Camping’s May 21 Date

Intro: We are still here? This world has not come to an end? The rapture did not take place? All those are still here on earth?

I. Harold Camping
   A. He is 89 year old premillennial preacher and founder of “Family Radio.”
   B. He said that the rapture would take place May 21 and the end of the world on October 21.
   C. Notice some quotes:
      1. To the question: How certain are you that world is going to end on May 21 — do you have any doubts? He replied: “God has given sooo much information in the Bible about this, and so many proofs, and so many signs, that we know it is absolutely going to happen without any question at all. There’s nothing in the Bible that God has ever prophesied — there’s many things that he prophesied would happen and they always have happened — but there’s nothing in the Bible that holds a candle to the amount of information to this tremendous truth of the end of the world. I would be absolutely in rebellion against God if I thought anything other than it is absolutely going to happen without any question.”
      2. In answering what was suppose to happen: “In other words, when we get to May 21 on the calendar in any city or country in the world, and the clock says about — this is based on other verses in the Bible — when the clock says about 6 p.m., there’s going to be this tremendous earthquake that’s going to make the last earthquake in Japan seem like nothing in comparison. And the whole world will be alerted that Judgment Day has begun. And then it will follow the sun around for 24 hours. As each area of the world gets to that point of 6 p.m. on May 21, then it will happen there, and until it happens, the rest of the world will be standing far off and witnessing the horrible thing that is happening.”

II. Camping Is Not Alone In Predicting The End
   A. Early history:
      1. 2 Tim. 2:18 “Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”
      2. 2 The. 2:1-3 “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”
         a. They thought Christ coming was so imminent that they quit working and became busybodies.
         b. 2 The. 3:10-13 “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. 11For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. 12Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. 13But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.”
      3. In the middle of the second century, Montanist had ecstatic visions announcing the second coming.
4. In the tenth century public and private buildings were allowed to decay, and some were pulled down, since they thought they were no longer of any use since the dissolution of all things was at hand.

B. More recent times:
   1. The founder of Adventism, William Miller
      a. In 1831 he claimed that Christ would come in 1843.
      b. Next he set a day in October 1844.
      c. When that failed Elder White set a date of 1845.
   2. The founder of the Worldwide Church of God, Herbert W. Armstrong in 1956 predicted an end to the present order of things and Christ coming to reign in person on earth by 1975.
      a. Charles Russell contended Christ came in 1874 and the consummation of the ages would come in 1914.
      b. More recently they set the date of 1975.
   4. Hal Lindsey in his book, The Late Great Planet Earth has set a date of 1988 for the rapture, then 7 years of great tribulation, thus, 1995 Jesus will return to establish his 1000 year reign on the earth.

III. This Is Not The First Time For Camping
   A. He predicted Christ would return in 1994 to the Jewish holiday of Jukkot, which ended September 27.
   B. To this end he wrote a book titled 1994?
   C. Now in covering for his error he says: “In 1992, two years earlier than that, I had already begun to see that there was a good likelihood that 2011 would be the end, but at that time when my research in the Bible was not nearly complete — there were whole books of the Bible that I had not gone through yet very carefully — I thought that at that time that there was a possibility it might be 1994, and so I wrote a book, 1994?, but I put a big question mark after it, and in the book it also indicated that 2011 was also a good possibility. And so it was just a preliminary study that I’ve been able to complete during the last fifteen years.”

IV. Test For Prophets
   A. The credentials of a true prophet are if his words come to pass—the fulfillment of his words.
   B. Deu. 18:21-22 “And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? 22When 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.”
   C. This is why we must examine what is taught:
      1. 1 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.”
2. Some even looking like angels of light: 2 Cor. 11:13-15 “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

D. **All those who make predictions regarding when the world will end—past, present, or future—are false prophets.**

**V. NO ONE KNOWS WHEN CHRIST WILL COME.**

A. **Mat. 24:36, 42** “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only... 42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”

B. **Mat. 25:13** “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

C. **2 Pet. 3:10** “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.”

D. **1 The. 5:2** “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.”

VI. **THUS WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE PREPARED.**

A. **2 Pet. 3:10-12** “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. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 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?”

B. **Jam. 4:14** “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

Conclusion: If you are not prepared, you need to be. Obey the Gospel, if you have not. If you have fallen away, return to Christ.