

May 21, 2011

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by Wayne Goff

*Harold Camping, a civil engineer from California and owner of a Christian radio network has predicted May 21, 2011 as the end of the world as we know it. Mr. Camping guarantees this date!*

Harold Camping is a premillennialist who believes that the “rapture” will take place on May 21, 2011 and that the end of the world will follow in October, 2011.

Premillennialists believe that Jesus Christ did **not** set up His earthly kingdom in Jerusalem on the throne of David when He came to the earth 2,000 years ago *because* the Jews rejected Him. Instead, Jesus supposedly substituted **the church** and returned back to heaven to await a second coming when He will set up His earthly kingdom then. They call this present period the “church age.”

Furthermore, premillennialists believe that Christ will “rapture” (Latin for “caught up”) true believers **prior** to the end time. This is based on a misconception on 1 Thessalonians 4. Between the “rapture” and the end of time there is to be a “Battle of Armageddon” in which the remaining earthly wicked will make one last effort to wrest world power from God. At this darkest moment, Christ is supposed to return, defeat all the wicked armies of Satan, and set up His earthly kingdom and reign for a thousand years on the earth (Rev. 20). Hence, the term “**premillennialism**” (*pre-* [before] + *millennial* [thousand] + *-ism* [doctrine of]).

## MAY 21 FOR SURE?

Since Mr. Camping is steeped in his false premillennial theory, he certainly does not know the date for the end of the world! However, premillennialists are fond of setting dates for these various *erroneous events* because it gets their followers excited and emotionally charged! Unfortunately, with every failed attempt, “Christianity” is given a bad name, even though these people are teaching false doctrine.

Just the same, I checked out Mr. Camping’s web site to see what *biblical evidence* he gives for this date. His web site claims “*overwhelming biblical evidence*” for this date, and notes the fact that Mr. Camping has been studying the Bible for decades. But in five internet pages we are given two Scriptures: Matt. 24:40-41 and 1 Thess. 5:4. If you waded through their material, then I’m sure you will find other Scriptures given, but these are all I found listed for this date.

The first Scripture, Matt. 24:40-41, is a reference to what premillennialists think will happen during the “rapture.” *Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and the other left.* That is, the **believer** will be raptured while the **unbeliever** is left behind. Unfortunately, these folks don’t read their Bibles well because Matthew 24:36 tells us “*But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.*” This is the exact opposite of what is being professed. Matthew 24:42 also says “*Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.*”

Note that Matthew 24:4-35 states the *signs* of the destruction of Jerusalem which occurred in 70 A.D.

Premillennialists unite this entire chapter and try to make it all predict the end of time. But Jesus *separated* His teaching about the destruction of Jerusalem when He said in verse 34: “*Assuredly, I say to you, **this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.***” Then from verse 36-51 Jesus describes the sudden end of time when the world ends in unexpected judgment. There are no signs for that event.

1 Thessalonians 5:4 was also given by Mr. Camping. It says, “*But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*” However, when you read the context again, you will see that Paul said in verse 2: “*For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.*” Christians are **not ignorant** of *how* to prepare for the Lord’s second coming, for they are ready at all times! Those in *spiritual darkness* will be unprepared when the Day comes.

Mr. Camping is wrong about his entire premillennial doctrine. The Lord established His church (kingdom) when He came the first time, just as Jesus and John the Baptist announced (Matt. 3; Matt. 16:16-18). When Christ comes again, it will be for the final judgment. It could be **any day**, but no man knows for sure when that day is. So be prepared at all times!