

“WILL JUDGMENT DAY OCCUR ON MAY 21ST 2011?”

ACTS 1:1-11

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INTRO: JESUS IS COMING AGAIN! WHEN? WE DO NOT KNOW! From the time that I was small, I can remember preachers setting the date of the second coming of Christ. The first time was in about 1964 when an evangelist set the date for 1967. Prior to that time, and since that time, many predictions have been given concerning the date of the second coming of Christ, but HE HAS NOT YET COME! **THAT DOES NOT MEAN JESUS WILL NOT RETURN, BECAUSE HE HAS PROMISED THAT HE WILL, BUT IT WILL BE ACCORDING TO HIS OWN TIME. (NOTE 2 PETER 3:4-12).** Recently, Mr. Harold Camping of Family Radio in Oakland, California has been predicting the RETURN OF CHRIST AND JUDGMENT DAY FOR MAY 21ST, 2011. This is the second time he has predicted a date. He was wrong the first time, and he is wrong this time as well. HOW DO WE KNOW? Let's examine the matter from our authority, THE BIBLE!

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I. THE TEACHING OF ERROR ACCORDING TO HAROLD CAMPING

A. Who is Harold Camping?

-Harold Camping is an 89 year old man who is the President and General Manager of Family Stations, Inc. He graduated from UC Berkeley in 1942 with a degree in Civil Engineering. Along with two other business men he founded Family Radio with one station in Oakland, California, KEAR. Now Family radio is heard on 66 stations, numerous translators, shortwave, and the internet in a world-wide outreach. At one time, Mr. Camping was a very good Bible teacher, but in recent years, has become a false teacher.

B. What is Harold Camping teaching now?

1. He is predicting the 2nd Coming of Christ for May 21, 2011, that he associates with Judgment Day and the End of the World.
2. He teaches a false way of salvation which is based on doing all that is possible to obey the Bible and when you stand before the Lord, plead your case and ask for mercy and “maybe God will save you.”
3. He teaches a false concept of Hell in which he says that those who go to Hell will be burned up and annihilated with no eternal existence.
4. He teaches that the “church age ended” ended in 1988 and that those in the church are of Satan, for pastors are messengers of Satan and will go to Hell.

C. What Proof Does He give that Christ will Return on May 21st?

He says there is a lot of biblical proof in symbols and numbers, but does not take a literal view of scripture and thus believes and teaches error.

D. What Signs Does Mr. Camping say will precede the Day of Judgment?

1. The Death of the Church
2. The Devastation of Morality
3. The Establishment of the Nation of Israel

4. The Emergence of the Gay Pride Movement
5. The General Disregard of the Bible
- E. What Does Mr. Camping say will Happen on May 21st?
 1. A great earthquake will occur that will throw open all graves when the remains of true believers will be transformed into their glorified bodies to be with the Lord.
 2. The bodies of the unsaved will be thrown out upon the ground to be shamed in every cemetery in the world.
 3. Those who survive the earthquake will exist in a world of horror and chaos. Each day millions will die until October 21st 2011 when God will completely destroy the earth and its surviving inhabitants.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE TEACHING OF TRUTH ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURE

- A. What is the Second Coming of Christ?
 1. The Second Coming of Christ is **THE PROCESS OF JESUS CHRIST COMING TO THE CLOUDS OF THE AIR ABOVE THE EARTH, TO TAKE BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS HOME WITH HIM TO HEAVEN (THE RAPTURE), AND THEN LATER ON, LITERALLY RETURNING TO THE EARTH, ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES IN JERUSALEM, TO ESTABLISH HIS 1000 YEAR MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (HIS GLORIOUS RETURN).**
 2. The Rapture – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 3. The Glorious Return – Revelation 19:11-16 (cp. Zechariah 14:1-21).
 4. The activities between The Rapture and The Glorious Return.
 - a. The Judgment Seat of Christ for Christians – 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - b. The Appearance of the Anti-Christ – 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
 - c. The Great Tribulation Period – Revelation 6-18
 - 1) Its Length – 7 Years (Daniel 70th week) Daniel 9
 - 2) Its Purpose – To prepare Israel for the Glorious Return and to pour out the judgment of God upon the wicked world.
 - 3) Its Intensity – A time of great trouble - Jeremiah 30:7
- B. What are the Signs of the Second Coming of Christ? (1 Corinthians 1:22)
 1. To Israel – The Great Tribulation Itself – Matthew 24:3
 2. To the Church – None!
 - a. The church can recognize certain conditions
 - 1 Timothy 4:1-5 and 2 Timothy 3:1-9
 - b. The church is to be “looking” for the “Blessed Hope” – Titus 2:13
- C. What is the Date of the 2nd Coming of Christ?

NO ONE KNOWS BUT GOD HIMSELF!

 1. Matthew 24:36,42,44; 25:13
 2. Acts 1:6,7
 3. 1 Thessalonians 5:1,2
- D. What Must we do to Prepare for the 2nd Coming of Christ?
 1. Be Certain of Salvation
 2. Be Certain of Service

ILLUSTRATION:

QUESTION: HAROLD CAMPING RELATES THE RAPTURE, JUDGMENT DAY, AND THE END OF THE WORLD. HE DOES NOT GIVE AN ACCURATE PRESENTATION OF THESE EVENTS. HE APPEARS TO TEACH THAT THEY ALL HAPPEN AT ONCE. WHAT IS THE BIBLICAL CONNECTION?

1) The Rapture is when Christ gathers believers to be with Him in the air. Literal and accurate Bible study indicates that the rapture will come before the Great Tribulation Period. - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

2) Judgment Day – According to Harold Camping, it appears that Judgment Day is a one time event occurring at the rapture. But according to literal and accurate Bible study there will be several days, or times of judgment.

- The judgment for believers (Bema Seat) after the rapture.

- 2 Corinthians 5:10 (Revelation 4,5)

- The judgment of Israel and the Earth during the tribulation.

- Ezekiel 20:34-38; 22:19-22; Revelation 6-18

- The judgment of the nations at the end of the tribulation

- Matthew 25:31-46

- The judgment of unbelievers after the millennium (Great White Throne).

- Revelation 20:11-15

3) The End of the World – According to Harold Camping, it occurs in connection with the rapture and judgment day. But, literal and accurate Bible study indicates it will occur after the Great White Throne when God makes the New Heaven and the New Earth – Revelation 21 and 22.

APPLICATION:

- 1) Be sure to interpret the Bible accurately.
- 2) Be sure to reveal erroneous teaching.
- 3) Be sure to do the work of the evangelist.
- 4) Be sure to be ready to meet the Lord.