

Then Cometh  
The End

**I Cor. 15:20-24**

# Date Setter/Speculators Have Been Rampant For Centuries...

- 1186** The "Letter of Toledo" warned everyone to hide in the caves and mountains. The world would be destroyed and only a few would be spared. From astrologers to Pope Clement III.
- 1533** Christ's Coming and Judgment at 8:00 AM October 19, 1533; Michael Stiefel (1486-1567)
- 1572** Benedictus Aretius of Berne (1505-1547) calculated that 1260 years added to the year Constantine made Christianity the official religion ( $312+1260=1572$ ) should be the year.

# Date Setter/Speculators Have Been Rampant For Centuries...

- 1666** To the citizens of London, 1666 was not a banner year. A bubonic plague outbreak killed 100,000 and the Great Fire of London struck the same year. The world seemed at an end to most Londoners. The fact that the year ended with the Beast's number (666), didn't help matters either.
- 1666** generated much discussion as it was  $1000 + 666$

# Date Setter/Speculators Have Been Rampant For Centuries...

**1843-** William Miller was the founder of an “end-times” movement that was so prominent it received its own name-- Millerism. From his “studies” of the Bible, Miller determined that the second coming would happen sometime between 1843-1844. A spectacular meteor shower in 1833 gave the movement a good push forward. The build up of anticipation continued until March 21, 1844, when Miller's one year time table ran out. Some followers set another date of Oct 22, 1844. This too failed, collapsing the movement. “The Great Disappointment”.

# Date Setter/Speculators Have Been Rampant For Centuries...

**1914** Charles Russell, after being exposed to the teachings of William Miller, founded his own organization - the Jehovah's Witnesses. "Millions Now Living Will Never Die".

**1914,** JW's: Here are other dates that the Watchtower Society  
**1918,** predicted.

**1920,**

**1925,**

**1941,**

**1975**

**and**

**1994**

# Date Setter/Speculators Have Been Rampant For Centuries...

**1914** End of World; Charles T. Russel, Jehovah's Witnesses; later explained that Michael (i.e. Jesus) had defeated Satan in heaven

**1914** Jesus invisible and quiet return to the Earth. (Jehovah's Witnesses, Book: This Means Everlasting Life, page 221) "So A.D. 1914 marks the time of Christ's invisible return in spirit." Explained after they said he would return in 1914

**1970s** The late Moses David (formerly David Berg) was the founder of the religious group, *The Children of God*. He predicted that a comet would hit the earth, probably in the mid 1970's and destroy all life in the United States.

# Date Setter/Speculators Have Been Rampant For Centuries...

- 1981** Hal Lindsey boldly declared that "The Rapture" would occur before Dec. 31, 1981, based on Christian prophecy, astronomy and a dash of ecological fatalism. He pegged the date to Jesus' promised to return to Earth a generation after Israel's rebirth.
- 1986:** Moses David of *The Children of God* faith group predicted that the Battle of Armageddon would take place in 1986. Russia would defeat Israel and the United States. A worldwide Communist dictatorship would be established. In 1993, Christ would return to earth.

# Date Setter/Speculators Have Been Rampant For Centuries...

- 1988** The book "88 Reasons Why the Rapture is in 1988" (Edgar Whisenant) came out only a few months before the event was to take place. What little time the book had, it used effectively. By the time Sept 11-13 rolled around, whole churches were caught up in the excitement the book generated. I personally had friends who were measuring themselves for wings...1989 → 89 Reasons...
- 1994** John Hinkle of Christ Church Los Angeles announced he had received a vision for God that warned of apocalyptic event on June 9th, 1994. Hinkle, quoting God, said, "On Thursday June the 9th, I will rip the evil out of this world."



# Date Setter/Speculators Have Been Rampant For Centuries...

- 1997** Stan Johnson of the Prophecy Club saw a 90 percent chance that the tribulation would start Sept 12, 1997. He bases his conclusion on several “end-time signs”. The date of September 12 was chosen by Johnson because it will be Jesus' 2000th birthday.
- 1998** A Taiwanese cult operating out of Garland Texas predicted Christ would return on Mar 31 of 1998. The group's leader, Heng-ming Chen, announced God would return, and then invite the cult members aboard a UFO.

# Date Setter/Speculators Have Been Rampant For Centuries...

**2000** Revised Date for rapture from Hal Lindsey.

**2012** New Age writers cite Mayan and Aztec calendars which predict the end of the age on Dec 21, 2012.

# What Does The Bible Say?

- ***Jesus will come again.***

- ***Acts 1:11*** → Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.
- ***I Thess. 4:14-16*** → 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (I Thess. 4:14-16)
- ***Jn. 14:2-3*** → 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

# *What Does The Bible Say?*

- ***Jesus, while on earth said that no one knows when.***
  - Matt. 24:42 → Watch therefore: **for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.** ... 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for **in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.** ... 50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for [him], and **in an hour that he is not aware of,**
  - Mar 13:33 → 33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: **for ye know not when the time is.**
  - Jesus will return at the time of God's choosing.

# What About The Signs of Matt. 24?

- Matt. 24:4-8 → 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.
- Mat 23:36 → 36 Verily I say unto you, **All these things shall come upon this generation.**
- Mat 24:34 → 34 Verily I say unto you, **This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.**

# Answering The Mockers And Unbelievers

- *II Pet. 3:3-7* → 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,
- 4 And saying, **Where is the promise of his coming?** for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
- 5 For this **they willingly are ignorant** of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:
- 6 Whereby **the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:**
- 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, **by the same word are kept in store**, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

# Answering The Mockers And Unbelievers

- **II Pet. 3:8-11** → 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, **that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**
- 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; **but is longsuffering to us-ward**, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- 10 But **the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night**; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
- 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,**
- 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.
- 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, **be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.**

# Then Cometh The End...

- **All the dead will be raised – both good and evil at the same time.**
  - Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. (Jn. 5:28-29)
- **Those still alive will be changed.**
  - In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (I Cor. 15:52)
- **This earth will be destroyed.**
  - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (II Pet. 3:10)
- **Each one will stand before the judgment seat of God.**
  - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.(II Cor. 5:10)
- **Eternal life or eternal punishment.**
  - And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.(Matt. 25:46)