

The Sky Is Falling!

Probably all know the source of our title, a children's book in which Chicken Little, after having an acorn hit him on the head, went about crying "The sky is falling!" Many a child (and adult) has gotten a great laugh from this short story and hopefully learned a great lesson. But oddly enough in the realm of religion the lesson of being an alarmist and prophet of doom seems hard for many to learn. Historically there have been many who thought they saw "signs" that convinced them the end was soon to come, all the while ignoring the facts presented in God's Word:

- William Miller, founder of the Adventist movement set October 1843 as the time Jesus would come. When that failed, he named 1844 as the date. Obviously that date too failed.
- Charles T. Russell, founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses predicted the Lord's return in October 1874 (he said the coming was secret and only his followers were aware of it... quite different from the visible coming the Lord spoke of in Revelation 1:7!) He later predicted the "rapture" in 1910, then the return of Christ in 1914. The later date was eventually proclaimed as the date Jesus returned invisibly to reign from the Watchtower headquarters.
- J.F. Rutherford became the head of this group after Russell's death and in the book Millions Now Living Will Never Die predicted in 1925 the righteous dead would be raised and millions would then live on a renovated earth with Abraham, Isaac and others. This too obviously failed. (This has not stopped them, they have set other dates as 1918, 1920, 1925, 1941, 1975 and their latest date was 1994... in 1995 they announced it had been "delayed")
- Hal Lindsey, popular premillennialist author, set December 31, 1981 as the date the "rapture" would occur by – another obvious failure, but he unbelievably still remains a popular author!

Do you realize that well over 200 dates that have been put forth by those who somehow think they have the ability or right to speak for God?! (Cf. www.bible.ca/pre-date-setters.htm) The odd thing is that it takes but a cursory examination of the Scriptures to see the futility of all such efforts. In Matthew 24:35-39 the Lord makes it plain that no one knows the time He will return and that it will in fact be an unexpected return. Paul, in writing to the Thessalonian Christians, states that the "day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). The Bible tells us plainly that the coming of Christ WILL occur, but the time is unknown.

What then are we to do? First of all, do not be deceived by the modern day "Chicken Little's" that fill the religious world. Secondly, look to God's Word, submit unto Him in loving obedience so that when that day does come we will be prepared. As Peter said, "... 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. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God...?" (2 Pet. 3:10-12)

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