

THE SCOFFERS OF THE LAST DAYS  
II PETER 3:3-7

Introduction:

- A. The sign of the last days beginning, first things first.
  - 1. "Knowing this first."
  - 2. The first of many signs.
  
- B. There shall be scoffers.
  - 1. There is no doubt about this!
  - 2. We should not be surprised.
  
- C. Let us examine these people in the light of God's Word.

I. WHAT ARE THE LAST DAYS?

- A. They are not specifically the seven years of tribulation
  - 1. Not the days immediately before His Coming.
  - 2. It is not the Kingdom Age.
  
- B. They are the last dispensation.
  - 1. The period of time in which the affairs of this world will be wound up.
  - 2. It is the beginning of the end.

II. WHAT IS A SCOFFER?

- A. empaiktns = a sporter with, one who sports with another, playing like children, chiding, mocking.
  
- B. These are generally religious people.
  - 1. John Workman.

III. WHAT IS A SCOFFERS MOTIVE? V3b

- A. "men governed by their own passions."
  - 1. Does not refer to physical love but to the will of the flesh.

2. They, prophecy smooth things, they recommend earthly things, they propose sensual things.

- B. A scoffer is not thinking of your spiritual well being.
1. It is only what they will get out of your believing them.

IV. WHAT DOES THE SCOFFER SAY? V4. He says two things.

- A. Two possible meanings. "Where is the promise of His coming?"
1. Where is the fulfillment of the promise?
  2. Where are the signs He will come?
  3. They, the mockers, implied the promise had failed.
- B. Some early Christians had obviously taught that Jesus had already come or had set a date and thereby brought ridicule on Jesus.
1. Clipping from Arkansas Gazette.

FIRST DEADLINE PASSES; FUNDAMENTALIST SECT STILL WAITS FOR 'RAPTURE' June 29, 1981  
TUCSON. (UPI) Bill Maupin and his small band of disciples sold their belongings, quit their jobs, said goodbye to their friends and gathered Sunday to wait for God to float them up to heaven. God didn't show up, so they extended the deadline.

Maupin and the two dozen other members of the lighthouse Gospel Tract Foundation were still waiting early today, confident the "rapture" was at hand.

"The Lord always did everything at the last minute," Bill Chandler, 60 said. He was among the group waiting at Maupin's tree-shaded suburban home.

Maupin, 51, founder of the fundamentalist sect, said a study of the Bible had convinced him that June 28, 1981, was the date that persons who were "saved" would be "raptured" floated to heaven as if they were "helium balloons."

NOT DISCOURAGED.

As Sunday wore on nothing happened. Maupin wasn't discouraged. He noted Scripture says the Lord comes like a thief in the night.

"It's absolutely mind-blowing the way things are falling together," Maupin told his followers reading Bibles and Sunday comics in the living room of his home.

Maupin's disciples said even if the night passed without rapture it made no difference. Susan Hillary, 27, who said she "retired" as a medical technician in the belief she was going to heaven, said if the rapture didn't come on schedule, it would only mean the sect had "counted wrong."

After the rapture, Maupin said, the Anti-Christ will take over the world in 1984 and chop off the heads of those who refuse to become members of a satanic one-world government by accepting the imprint on their bodies of the numbers "666."

It was against the background of a world supposedly about to be besieged by the Anti-Christ that some of Maupin's disciples quit their jobs, got rid of their homes or declined to renew apartment leases.

"Some sold their homes and donated the money toward it. One doctor sold his Porsche," Maupin said.

Dick Tarr, 36, a telephone company employe, said he gave his paycheck Friday to a friend and he and his wife Karen, 35, and five children aged, 7 to 12, were prepared for earthly departure. The friend would arrange care for the Tarr family's 17 cats and two dogs, he said.

"I told my employer I'd be raptured Sunday and I wouldn't be back Monday. But I haven't quit my job or anything like that," Tarr said.

Article #2 GOT DATE WRONG, FUNDAMENTALIST SAYS OF FAILURE TO RISE TO HEAVEN June 30, 1981  
TUCSON (UPI) Still on earth after missing two deadlines for departure, the leader of a  
fundamentalist sect still insisted Monday that he and his followers would be catapulted to heaven  
someday.

Bill Maupin, 51, founder of Lighthouse Gospel Tract Foundation, admitted he miscalculated the  
date of "rapture" -- when the "saved" would be lifted into heaven like helium balloons to await the  
return of Christ to earth and avoid worldwide satanic rule.

REVISES PREDICTION. Maupin had predicted Sunday as the date for rapture after a 16 year vision.  
He revised the deadline for noon Monday. Maupin said he himself got the date wrong for some reason

Some of his 40 to 50 followers had quit jobs and sold homes and personal belongings in  
preparation for the ascent. They kept an all-day vigil Sunday, waiting for the moment. A few  
die-hard disciples shed tears as midnight passed.

HOW HE SEES EVENTS. The chain of events that must precede rapture includes Israel re-establishing  
the historic boundaries of Joshua's era, conquering Damascus and Lebanon and the return of the  
Sinai to Egypt, Maupin said.

"Israel must take this land," he said. "I really don't know where it [the prediction] missed.

2. Date setting has severely damaged the truth of the  
Second Coming.

C. "All things continue as they were from the beginning of  
the creation."

1. They are saying the laws of nature are fixed and  
settled.
2. Things go on, the sun rises and sets, tide ebbs and  
flows, one generation comes, one goes.
3. The prospects are that things will continue to be  
the same.

V. HOW DOES GOD LOOK UPON THE SCOFFER? V5-7

A. They will be ignorant.

1. thelw = participle = they are naturally desirous of  
ignorance on the subject.
2. They have not learned that all things have not  
continued the same.
3. There was a flood.

b. God used a natural element in an unnatural manner to  
work His will.

1. God spoke and the world existed. v5
2. Water entered materially into the formation of the  
earth, and in its origin there was the means for its  
destruction. v6

- C. To those who lived in the days of Noah, there were no past experiences to substantiate what Noah was predicting.
  - 1. There was no rain, no deluge.
  - 2. The mist arose and watered the earth.
  
- D. The same facts apply to the fiery destruction of the earth. v7
  - 1. "the now heavens and earth."
  - 2. "by the same word are kept in store."
  - 3. Nature is only as stable as God makes it.
  - 4. reserved = treasured up = to be burned.
  - 5. "The only way this could happen is for the stability of the elements to become unstable."
  
- E. This was a fear of those who split the first atom.
  - 1. A chain reaction.
  - 2. Evolutionists would argue that such could not happen, yet his is what happened.
  
- F. It is the God will punish ungodly men.
  - 1. v 10-11.
  - 2. Melt = dissolved.