

# **Testing claims of Pretribulationism in the early Church**

**Part 4**

# Pseudo-Ephraim (Part 3)

**This presentation continues testing the veracity of Lee Brainard's claims of Pretribulational statements in Pseudo-Ephraim.**

**The following quote come from a Pseudo-Ephraim's 55 Beatitudes:**

**“Blessed is he who unceasingly remembers the fear of Gehenna and hastens to sincerely repent ... for he shall be delivered from the great tribulation.”**

**— Beatitude #19**

**This comment, while speaking of the rapture, has nothing to define it as specifically Pretribulational.**

**Within this very same list of beatitudes, Ephraim makes some clear Post-tribulational comments:**

**"Blessed is the one who considers those who sleep in their coffins and in graves and has rejected every foul-smelling desire, for he will rise in glory when the heavenly trumpet sounds, rousing all the children of humankind from sleep."**

**— Beatitude #50**

**Ephraim expresses his belief in a Post-tribulational and Amillennial (no millennium) resurrection when “All the children of humankind” – both the righteous and the wicked are resurrected at the same time.**

**Similarly, his final beatitude states:**



**“Blessed are those who watch according to God continually, for they will be overshadowed by God in the day of judgement, becoming sons of the bridal chamber, in joy and gladness they will see the Bridegroom. But I and those like me, lazy and pleasure-loving, will weep and lament as we watch our brothers in everlasting glory, while we are in torments.”**

**—Beatitude #55**

**Again Pseudo-Ephraim speaks of those who are righteous (among his readers) who will join Jesus in “the bridal chamber” specifically on “the day of judgment,” not seven years before. He then describes himself as unworthy and thus destined for eternal torments, from which he will watch the righteous enjoying heavenly glory.**

**So what does Pseudo-Ephraim mean in Brainard's alleged rapture text? What did he intend when he speaks of being delivered from the tribulation? The answer is very simple. First, let us note again the full beatitude cited:**

**“Blessed the one who continually remembers the fear of Gehenna and hastens with tears and groans to repent sincerely in the Lord, for he will be delivered from the great tribulation.”**

**—Beatitude #19**

**Pseudo-Ephraim, along with many early believers, didn't believe in eternal security. They knew nothing of the popular "once saved, always saved" teaching. They viewed the tribulation as the final and ultimate trial when the faith of all Christians would be tested greatly, resulting in many apostatizing from the faith unto eternal damnation.**

**Ephraim was simply saying that those who sincerely repent in an ongoing manner will remain faithful throughout the final time of testing. They will be saved or delivered from the potentially soul destroying effects of the great tribulation. That is the clear context of the statement, having nothing to do with a Pretribulation Rapture.**