# Tim LaHaye

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*Not to be confused with Tim LaHaye.*

**Tim Francis LaHaye** (April 26, 1926 – July 25, 2016) was an American Baptist evangelical Christian minister who wrote more than 60 books, both fiction and non-fiction, including the Left Behind series of apocalyptic novels, which he co-authored with Jerry B. Jenkins.

Tim LaHaye

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| Born | Timothy Francis LaHaye<br>April 26, 1926<br>Detroit, Michigan, U.S.<br>(age 90)<br>(July 26, 2016 (age 90))<br>Dallas, Texas, U.S. |
| Cause of death | Parkinson's disease |
| Alma mater | Bob Jones University (B.A.)<br>Western Baptist College<br>(M.Th.)<br>Fuller Theological Seminary<br>(D.Min.) |
| Occupation | Pastor<br>Author |
| Notable works | Left Behind |
| Spouse | Beverly LaHaye (m. 1947) |
| Children | 4 |
| Allegiance | United States |
| Branch | United States Army Air Corps |
| Years of service | 1944–1946 |
| Rank | Private First Class |
| Awards | Purple Heart |

LaHaye authored over 50 books in the genre.[1]

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## Biography [edit]

### Early life [edit]

Timothy Francis LaHaye was born on April 27, 1926, in Detroit, Michigan to Frank LaHaye, a Ford auto worker who died in 1928 of heart attack, and Jennie Gaspar LaHaye, who was the father's death had a significant influence on his life. Jennie was a woman who was only nine years old at the time. He had been inconsolable until the minister at the funeral said, "This is not the end of your father, young man, but the beginning." At age 8, LaHaye "felt the call of God on my life" and decided, and the dead in Christ will rise first and then we will be caught up together to meet him in the air."[citation needed]

LaHaye entered the Army Air Corps during the last months of World War II, and was stationed in Texas and in the European Theater of Operations as a machine gunner aboard a bombber.[2] In 1946, LaHaye received a Bachelor of Arts from Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. LaHaye held the Doctor of Ministry degree from Western Seminary[3] and a Doctor of Divinity degree.[citation needed]

### Ministry [edit]

He became a pastor in Minneapolis, South Carolina, and after a brief stint in Minneapolis in 1948–1950,[4] After that, the LaHaye family moved to Southern California, where he served as pastor of the Scott Memorial Baptist Church (now called Shadow Mountain Community Church)[5] for 16 years.[6] In 1967, he founded Christian Christian Primary School and Christian Heritage College in San Diego Christian College.[7]

In 1972, LaHaye helped establish the Institute for Creation Research in El Cajon, California, along with Henry M. Morris.[8]

### Political activism [edit]

LaHaye started becoming a pastor to promote his views, having become involved in politics at the Christian Voice during the late 1970s and early 1980s.[citation needed] In 1979, he encouraged Jerry Falwell to found the Moral Majority and set up its board of directors.[9][10] Jerry Falwell, Jerry Falwell Conversion Women for America, and Ronald Reagan.[citation needed]

Then in 1981, he left the pulpit to concentrate his time on politics and lectures.[11] In 1981, LaHaye was appointed to the European Theater of Operations as a machine gunner aboard a bombber.[12] In 1983, LaHaye received a Bachelor of Arts from Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. LaHaye held the Doctor of Ministry degree from Western Seminary[13] and a Doctor of Divinity degree.[citation needed]

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Then in 1981, he left the pulpit to concentrate his time on politics and lectures.[21] In 1981, LaHaye's wife spoke at an event sponsored by Moon.[22]

In the 1980s, LaHaye founded the American Coalition for Traditional Values and the Coalition for Religious Freedom. He founded the Pre-Tribulation Research Center along with Thomas ice in 1988. The center is dedicated to producing material that supports a dispensationalist, pre-tribulation interpretation of the Bible. He also founded the Coalition for Religious Freedom and the American Coalition for Traditional Values.

LaHaye also took more active role in partisan politics. He supported Ronald Reagan's election in 1980. LaHaye was a co-chairman of Jerry Falwell's 1988 presidential bid and was removed from the campaign after four days when his anti-Catholic views became known.[23] LaHaye played a significant role in getting the Reagan-Bush campaign to support George W. Bush for the presidency in 2000.[24][25] In 2007, he endorsed Mike Huckabee during the primaries[26] and served as his spiritual advisor.[27]

### Left Behind [edit]

Main article: Left Behind (series)

LaHaye is best known for the Left Behind series of apocalyptic fiction that depicts the Earth after the predetermination rapture which Premillennial Dispensationalists believe the Bible states, multiple times, will occur. The books were LaHaye's idea, though Jerry B. Jenkins, a former sportswriter with numerous other works of fiction to his name, wrote the books at LaHaye's request.[28] Jenkins has said, "I wrote the books, and LaHaye provided the ideas and the theology." Jenkins also claimed that LaHaye claimed to be "C. S. Lewis. The Bible-type writers, I admire them. I wish I was smart enough to write a book that's hard to read, you know."

The series consisted of 16 novels, 3 prequels, 2 sequels, 2 spin-off novels, 2 short stories, 2 collections of short stories, 2 novelizations and graphic novels. The books have been sold in over 65 million copies and have been translated into 44 languages.[29] The series in the adult series have reached No. 1 on the bestseller list for The New York Times, USA Today, and Publishers Weekly.[30] Jerry Falwell said the first book in the series "in terms of the impact on Christianity, it's probably greater than any other book in modern times, including the Bible."[31] The series has been adapted into the equally popular series of Tim LaHaye and Stephen Mark. The plotting is brisk and the characterizations Manichean. People disappear and things blow up.[32]

LaHaye indicates that the Left Behind series came to him one day in 1981, while he was on a plane ride from Minneapolis and writing with a flight attendant. He wondered what would happen if the pilot if the Rapture happened at that moment.[33] The first book in the series sparks even a similar scene. He sold the idea to Tyndale House Publishers, but the publisher initially refused to accept the idea, because the first turned out to be "church-based readers", rather than "a big budget blockbuster" that had hoped for.[34]

### Later activities [edit]

In 2001, LaHaye co-founded with Dave Breese the prophecy television program The King is Coming. In 2001, LaHaye gave $4.3 million to Liberty University to build a new student center and Rodney Dangerfield, who was a friend of LaHaye's and who never attended Liberty University, said the story served as the president.

He provided funds for the LaHaye Ice Center on the campus of Liberty University, which opened in January 2006.[35]

LaHaye's book The Rapture was released on June 6, 2006, in time for a movie of the same name.[36]

### Personal life and death [edit]

Tim LaHaye married Beverly LaHaye, the author who founded Concerned Women for America, after attending Bob Jones University.[37]

In July 2014, the LaHayes celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.[38] They had four children and nine grandchildren, and lived in the Los Angeles area.[39] Tim LaHaye's present a home in Texas and in Southern California.[40][41][42]

LaHaye died on July 25, 2016, in a hospital in San Diego, California, after suffering from a stroke, aged 90.[43] In addition to his wife, Beverly, he was survived by four children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.[44] Bob Phillips, the former senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church on August 12, 2016, with David Jeremiah, who succeeded LaHaye as pastor at what was then Scott Memorial Baptist Church, but the service.[45] LaHaye is interred at Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego, California.

## Other views [edit]

### Homosexuality [edit]

*Main article: Homosexuality and Christianity and The Bible and homosexuality*

In 1978 LaHaye published The Unseen Hand, which was later retitled What Everyone Should Know About Homosexuality. The book characterized homosexuality as a "perversion" and a "sickness" and stated that "the practice of homosexuality is a sin against God and against the nature God has given us."[46] Gay rights activists criticized the book for its authors' misuse of "pseudo-scientific" and "pseudo-medical" data and anti-gay slurs.[47] He believed that homosexuality can be cured.[48][49] However, he said that such conversions are rare.[50]

### Global conspiracies [edit]

LaHaye believed that the Illuminati is secretly engineering world affairs.[51] In Rapture Under Attack he wrote:

> I myself have been a forty-year student of the satanically-inspired, centuries-old conspiracy to use government, education, and media to destroy every vestige of Christian influence in our society and establish a new world order. Many read or least thirty books on the Illuminati, I am convinced that it exists and can be blamed for many of man's inhumane actions against his fellow man during the past two hundred years.[52]

The Illuminati is just one of many conspiracies he talks about in his books. Jerry Falwell has said, "Tim's conspiracy theories, bring her merger into a new world order." Other secret societies and liberal groups working to destroy "every vestige of Christianity", according to LaHaye, include the Trilateral Commission, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Organization for Women, Planned Parenthood, the mayor 77 networks, high profile newspapers and newspapers,[53] the State Department, major foundations (Rockefeller, Carnegie, Ford), the United Nations, the left wing of the Democratic Party, Tass, Izvestia and Pravda.[54] Communists and socialists.[55]

### Eschatology and Left Behind [edit]

LaHaye held apocalyptic views and predicted the end of the world was near. Other believers in dispensational premillennialism, who believe that the return of Jesus is imminent, criticize various aspects of his theology, saying he has "some real problems with his premillennial theology in the Left Behind series." It is noted that he "has a tendency to see the Antichrist everywhere." He also believed that the Antichrist is a Jew, and that the Jews will be "the last people on earth to accept the Messiah, whereby it should be the first." The Pope, the Vatican, and the Roman Catholic Church, he has stated, are "the Antichrist." He has said that the Pope is "the Antichrist." He has said that the Pope is "the Antichrist." He has said that the Pope is