



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
Tel: 617-489-2498

Pastor
ROLLAND C. STARR
Editor

FALSE PROPHET HAROLD CAMPING AND DATE SETTING!

Challenge Xtra! May 2011

A FAILED "PROPHET" TRIES AGAIN. Biblical scholar's date for rapture: May 21, 2011 [Excerpts] Harold Camping lets out a hearty chuckle when he considers the people who believe the world will end in 2012. "That date has not one stitch of biblical authority," Camping says from the Oakland office where he runs Family Radio, an evangelical station that reaches listeners around the world. "It's like a fairy tale." The real date for the end of times, he says, is in 2011. The Mayans and the recent Hollywood movie "2012" have put the apocalypse in the popular mind this year, but Camping has been at this business for a long time. And while Armageddon is pop science or big-screen entertainment to many, Camping has followers from the Bay Area to China. This is not the first time Camping has made a bold prediction about Judgment Day. On Sept. 6, 1994, dozens of Camping's believers gathered inside Alameda's Veterans Memorial Building to await the return of Christ, an event Camping had promised for two years. Followers dressed children in their Sunday best and held Bibles open-faced toward heaven. But the world did not end. Camping allowed that he may have made a mathematical error. He spent the next decade running new calculations, as well as overseeing a media company that has grown significantly in size and reach. -TBC (3/25/11).

BEWARE OF FALSE PROPHETS! We certainly would not call Camping a "Biblical scholar." And he clearly is no prophet according to the Word of God. In Deuteronomy 18:22 we read: "**When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.**" The Lord obviously did not return to earth in 1994 as Camping predicted. According to the Word of God Camping is a false prophet! Of course, down through the ages false prophets have always gotten a large hearing. "**Men love darkness rather than light.**" We are often exhorted in Scripture to beware of false prophets. "**But as there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.**" ~II Peter 2:1. God has admonished us in His Word that it is not possible for man to know when Jesus will come again. Scriptures exhort us: "**To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.**" ~Isaiah 8:20. Incidentally, he has also said that God no longer works through the Church, or churches, but that "Christians" should give up their churches and just listen to and follow him. While Mr. Camping is short on doctrine, he is not short on ego and arrogance! It is always good to remember I John 4:1: "**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**"

GOD'S WORD IS PLAIN – NO MAN KNOWS! Let's look at some Scriptures which tell us as plainly as possible that dating Christ's return is not possible. One reason for much false teaching on the subject is many preachers and "Bible teachers" see the Rapture of the Church and the Lord's Return to earth as one event. They are not! Coming to the "air" and coming to "earth" cannot be the same thing! The Rapture is described in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. I don't have space here to print it all but in part it says: "**The Lord himself shall descend from Heaven with a**

shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God..." Now I Thessalonians 5 is clearly the very same context. It says, **"Of the times and seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."** A thief comes unannounced! Secretly! That is the whole point here! In I Corinthians 15:52 we read: **"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."** The Rapture of the Church (remember it is the Rapture of the Church, not all of the saved of all ages) is imminent (at any moment) and secret! While there are many signs in the Bible related to Christ's Return to judge the nations, redeem Israel, and set up His Kingdom, the event cannot be known because no one can determine when the Rapture will take place. I have often said if a man could determine the Rapture (which no man can) there are many events named in Scripture which more or less outline the seven year Tribulation (Revelation 6-18) so that a man might have a good idea when the Return to earth will take place. In Acts 1:6,7, the disciples asked Jesus about His return to set up the Kingdom with Israel. **"When they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ...It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power."** As we have often remarked, it is not possible to get the true perspective on the Bible record without understanding Dispensational Truth! Israel is not the Church and the Church is not spiritual Israel. They are two separate entities and God has a program for each. Sad to say, there are few who understand or believe this.

THUS SAITH THE LORD! Let me just give just a few of the many, many Scriptures which tell us that no one can know when the Lord Jesus Christ will come again:

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away..." ~Matthew 24:36-

"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not... The Lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him..." ~Luke 12:40,46.

"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." ~Mark 13:32,33.

"But of the times and season, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." ~I Thessalonians 5:1,2

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." ~Luke 21:34.

TEST ALL THINGS BY GOD'S WORD. In the light of all the Bible verses that tell us no man can tell the time of our Lord's Return, I don't know how anyone can dare to predict the date of His coming. Camping is not the first nor will he be the last to attempt it. But as the Scriptures declare, there will be false prophets and teachers among God's people – at least until the Rapture. Of course, many who follow someone like this are not truly saved, not children of God. They have no capacity for understanding the truth (I Corinthians 2:14). Then again, many believers, and I think I am safe in saying the great majority of those who are saved are untaught or ill-taught in the doctrines of the Word. In this situation, as well as all others, we need to obey the Scriptural admonition: **"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."** ~II Timothy 2:15. We need to test all things by the Bible (Isaiah 8:20). The second coming of Christ is a wonderful truth for the people of God, and we need to live in light of the fact that Jesus may come at any moment. Yes, and our prayer ought to be **"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."** ~Revelation 22:21.

Jesus also said: **"Therefore BE YE ALSO READY: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh."** ~Matthew 24:44. Are you ready for the Lord's Return? Are you truly saved? Born again? Jesus said, **"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."** ~John 3:3. Acknowledge your sin to God and ask Him to save you because you believe that Christ died for your sins. Remember, we do not know when the Lord Jesus is coming, therefore you need to be ready now! He said, **"...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."** ~John 6:37. Come NOW! Tomorrow may be too late! **"Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."** ~Proverbs 27:1.