

End of the World

- If you type this in your browser, you will get an article written by Wikipedia listing many of the predictions of the end of the world, from as far back as the first century.
- There are hundreds of them, with a disclaimer at the beginning of the article that there are many many more.
- Most of them are from those who claimed to be disciples of Christ, who had gained a knowledge of the actual date from the Scriptures.
- You would not be surprised to learn there is a 100% failure rate, since we are still here!

The Consequences

- Every time there is a prediction and then a failure, it makes all disciples look foolish.
- But that doesn't deter others from trying.
- Some of the movements in the 1800's led to some of the churches that still exist today.
- The Millerites were convinced Jesus would return in 1844 were so disappointed that it was called "The Great Disappointment"
- Undeterred, they tried again, now called the 7th day Adventists, 1874 passed with no results.
- The Jehovah Witnesses tried 1914, 1941, 1975

Millions Now Living Will Never Die

- Yet multitudes did die. It was a false prophecy.
- Yet it did not quench the desires of the multitudes.
- In 1970, Hal Lindsey's Late Great Planet Earth was purchased by multitudes and accepted as fact.
- Beginning in 1995, the Left Behind series became the follow up.
- Yet 50 years after Lindsey and 25 years after Left Behind, the only real legacy is to create the very attitude Peter described.

False Prophecy Leads to Scoffing

- *knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” 2Pet. 3:3-4*
- God has forbidden them to do this, but they ignore the warnings and press on into folly.
- Since most of this comes from Revelation, we need to be wise enough to heed God’s warning.

God Sternly Warned about Revelation

- *For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. Rev 22:18-19*

Why Can't People Understand *Shortly*?

- *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants — **things which must shortly take place.** Rev 1:1*
- *Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants **the things which must shortly take place.** Rev 22:6*
- There is nothing in the figurative language of Revelation meant to be used today. Shortly means shortly, not 2000 years.

The Continuing Cycle of Life

- Starting with Revelation they move to Ezekiel and Daniel. These prophecies are vague enough to easily interpret with the current events of any time in human history.
- Events in life are ever repeating, it will never be difficult make prophecies fit any time.
- *That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this is new"? It has already been in ancient times before us.*
(Eccl. 1:9-10)

Still only 14% have the right answer.



God' Definitive Answer

- *But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*

1Th 5:1-5

We “*Know*” Perfectly

- Concerning the times and the seasons,
- you have no need that I should write to you.
- you know perfectly the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night.
- When they say, "Peace and safety!"
- then sudden destruction comes upon them.
- There are no signs!
- Jesus intends to Return like a “*thief in the night.*”

Time Means Nothing to God

- *But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 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. 2 Peter 3:8-11*

Jesus Explained “*Thief in the Night*”

- *But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 40 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Lk 12:39-40*
- No one knows when the thief is coming.
- If they did they would be prepared.
- The Son of Man is coming in an hour you don't expect!
- If that is the Lord's plan, there are not clues or hidden information to give any insight

Since Always Ready – No Surprises!

- *But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.” (1Th. 5:4-7)*
- We don't know when the Lord is going to return.
- Doesn't matter, I was prepared yesterday, today and tomorrow, year after year always ready!

Always Ready – No Surprises!

- *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:11-13*
- *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless 2Pet 3:14*

- We must be content to live each day with a joyful expectation that He might return today.
- One day those who are, or will be living at that time, will be right!