

Harold Camping Resigns!

by Wayne Goff

Surely our readers will remember the name of Harold Camping. He was the gentleman who predicted the arrival of the *rapture* on May 21, 2011 “beyond the shadow of a doubt.” His prediction created a great media fury which certainly did the name of Christianity no good.

When that day came and went, Camping suffered a stroke. Later, he revised his prediction, saying that the *rapture* would take place instead on October 21. Now that this date has also come and gone, Camping has announced that he is stepping down from his position as head of the **Family Radio organization**. He has also begun to change his views on whether or not it's possible to predict the exact date of the end of the world. According to reports, he now stresses the importance of always being ready for God's judgment.

FALSE PROPHET

Harold Camping is a false prophet and a false teacher. Like so many others from various denominations, he holds to the God-dishonoring view called **Premillennialism**. This view proclaims that Jesus came to the earth to set up an earthly kingdom of Israel in the first century, but that the effort failed because the Jews rejected Him. Consequently, He substituted the “church” in its place, and returned back to heaven until a future day when He will return again with a mighty army to defeat Satan and all his evil forces and establish the Kingdom of Israel, sitting on David's throne in Jerusalem and reigning for 1,000 years.

Premillennialism improperly interprets Daniel 9, Matthew 24, 1 Thessalonians 4, and Revelation 20. From these biblical chapters and others, they weave an imaginary set of events that are supposed to signal the end of time. Every time we go through a national, or societal upheaval these premillennial prophets get the itch to predict the end of time!

HAL LINDSEY?

In the 70's the popular premillennial predictor was a man by the name of Hal Lindsey. He wrote several books on the subject. The most popular one was *The Late, Great Planet Earth*. In it he predicted that Russia was the terrible enemy that would try to invade and destroy Israel. Before Russia succeeds, Jesus Christ would return to earth with a mighty army and defeat all the Satanic enemies, create world peace and reign from Jerusalem for 1,000 years. Of course none of these things happened, and the Hal Lindsey craze eventually came to an end.

The *Rapture* which these people talk about is supposed to be when Jesus Christ *invisibly* whisks all faithful Christians up to heaven just prior to the horrible final battle of Armageddon. This error is a misinterpretation of 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 in which Paul is actually foretelling the end of the world when Christ will return and receive up to Himself all who are faithful and living at His return. The term “*rapture*” is the Latin form of the phrase translated “*caught up*” (1 Thess. 4:17). It takes a lot of imagination to create the premillennial rapture from that passage!

Today the popular series of books and movies by Tim LaHaye, ***Left Behind***, stirs up human interest in this same false doctrine. The Bible does not teach the false doctrine of premillennialism. Jesus Christ Himself said that there would be **no signs** preceding His second coming, and that nobody knows the time of His second, final return except the Father (Matt. 24:36; Mk. 13:32). Christians **are** to be prepared at all times for the Lord's return, 1 Thess. 5:4-6.