

A publication of
Genuine Joy Ministries

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- “Never before has a date in history been so significant to so many...”
- For my peace of mind I turn to the Bible to see what God says
- “...you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”
- Are you & those you love ready?

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The Hard Questions

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

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Answers to Life's Hard Questions— Are You Ready?

Dear Joy,

I saw the movie *2012* and then I happened to see a billboard that said, “Judgment Day, May 21”. Now who’s right and what’s going on? Is the world as we know it coming to an end and if so what will happen to me?

Since you’ve seen the movie you no doubt know this but for those who don’t I found this paragraph on the website for the movie: “Never before has a date in history been so significant to so many cultures, so many religions, scientists, and governments. *2012* is an epic adventure about a global cataclysm that brings an end to the world and tells the heroic struggle of the survivors.”

The Mayans predicted that a series of catastrophic events will devastate our planet in 2012. BUT, there’s also the matter of the billboard evidently posted in many cities as I saw it in mine, too—so what do we make of these conflicting predictions? I understand your confusion and your concern as it appears time is running out for Planet Earth.

For my peace of mind I turn to the Bible to see what God says. I believe he knows the end from the beginning and his Word never fails to bring enlightenment, comfort and peace. These are trying times anyway and these predictions add one more stick to the

load we carry.

Jesus says quite a bit about the end of the age. In Matthew 24 he specifically addresses this topic to those who would listen. His words remain there today for any who will listen and believe. I recommend you read the entire chapter but I’ll quote a small portion here: “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.” (vv 10-14)

“So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east and is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” (vv 26, 27)



“About that day or hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (v 36)

So you see, from Jesus own mouth, he tells us no one knows the exact time of his return to gather the believers to himself. Since his death and resurrection, which we take special note of this month, people have spent hours, months, years to try to determine the day of his return which will signal the end of the age.

My question is, why? Why go to all that effort when Jesus informed us in terms everyone can understand that predicting this is a waste of time. For some it may be curiosity, for some,



"About that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

Matthew 24:36

perhaps to make themselves look important—they only wind up looking foolish when the day passes uneventfully—and for others they may want to have time to prepare for this great, coming event.

Now, back to Matthew 24, Jesus added, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know what day your Lord will come. . . as you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (vv42, 44)

The other thing to consider about your readiness to meet the Lord, is your death. You don't know the day or the hour when you will die. Anyone of us reading these words might die before his return. Then what?

After we die or after he comes to take us away, we go to one of two places: either heaven or hell. This is a fact and you need to be ready for eternity. All you have to do is take a quick glance at the day's obituaries in the newspaper. You will see that people of all ages have passed away. There's no escaping this. It doesn't matter what age you are, you could die tomorrow or even in the next hour. Are you ready for that great happening?

Another question to consider: is your friend/neighbor/loved one ready for either of these coming events? As followers of Christ, his command to us resonates down through the ages—"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19, 20)



I don't want to sound morbid but death is a fact of life and each of us has an eternal destiny. I want to be firm on one thing though, God does not send people to hell. He allows each one of us to go where we choose. Some choose life and some choose death. Why not choose life? You may think, well I'll not decide right now, I've got lots of time but choosing NOT to choose is choosing. You've then just decided not to follow Jesus.

My whole point in answering your question is to point all of us to the Savior. We don't need to concern ourselves with false predictions because they are false; they won't happen. We do need to concern ourselves with being ready.

To be ready is as simple as ABC:

- ◆ **Admit you are a sinner,** " . . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

- ◆ **Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose from the dead,** " . . . Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Acts 16:31

- ◆ **Confess with your mouth that he saves you now and then tell someone you trust about this step you have taken,** " . . . if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved." Romans 10:9

The next step is to determine to live for Christ each day.

To do this it's important to:

- ◆ Read the Bible daily
- ◆ Pray—which is merely talking to God every day
- ◆ Find a Bible-believing church and attend faithfully
- ◆ Be available to God for his leading

RESOURCES & INFO

Web Sites:

[EarthQuake Resurrection](#)

[The Day of the Lord: When, How and Why?](#)

[Prophecy](#)

[Is the World Falling Apart?](#)

[Digging Up the Truth in the Land of Truth](#)

HELPING YOU FIND GENUINE JOY!

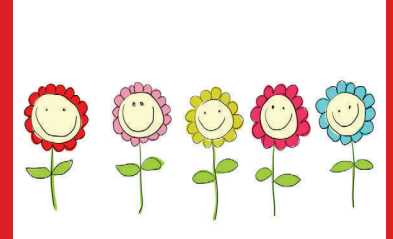
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Editor/Publisher: Beverly Ann Bender

E-mail: info@genuinejoyministries.org

Visit us at: www.genuinejoyministries.org



QUESTIONS????? Write us.

Sometimes you come up with really hard, tough questions that you don't have the answers to.

At times you're too embarrassed or uncomfortable to ask your friends and family... and when you are brave enough to ask the questions, even they don't always have the answers.

You don't think you have anyone that you can talk to... well now you do.

Genuine Joy Ministries is dedicated to helping you find the answers to life's hardest questions.

Just For Fun

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend.

The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."



Rose Tyler: Is that why we're here?
- I mean, is that what you do? Jump in at the last minute and save the Earth?

The Doctor: I'm not saving it.
Time's up.

"Dr. Who"-End of the World (2005)

If you know someone who would be interested in or needs to see this newsletter, you can easily add their email address to our mailing list. Just send a quick email to: info@genuinejoyministries.org

