

Sermon – Friday 30 Jul, 2010  
**The End of the World**

**Worship:**

**Communion: Matt 8:1-3**

**Offering:**

**Matt 24: ALL**

- The disciples wanted to know when Jesus would come back and when the world would end.
- Wouldn't you like to know that too. So what did Jesus say?

**There are 2 popular misconceptions today in Pentecostal/Evangelical churches:**

- The first is that a rapture could happen any day – any minute
- The second is that there is going to be a great tribulation but that we Christians are not going to be a part of it.

**I want to use our time tonight to teach you not to fall into either of these traps**

- I'll explain why after I've explained what

**It has become common to believe that Jesus is going to come back secretly and all the believers are going to secretly disappear**

- Movies like Left Behind and Books like the Late Great Planet Earth show this
- They say that Jesus could come back any minute now and surprise us
- They say that the unbelievers will be left behind to suffer in a persecution
- But we will be safe with Jesus in Heaven.

**I want to prove every single point wrong.**

- Can Jesus come back at any minute:
  - o Matt 24:14
  - o Acts 3:21 & Eph 4:11-13
  - o 2 Peter 3:9
- There are things the Bible says must happen, that haven't happened yet
- But He COULD come back for you tonight – you must still be ready
- Will Jesus come back secretly and surprise everyone:
  - o Matt 24:29-31
  - o The bible says that all the nations will mourn
  - o They will SEE him coming
  - o Jesus return is not a secret – but it IS a surprise
- Will the Christians be rescued from persecution?
  - o Matt 24:9
  - o Matt 24:21-23

## Famous Rapture Predictions (source Wikipedia)

- ♣ 1792 - [Shakers](#) calculated this date.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>
- ♣ 1844 - [William Miller](#) predicted Christ would return between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844, then revised his prediction, claiming to have miscalculated Scripture, to October 22, 1844. The realization that the predictions were incorrect resulted in a [Great Disappointment](#). Miller's theology gave rise to the [Advent movement](#).
- ♣ 1977 - [William M. Branham](#) predicted in 1962 that the Rapture could take place by 1977<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>
- ♣ 1981 - [Chuck Smith](#) predicted that Jesus would probably return by 1981.<sup>[48]</sup>
- ♣ 1988 - Publication of *88 Reasons why the Rapture is in 1988*, by [Edgar C. Whisenant](#).
- ♣ 1989 - Publication of *The final shout: Rapture report 1989*, by Edgar Whisenant. More predictions by this author appeared for 1992, 1995, and other years.
- ♣ 1992 - Korean group "Mission for the Coming Days" predicted October 28, 1992 as the date for the rapture.<sup>[49]</sup> **SHOW POSTER**
- ♣ 1993 - Seven years before the year 2000. The rapture would have to start to allow for seven years of the Tribulation before the Return in 2000. Multiple predictions.
- ♣ 1994 - Pastor John Hinkle of Christ Church in Los Angeles predicted June 9, 1994. Radio evangelist [Harold Camping](#) predicted September 27, 1994.<sup>[50]</sup>
- ♣ 2011 - [Harold Camping](#)'s revised prediction has May 21, 2011 as the date of the rapture.<sup>[51]</sup>
- ♣ 2060 - [Sir Isaac Newton](#) proposed, based upon his calculations using figures from the book of Daniel, that the [Apocalypse](#) could happen no earlier than 2060.<sup>[52][53]</sup>

### What Do You Think?

- The Bible is clear that Jesus will not return tonight

### Why

- We are instructed to preach the gospel
- We are instructed to be busy about the Lord's work
- Many Christians waste their lives waiting for a rapture that could come any minute
- You are to prepare for a long life of serving Christ
- You are to be ready to meet Him, but be ready to also live for Him too.

### The Bible also warns us to be prepared for tribulation

- Why
- Because we will face tribulation
- Example: Nat Sharples
- Many people think this
- Many Christians are also not prepared for trouble
- Matt 24:23-24 (why would the elect be so easily deceived)
- Because they are looking for Christ to come and rescue them.

## **Luke 21:34-36**

### **Why would Jesus tell you to pray to escape it? (talking to believers)**

- If you are not going to be a part of it. (Luke 21:34-36)
- **Jesus said to:**
  - **Be on the Watch**
  - **Pray to Escape it**
  - **Pray to stand before the Son of Man**

### **As Christians:**

- We are called to serve Christ
- We are to live for Him
- We are to be ready
- We should live with the gospel in mind
- Do not be deceived by the idea that any minute we could be raptured
- Consider Isaac Newton – who thought the rapture was hundreds of years away
- Consider the Bible which talks of things which have not yet happened.
- Consider what you are going to do for Christ.