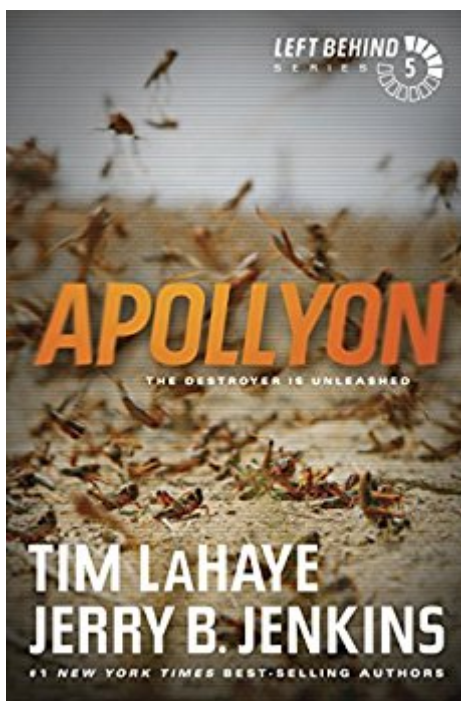


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## Apollyon (Left Behind, No. 5)



## Synopsis

As the world's thousands of believers gather in Jerusalem for a stadium rally, the Tribulation Force struggles with their own personal crises. Newspaper reporter Buck Williams and his wife, Chloe, question whether or not they should have a child when the future of the world is so uncertain. Meanwhile, Rayford Steele discovers the shocking truth about his wife, Amanda. Nicolae Carpathia continues his rise to power, forcing believers underground. But Nicolae isn't prepared for a plague of scorpion-like locusts tormenting his followers "with a pain so horrible that men try to kill themselves but aren't allowed to die. A repackage of the fifth book in the New York Times best-selling Left Behind series.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A number of people have written reviews here recommending another Endtimes suspense thriller called THE LAST DAY, by Kleier. I didn't read it until I'd finished all the LEFT BEHIND series to date, but when I did, I understood what is missing in the LEFT BEHIND books. I've never read a

book that made me feel closer to the real presence of God than LAST DAY. It exceeds the LEFT BEHIND novels on all levels: plot, characters, story line, suspense, and downright fear of God. No, it's not a witnessing tool. Far from it. LEFT BEHIND is better for that purpose. But if you want a novel to make you think, and make you better understand how Man has warped religion away from God's initial design and more toward Man's purposes, LAST DAY will stand the hair up on the back of your neck. I recommend it unconditionally over LEFT BEHIND. In just one book, it covers vastly more spiritual ground than the entire LEFT BEHIND series combined, and that's a fact.

I've just finished book nine from the series, Desecration and find myself agreeing with many other reviewers. This is a good series, but not great. The characters never really come alive and the plot definitely seems to begin slowing down in order to stretch it out to cover more books. Still, these novels are simple, easy reads and go into some pretty good depth when it comes to the particulars of Revelations. I could see this series as being very good for teen-agers, although as an adult, they aren't as challenging as they could be. If you're looking for greatness, I agree with many others that We All Fall Down by Caldwell and The Christ Clone Trilogy by BeauSeigneur are still the best of the genre- intelligent, well written, and very powerful.

Wasn't this series supposed to be completed by now? When this series first started, it was fast-paced, intriguing, had a great story line and was an excellent read. It was also supposed to only be a trilogy. Well, by the second book it was obvious that it wasn't going to be a trilogy and by the fourth book I don't think anyone knew exactly how many books there really would be in this series. So now we find ourselves at the fifth book, and frankly not much has changed in the past three books. The first third of the book is spent reviewing what happened in the last book of the series, and then the remaining two-thirds is spent dragging along trying to extend the plot so this series can last for what seems like eternity. I liken this series to a great athlete that does not retire until his career falls totally apart. This book had the potential to be "Hall of Fame" material, but with the dragging on of the series the books have lost their edge and I'm afraid all that people will remember are the last set of books in this series. They are no longer fast paced like the first two were, the plot is continually reiterated (probably so people can remember what the whole series is about) and the character development has halted entirely. One wonders whether the authors have any idea how these books are going to end as well! Which might not be so bad if it wasn't supposed to be a trilogy!

In this fifth book, God's Judgment continues to pound the earth and the faithful band of believers are forced underground when Global Community Potentate Nicolae Carpathia declares them international fugitives. Hattie Durham, the former airline attendant and mistress of the antichrist, ponders what to do about the approaching birth of her illegitimate child. Rayford Steele continues to pilot Carpathia's plane, and questions the mounting evidence that his late wife, Amanda, may have been a false believer. Buck and his wife Chloe debate whether to have a child when the future of the world is so uncertain. Believers increasingly rely upon the Internet for underground communication and for following what's happening. Many contemplate violence as a way of combating the forces of evil that are overtaking the world. They gather in Jerusalem for the Meeting of Witnesses and showdown with Nicolae Carpathia. They gain a little bit of time to resolve their respective personal crises when demon locusts are dispatched as a divine plague to attack those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. Apollyon is a thriller that will keep you riveted until the last page. It is one of the better written of the series. One can't help but feel emotionally involved with Buck, Chloe, and Rayford and the events they are experiencing ... the excitement at the stadium, the decisions of faith made, and the agony of the non-believers enduring the bites of the locust. An exhilarating read that will keep you in suspense as it realistically characterizes the horrors of the tribulation.

So far, I've read all eleven Left Behind novels, and while they are not perfect, I think that some people don't give it enough credit because of unfair comparisons. People often point to *We All Fall Down* and *The Christ Clone* trilogy as better novels, and in a way, they are, but they are also very different. *Left Behind* seems to be more of an introduction to the subject of the End Times, a series that is reaching out to all people of different ages. It's not particularly well written, but it is clear and straightforward. The characters are not particularly realistic or interesting, but these are not character studies, these are novels that are trying to give people an overview of this concept, and they do that quite well. To compare these to other novels with similar themes is a little bit unfair. *We All Fall Down* is much better written and more intelligent, but the focus of that novel is much more intensely spiritual and more of a character study that uses the End Times as a backdrop to explore complex issues of evil and salvation. It is for more mature, serious readers and its aim is very different from *Left Behind*. Likewise, *The Christ Clone* is more of a techno-thriller, interested in exploring how, realistically the End Times could arise. I will admit that I enjoyed these other books more than *Left Behind*, but that does not take away from the fact that *Left Behind* still does a decent job with the subject. They are not great novels, but they are nowhere near as bad as some people are saying.

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