep.

PROPOSITIONS FOR THIS SERIES

THE BOOK OF REVELATION...

*is a critique on Empire, not a justification
for it...*

HOPE ...

*is what we have to offer each other and the
world...*

**JESUS WAS NOT
A CHRISTIAN
NATIONALIST**
(FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS)



WEEK 1:

**REVELATION AS MISGUIDED NEXUS:
CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM, THE HOLY LAND
WAR AND CHRISTIAN ZIONISM**

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM...

...is a political ideology that merges (some) Christian principles with a specific American identity

- asserts that the U.S. was founded as a Christian nation and should remain so,
- Demands its government and laws reflect “Christian” values.
- This ideology often promotes
 - [white supremacy](#),
 - challenge democratic principles like the [separation of church and state](#), and
 - has been linked to anti-democratic actions and violence.



CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM PRECEPTS

Exclusionary premise that US was and is a Christian nation with divine mandates

Opposes multiculturalism, secularism, diversity/inclusion, and globalism as corrupt liberal ideologies

Opposes separation of church and state, and adherents are engaged in long-term political fight using all three branches of government to undermine core constitutional protections

Willing to use violence as means to an end...(which feeds into Christian Zionism)

*How
to End
Christian
Nationalism*

Amanda Tyler

LEAD ORGANIZER OF CHRISTIANS
AGAINST CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

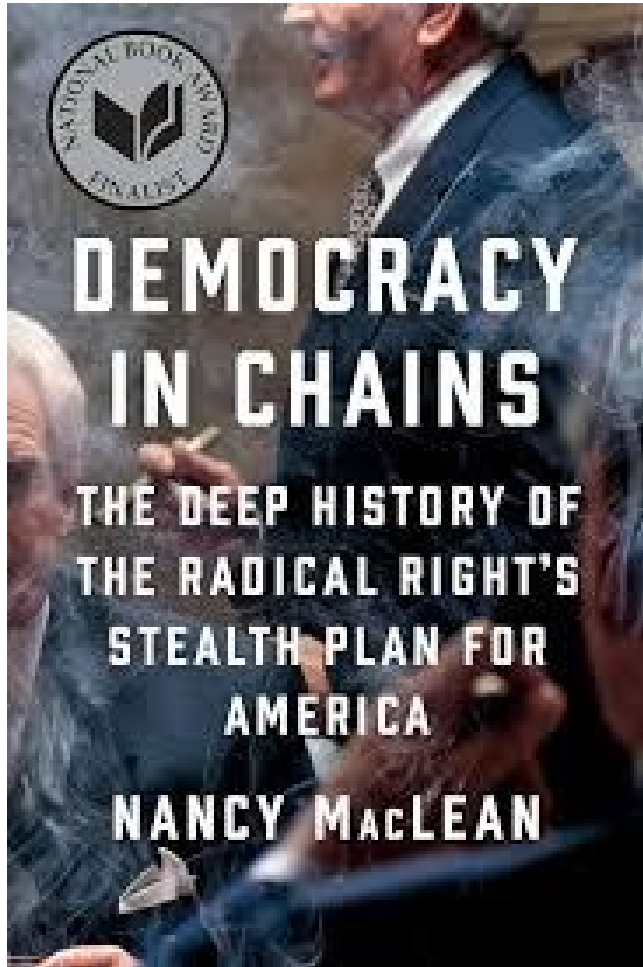
TAKING THE LONG VIEW

“The 'Christian' in Christian nationalism is more about identity than religion and carries with it assumptions about nativism, white supremacy, authoritarianism, patriarchy, and militarism.

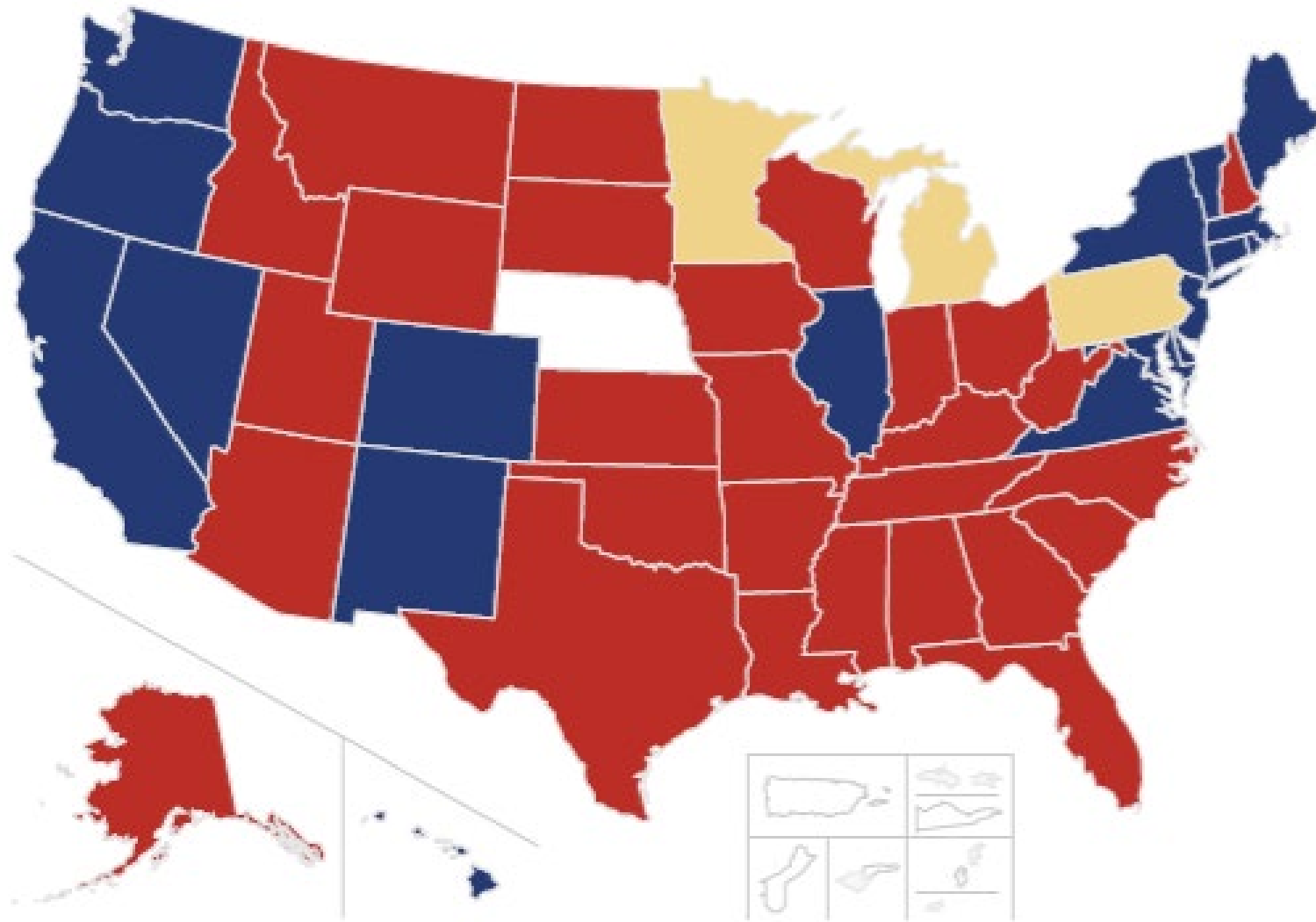
-Amanda Tyler

Religious freedom expert,
Baptist Joint Committee
for Religious Liberty

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/christian-nationalism-is-single-biggest-threat-to-americas-religious-freedom/>



TAKING THE LONG VIEW



STATE LEGISLATURE PARTISAN CONTROL 2025

- 28 Repub
- 18 Dem
- 3 Split

- *Gerrymandering congressional districts*
- *Control three-fourths of legislatures (34 states)*

□ Nonpartisan ■ Republican ■ Democrat ■ Split



CHRISTIAN ZIONISM



Promotes and endorses Jewish nationalism and expansionist policies in Israel (parallel to American Christian nationalism)

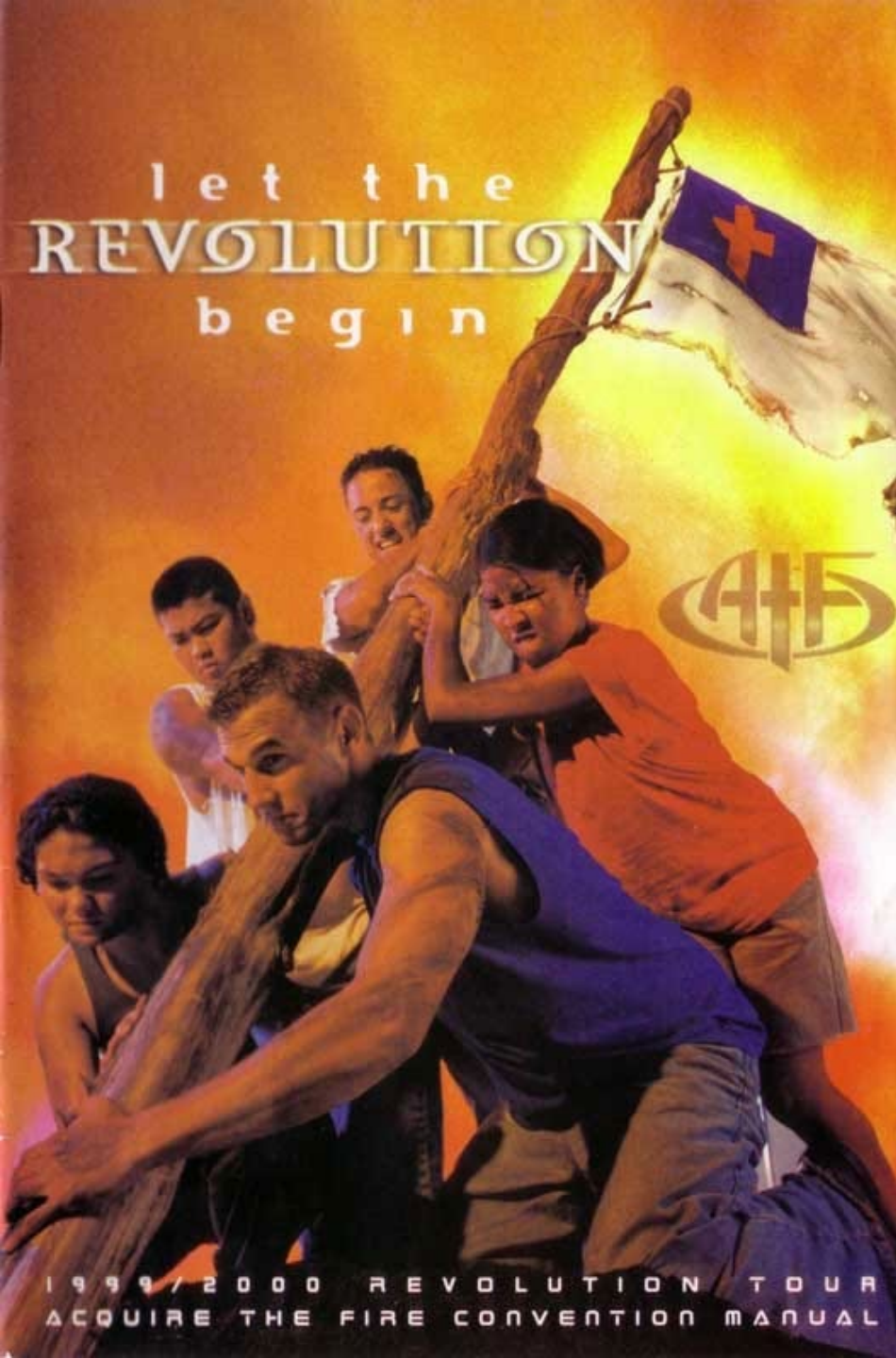
The modern state of Israel is the necessary fulfillment of the biblical prophecy and a pre-requisite for the Second Coming of Christ

“Instrumentalizes” Jews for Christian end-times purposes—often supportive of Israel and suspicious of Jews

UNFOLDING BEFORE OUR EYES?



- The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, told NPR he is "outraged" at the leaders of Britain, France and Canada for condemning Israel's new military offensive in Gaza. (May 2025)



GENERATIONAL TRACTION

- **Teen Mania**—militant evangelical youth programs 1980s-2015—forged new generations of Christian nationalists
- **Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins** (1990s)
 - Left Behind series
 - story designed to identify with disaster/destruction/violence
- Video Game—**Left Behind: Eternal Forces** (2000)
 - postmillennial warriors fight the anti-Christ and slay those left behind
- Conspiratorial Movements—Oath Keepers, Proud Boys, etc.—led to Jan. 6th assault on Capitol

All this violence has found its way into mainstream American Christianity and into American politics and the geopolitical realm.



SO HOW DO WE RETAIN HOPE FOR THE FUTURE?

Fight against prevailing notions:

- apocalyptic violence is the answer (fear-driven)
- religion is bankrupt and no longer needed (cynicism)

Neither cynicism or fear are helpful stimuli

A Third Way: Proclaim the Gospel

- promise of transformation of all...
- develop an alternative vision for the future that involves HOPE
- A new “economy” (oikumene)—The Economy of God

OUR THESIS: AT THE HEART OF REVELATION IS NOT RAPTURE OR ARMAGEDDON, BUT HOPE!

- Revelation is
 - written to beleaguered churches amid persecution
 - critique of empire
 - critique of imperial violence
 - offers alternative voice of hope and protest
 - not a direct prediction (prophecy not same as prediction)
 - not directly written for us in 21st Century
 - Prophetic call to wake up and take heed (so can be applicable for us)

PROGRESSION TOWARD THE END

- Rev. 18.2: “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!
- Then the vision of the Defeat of God’s Adversaries (along with rejoicing in heaven)
- The Final Defeat of Satan
- The Dead are Judged
 - Two Books
 - Lake of Fire
- After all this, then New Heaven and a New Earth

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

- **Rev. 21: 3-4**: And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying: “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”
- **v.5**: And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

THE VOCABULARY OF THE END TIMES

- **Apocalypse**—literally, “unveiling”—think: Toto in the Wizard of Oz
- **Rapture**—simultaneous transport of Christians into heaven—possibly mentioned in Matthew 24 and in 1 Thes 4:16-17 (but part of plea of hope from Paul to Thessalonians—hang in there...)
 - The word “rapture” is not found in the Book of Revelation
- **Tribulation**—seven years period before the Parousia
- **Parousia**—second coming of Christ (like royalty)—literally, Come and stay with...
- **Armageddon** (only reference: Rev. 16:16)—battle between Christ and the Beast

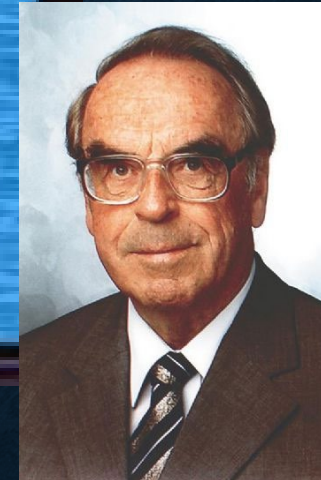
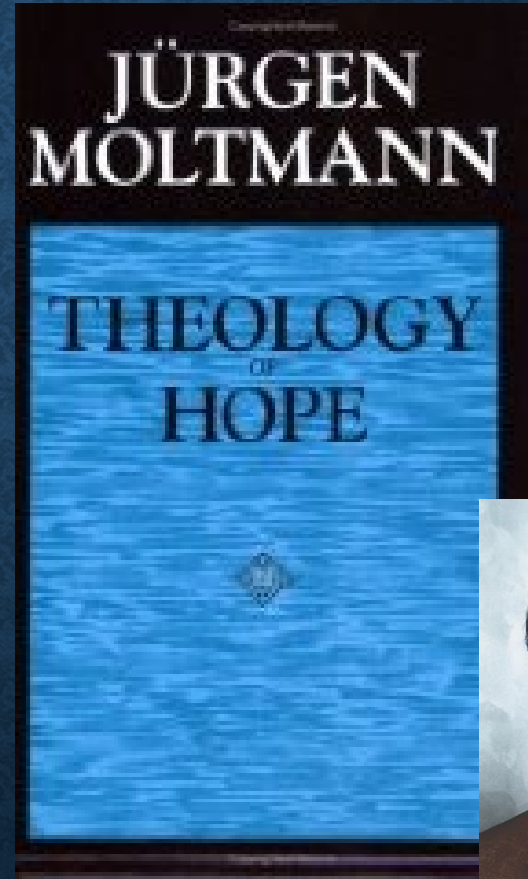
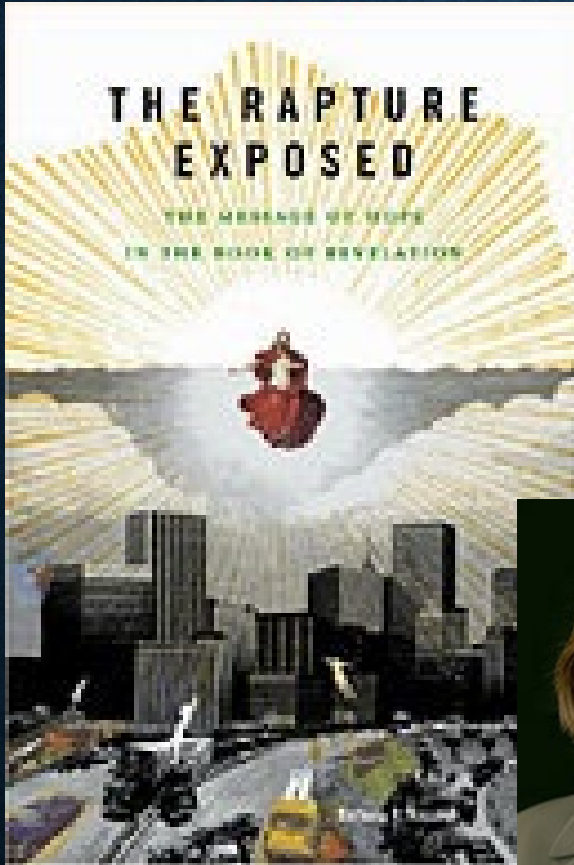
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**GOD'S WILL:
TO HEAL,
NOT
DESTROY**

TWO PRINCIPAL RESOURCES





NEXT WEEK

The Book of Revelation: A Critique on Empire

The Rapture Exposed