

Are We in the Last Days?



2012. Prophecies: Unless you have been living under a rock, you have heard about the Mayan calendar that ends on December 21, 2012, and the buzz that it will be the day that this present world ends in disaster (some say transforms into a new one). Less widely known are the prophecies of the Hopi nation (Southwestern US), most of which have come to pass, the last of which foretells a coming great destruction and cleansing opening the way into the fifth world. Perhaps you have heard that the likes of Nostradamus and Edgar Cayce predicted great earthquakes and floods and wars and great calamity, and the coming of the antichrist, and finally the end of days.

Major World Religions: Of course, many Christians (58% of Evangelicals, per the Pew Research Center) expect the imminent return of Christ! Something that you may or may not have heard is that Shiite Islamic fundamentalist (like the leadership in Iran) are claiming their messianic Twelfth Iman, also known as the Mahdi, is on earth and will soon be revealed. He is to lead the Muslims to world domination in the last days. His role is eerily similar to the description of the antichrist in the Bible. Many Buddhists and New Agers are awaiting the soon arrival of their false christ, Lord Maitreya. Hindus are expecting 'Kalki'. Even many in Israel are expecting the coming of the Messiah in the near future.

Natural Disasters: Now if that's not enough to make you wonder, consider that 2011 has been the worst year for natural disasters in recorded history! You may or may not have heard the odd stories of thousands of dead birds falling from the sky and hundreds of thousands of fish dying in various locations around the globe. Then there was the mega earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the Fukushima event, huge earthquakes in New Zealand, Turkey, Argentina, China and Chile, massive flooding in Thailand, Australia, Pakistan and the Mississippi river, famines in Somalia, massive dust storms in the Southwest, storms with hundreds of killer tornadoes, outbreaks of e-coli and yellow fever, record heat waves, deadly fires and drought in Texas, volcanoes in Iceland and Chile, and Hurricane Irene. The list goes on and on.

World Events: Add to that the global financial crisis, calls by top government officials for 'a new world order', the mysterious Illuminati, the ongoing erosion of our personal freedoms (research 'continuity of government'), rumors of secret FEMA prison camps and Planet X, riots and protests around the globe, the 'Arab Spring' resulting in radical Islam taking over one country after another surrounding Israel with enemies that desire its destruction, the threat of nuclear war with Iran, China, and Russia, as they come to Iran's defense... One has to wonder... **what the heck is going on???**

The Ultimate Source: There is one document that has a 100% accuracy rate with regard making prophetic statements that were subsequently fulfilled... and that is the Bible. There is no other single source that has hundreds of prophecies that have come to pass exactly as predicted. Unsurprisingly, the Bible has a lot to say about the last days.

Awareness: Jesus said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?" "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door." He's saying, 'get a clue!'

Signs of things to come: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death [even today, over 1,000 Christians are martyred every year by radical Muslims], and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

What's coming: There are many more prophecies dealing with the end times, and the events of these tumultuous days seem to be providing layer upon layer of evidence that we are in them right now. Given the history of successful fulfillment of biblical prophecies we need to take these seriously. Taken as a whole, it does appear evident that we are in "the beginning of birth pains"... a time leading up to the Rapture (gathering together) of "the Bride of Christ" (the most faithful Christians) followed by the revealing of the antichrist, the great deception and the great tribulation. Finally, Christ will return again with His army for the battle of Armageddon and destroy the forces of evil. At that time he will return to earth and establish His kingdom and reign in peace for a thousand years.

What you can do: If this is, in fact, about to happen, what can you, as an individual do? You may think there is nothing you can do, but you'd be wrong. Acts 2 says, "When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." Romans 10:9,10 says, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." Stop your life for a moment, get on your knees and pray for forgiveness for all of your past sins, and accept Him as your risen, living Lord. Why be a slave to your desires? We have the honor of serving the King of Kings!

Now, it's not just a matter of saying some 'magic words'. You need to change your life. The Apostle James said, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do** what it says."

How you can do it: First, we have to know what it says. Pick up that dusty Bible (or buy one) and start reading it every morning, first thing in the morning. Let nothing distract you. It is the book of Life. It is a treasure... a pearl of great price! If you read several chapters of the New Testament each day (start with the book of Romans), it will come to life for you. When you're done reading, **get on your knees** and humbly pray to God. Remember, 'ask not what your Father can do for you... ask what you can do for your Father'. Finding other likeminded Christians is important. Unfortunately, most churches today excuse bad behavior and offer only 'milk' instead of 'meat', so pray to find a good one. Believe it or not, the Internet can be a great source of spiritual truth to grow your faith. Listen to people's near death experiences. Watch 'Heaven is So Real' by Choo Thomas and 'Prepare to Meet your God', about Angelica Zambrano! Search videos on 'the Rapture'. People like David Hogan, Hal Lindsey, and Gary Stearman can grow your faith. A web site that reviews dozens of teachers so you can find the ones that speak to you is <http://www.soundchristian.com/prophecy/who/>. If you want more evidence of the end times, check out Stan Deyo's web site. If you are ready for deep truths, Tribulation-Now.org. Above all, love God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength (praise God and His Spirit will fill you!), love your neighbor as yourself, give generously to the poor and needy and boldly tell others about your new life with Christ!

Summary: Only those who 'purify their hearts like glass' will be part of the Bride of Christ and will be gathered into Heaven at the Rapture. Unfortunately, most who consider themselves Christians will not qualify. Your will alone cannot rid you of all your wrongful desires. Get close to Christ's love and sinful desires will lose their hold and fall away like old scabs. Seek Him with all your heart. The days are very short (it could be just days or weeks from today!). If you miss the Rapture, the Holy Spirit that held back the forces of evil will have departed from the earth, and evil will rule. Tribulation will be 'hell on earth". Get committed NOW so you can be one of those who get off this 'demon infested rock'. When the Rapture happens, the 'Matrix' that is this world will melt away and you will soar up to the true and eternal Kingdom of Heaven! It is a beautiful, wondrous place where peace, joy and His love for you are boundless and eternal! Just do it!!!

May God Bless You and Keep You Forever in His Loving Arms!

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