

of the prophecies, his followers were gradually pushed out of the Adventist sect and were officially formed into a new denomination under the leadership of Joseph Rutherford. They are known today as “Jehovah’s Witnesses”.

Other modern-day “prophets” include Hal Lindsey who wrote the book **The Late, Great Planet Earth**, predicting the end of the world in the 1980s. When Lindsey's original prophecy proved to be wrong, “Y2K”, the beginning of the new millennium, became the date. Edgar Whisenant predicted 1988. Jerry Falwell said we would not see a new century.

All of these men, who claimed and still claim many followers, have made false predictions concerning the second coming of Christ and the end of this world as we know it. They have said that their statements were based on Scripture or on some special revelation God had made to them, so they authenticated their “prophecies” by putting the responsibility on God. The end result of such failed claims is that disillusioned believers lose faith in God and in the Bible as His inerrant word.

But Jesus made a very clear and emphatic statement concerning His second coming: *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the*

days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:36-39).

Jesus confirmed His words with the promise, *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away”* (Matthew 24:35).

Many false teachers — in amassing fame, followers, and even fortunes — have prophesied about our Lord’s return. Let each of us be aware of the fact that when someone claims to know the date of the end of the world, he is, in the same statement, professing himself to be a liar and a fraud, contradicting the very words of Christ Himself.

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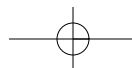
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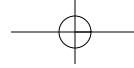
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**“I Guess
We Were
Wrong ...”**

J.C. Choate





“I Guess We Were Wrong.”

J.C. Choate

A few years ago the leader of a Korean cult-like religious organization began to teach that Christ would return to the earth on a particular date. The group had an office in New Delhi, India, as well as in other major cities of the world. Their primary task was to distribute literature, predicting the date of the Lord’s return.

Brother Sunny David, a gospel preacher in New Delhi, went to their local office to talk to them. He found it difficult to get much information. Later, a day or so before the date on which they said Christ would come, Sunny went back to their office, only to find it locked and abandoned. Someone nearby told him that the Koreans had returned to their country, to be there for the Lord’s coming!

A few days later, a local paper told of the leader’s response when the police went to his headquarters in Korea to arrest him: “Well, I guess we were wrong.”

But why did the police arrest the man? Was it because he was innocently in religious error? No; rather, it was because he had convinced his followers that, since Christ’s return and the end of the world were imminent, they would have no

need for their money, possessions, or real estate. These riches were poured into the coffers of the leader of the cult, making him a wealthy man. The obvious question is, if Christ was returning and the followers in the cult would have no need for material possessions, what did the leader intend to do with them? You would think that his disciples would have been wise enough to have seen through his hoax.

We have heard such stories many times. Several years ago I talked to a preacher of the Jehovah’s Witness group in Colombo, Sri Lanka. I learned that he was not sending his children to school that year, nor was he paying his taxes, because he was convinced that Jesus would be coming within the year. Therefore, it was a waste of time and money for his children to attend school, and there was no need to pay taxes. How foolish of that man, and others in his religious group! I’ve often wondered what happened to their misplaced “faith” when the Lord failed to appear.

In the 1800s, a Baptist preacher by the name of William Miller became convinced, based on his interpretation of prophetic statements in the book of Daniel, that Christ’s return was imminent. He prepared his followers for the fiery end of the world by stating: “My prin-

ciples in brief, are, that Jesus Christ will come again to this earth, cleanse, purify, and take possession of the same, with all the saints, sometime between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844.”

When the date came and went without the return of Christ, an adjustment was made for October 22. Henry Emmons, a Millerite, later wrote, “I waited all Tuesday [October 22] and dear Jesus did not come; I waited all the forenoon of Wednesday, and was well in body as I ever was, but after 12 o’clock I began to feel faint, and before dark I needed someone to help me up to my chamber, as my natural strength was leaving me very fast, and I lay prostrate for 2 days without any pain, sick with disappointment.”

Miller continued to wait for the second coming of Jesus Christ until Miller’s death in 1849. Followers later made the explanation that the October 22 date marked *a heavenly event, and not the literal Second Coming of Christ*. The Seventh-day Adventist Church grew out of this movement.

A disillusioned Adventist member by the name of Charles Taze Russell began to prophesy that Christ would return in 1874. When Russell died in 1916, and there had been no fulfillment

