

## **MISTAKE 1**

### **WE SHOULD NEVER SET DATES FOR THE RETURN OF CHRIST**

Since the time Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, there have been Christians who have set dates for His return. Indeed, every year we find people making headlines by telling us they know the exact year or even the precise day when this event, prophesied long ago in Scripture, will literally take place. As we know, all of them have been mistaken in their calculations!

Accordingly, it is wrong to claim that Christ is coming back at such and such a date or that He is coming back “soon.”

We can make a number of observations about this mistake that many people have made.

#### **MISTAKE AFTER MISTAKE AFTER MISTAKE**

There was a certain Christian radio broadcaster in 1971 who did a series of broadcasts as to why he believed that Christ was coming back in that very year, 1971. During the commercial break, however, he was promoting his Israel trip in 1972!

There was also the infamous book *88 Reasons Why Christ is Returning in 1988*. It goes without saying that this book has not been reprinted!

Not only have people attempted to tell us the precise year that the Lord would return, others have predicted the exact day that this would happen. Harold Camping of *Family Radio* predicted the rapture of the church would happen on May 21, 2011. Many people believed him. However, he was wrong.

Regrettably, Camping had previously written a book predicting that 1994 would be the “year” that Christ would return. Obviously he was also incorrect in this prediction of the precise year.

Sadly, I watched an interview with him in early 1994 with the venerable broadcaster Larry King. Larry asked him, “If Jesus doesn’t come back in 1994 does that make the Bible wrong?” Camping then stammered, not really answering.

It was a very good question to ask this so-called Bible prophecy specialist but it was heartbreaking to watch this needless spectacle.

The list of unfulfilled predictions, concerning the day or year of the return of Christ, goes on and on.

#### **CAN ANYONE KNOW THE DAY OR THE YEAR?**

This brings up an obvious question: Can we, or even should we, attempt to set dates for future events such as the rapture of the church and the return of Jesus Christ to the earth? Is it even biblically possible to do this?

#### **WE SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO THE WORDS OF JESUS**

With respect to the time of Jesus’ return, we are clearly told by our Lord Himself that date setting is not possible. He said:

No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father (Matthew 24:36 NIV).

## We Should Never Set Dates For The Return Of Christ

Based upon these words of Jesus, we should ask the date-setters to answer this question: What part of “no one knows” do you not understand? If the Lord Jesus said, nobody knows, then the matter is settled, nobody knows. End of story.

Yet, there are those who tell us that nobody knew during Jesus’ time when He would return but we can now know either the year or the day. The problem with this idea is that Jesus gave no limits as to when nobody would know the time of His return. In other words, nobody knew then and nobody can know now.

This being the case, nobody should attempt to set dates for yet to be fulfilled Bible prophecies. If we do so, we contradict the specific words of the Lord Jesus!