

## **Prophecies About the End of Time**

**By Paul R. Blake**

I received a lesson request to answer the Zeitgeist (zartgarst - "spirit of the times") Movement's conspiratorial approach to rejecting Jesus as a fraud and a copycat of pagan religions, and their somewhat paranoid predictions of the end of the world in December 2012. In the process of researching this matter over the past month as well as in response to other questions asked recently about end time predictors, I learned that there is very little written by faithful brethren answering contemporary end time prophecies. I suspect that part of the reason is that there are so many speculative variations on end time matters, produced by a large number of denominational preachers and writers, that addressing each one would be endless and seem pointless. In truth, every generation of man since the Lord ascended to heaven generates a new crop of errorists who think they know how to apply the end time prophecies of the Bible. And, they are like snowflakes... no two interpretations are alike and are so fragile that they fall apart upon examination. It is impossible to address every single one of them, and so most brethren simply answer the matter with a general address to Christians to accept only what the Bible says about end times and avoid being caught up in listening to these predictors.

In reality, many of the people who buy into the mongering of contemporary pseudo prophets are people who see an insecure, unstable, and often unjust world around them. They want John Woo vengeance wreaked on the world with Steven Spielberg special effects. They are hungry for secrets and special knowledge, especially in a world where everything seems to be studied and quantified until all the mystery is gone. So, they turn to the Hal Lindsays and the Jack van Impes of this world. I poke light hearted fun at conspiracy theorists, and perhaps I shouldn't, because affinity for conspiracy theory is believed to be related to one of the obsessional disorders. I have good reason to believe that the proponents of these outlandish end time doctrines are the religious equivalent of government conspiracy theory hacks. They grossly mangle the scriptures, twist history, adjust contemporary news and conditions, and ignore or contravene science, all in an attempt to support a view of end times probably put in their heads by temptation from the Adversary.

I guess the bottom line is this: very few people want to be or are willing to be convinced of the truth; instead, they want to hold onto the dark, mysterious, convoluted ideas of modern false prophets. They don't like the world the way it is and have a hard time reconciling what they believe about God with what they see in the world around them, and so they embrace the idea that this messed up world must surely come to an end soon. There have been false teachers out there taking advantage of this for two thousand years, telling people that the world will end in the near future. And that creates a niche for flagrant opportunists like the Zeitgeisters and the Jack van Impes to take advantage of vulnerable, misguided souls.

Yes, the world will end one day when God decides it to be. But the best answer to people who claim special knowledge of the signs of when it will end is to ask them to consider the words of Jesus Christ: Matt. 24:36 - "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." Or in Acts 1:7 - "And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority." Or the apostle Paul: 1Thes 5:2 - "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night." Or the apostle Peter: 2Peter 3:10 - "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night..."

It is unlikely that modern pseudo prophets will give it a rest. The best solution to their blather is not to give them an ear. There are millions of things to do that are more spiritually profitable than to listen to them. There are millions of thoughts to be considered without wasting a moment worrying about when the world will end. Live daily as a faithful child of God and it will

not matter whether the world ends in ten minutes or ten thousand years. The outcome will be the same.

### **If You Return the Quarter**

"Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need" (Eph. 4:28). One evening an evangelist preached with great zeal on the text, "Thou shalt not steal." He impressed upon his listeners the necessity of absolute integrity in everything. The next morning he boarded a bus and gave the driver a dollar bill for his fare. Counting his change, he found that he had received an extra quarter. Without hesitation he approached the driver and said, "You accidentally gave me too much change." The driver replied, "It wasn't an accident. I did it on purpose to see what you would do. Last night I was in your audience and wondered if you practiced what you preached. I made up my mind if you returned the quarter, I'd come and hear you again tonight." Let us in all things practice what we preach in all purity and honesty.

### **To See the Sun**

"The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned" (Matt. 4:15-16). A man named Rudd told what it is like to live at the North Pole during three months of darkness. You never see the sun. He said, "I ached and hungered to see the dawn." Then one morning in February he climbed atop the wind-swept ridge and sat quietly, facing east; the sky was a gray sheet. Then it became a pale blue, which deepened. There was a silent rush of color as the sun rose. Rudd stood blinking with frozen tears on his cheeks." (From The Minister's Manual, by James W. Cox, p. 290) For those who sat in darkness and in the region and shadow of death, Light has dawned. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

### **Everyone Needs Salvation**

The attitude of some brethren toward personal work brings to mind the story of two salesmen who in the 1800's were sent from this country on separate missions to Africa to view the possibilities of selling shoes. One salesman wrote back to the company and said, "The prospects for selling shoes in this country are absolutely terrible, because everyone goes barefooted." The other salesman wrote back and said, "The prospects for selling shoes here are fantastic because everyone needs shoes." What's your attitude toward personal work? Everyone needs salvation.

### **A Moments Wisdom**

- Neutrality in religion means surrender to the Devil.
- A father can lift his family no higher than his own faith.
- If the Lord is kept outside, something must be wrong inside.
- Few men have the virtue to withstand the highest bidder.