The End of the World
FACT VERSUS FICTION

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Have you heard the news? *The world may soon come to an end.*

What is the truth about doomsday? Will it ever hit? If so, is it possible to detect the exact date in advance, so we can prepare? Former Family Radio President Harold Camping predicted that the apocalypse would strike on May 11, 2011. It didn’t. He recalculated, pinpointing October 21 of the same year. But again—to the frustration of his faithful followers—Mr. Camping’s fiery prognostication proved to be a dud.

By far the biggest theory in recent memory to ignite global fears about a fast-approaching apocalypse was sparked by the discovery that the ancient Mayans’ highly sophisticated Long Count calendar mysteriously drops off the edge on December 21, 2012. Once word got out, speculation soared in non-fiction books, movies, History Channel documentaries, and on the Internet.

As I write this, new theories keep surfacing, like bubbles in a bathtub.

Again, what is the truth about doomsday? Should every end-of-the-world warning automatically be dismissed as phony? Scoffing skeptics in Noah’s day
thought so; but in that case, they were dead wrong. A careful study of historical, geologic, and archaeological evidence suggests that long ago there really was a global flood. If a similarly catastrophic event is indeed on the horizon, then we should know about it, don’t you think?

It’s time to separate fact from fiction.

What does the Bible say about the end of days?

First of all, the most authoritative source for genuinely accurate information about such cosmic matters is not the Mayans, or Hollywood, or the Internet, but the Holy Bible.

What does the Good Book say about the end of time?

Approximately two thousand years ago, a small band of men gathered around Jesus Christ on the slope of the Mount of Olives, just east of Jerusalem.

“What will be the sign of Your coming,” they earnestly inquired, “and of the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3).

In response, Jesus provided a detailed list of prophetic indicators, or “signs,” which He said would notify earth’s multitudes that they are getting closer to the grand finale. Did Jesus Christ Himself really believe that, eventually, a literal end of the world would come?

Yes, absolutely.

The proof is in His response to His disciples’ question. Notice carefully what He said.
“But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (verses 13, 14; emphasis added).

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (verse 29; emphasis added).

“For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (verses 38, 39; emphasis added).

According to Jesus Christ Himself, “the end will come.” Thus, the notion of an apocalyptic, inescapable global consummation of human history isn’t a loony concept spouted by freaks waving “The End Is Near!” placards on crowded streets. Jesus taught it too. Again, He warned, “Then the end will come.” But WHEN is “then”?

I’ll answer that question shortly. But first, let’s
talk about signs. As everyone knows, all interstate highways have road signs. When I lived in California, I always saw them on Highway 5 from Sacramento to Los Angeles. When traveling, I was keen to notice such milestones as “352 miles to Los Angeles,” “175 miles to Los Angeles,” “52 miles to Los Angeles,” and so on. After many weary hours, I always rolled into LA. The same is true of biblical signs for the approaching end of the world. When we discover what they are, and especially when we witness them all occurring at the same time, then we’ll know that we’re getting closer to the Big Day.

As mentioned earlier, the disciples asked Jesus in Matthew 24:3, “What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

Let’s look closer at His reply:

Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places” (verses 4–7).
Jesus listed wars, rumors of wars, nation rising against nation, famines, pestilences (diseases), earthquakes, and phony messiahs. These would all be harbingers of things to come.

But, you may be thinking, these perils have been occurring for thousands of years. How can we know whether “the end” is really coming soon?

Good question. Here’s a good answer.

Honest observers realize that in the last few years these woes have been escalating “off the charts” as never before. The earth now supports over seven billion inhabitants and, as a result, unprecedented famines ravage the globe. Strange pestilences—such as HIV/AIDS—keep popping up, and seismologists recognize that the number of jerks and jolts, large and small, is steadily rising. It’s not just earthquakes, but fires, floods, droughts, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, and deadly cold weather. In fact, in the year 2011 alone the number of killer natural disasters was staggering.

If you don’t believe me, keep reading.

On December 7, 2011, the Associated Press released a story titled “Billion-Dollar Weather Disasters Smash US Record.” The article announced that

America smashed the record for billion-dollar weather disasters this year [2011] with a deadly dozen, and counting.
With an almost biblical onslaught of twisters, floods, snow, drought, heat and wildfire, the U.S. in 2011 has seen more weather catastrophes that caused at least $1 billion in damage than it did in all of the 1980s, even after the dollar figures from back then are adjusted for inflation.¹

*Did you catch that?* America was devastated by “more weather catastrophes” in 2011 alone than it was during the entire 1980s. Even the Associated Press called this “an almost biblical onslaught” of disasters. The truth is, *it is a biblical onslaught*, for Jesus Christ Himself predicted that such things would occur increasingly just before the Last Day hits.

A September 2011 *Newsweek* article reported,

Whatever the cause—greenhouse gases, natural warming, or both—rising temperatures and sea levels already are breeding bigger, more intense hurricanes and more dangerous storm surges. Former vice president Al Gore, the teller of so many inconvenient truths about climate change, says it is “absolutely” a national-security issue. “We can expect increases in the frequency and severity of extreme floods, droughts, wildfires, storms and other events,” he says. “We need to begin the process now of preparing for the disasters that are to come.”²
Mr. Gore isn’t a prophet, yet he accurately noted that something unusual is now occurring. “‘Whatever the cause,’” Gore ominously warned, global perils are increasing, and earth’s inhabitants would be wise to start “‘preparing for the disasters that are to come.’” And we should “‘begin the process now.’” After stating that “some scientists are considering adding a Category 6 classification to the Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale,” that same Newsweek article concluded,

When faced with the potential apocalypse of a no-notice event, every bit of preparation counts. And when it comes to the dangers that lie ahead, there’s now no question that notice has been served.³

This conclusion is correct. Notice has been served. This is especially evident when phrases such as “almost biblical onslaught” and “potential apocalypse” flow from secular sources like Newsweek and the Associated Press. As nonreligious reporters survey earth’s increasingly turbulent and disaster-prone landscape, even they sense that something unprecedented is happening and that something big is coming. They just don’t know what.

Is the end of the world approaching?
According to Jesus Christ, yes, it is.

In a passage that is parallel to Matthew 24, the
Master continued,

“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (Luke 21:25, 26).

Exactly what the Truth Teller meant by “signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars,” I’m not sure. One article titled “Solar Flare 2012—Can This Event Bring About a 2012 Apocalypse?” warns that a massive “solar storm,” defined as “an explosion that takes place on the surface of the sun [and] which produces a wave of high potential energy,” could wreak havoc on every computer-based electrical system worldwide.

If a solar flare were to disable our communications systems we would be reset hundreds of years into the past and we would have no knowledge of how to provide for ourselves. Governments would lose control, anarchy would rule, and the world’s population would rapidly decline. If this event was to transpire it [could] easily be observed that this would initiate the apocalypse.
Such a possibility was reported also on the History Channel. On March 10, 2006, NASA also issued a warning about a solar storm and even quoted Mausumi Dikpati of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), who thinks the next “Solar Max” could occur as soon as 2012. As to the exact date, NASA was uncommitted. Still, NASA’s Web site reported,

Either way, a storm is coming.\textsuperscript{5}

In Luke 21:25, Jesus continued, “And on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity.” Notice that particular word \textit{distress}. Doesn’t it sound like a word we use a lot? Remove the first two letters, and what do you get? \textit{Stress}. This word applies more forcibly today than, perhaps, at any previous time in history. City life, pollution, captivating technology, the unprecedented busyness of life in the twenty-first century, and especially our currently out-of-control economic woes—these are all creating daily stress as never before.

Google the word \textit{stress}, and you will discover a plethora of Internet Web sites about stress tests, stress seminars, stress management, stress relief, stress disorders, stress institutes, and lowering stress techniques. \textit{National Geographic} even produced a frightening documentary called \textit{Stress: Portrait of a Killer}, which highlights the health dangers threatening this generation.
Looking down to the last days, Jesus Christ predicted it would happen.

“And on the earth,” He warned, “distress of nations” would prevail.

Then He added, “with perplexity.” The Greek word for perplexity means “finding no solution.” In other words, society’s problems will eventually become unsolvable. Sound familiar? Has the United States government made real progress with its national debt? No. Has our economy been fixed? No. Have we eliminated the threat of a nuclear holocaust? No. Have we solved our desperate healthcare crisis? No. Have we figured out how to feed the world’s starving millions? No. Can we stop the increasing earthquakes, fires, droughts, floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes? No. Thus, Christ’s words, “and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity,” perfectly describe the daily reports we receive from CNN, ABC, NBC, and Fox News.

It’s all happening right now. Again, Jesus Christ told the truth.

Jesus continued, “the sea and the waves roaring” (verse 25). There’s no doubt that the ocean itself contains a rising threat. On Friday, March 11, 2011, one of the five most powerful earthquakes ever recorded, registering 9.0 on the Richter scale, struck off the coast of Japan, triggering a series of deadly tsunamis, one as tall as 133 feet. When “the sea and the waves” finally
stopped “roaring,” not only were more than fifteen thousand people dead and three nuclear reactors crippled, but the earth itself had shifted on its axis!

*Newsweek* warned,

The quake, the tsunami, and the meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear-power plant in Japan are cautionary examples suggesting what could happen in the United States, but there are plausible scenarios in America that are worse. Much worse.⁶

*Much worse?*

I hate to say it, but the popular phrase “you ain’t seen nothing yet” applies. Without skipping a beat, Jesus continued, “men’s hearts failing them from fear” (verse 26). Again, did you catch that? What is the number one cause of death in developed countries, including the United States? It’s cardiovascular disease. Or more simply, heart disease.⁷ Highly processed fatty foods poses a serious threat to us all. “The first symptom many people feel that they are having a heart attack,” a doctor commented, “is sudden death.” Jesus also added one more word as a contributing cause: “fear.” Talk to your doctor. Chronic fear can raise blood cholesterol levels and blood pressure, leading to heart attacks.

Once again, Jesus Christ predicted all of this with precision accuracy nearly two thousand years ago. Are
you starting to understand why He is classified as the Greatest Teacher the world has ever known?

Jesus continued, “men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth” (verse 26; emphasis added). This verse is uncanny. The King James Version of the Bible reports it this way: “and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth” (emphasis added). Think about it. Today, it is possible for people around the globe—in ways unknown to previous generations—to look at “those things which are coming on the earth.” How? On TV, on the Internet, and on YouTube.

The last part of verse 26 adds, “for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” This implies that as we near the sunset of human history our solar system itself will do bizarre things. Let’s say a gigantic asteroid suddenly headed our way. Because of NASA, sophisticated telescopes, TV, and the Internet, billions of viewers could literally witness real-time images of an approaching object long before disaster struck. The same is true of a whole host of possible crises. Because of technology, anything cataclysmic can be watched almost instantly.

This is all a direct fulfillment of Bible prophecy. As never before, we are the “looking” generation. Hold on to your seats. Jesus continued,

“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a
Jesus Christ predicted that it won’t be too long after earth’s inhabitants have been fearfully “looking after those things which are coming on the earth” until there is a major scene change (verse 26, KJV). The last “act” of the drama occurs. The curtain drops. Game over. “Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

Verse 27 also clarifies exactly what the end of the world really means. The apocalyptic thriller 2012, produced by Sony Pictures to promote Hollywood’s version of “the end of days,” merely describes a time when Mother Nature goes berserk and cataclysms wreak havoc across the earth. But then it’s over, and life continues. In the film, some people make it through the disasters.

In the Bible, a far different reality unfolds. The real end of the world means that people worldwide are suddenly confronted with an overwhelming new truth. They look up and are shocked to “see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

“The Son of Man” is Jesus Christ Himself (compare verse 27 with Luke 9:22). Although the majority have heard about Him, most don’t take Him seriously. The One born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), the lowly Carpenter
of Nazareth (Matthew 13:55), the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), “the Lamb of God” (John 1:29), and “Messiah the Prince” (Daniel 9:25), who sweat great drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39–44), was betrayed by Judas (Mark 14:43, 44), tried by Pontius Pilate (Mark 15:1), beaten and mocked by Roman soldiers (verses 15–20), crucified outside of Jerusalem at “the place of a skull” (verse 22, KJV), who a holy angel testified had “risen from the dead” (Matthew 28:7), and who ascended to heaven (Acts 1:9–11)—it is His glorious return that ushers in the end.

Got it? “The end of the world” occurs at the second coming of Jesus Christ. The Sony Pictures movie and most History Channel documentaries overlook this fact. But it’s the truth. Then, Jesus declared,

“There when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28; emphasis added).

Jesus emphatically stressed that when “these things”—meaning all the prophetic signs we have just read about—“begin to happen,” especially when they occur all at the same time, then we should “look up” with certainty because our “redemption draws near.”

For some, Jesus’ return will be a day of unimaginable joy. But to others, it will be a day of darkness, gloom,
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and doom. Notice the book of Revelation’s description of the terror that will finally overwhelm the unprepared:

Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” (Revelation 6:14–17).

Could this solemn “day of His wrath” be lurking just around the corner? If so, can we know the exact date?

Stick with me. I’m getting closer to answering this.

But first, the far greater question posed above, “Who is able to stand?” deserves our careful consideration.

In the Sony Pictures film 2012, a small group survives the holocaust through human ingenuity. The National Geographic Channel’s TV series Doomsday Preppers also features rugged survivalists who are determined—by stockpiling food, water, and weapons
in carefully planned hideouts—to outwit Armageddon. But when the real end comes when Jesus Christ returns, all such survivalist schemes will prove utterly worthless. Why? For the simple reason that no one can outfox the Last Day without factoring in its most important variable: the End Initiator—God Almighty.

The greatest discovery:
How to survive the apocalypse

September 1, 1985, far out in the Atlantic Ocean, about 230 miles from Nova Scotia, a high-tech underwater probe named *Argo* captured silent images of the bottom of the sea. High above drifted the *Knorr*, a 245-foot-long research vessel carrying over fifty scientists, oceanographers, and crew members whose mission was to locate the wreckage of history’s most famous ship, the RMS *Titanic*, which sank there seventy-three years earlier.

It was past midnight. Most passengers on the *Knorr* were asleep. Then it happened. Shortly after 1:00 a.m.—nearly the same time that the *Titanic* sunk on April 15, 1912, after hitting an iceberg—video images of a ship 12,460 feet below the ocean’s surface appeared on a computer monitor inside the *Knorr*. Still visible despite murky waters, a momentous sequence of letters appeared on the hull: T-I-T-A-N-I-C.

Word spread quickly from ship to shore. “Titanic Discovered!” ran newspaper headlines around the world.
Of all the great discoveries throughout history, this was one of the most exciting. Yet, on the Knorr itself, before exuberance peaked, the crew paused in solemn silence out of respect for the more than fifteen hundred lives that so unexpectedly perished in those icy waters.

You are about to discover something infinitely more important than the discovery of the Titanic. It lies deep in the heart of the book of Revelation. Flashing through the murky waters of human tradition and global confusion, an end-time message is now surfacing. Prayerful research has uncovered it. Its contents are electrifying! And news of its discovery is now spreading rapidly worldwide.

It’s a message represented by three angels flying in the sky.

It makes perfect sense that a merciful God would send a special message to prepare human beings for the final crisis. Long ago, He did the same thing right before a global flood wiped everything living off the map. During those ancient times,

the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. . . . So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am
sorry that I have made them.” But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:5, 7, 8).

God told Noah to build a massive boat, and then He gave him this unique assignment: “When the time comes, tell everyone to get into the boat, or they will drown.” So, for many years Noah built and preached. But just before the Flood hit, only eight people listened and found safety. The rest were destroyed.

Now carefully notice the following: “As it was in the days of Noah,” Jesus predicted, “so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:37, NIV; emphasis added). In other words, just like God sent a special message in Noah’s day before countless trillions of tons of water fell, even so will He send another special message before the return of His Son.

That message is the message of the three angels recorded in Revelation 14:6–12. It proclaims the following:

- the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ
- the hour of judgment has come
- worship the Creator of heaven and earth
- Mystery Babylon has fallen
- all nations have drunk Babylon’s wine
- beware of the beast and its deadly mark
- keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus
Discovering these heaven-inspired details is like hearing old Noah shout, “A monstrous flood is coming! Get into the ark!” In Noah’s day, the ark was a three-story boat. In these last days, it’s a three-story message designed to prepare us for the end.

Now’s here a brilliant gem of truth: the preparation stressed in the three angels’ messages is moral; that is, it is not about dried fruit, water purifiers, weapons, or hideouts. It’s about getting ourselves right with God.

The message concludes,

Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus (Revelation 14:12; emphasis added).

Then John, the author of Revelation, wrote,

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle (verse 14; emphasis added).

In other words, in order to be ready for Jesus Christ’s return, predicted in verse 14, we must join “the saints,” the ones who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus,” as described in verse 12.
Identifying the real issue: 
Obeying the Ten Commandments

As we’ve already seen, endless amounts of speculation exist about when and how the world might end, but there is little concrete instruction on how to prepare for doomsday, should it ever finally overwhelm planet Earth. Thankfully, the three angels’ messages demystify the topic. Boiling it down to the simplest language, Heaven’s holy answer is: *keep the Ten Commandments through faith in Jesus Christ.*

Every country, nation, government, state, city, and town has laws. Many laws are also revealed in the Bible. But there is one law that towers above every other man-made legal code. It is the Ten Commandments, the law of God. What makes the Big Ten different from all other laws is that they were written, not with a pen, pencil, or keyboard, but “with the finger of God” on solid rock (Exodus 31:18).

Read and study Exodus 20:1–17. Here are the Ten Commandments in plain language:

1. Put God first.
2. Do not worship idols.
3. Respect God’s name.
4. Keep the seventh day (Saturday) holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. Do not murder.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not covet.

According to God’s Book, no matter how popular such violations may be, breaking even one of the Ten Commandments is sin. “Sin is the transgression of the law,” affirmed John (1 John 3:4, KJV). “By the law is the knowledge of sin,” repeated Paul (Romans 3:20, KJV). Yet don’t lose heart. Not only do the three angels’ messages exalt the Ten Commandments, which reveal our sins, but they also announce a perfect solution to our sin problem. It’s “the everlasting gospel,” now being proclaimed to “every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6). Jesus also predicted that this very gospel would circle the globe before His return.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

The word gospel literally means the “good news,” and it applies to the wonderful message of love, grace, and forgiveness now being offered to lost sinners through Jesus Christ, who “died for our sins . . . was buried, and . . . [who] rose again the third day”
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(1 Corinthians 15:3, 4). With the technological aid of the print media, CDs, DVDs, radio, television, satellite networks, and the Internet, God’s offer of salvation now encircles the world. Thus, in the midst of bad news (which is mostly all that the media reports), there’s light, good news, and hope! No matter how sinful we may be, we have a Savior who loves us, who unselfishly gave His life for us, who rose from the dead, and who has promised to return to take us to a heavenly home (John 14:1–3).

The most famous verse in the Bible declares,

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16; emphasis added).

Have you ever heard these lyrics from a popular song, “What the world needs now is love, sweet love”? Deep within every human heart, these words ring true. Another song mourns, “I was looking for love in all the wrong places.” How true. Then that same songwriter added,

“You came a-knocking at my heart’s door. You’re everything I’ve been looking for.”
These words can truly apply only to Jesus Christ Himself. No one loves us as He does. And to demonstrate His love, He willingly consented to absorb into His sinless mind and heart each of our personal violations of the law of God. Then He died on a cross in our place, paying the penalty for our sins. Then He rose from the dead.

The Bible assures us that if we repent (turn from sin) and trust in Jesus as our Savior, “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). What a precious promise! Then the Bible teaches that a truly forgiven person who genuinely appreciates the cost of the Cross will not only love Jesus back, but will also seek to demonstrate such love by obeying the Ten Commandments through His power. Jesus Himself said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).

Indeed, the Bible predicts that during the world’s final days such a people will surface (as the images of the Titanic did from the depths of the Atlantic Ocean) who are willing to do just that, to “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 14:12).

They alone will be prepared for the Savior’s return (verses 14–16).

It’s that simple.

And discovering this truth is infinitely more important than locating that sunken ship!
Setting a date for the end of the world

In this little book, you’ve discovered big things. According to the Bible, the end of the world is fast approaching. By scanning today’s headlines and comparing them with biblical prophecies, observers can easily discern that “the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:8). Even secular journalists are reporting that something bizarre is going on, although they’re clueless about what that something is. The unprecedented increase in killer natural disasters during 2011 alone screams loudly: The End Is Almost Here.

Are we listening?

Jesus Christ is coming soon! There’s no doubt about it, for the Master Himself declared, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Matthew 24:35, NKJV).

Will the end occur this year? Can we ever know the exact date? Based on years of careful research, I’ll give you my honest take. First—as I imagine you can already sense—I’m leery of speculative theories. Second, according to Jesus, although it is possible to discern when His return “is near,” He also explained with striking clarity that “of that day and hour knoweth no man, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only” (Matthew 24:33, 36, KJV; emphasis added).

This applies to all projected dates.

To be blunt, no one knows.
But consider this. Let’s say a date is fixed by some overzealous religious leader, preacher, or scholar, but then that dates passes by without a hiccup (which it probably will). Should people then settle down into complacency, thinking, *Phew! Because the end didn’t come, it probably never will.* Here lies the peril of date setting. The result is disillusionment, skepticism, and unbelief. But the truth is that those who adopt this lazy attitude are in danger of repeating the history of those who considered Noah a crazy crackpot, and that the Flood would never come. Then *bang,* it started raining. Then it was too late. Notice carefully Jesus Christ’s solemn warning: “the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (verse 39, NKJV; emphasis added).

Christ’s counsel is penetrating:

> “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (verse 44; emphasis added).

**True love’s last appeal**

When my son Seth was four years old, he and I were playing in the snow.

“Daddy,” he asked while standing next to a mound of icy white powder, “if I sank down into that snow, you would leave me, right?” It’s amazing what strange questions kids sometimes ask!
Without a moment’s hesitation, I quickly responded, “No, Seth. I would dig you out.”

“What if you didn’t have a shovel?” he shot back. Again, without a moment’s thought, I expressed my total commitment to a little boy I would sacrifice my life for.

“Seth, if I had no shovel, I would dig you out with my hands!”

Dear reader, you have a heavenly Father who loves you more than you will ever know. So much so that He allowed His own Son to die on a cross as a mysterious form of payment for your sins that completely satisfied His own eternal justice. And now, if you repent and believe in Jesus, His promise is sure, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow” (Isaiah 1:18). Like Seth’s question about disappearing into snow, we have all sunk into sin. But two thousand years ago, our Savior dug us out with nail-pierced hands.

His love is infinite. He loves you.

One more question. Why would a loving God initiate a cataclysmic end of the world anyway? Here’s a simple answer—to annihilate evil permanently and start a new beginning.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will
melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. . . . Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:10, 13; emphasis added).

The Bible’s last book also predicts that after the smoke clears,

“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful” (Revelation 21:4, 5; emphasis added).

Speculative prognosticators are usually wrong, but God’s “words are true and faithful.” Despite appearances, sin and sadness will someday vanish, God’s love will win, and the earth will become new like the Garden of Eden.

Don’t miss out on a happy eternity.

Choose Jesus Christ today.


3. Ibid.


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