

## 1 Hour Unknown

## 2 Judgment Day

(May 21, 2011)

- The start of the end of the world was to have happened today at 6:00 p.m. EDT.
- It was to occur in an apocalyptic event known as the Rapture—where believers in Christ, both dead and alive were to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Th 4:17)
- According to Harold Camping, the opening of these graves during the Rapture would cause such huge earthquakes that millions of people would die.
- Then because of all the chaos in the world, the Antichrist would appear and rule over the whole earth, until October 21st, 2011 when Jesus would return and destroy him.

## 3 Who is Harold Camping?

- Harold Egbert Camping is an ex Civil Engineer and now a Christian radio broadcaster and president of Family Radio—a California-based religious broadcasting network that spans more than 150 outlets in the United States as well as a website.
- Born in Colorado, Mr Camping studied at Berkeley in the 1940s and became a member of the Christian Reformed Church.
- In 1958, Mr Camping and some other members of the church jointly purchased an FM radio station in San Francisco and began broadcasting conservative Christian gospel.

## 4 The Rationale

- In 1970, Mr Camping published the Biblical Calendar of History, in which he dated the creation of the world to 11,013 BC and the flood which Noah survived to 4990 BC.
- Using Genesis 7:4 (Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth) and 2 Peter 3:8 (With the Lord a day is like a 1,000 years, and a 1,000 years are like a day), Camping concludes that the end of the world will occur in the year 2011.
- $4990 \text{ BC} + 7000 = 2011$
- Camping takes the 17th day of the second month mentioned in Genesis 7:11 to be May 21st, and hence predicts the rapture to occur on this date, May 21st, 2011.

## 5 The Rationale

- Another argument that Camping uses in favor of the May 21st date is as follows:
  - The number five equals "atonement", the number ten equals "completeness", and the number seventeen equals "heaven".
  - Christ is said to have hung on the cross on April 1, 33 AD. The time between April 1, 33 AD and April 1, 2011 is 1,978 years.
  - If 1,978 is multiplied by 365.2422 days (the number of days in a solar year, not to be confused with the lunar year), the result is 722,449.
  - The time between April 1st and May 21st is 51 days. Adding 51 to 722,449 is 722,500.

• $(5 \times 10 \times 17)^2$  or (atonement  $\times$  completeness  $\times$  heaven)<sup>2</sup> also equals 722,500.

## 6 Hitting the streets

## 7 Doomsday prediction

## 8 Failed 1994 Rapture

- Harold Camping has predicted the “End of the World” before.
- In 1992, he wrote a whole book on the subject, called 1994?.
- However, as you may recall. The Rapture did not occur on this date either.

## 9 False prediction

- In the late 1980s, a NASA engineer and Bible student, by the name of Edgar C. Whisenant, wrote a book called, 88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will be in 1988.
- At that time many took his book very seriously.
  - Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN) frequently interrupted its broadcasts with instruction on how to prepare for the Rapture.
  - Even preachers here in Lexington exhorted their congregation to get right with God.
  - But as you may remember, the Rapture did not happen in 1988, or other years that Whisenant predicted, such as 1989, 1993, and 1994.

## 10 False predictions

- January 1st, 1000 AD – Many Christians in Europe had predicted the end of the world on this date. As the date approached, Christian armies waged war against some of the Pagan countries in Northern Europe. The motivation was to convert them all to Christianity, by force if necessary, before Christ returned in the year 1000.
- 1346 and later – The black plague spread across Europe, killing one third of the population. This was seen as the prelude to an immediate end of the world. Unfortunately, the Christians had previously killed many of their cats, fearing that they might be used by Witches. The fewer the cats, the more the rats. It was the rat fleas that spread the black plague.
- 1843–MAR–21 – William Miller, founder of the Millerite movement, predicted that Jesus would come on this date. A very large number of Christians accepted his prophecy.
- 1850 & 1856 – Ellen White, founder of the Seven Day Adventists movement, made many predictions of the timing of the end of the world.
- 1914, 1915, 1918, 1920, 1925, 1941, 1975, and 1994 – All are dates by the Jehovah’s Witnesses to the end of the world.

## 11 Allegorical Interpretation

- The “allegorical interpretation” of the Bible is the place where all false prophets and false teachers live.

- It is a form of Bible interpretation that implies that behind every Scripture there is a “spiritual” or more “enlightened” meaning to the text, which is more important to the understanding of God’s will.
- To find this more spiritual meaning of the Bible, you need some spiritual person who can explain the Bible for you.
- So instead of reading the Bible for yourself, you put yourself at the mercy of others who have the power to exploit you and use you for their own interest.

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## 13 Bible interpretation

- When we read the Bible, what we want to know is what the original author intended to convey to his original audience in his own context.
- This is called the grammatical–historical method, which first determines a passage’s meaning by reference to its language, context, and the historical background of the setting.
- So in using the grammatical–historical method we seek to find truths that can be applied universally.
- People who ignore this practice . . . make a fatal flaw.

## 14 Example

- The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10 NIV)
  - Who comes to give people abundant life?
  - Who comes to steal, kill, and destroy?
  - According to the context, who comes to steal, kill, and destroy?

## 15 Motive of false teachers

- I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. (Acts 20:29–31 NIV)

- How long did Paul warn the Ephesian church?

- During those three years, how frequently did Paul warn the church about “false teachers?”

- What is the motivation of these false teachers?

- How did Paul warn the church about this future problem?

## 16 Good Advice

## 17 The Lord’s coming

- “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Matt 24:36 NIV)

- Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. (1 Th 5:1–3 NIV)

## 18 The Lord’s Coming

- “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” (Matt 24:42 NIV)

- But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. (1 Th 5:4–6 NIV)

## 19 When will the Rapture Happen?

- “Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” (Matt 24:29 NIV)

- The distress of those days is the great persecution that will occur when the Antichrist makes the “abomination of desolation.”—proclaiming himself as God.

- Then after it is over the cosmic signs will appear in the sky.

- “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn.” (Matt 24:30 NIV)

## 20 When will the Rapture Happen?

- They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (Matt 24:30–31 NIV)

## 21 Summary

- Jesus tells us that no one knows the exact time of His Second Coming.
- However, we will know the season and should keep watch so that we may be worthy to escape all that will come upon the world.
  - Lesson of the Fig Tree (Matt 24:32–35)
  - “Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.” (Matt 24:28 NIV)

## 22 The Signs of the Times

- I do believe we are close to the Second Coming of Christ. I believe this is so because of the evidences below.
  - The seemingly coming together of nations unified by religion who are determined to destroy Israel and kill all Jews.
  - How these nations are explicitly mentioned in the Bible as the very ones Jesus will destroy when he comes. (Psalm 83, Ezekiel 38 & 39)
  - How the United States and other nations around the world are seemingly abandoning Israel where she is becoming all the more isolated and surrounded by those who hate her.
- Therefore, what I see happening in current events and how these events seem to fit perfectly in the Bible, causes me to conclude that we are very close to the coming of our Lord.

## 23 Our Exhortation

- “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” (Rev 22:12–13 NIV)
- “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.” (Rev 22:14 NIV)
- Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. (1 John 3:3 NIV)