

### Matthew 24:42-44

➤ *Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

### MAN'S ATTEMPTS TO PREDICT THE END OF THE WORLD AND THE COMING OF CHRIST

### False Predictions

➤ (based on Craig Penney's presentation)

- In 999 many Europeans gave away their possessions to the Catholic Church, to prepare their souls for the expected end of the world on January 1, 1000. The Catholic priests carefully recorded all donations to the church and refused to give them back when Christ failed to show up on schedule.
- It's been 369,396 days since The Roman Catholic Church Prediction of Christ's Return Fizzled!

### False Predictions (2)

- In 1190, English King Richard the Lion-Hearted conferred with prophecy expert Joachim of Fiore. They determined that the Antichrist was already then living in the world somewhere, that it would be the destiny of Richard to deal with and defeat him, and that the Millennium would begin by 1205. Richard missed his date with Antichrist, dying in 1199>
- It's been 294,519 days since The Prediction of prophecy expert Joachim of Fiore Fizzled!

### False Predictions (3)

- Melchoir Hoffman announced that Christ would return in 1533 and set up the New Jerusalem in the German city of Strassburg. The rulers of Strassburg put him in prison, where he remained until he died.
- It's been 174,717 days since the prophecy of Melchoir Hoffman Fizzled!

### False Predictions (4)

- The Old Believers of Russia predicted the end of the world in 1669. When it didn't happen, 20,000 of them burned themselves to death in the period up to 1690 to protect themselves from the coming of Antichrist, who was later identified as Peter the Great.
- It's been more than 125,043 days since the Russian prophecy of 1669 Fizzled!

### False Predictions (5)

- In 1830 prophetess Margaret McDonald announced that Robert Owen would be the Antichrist. She also announced that the Church of Jesus Christ would be "raptured" before the coming of the Great Tribulation. Owen later participated in the founding of New Harmony, Indiana and then died in 1859.
- It's been 55,496 days since the prophecy of Margaret McDonald Fizzled!



### False Predictions (6)

- Mormon prophet Joseph Smith predicted the end of the world to come before the end of the 19th Century. He also stated by revelation that the moon was inhabited by a race of men 9 feet tall and dressed like Quakers.
- It's been 40,319 days since the prophecy of Joseph Smith Fizzled!

### False Predictions (7)

- Baptist preacher William Miller, founder of the Millerites, announced that Christ would come on March 21, 1843, and when that failed, he proposed a new date of October 22, 1844.
- It's been 61,423 days since The First Prediction of William Miller Fizzled!
- It's been 60,842 days since The Second Prediction of William Miller Fizzled!

### False Predictions (8)

- Prophecy teacher Michael Baxter of England pinpointed the arrival of Christ to come on March 12, 1903 between 2:30 and 3:00 AM.
- It's been 39,518 days since The Prediction of Prophecy teacher Michael Baxter Fizzled!

### False Predictions (10)

- The Jehovah's Witnesses announced that Christ would come in 1914, then in 1925, then again in 1975.
- ❖ During World War II, faithful witnesses were encouraged not to get married because the war was a sure sign of the soon coming of Christ.
- ❖ It's been 35,405 days since The First Prediction of The Jehovah's Witnesses Fizzled!
- ❖ It's been 31,387 days since The Second Prediction of The Jehovah's Witnesses Fizzled!
- ❖ It's been 13,125 days since The Third Prediction of The Jehovah's Witnesses Fizzled!

### Jehovah's Witnesses Predict

- From their own words:
  - ❖ "The 'Time of the End,' a period of one hundred and fifteen (115) years, from A.D. 1799 to A.D. 1914, is particularly marked in the Scriptures." —*Thy Kingdom Come*, (1891), 1914 edition, p. 23
  - ❖ "The time of the end' embraces a period from A.D. 1799, as above indicated, to the time of the complete overthrow of Satan's empire and the establishment of the kingdom of the Messiah. The time of the Lord's second presence dates from 1874, as above stated." — *The Harp of God*, (1921), 1924 ed., p. 231

### Jehovah's Witnesses Predict (2)

- ❖ "Surely there is **not the slightest room for doubt** in the mind of a truly consecrated child of God that the Lord Jesus is present and has been since 1874..." — *The Watch Tower*, January 1, 1924, p. 5
- ❖ "We see not reason for changing the figures —nor could we change them if we would. They are, we believe, **God's dates, not ours.**" —*Zion's Watch Tower*, July 15, 1894, p. 226
- ❖ "The typical Jubilee cycles pointed out A.D. 1874 as the date of our Lord's return...And this testimony was made doubly strong by proofs from two standpoints -- **the Law and the Prophets...**" —*Thy Kingdom Come*, (1891), 1914 ed., p. 125

### False Predictions (11)

- In 1978 Pastor Chuck Smith of Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, California announced that the Rapture was coming in 1981.
- ❖ It's been 10,933 days since Chuck Smith's Prediction of the Rapture Fizzled!

### False Predictions (12)

- Edgar Whisenant,
  - ❖ Former NASA rocket engineer wrote book entitled "88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Occur in 1988".
    - ❑ Predicted Jesus would return to rapture His church during the Jewish holiday of *Rosh-Hashanah* between sunset 9/11/1998 and sunset 9/13/1998.
    - ❑ When that failed, Whisenant updated the time to October 3, 1998.
      - ✓ Now that date, too, has fallen through. Whisenant nevertheless remains undaunted: "The evidence is all over the place that it is going to be in a few weeks anyway."
      - ✓ It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that he was wrong.
        - ❑ It's been 4,636 days since his first prediction fizzled!
        - ❑ It's been 4,614 days since his second prediction fizzled!

### False Predictions (13)

- Prophecy expert Hal Lindsey led his followers to believe that the Rapture was coming in 1988.
- ❖ At last report, the late great Hal Lindsey was still alive and well on Planet Earth, enjoying book royalties with his third wife.
- It's been 8,376 days since Lindsey's Rapture Prediction Fizzled!



### False Predictions (14)

- Korean preacher Lee Jang Rim announced that the Rapture would come on October 28, 1992. When it didn't happen, the Korean authorities put him in jail and many of his followers committed suicide.
- It's been 6,780 days since Lee Jang Rim's Rapture Prediction Fizzled!

### False Predictions (16)

- Florida Assemblies of God preacher Benny Hinn predicted that the Rapture would come in 1993, and also that God would destroy all homosexuals in America by 1994 or 1995 at the very latest.
  - ❖ It's been 6,550 days since Benny Hinn's prediction of the rapture fizzled.
  - ❖ It's been 5,820 days since Benny Hinn's prediction of the end of homosexuality in America fizzled!

### False Predictions (17)

- Florida Baptist preacher Peter Ruckman stated, based on his inside knowledge of the King James Version, that the Rapture was to come in 1990, give or take a year or two, and that the Millennium would begin by 2000 or earlier.
  - ❖ It's been 6,915 days since Peter Ruckman's Prediction of the Beginning of the Rapture Fizzled!
  - ❖ It's been 3,993 days since Peter Ruckman's Prediction of the beginning of the Millenium Fizzled!

### False Predictions (18)

- In 1997, "Prophecy Figure" James Lloyd made a bundle of money when he announced that New York City, Miami Florida, Los Angeles California, and Rome Italy would be destroyed by a nuclear bomb on July 4th, 1998.
  - ❖ It's been 4,705 days since James Lloyd's First Prediction of the Destruction of America Fizzled!

### False Predictions (19)

- Popular "prophecy" author James Lloyd
  - ❖ New York, Miami, Los Angeles, and Rome would be destroyed by nuclear bomb on July 4, 1998 (4705 days since prophecy failed)
  - ❖ Predicted America's destruction
    - ❑ June 24, 2003 (2,889 days since this prediction failed)
    - ❑ July 4, 2003 (2,879 days since this prediction failed)
    - ❑ July 4, 2004 (2,513 days since this prediction failed)
    - ❑ Sometime in November 2004 (2,379 days since this prediction failed)
  - ❖ Predicted Boutros Boutros Ghali (8<sup>th</sup> Secretary General of the UN) would become the 8<sup>th</sup> Secretary general and the Antichrist
    - ❑ 1682 days since this prophecy failed
  - ❖ How many times is the guy going to tug on the same cow before it runs out of milk?
    - ❑ But he still collects book royalties.

### Others Predict

- Mar. 25, 1998 - A Taiwanese group was disappointed today when God didn't miraculously appear on television to confirm that spaceships would come for them this coming March 31st. Hon-Ming Chen, the spiritual leader of the group admitted that he was wrong, and that his followers could disregard what he had said before. His predictions include a nuclear holocaust in 1999. It appears that some of his followers still have faith in him. (Source: Yahoo/Reuters)

### Others Predict (2)

- Dr. Sun Myung Moon
  - ❖ "Released" God to act in the affairs of men through a special "Coronation Ceremony for the Kingship of God" on January 13, 2001.
  - ❖ Teaches God's kingdom cannot come on earth until interracial marriage is the norm rather than the exception
  - ❖ Declared himself as the "King of Peace in Heaven and Earth" on June 13, 2006. He is now responsible for bringing about the kingdom of God on earth.

### Others Predict (3)

- Harold Camping
  - ❖ 1994 was his first prediction and he was sure about it.
    - ❑ "If this study is accurate and I believe with all of my heart that it is, there will be no extensions in time. There will not be time for second guessing. When September 6, 1994, arrives, no one else can become saved. The end has come." (page 533 of his book).
  - ❖ Predicted with absolute certainty – "guarantee" – that the Rapture would take place yesterday, May 21, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. (at that exact hour in each time zone – 24 mini-raptures).
  - It's been 6,102 days since Harold Camping's prediction of the end of the world fizzled.
  - It's been 16 hours since his recent prediction of the rapture fizzled.

### From Harold Camping

- Actual quotes from his web site:
  - ❖ What will take place on May 21?
    - ❑ On May 21, 2011 two events will occur. These events could not be more opposite in nature, the one more wonderful than can be imagined; the other more horrific than can be imagined.
    - ❑ A great earthquake will occur the Bible describes it as "such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great." This earthquake will be so powerful it will throw open all graves. The remains of the all the believers who have ever lived will be instantly transformed into glorified spiritual bodies to be forever with God.



### From Harold Camping (2)

➤ **What if May 21 ends and nothing occurs?**

- ❖ The Biblical evidence is too overwhelming and specific to be wrong. Christ's people can look with great confidence to this date because God promises His "beloved" He will not come upon them as a thief in the night.
- ❖ God in His mercy has revealed the vital information needed to know the day. Judgment Day on May 21, 2011 will occur because the bible declares it. Anyone whom God has not saved will arrive at that day with no hope for salvation. God warns simply the "door will be shut."

### From Harold Camping (3)

➤ **What do we say to all those who say Jesus will come as a thief in the night?**

- ❖ The Bible speaks of two kinds of people in the world. Those within God's kingdom he calls his "beloved." The other, much larger portion of the human race, God describes as those "without" or outside the kingdom of God.
- ❖ Those "without" will say at the end of time **"Peace and safety"** These people will mistakenly believe all is well. But God warns, **"then sudden destruction cometh upon"**

### From Harold Camping (4)

- ❖ The fact so many church leaders are insisting Christ will come as a "thief in the night" (that is, no one can know the day or the hour) is another very important Biblical 'sign' Christ's return is very close. Far too many people mistakenly presume they are at **"Peace"** with God and therefore in **"safety."**
- ❖ Sadly, many assume no human being can know, because they mistakenly believe even Jesus himself does not know the day or hour of His own return.

### From Harold Camping (5)

- ❑ The belief Christ will come "as a thief in the night" for everyone, including Christ's people, is the foundational basis for which most Christians, including church leaders and pastors reject May 21, 2011.
- ❖ However, God has written in His Word he will tell his people exactly what he plans before he brings it to pass:
  - ❑ "Surely the LORD GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

### From Harold Camping (6)

- ❑ God's "beloved" people are not in darkness that that day would come upon them as a thief in the night. God graciously has written in I Thessalonians 5 verse 4
- ❑ "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."

**WHEN WILL CHRIST RETURN?**

### What Did Christ Say?

➤ He said:

- ❖ NO ONE would know the day nor the hour.
- ❖ He would come as an unexpected "thief in the night" comes.
  - ❑ Be prepared.
- ❖ He said certain signs would precede His coming (Matthew 16:3) just as signs in the sky foretold the weather.
- ❖ All believers can expect persecution (Matthew 25:5-14, 30-31; 2 Timothy 3:12)

### A Misdirected Focus

➤ Mankind has spent far too much time trying to figure out WHEN Christ would return and the end of the world comes.

➤ Here's the only accurate answer you will ever get:

Christ will return  
exactly (mark this on your calendars)

**IN HIS OWN GOOD TIME!**

### The Proper Focus

➤ Rather than focusing on the time of Christ's return, we are to focus on:

- ❖ What truths can we learn from this event?
- ❖ Is our expectation of this even producing spiritual results in us?



## 1. A Purifying Hope

➤ 1 John 3:2-3 -- *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

## A Purifying Hope (2)

➤ 1 Thessalonians 5:22-24 -- *Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

❖ It is not enough to avoid evil; we must avoid the appearance of evil so that we do not weaken our testimony in the critical time we have left.

## A Purifying Hope (3)

➤ 2 Peter 3:10-11 -- *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. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

❖ Since the end is near, and nothing seen is eternal, shouldn't you be living holy lives focused on the eternal souls of men and the eternal glory of God?

## 2. Redeeming the Time

➤ Make the most of every minute you have!

➤ Paul warned us.

❖ *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*

❖ Colossians 4:5

❖ Redeem = "Use something so it does not go to waste." We must give an account of our time.

## 3. Persuading People

➤ Judgment is coming when the Judge returns!

❖ Use this time to persuade men for Christ knowing the "terror of the Lord" is coming (2 Corinthians 5:8-11)

➤ The devil wants to lure people into a false sense of security and therefore, he attacks the doctrine of Christ's return (2 Peter 3:3-5)

❖ Note these scoffers believed in creation. But they attacked the Second Coming.

❖ Today, most people believe in evolution rather than creation so they scoff even more at the Return of Christ.

## 4. Hope of Salvation

➤ The resurrection gives proof of Christ's divinity and our own resurrection.

➤ 1 Corinthians 15:12-23

➤ Our thinking on the Second Coming of Christ should give us hope of:

- ❖ The completion of our sanctification.
- ❖ Our bodily glorification.
- ❖ Our enjoyment of eternity.

➤ This hope helps us in persecution now.

## 5. Comfort for Death

➤ "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" (Psalm 116:15).

➤ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

❖ Paul says "that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

❖ We have a hope that the lost cannot have.

## 6. A Joy of Rewards

➤ Greatest reward is to see Jesus.

❖ Job 19:25-27 -- "yet in my flesh I shall see God"

➤ Our present trials produce future rewards if responded to properly (James 1:12).

➤ Our future rewards are reserved in heaven for us (2 Timothy 4:7-8) and will be given to us after Christ's return or when we go to be with Him in death.

## 7. A Perfection of Patience

➤ Waiting requires patience.

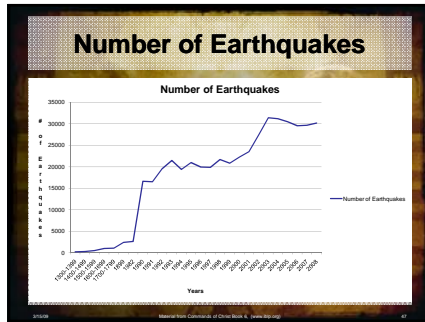
❖ We should be thankful for the longsuffering of God (2 Peter 3:9-12).

❖ James 5:7-11 speaks several times about being patient in light of the soon return of Christ.

### What Conditions Precede Christ's Return?

➤ We are to be alert to the signs of the time.

- ❖ Matthew 24:36-39
  - ❑ Mankind carrying out his affairs without living in awareness of coming judgment.
- ❖ Mark 13:8-10
  - ❑ Nation against nation; kingdom against kingdom.
  - ❑ Increasing frequency of earthquakes in strange places.
  - ❑ Famines and troubles.
  - ❑ Persecution increasing.
  - ❑ Gospel published among all nations.



### A Note of Caution

➤ The Bible gives NO preconditions for the Rapture. This can happen at any moment.

- ❖ Since this can happen at any moment.
- ❖ So when He comes for us in the air, may He find us serving His Kingdom.

➤ The Bible DOES give some preconditions for the Second Coming of Christ to earth where He ends the Tribulation and begins His Millennial reign.

### Questions for Application

- Does the thought of Christ's return fill you with joy or fear?
- What rewards do you anticipate having when you receive Christ?
- Do you plan and spend each day knowing you will be accountable for your time?
- Do you live in an awareness of His coming?
- What do you sacrifice to share the Gospel?