

**Pseudo-Ephraim:
Escape by Rapture or by Hiding?**

This analysis continues our previous examination of Lee Brainard's alleged Pretribulational "discoveries" in the Greek texts of Pseudo-Ephraim. In this session we are examining a statement found in Pseudo-Ephraim's *Sermon on the Advent, the End, and the Coming of the Antichrist*

"Watch always, praying continually, that you may be worthy to escape the tribulation ... if anyone has tears and compunction, let him pray the Lord that he might be delivered from the tribulation which is about to come upon the earth, that he might not see it all, nor the beast himself, nor even hear of its terrors."

Brainard seems to have deliberately misrepresented the passage here. He actually edited and removed a critical portion of the citation to create the illusion of Pretribulationism. Let's look at the portion that was removed:

The portion Lee removed highlighted below:

“And again: always be awake, watching constantly, so that you may be found worthy to escape the tribulation and stand before God, for the time is near. For we will all face this evil together, yet we do not believe. Let us continually be found in tears and prayers, night and day, falling upon God, so that we sinners may be saved. If anyone has tears and grief, let us pray to the Lord, that we may be saved from the future sorrow coming to the earth; that he may not see this beast at all, nor hear his terrors again.”

Lee’s redacted citation:

“Watch always, praying continually, that you may be worthy to escape the tribulation ... if anyone has tears and compunction, let him pray the Lord that he might be delivered from the tribulation which is about to come upon the earth, that he might not see it all, nor the beast himself, nor even hear of its terrors.”

In the full quote Pseudo-Ephraim warns his readers that they *will all* face the coming tribulation of the Antichrist together. Why did Brainard only remove this one very important Post-tribulational statement?

Sadly, it gets much worse. When one simply reads the rest of the sermon, *Pseudo-Ephrem specifically mentions the Church alive on the earth during the tribulation! But Lee ignores this portion of the sermon!*

“Then the whole earth and sea will mourn... the heavenly lights will mourn because this generation of man have all turned away from the Holy God and believed in the deception, receiving the mark of defilement and enmity with God rather than the life-giving cross of the Saviour... All the churches of Christ will mourn with a great cry because holiness and sacrifice are no longer conducted. Now after three and a half years of the power and practice of pollution are fulfilled, and when all the scandals (stumbling blocks, snares) over the entire earth have been fulfilled, as the Lord says, next our holy, undefiled, terrible, and glorious God shall come as lightning flashing from heaven.”

Pseudo-Ephrem speaks of the horrors of what he believed both he and his listeners were about to face. He taught that many saints would be “saved” not by a rapture, *but by fleeing and hiding in deserts or in caves so they would not even see the Antichrist.*

“Many of you, at that time, will be found pleasing to God. You will be strong and find salvation in the wilderness and in desert places, through many prayers and unbearable tears. Because the holy God considers their unfathomable cries and sincere faith, and will have compassion on them, as a loving father, and he will preserve them in their hiding.”

“When the Dragon comes, you will not have rest on earth, but you will have great sorrow, turmoil and confusion. There will be death and famines to the ends of the earth; of these things, the Lord our God spoke by his mouth, saying that such things have not happened since the creation of the world.”

“We need many prayers and tears, dear ones, so that we may stand firm during the great temptations.”

"In peace, our Lord will come to us, in order that we may overcome the deception of the beast, sincerely striving for the steadfast faith of Christ, allowing us to overcome the power of the tyrant. We will maintain our testimony, standing firm, enduring patiently, thus leaving him with nothing in us. I, the least, brothers, beseech you, lovers of Christ, let us not be weak, but rather strong in the power of the cross."

“[The Antichrist] will falsely take on the form of the true shepherd. Let us learn therefore, O friends, in what form the shameless one will appear on the earth.”

“Many of the saints who then find themselves at the end of those days, will shed rivers of tears in groans to the Holy God because of the many murders of the Dragon. And they will flee in great fear into deserts, and hide themselves in mountains and caves with fear, and they will hide themselves under earth and the snow living in day and night destitution in many ways. But the Holy God will by His grace lead them to their hiding places where they will be saved hiding in the pits and caves, not seeing the signs or the terrors of the Dragon.”

In conclusion, Pseudo Ephraim, in his Greek *Sermon on the Advent, the End, and the Coming of the Antichrist* envisions the saints of his day about to endure the horrors of the Great Tribulation, hopefully being saved through hiding themselves and thus surviving until the return of Jesus.

It is clear that Brainard's alleged Pretribulation rapture passage here has been presented in a misleading manner, having been ripped from its context. The sermon is loaded with very clear Post-tribulation statements that envision Pseudo-Ephrem's readers as seeking out solitary hiding places during the tribulation.

Not only did Brainard ignore these repeated Post-tribulation comments, but he also selectively removed a line from the middle of his quote to create a false impression of a Pretribulation rapture text.