

RAPTURE

1 Thes. 4:17

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Scope: This lesson defines the rapture and it's teaching regarding signs and actual event.

WHAT DOES THE WORD RAPTURE MEAN?

- Where did we get the word "rapture" and what does it mean. The word itself is never used in the Bible.
- The phrase "caught up" in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is the Greek word *harpazo*, which actually means "to be snatched away violently".
- The Latin equivalent of *harpazo* is the verb *rapio*, "to take away by force". In the Latin Vulgate, one of the oldest Bibles in existence, the appropriate tense of *rapio* appears in verse 17.
- *Raptus* is the past participle of *rapio*, and our English words "rapt" and "rapture" stem from this past participle. Although "rapture" isn't in the King James Bible, the basic word does appear in the Latin Vulgate. [*The Tribulation & the Church*, Chuck Smith. Pg. 13]
- Note: Latin Vulgate is the Bible translated by Jerome from Hebrew and Greek to Latin during the period of 410-435 AD. It remained the basic Bible for many centuries.
- This word is used to describe the event when Jesus removes His people from the earth and takes them to Heaven.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE RAPTURE

The best scripture that describes the rapture is found in I Thessalonians.

The following verses apply to Israel at the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. Many of those against God will be taken away by death and Israel will be left. But these also give a pretty good description of how the rapture might be.

Matthew 24:39-42

[39] And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. [40] Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. [41] Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. [42] Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. [43] But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up." KJV

1 Thes. 4:13-18

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. [14] For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. [15] For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. [16] For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17] Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. [18] Wherefore comfort one another with these words." KJV

Q. The dead in Christ are where? The bodies are here in the earth, but the soul and the spirit are with Christ.

Eccles. 12:7

"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

2 Cor. 5:8

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

God is going to bring the dead with him. Obviously the dead in two separate places, the Earth and with Christ. This means that He is going to bring the souls of them that have died.

We who are alive shall not precede those who are dead. God is going to bring the souls of the dead, and those souls are going to return to their decomposed bodies and then these bodies will be raptured up before us. They will rise first.

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds. We will be "caught up" or "raptured" by the Lord in the air.

Note: During this event, the Lord is not coming to the Earth, He will come and stay in the clouds. This is not the 2nd coming of Christ.

1 Cor. 15:50-54

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. [51] Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. [53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. [54] So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." KJV

We are not going to be as we are (Flesh and blood)

V. 51- We shall be changed.

V. 52- In a moment we will be changed. Changed to what?

Our mortal bodies will become immortal.

1 Cor. 15:47-49

"The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. [48] As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. [49] And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." KJV

WHAT WILL WE LOOK LIKE?

It is at this point that we will be perfect, for we will bear the image of Christ.

Philip. 3:21

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." KJV

We will have a glorified body like his glorified body.

How will it look? Nobody knows details.

We shall be like angels:

Matthew 22:30

"For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." KJV

- A glorified body does not have flesh and bones.
- Angelic beings transcend matter and space.
 - Fly (Isaiah 6)
 - Go through walls (Jesus walks into room with doors closed)
 - Can change form (Lot, angels manifested in flesh form)
- Angelic beings have always been associated with Light (Transfiguration)

WILL WE BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER?

YES

- We shall be like angels. Angels were able to recognize each other. (Daniel 10)
- Rich man in hell was able to recognize Abraham and Lazarus (Luke 16). How did he recognize Abraham without ever seeing him?

NO

- There is no relationships in heaven.
- There is no marriages (husband and wives) in heaven (Matt. 22:30)
- There is no race, rank, or gender (Gal. 3:38- There is neither slave nor free...)

- The Lord will block recognition of those who have not entered heaven in order to remove all sorrow and pain. In heaven, there is no more tears and sorrow. (Rev. 21:4- former things have passed away.)

Conclusions on Recognition:

- When we receive our glorified bodies, we will be able to recognize each other in heaven in regards to identity but not in regards to relationship.
- In Heaven, we will all be considered children of God.
- A person living today will not recognize a glorified body unless that being reveals himself to them.
 - After resurrection- the disciples didn't recognize Jesus.
 - After resurrection- the men on the road to Emmaeus didn't recognize Him.
 - We sometimes entertain angels without recognizing them (Heb. 13:2)
- Did the disciples recognize Moses and Elijah (Matt. 17)? No. They did not recognize them. They didn't have a picture or anything to show how they looked like. By reason, the Lord had to introduce them to the disciples.
- Those in Hell will be able to recognize relationships. (Luke 16- Rich man was concerned about his brothers.)
- In heaven, recognition of relationships will be blocked since we will all be children of God. Recognition of identity will be allowed to bring further joy.
- In hell, recognition of relationships and identities will be active for further torment.

WHEN WILL THE RAPTURE OCCUR?

- No one knows the exact date of when Jesus will snatch His church.
- The rapture will occur anytime.

Matthew 24:36, 44

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. [44] Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." KJV

Supporting verses:

Acts 1:7

"And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." KJV

1 Thes. 5:2

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." KJV

- Though the Bible does not give us exact dates, it does give us signs to look for.
- How do you know a woman is going to have a baby? growing tummy, unusual appetites, morning sickness, etc...

Matthew 24:32-33

"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: [33] So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."

- It will be in God's timing. The gap between the 69th and 70th week will close when God says it's time to close the gap and open the seals.

Romans 11:25

"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in." KJV

WORLD PICTURE AND SIGNS BEFORE THE 2ND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST OCCURS.

- The Rapture is a timeless and signless event.
- The Olivet Discourse does not present signs for the rapture but all the signs and prophecies are for the Jews and deal with the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ.
- So the following signs that are already at work will continue to be and increase in intensity before the 2nd coming.

WHY ARE THE SIGNS OF MATT 24 FOR THE 2ND COMING AND NOT THE RAPTURE?

The context: Jesus is talking to them about the destruction of the temple and the buildings. This will not occur until the 2nd coming since Daniel 9 tells us that the Antichrist will sit on the temple (After the rapture).

The Audience: Jesus is speaking to Jews. The Jews knew nothing of the rapture. The only thing Jews knew are the prophecies of the coming messiah with Power and might to save them. Zechariah 14 and Daniel 9 give descriptions of the coming Lord to save Israel from surrounding nations. The Jews ask for the "Sign of **Thy coming** and the **end of the age**". Verse 39 of chapter 23 says, "For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'". This will happen at the second coming when he will come and be received by Israel as their saving Messiah.

THE RAPTURE HAS NO SIGNS. IT IS EMMINENT.

EXAMPLE: There are signs for when a woman is going to have a baby. The signs are morning sickness and then she begins to show. These are signs that she is going to have a baby.

- The rapture is similar to the water sac breaking. The 2nd coming of Christ is like the birth. The water breaking is uncertain and can happen anytime. The birth is certain and will happen within hours of the rapture.
- These signs indirectly effect us because we will be caught up before the 2nd coming.

MATTHEW 24- SIGNS FROM THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

These signs will increase in intensity during the tribulation.

1. Arising of False Christ

Matthew 24:5

"For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

No doubt this has occurred numerous times. Recent examples are the following:

SERGEI TOROP- VISSARION



Born January 14, 1961. This middle-aged man was a traffic cop in the small Russian town of Minusinsk until 1989. In 1989, he openly announced he was the son of God. Now he rules about 4000 people in the Siberian mountains. In June 1994, they joined the "Community of Unified Faith" and in 1995 they registered as the "Church of the Last Testament".

"But to keep things simple, yes, I am Jesus Christ. That which was promised must come to pass. And it was promised in Israel 2000 years ago that I would return, that I would come back to finish what was started. I am not God. And it is a mistake to see Jesus as God. But I am the living word of God the Father. Everything that God wants to say, he says through me."

In his community, Christmas has been abolished and replaced by a feast day on January 14, the day of his birth. The biggest holiday of the year falls on August 18, the anniversary of Vissarion's first sermon in 1991, when the "saviour" descends from the mountain on horseback to join thousands of his followers.

His community is governed by a strict code of conduct- no vices, smoking, drinking, swearing, animal farming, nor monetary exchange.

"There's a place in the New Testament where Jesus says the time will come when I will no longer speak in parables. That time has come; the time for people to see the aim of life."

They have some commandments of Vissarion ("Do not condemn the deceased") which justify suicide as a precondition to such an outcome. The actual doctrine of Vissarion is a blend of cosmology, Christianity, and yoga.

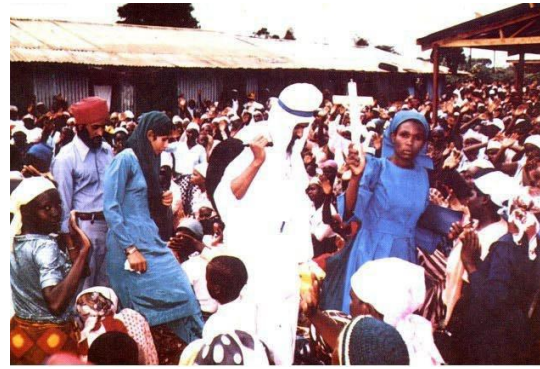
LORD MAITREYA



**Maitreya as He appeared
in Nairobi, 1988**

He is known as the World Teacher. His personal name is Maitreya (pronounced My-tray-ah). He is a man that is alive today and makes mystical appearances around the world.

On June 11, 1988, in Nairobi Kenya, a Christian congregation of thousands were having a prayer meeting that emphasized on healing. During the meeting, while the congregation was singing, a woman stood up and said in a loud voice that they were going to be visited by a very special guest tonight. Then about 5 minutes later, out of the blue, this man walks in and began to speak to all of them. He spoke to them in their own language of Swahili without and accents. People immediately received him as the Christ. Reports say that he began to heal people from major illnesses such as aids, cancer, arthritis, glaucoma. He was with them for a few minutes and then left the meeting in a car driven by someone from the congregation. They drove a little distance when Maitreya asked him to pull over. He got off the car and began to walk back along the highway where he vanished in thin air.





Since then, he has appeared in many different places. The latest date of his appearance was in April of 2001. He is a teacher to all religions. Christians know him as the Christ. Jews know him as the Messiah, Hindus look for the coming of Krishna, Buddhist expect him as Maitreya Buddha, and Muslims anticipate the Imam Mahdi or Messiah.

Some of his sayings are about when he will reveal himself. Maitreya says:

“Without disturbing anyone, I will choose my moment.”

“Even when you see me, do not run after me. If you run after me, you will lose me. I cannot be monopolized—I belong to everyone.”

“I don’t want you to believe in me. I want you to experience me.”

“If you take one step towards me, I will take two steps towards you. I will lend you my strength. I am always with you.”

“Do not follow one another. If you practice honesty of mind, sincerity of spirit and detachment, you will know me, you will know the Lord.”

“I have not come to found a new religion. I have come to teach the art of Self-realization, which is neither an ideology nor a religion, but benefits people of all religions and those who have none. I seek to express that which I am through you; for this I come.”

MICHAEL TRAVESSER

Self-proclaimed Son of God and Messiah. Strong City Cult.

JOSE LUIS DE JESUS MIRANDA

- Self-proclaimed Jesus Christ Man. Later says he is the anti-Christ. Jesus teaching were for the bible times, his teachings are for now.
- There is no sin, no devil, no hell- indulge and enjoy.

2. Wars and Rumors of Wars**Matthew 24:6-7**

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. [7] For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom..." KJV

There is no doubt that history has been about wars. There has been so much war. We know this sign is an obvious one. There are Rumors of wars- Cold war which lasted about 50 years (educated guess). There is constant war going on as we speak. This sign will increase during the tribulation.

3. Famines

"...: and there shall be famines..."

This is a sign that is surely evident. We don't have to prove that this is existent. Third world countries are malnourished. Children die everyday because they can't find anything to eat. The Rich (America) are getting richer, and the Poor are getting poorer.

40,000 children die every day because of lack of food and water. In other countries, a child has a 10% chance of dying before the age of 5. 2 billion people do not have safe water to drink.

4. Pestilences

“...and pestilences”

Another issue that goes with having to explain in detail. There are so many diseases that are killing people. How many of you know someone who has Aids? Cancer? Swine Flu?

There is a case in Redlands on May 2001, that meningitis. Bacteria that gets into your nervous system brain and spinal cord and you get severe flu like symptoms and die. She died that same day in her sleep.

5. Earthquakes

“...and earthquakes, in divers places.”

This is another issue without having to explain. How many of you have ever experienced and earthquake? Thousands and thousands of people have died as a result of earthquakes. You never read about earthquakes in your history books cause there weren't many.

China

Indonesia

Haiti- haven't seen an earthquake in how many years?

Chile

Mexicali

6. Persecution

Matthew 24:9

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.” KJV

- There is a lot of persecution happening throughout the world. We don't understand because most of us lived in America all our lives. We feel everyone has a car, has food to eat, can go to church. I know people that were actual slaves. They came from other countries. Christians die daily. Have you suffered persecution?
- All the apostles died as martyrs except for one- John. Millions of believers died for their faith.
- Makes me feel bad when I'm afraid just to be laughed at.
- What would those martyrs think of us right now?
- In Iraq, church pastured by White Cannon, he asked how many people wanted to get baptized knowing they might get killed. 12 Women were baptized that day. Out of the 12, 10 were murdered.
- 2010, after a church service in Egypt, muslims drove up in a car and began shooting at the church members. About 8 young men died.
- During the tribulation, persecution of the saints will increase more than today and more than the dark ages [personal opinion].

7. Abundant Betrayal and Hate

Matthew 24:10

"And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." KJV

One of the famous pieces of advice we hear nowadays is "Don't trust anyone". In these days, there is so much lack of trust due to increase in betrayal.

There is such a manifestation of hate in this past decade. Extreme Muslims had declared hate against the free world.

8. False Prophets will rise up

Matt 24:11

11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. NKJV

A prophet- One who has a word from God.

A False prophet is one who claims they have a word from God but it isn't a word from God.

Most False prophets are self-proclaimed. i.e. they are alone when they received this revelation. There are no witnesses.

JOSEPH SMITH

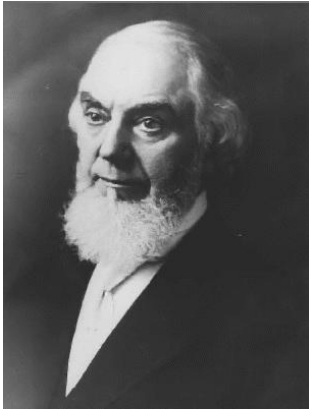


Joseph Smith was a young treasure seeker. He was known for his tall tales. He claimed to have had visions from the spirit world in which he was commanded to organize the Mormon Church because all Christian creeds were an abomination. It was Joseph Smith who organized most of the peculiar doctrines which millions of Mormons believe to be true.

Joseph Smith is honored by Mormons as a prophet greater than all men- even Jesus Christ. The Mormons teach that everyone must stand at the final judgment before Joseph Smith, the Mormon Jesus, and Elohim. The Mormons claim that Joseph Smith did more for us than any other man, including Christ, died as a martyr, and shed his blood for us, so that we, too, may become gods.

[*The God Makers* [film], Jeremiah Films, Hemet CA]

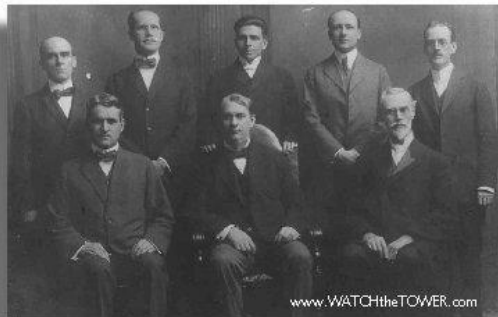
CHARLES TAZE RUSSELL



Charles Taze Russell was born on February 16, 1852, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was originally raised Presbyterian. In 1868, he found himself losing faith and began to develop doubts about church creeds and doctrines, God, and the Bible. He became the financial backing for the publication "The Herald of the Morning". This was a periodic publication that focused on the return of Christ. This publication said that Jesus was going to return in 1874 and that He did return- but invisibly. Both Russell and the publication's editor, Mr. Barbour, claimed that the rapture would occur in the spring of 1874. This did not happen. Barbour then devised various doctrines to explain this failure. Russell and him disagreed on some of these new ideas. Finally, Russell quit the staff of the Adventist magazine and started his own. He called it Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of the Christ's Presence and published its first issue with the date July, 1879.

He then went on his own separate ways in theology. In 1882, he openly began to reject the doctrine of the Trinity which most of the people he worked with held on to that day. By the time of his death, Russell had traveled more than a million miles and preached more than 30,000 sermons. He had authored works totaling some 50,000 printed pages, and nearly 20,000,000 copies of his books and booklets have been sold. Followers had been taught that Russell himself was the "faithful and wise servant" of Matthew 24:45 and "the Laodicean Messenger". He lived to see the failure of various dates that he had predicted for the Rapture. He died on October 31, 1916.

After his death, he set up a Watch Tower Corporation Board of Directors, whom Russell had appointed "for life".



Top: (Left to Right) J.A. Bohnet, R.J. Martin, Giovanni DeCecca, F.H. Robinson, C.J. Woodworth

Bottom: A.H. MacMillan, J.F. Rutherford, W.E. VanAmburg

His vice president, Joseph Franklin ("Judge") Rutherford soon set about concentrating all organizational authority in his own hands. Rutherford renamed his followers "Jehovah's Witness" in 1931. Rutherford tried his hand at prophecy and predicted that the biblical patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) would be resurrected in 1925. (Millions Now Living Will Never Die, 1920, pp. 89-90) The following years went from presidency to presidency along with more predictions and more literature.



JIM JONES



The Jonestown cult (officially named the “People’s Temple”) was founded in 1955 by Indianapolis preacher James Warren Jones. He relocated his church to California in 1965. Due to IRS investigations and great deal of Negative press against him and his radical church, Jones took his congregation and founded the isolated community of Jonestown in 1977. This was in Guyana.

In November 1978, California Congressman Leo Ryan arrived to Guyana to survey Jonestown and interview the inhabitants. After reportedly having his life threatened by a Temple member during the first day of his visit, Ryan decided to cut his trip short and return to the US with some of Jonestown residents who wished to leave. As they got the airstrip and began to board the plane, a group of Jones’s guards opened fire on them, killing Ryan and four others.

Jones knew that this event would make it impossible for them to continue functioning since the US would definitely come with warrants and probably take him away. That night he got on the loud speaker and spoke to the congregation about the beauty of dying. A deadly concoction of purple Kool-Aid mixed with cyanide, sedatives, and tranquilizers was prepared and given to everyone in the camp. This drink was given by Jonestown’s staff doctor and nurses to men, women, children and babies. Those who tried to refuse the poison or escape were forced by armed guards to take it. Jones himself was found shot in the head. It is not know if he shot himself or was killed by someone else.

Jones left a letter for those that would come and find all of the people dead. One lines states, “Hugging & Kissing & tears & silence & joy in a long line. Touches and whispered words as this silent line passes.”. A total of 909 died that day in one of the worst mass suicides.



DAVID KORESH



David Koresh was born Vernon Wayne Howell in Houston TX in 1959 to a 15-year old single mother. He never knew his father and was raised by his grandparents. Growing up, he was dyslexic (reading impairment), a bad student, and dropped out of high school. However, he has musical ability and a strong interest in the Bible. By 12, he had memorized large tracts of it.

When he was 20, Koresh turned to the Church of Seventh Day Adventist, his mother’s church. But he was expelled for being a bad influence on the young people. In 1981, he went to Waco TX where he joined the Branch Dividians. There he became one of the prophets of the sect and by 1990, he became the leader of the Branch Dividians and legally changed his name to

“David Koresh”. This leader took his cult and kept it in a compound in Waco and the entire home ended up in flames before our very eyes and the eyes of the FBI who created a siege around it. David Koresh along with his many followers died in that place.



MARSHALL APPLEWHITE



April 7, 1997, in Rancho Santa Fe CA, 39 bodies were laid out on their backs on bunk beds and mattresses, looking like laboratory specimens pinned neatly to a board. Each was dressed in black pants and black shirt, and brand new black Nike Sneakers. Their faces were hidden by purple cloths. The cultists died in three groups by ingesting Phenobarbital mixed with pudding and kicked by a shot of vodka, then they were helped further by asphyxiation effect of a plastic back over the

head. The final two men—the ultimate angels of death – had only bags and no shrouds.

Alone in the master bedroom was Marshall Applewhite, the group’s master and leader.

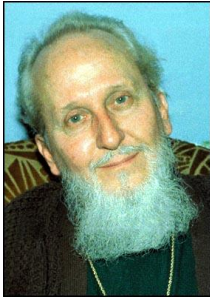
Applewhite’s founded this cult in 1975 and his success was based on making his people believe he was an extraterrestrial in a human body. Then he used fear to tell his follows that the earth civilization would be destroyed or recycled soon and that their only chance of survival was to follow him. The mass suicide was triggered by the appearance of the Hale-Bopp comet in the sky. They believe that it was accompanied by a strange spacecraft (see photo) and it was their marker to go home to “The World”



Applewhite and wife met in a hospital where she was the nurse and he was the patient. (According to his sister). The nurse then persuaded marshal that he has been sent by god and that he should lead a group- partly because of his near death experience in the hospital.

(anw.com/halebopp/applewhite.htm) They started a movement called “Human Individual Metamorphosis”. The end came when the Hale-Bopp made it’s closest pass by Earth.

DAVID BERG



David Berg was considered a prophet and called Moses David by his followers in the religious sect "The Family" (previously known as "The Children of God" [COG]). The Family is now a world-wide movement with approximately 250 communities in over 50 countries and 9,000 members. The movement started in Huntington Beach CA in the late 1960s as a countercultural Jesus Movement Group. [www.thefamily.org]

He is believed by followers to be god's endtime prophet for the world whose writings are synonymous with yet supersede the authority of scripture. He has a strong belief in reincarnation, astrology, and channelling. He also practices sexual relationships with spirit beings whom he calls "goddesses". He teaches a doctrine of sharing sexual relations among the "family". No one is to withhold sex from a "family" member if they are asked in love to meet their sexual needs. [caic.org.au]

David Berg uses the Scripture found in Deut. 18:15-19. They use a dogmatic credibility and takes certain scriptures and applies them to what he wants them to say. But he is not a prophet since he has violated Deut. 18:20-22 in many of his predictions. He has written many messages throughout the years called "MO Letters" that have detailed a pile of prophecies that were never fulfilled. One of these was the prediction of the appearance of the comet Kohoutek in the 1970s, which never came true. He also states that he is the prophet in Isaiah 55:3-4.

The Children of God hold David Berg as a prophet with the same status as Moses and David.

SUN YUNG MOON



Sun Yung Moon, (real name Yung Myung Moon) was born in 1920 in North Korea. He was an engineering student and dock worker before founding the Unification Church in 1954.

His doctrine is loosely based on Christianity as interpreted by Moon, who has suggested that he may be the "real Messiah". Moon introduced the movement to the United States in the 1960s whose world headquarters are now in New York City. He moved to the United States in 1971. He claims to have communicated with Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and the Buddha in his spiritual search. Moon matches his followers with mates and performs mass weddings, the church's most important ritual. In 1995, the church reported 50,000 US followers, 3 million worldwide. [Encyclopedia.com- See studies by D.Bromley and A.D. Shupe, Jr. (1979) and E. Barker (1984)]

Moon claims that Jesus came to him when he was 16 and asked him to fulfill his mission on earth. The primary teaching of the group is called **The Divine Principle (DP)**. It claims to explain God's nature: Masculine and Feminine and having internal

character and external form. His teachings state that you must always submit and obey your leader no matter what, even if it contradicts your conscience, the law, or whatever else. Members are taught to distrust their own thoughts and feelings and are always on guard for “tests” of “invading evil spirits”. They teach that the Jewish people fell into disfavor because of their disobedience, and God moved his blessing to the Korean people- making them the New Israel.

(Freedomofmind.com/groups/moonies)

UGANDA MASS CULT KILLINGS, MARCH 2000



The Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God is the name of the cult. It is believed that it is controlled by a few leaders, two of them being Joseph Kibwetere (68 year old former Roman Catholic catechism teacher) and his prophetess, Credonia Mwerinde (by some accounts a former prostitute). The pair had predicted the world would end on December 31, 1999. When that didn't happen, followers who demanded the return of their possessions,

which they had to surrender on joining the cult, may have been systematically killed in March of 2000. Some were killed by poison, others were strangled, and others burned alive. The Ugandan police had counted 924 victims- exceeding the 1978 Jonestown mass suicide of 913 people.

False christs could go beyond people. It can also extend to false doctrine of salvation. These doctrines are false saviors. Some false philosophies include:

- Reincarnation
- Pergatory
- The teaching that everyone goes to Heaven
- We become gods after we die

9. Love will Decrease

Matt 24:12

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. NKJV

Can't go borrow sugar anymore.

Don't know our neighbors.

Need appointments to go visit children

E-mail and text messaging has replaced face-to-face conversations

10. The Gospel will be preached in all the World.

In the Biblical Time, the gospel was preached through mouth and writing.

75 years ago, the only way to preach was to do it by word of mouth, writing, and radio.

Now, in the 21 century, we have television, Internet, Satellites that can broadcast in real time all over the world. The Gospel will be preached before the 2nd coming occurs.

CONCLUSION

Don't wait to give your life to Jesus thinking that these signs still have to happen. These signs will be fulfilled before the 2nd coming. The rapture of the church will occur 7 years before the 2nd coming.