

How To Avoid Being Blown Away By Headline News

Harold Camping is at it again. He's predicting the end of the world. This time he's sure that May 21, 2011 is our date with destiny, and that the final battle at Har Mo'ed will arrive in October 2011.

Well, let's just wait and see! This is one time that I am tempted to take odds in Vegas since I know I can't lose! When will people learn?

Then there is "the Mayan Calendar Prophecy," which puts the date somewhere between December 21 and 31, 2012. A cult has grown up around this one.

Another very popular position making the rounds involves solar and lunar eclipses in connection with the Jewish feasts. This one is gaining attention because messianic Jews are making a big deal of the fact that in 2014 and 2015 a combination of solar and lunar eclipses will occur on Jewish holidays in those two years.

All this must be significant because it points us to a world-transforming event that's now marked with indelible ink on God's calendar, right? This must be a sign from God, right? Wrong! Natural phenomena have occurred in the heavens since the beginning of the creation. However, when events can be predicted by NASA, there is a pretty good chance that these are nothing more than the natural processes God has predetermined in the heavens. They occur every day – the majority of us just choose to ignore most of them!

Perhaps a bit less spectacular is Joel Richardson's latest literary effort. In his book, *The Islamic Antichrist*, Richardson builds the case that "Islamic eschatology (end-time belief) seems to correlate—in quite an astonishing way—with the biblical descriptions and prophecies of the last days" (Richardson, *The Islamic Antichrist*, p.2). In less than 300 pages, Richardson attempts to convince his readers that "Islamic eschatology reinforces Christian eschatology."

My primary problem with Mr. Richardson is his assumption that Islamic eschatology is inspired and, therefore, is truly prophetic. Is Islamic eschatology prophetic in any sense? For example, Joel 2:28 states, "Your sons and daughters will prophesy." That is, they will speak of events and circumstances that will come true long before they happen. Can we say with absolute certainty that Islam has prophets in the same sense that Israel had prophets, i.e., men and women who could speak clearly and specifically about what God either is or is not going to do?

Nothing that a prophet of Islam has ever said has come true. Not one thing! Please stop here and review what you just read. *Nothing predicted by a prophet of Islam has ever come true. Not one thing!* Yet I can cite you hundreds of fulfilled Bible prophecies.

How can it be that now, all of a sudden, their predictions will come true? While Satan may attempt to use Islamist claims to deceive people, they were not, are not, nor ever shall be true prophecy. Man does not have the ability to speak the future into reality.

Therefore, Islamic eschatology may reflect their hopes and dreams, but it's not prophetic in the sense that any of it will happen with 100 percent certainty. Only biblical prophecy gives that assurance. The role Islam will play in the future is uncertain, but one thing we know: their predictions will not come true. There is no supernatural predictability in Islam. No prophecy or prophet of Islam can prove me false. They can kill me, but they cannot predict a specific, detailed future event and show its corresponding subsequent fulfillment.

Perhaps their most dramatic prophecy involves the supposed coming of the Mahdi. From my reading on this subject, I see no evidence that the Islamic Mahdi will ever claim to be god or demand the worship of the world. Yet, Richardson and others are consistent in their claims that this future figure will be the Antichrist. This is nothing more than pure speculation.

That said, we need to answer one question. Why are many teachings about the predicted future leader of Islam similar to certain New Testament details? A close reading of the Koran reveals an attempt to pattern the Islamic faith after what is contained in the Jewish Old Testament and the New Testament of Jesus. That the author of the Koran copied, summarized, and changed biblical accounts to come up with his own particular testament is rather obvious. Therefore, it should not come as a surprise that the author "borrowed" a number of notions or ideas from the New Testament and then applied them to his own religious future.

I have lived through Communism, the European Union, the Catholic Church and now Islam as being the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, according to some students of the Bible. Each received no little attention regarding the matter, but have all since fallen away with the passing of time. Islam is the choice of all those who want to teach the truth????!!!! The role of Islam in the end times is not clearly defined. A wiser course of action would be to watch and wait. Constantly crying wolf will only lead to apathy and carelessness.