

Middle-East Prophecy Update – November 20th, 2011

- For today's update I want to talk about one of the reasons we're the last generation at the rapture of the bride of Christ and 2nd coming of Christ.
- If you were to ask me what I thought were the main reasons for this belief, I, like many others, would cite the rebirth of the nation Israel in 1948.
- While that fulfillment of prophecy may certainly top the list, there are other fulfillments of prophecy in concert with that, also at the top of the list.

- For purpose of our update today I would like to draw your attention to an obscure prophecy found in Jude verses seventeen through twenty-one.

Jude 1:17-21 NIV But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. (18) They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." (19) These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. (20) But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. (21) Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

2 Peter 3:3-11 NIV First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. (4) They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." (5) But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. (6) By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. (7) By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. (8) But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. (9) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (10) But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. (11) Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives

- I believe that we are now witnessing the very thing that the apostle Peter, and subsequently Jude prophecy will happen in the last days on earth.
- Namely, that there will be this increasing of the ridiculing, and the mocking of Christians, specifically as it relates to the rapture of the church.
- This past year brought about exactly that, and it came in the form of date setters like Harold Camping who provided the fodder for the mocker.

A website by the name of "Stinky Journalism.org" said it best in a blog under the heading; "Rapture Mockery: The New Media Entertainment?" Here are a few excerpts; "The Associated Press and CNN, ... both wrote reports that were filled to the brim with references to jokes about the Rapture. An Associated Press article on May 18 titled "End of the world? How about a party instead?" [reported](#) on various ways the Rapture has been mocked, including a Facebook group, a comic strip, and a "two-day extravaganza" in North Carolina. The jokes continued in [a May 21 CNN report](#) titled "It's NOT the end of the world as we know it," which quoted a highly sarcastic speech on the Rapture from CNN's own reporter Jim Brenneman. Brenneman told CNN that he probably would not be able to enter heaven "with all the other self-righteous wing nuts." "If that happens, feel free to have my stuff," he said. "But probably not! Let the Looting Begin! HAPPY APOCALYPSE EVERYONE!!" ...Some of the media couldn't resist the urge to mock the people who believed in the Rapture...

<http://www.stinkyjournalism.org/latest-journalism-news-updates-233.php>

Then there was this Seattle Post Intelligencer article which reported this story; "Seattle atheists mock rapture prediction with 'Left Behind' party" – Quoting from the article they say; "Conservative preacher [Harold Camping is \(once again\) predicting when the rapture will happen](#), and a Seattle-based atheist group is marking the occasion with a "Left Behind" viewing party. On ~~October 24~~ October 22, they're making popcorn and — assuming the world doesn't end — watching a "terrible movie." Based on the Christian book series with the same title, the movie chronicles the trials of those (you guessed it) left behind after the rapture. ...This is the Seattle area's second atheist-sponsored rapture party this year. The first came after [Camping's prediction for a May 21 apocalypse fell flat](#). ...Come October 22, mocking is encouraged, according to SeattleAtheists.org..

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/thebigblog/2011/10/10/seattle-atheists-mock-rapture-prediction-with-left-behind-party/>

- All of this begs the question of whether or not this is what Peter and Jude were referring to. I would submit to you that it is indeed as they said.
- Here's why? When you collectively factor everything into the prophetic equation, you realize this is a big piece of the Bible prophecy puzzle.
- This may explain why it is and how it is that now like never before the world is not only mocking the rapture but they're not expecting the rapture.

Matthew 24:44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. NKJV

- I'm of the belief that the topic of the rapture is one of the most, if not the most, divisive and controversial doctrines in the body of Christ today.
- Not only is the world mocking us believers in a pre-tribulation rapture, but fellow Christians, worse yet, friends and family members are as well.
- Over the years this has been the subject of much consternation in my life, but I'm coming to accept this by virtue of the words of Jesus Himself.

Luke 12:51-56 NIV Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. (52) From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. (53) They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." (54) He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. (55) And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. (56) 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?"

Matthew 10:34-38 NIV "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. (35) For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— (36) a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' (37) "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; (38) and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

A Facebook friend posted a quote from A.W. Pink concerning these provocative verses, in which he said; "The gospel of Satan is not a system of revolutionary principles, nor yet a program of anarchy. It does not promote strife and war, but aims at peace and unity. It seeks not to set the mother against her daughter nor the father against his son, but fosters the fraternal spirit whereby the human race is regarded as one great 'brotherhood'"

- Here are a couple of closing thoughts the first of which is, Jesus warns us that His coming will cause division in our family and our church family.
- It's interesting how Jesus rebukes; they know how to interpret the signs of the weather, but do not know how to interpret the signs of the times.
- This would indicate that people who mock us or are divisive towards us don't know or don't want to know how to interpret the signs of the times.
- Perhaps this may explain, not excuse, their mocking of us, and divisiveness towards us, when we attempt to speak the truth, in love, to them.

- I'll bring this prophecy update in for a landing on the runway of an Arab Proverb which goes like this:
- He that knows not and knows not that he knows not; He is a fool, shun him! - He that knows not and knows that he knows not; He is simple teach him!
- He that knows and knows not that he knows; He is asleep, wake him! - He that knows and knows that he knows; He is a wise man, follow him!