

You may have noticed that the world didn't end two weeks ago, despite widespread anticipation. Sometimes things just don't go as planned. It's a strange phenomenon this expectation that the world is soon going to end; and if Christian fundamentalists and Mayan enthusiasts can't get it right, who can?

When I was a fundamentalist back in the mid 70s, I - and all my friends - were sure that the end was going to come, with the reappearance of Jesus, before the end of the 1980s. We had sure-fire biblical proof of it. I'll give you the logic in some other post, down the line. For now all I want to say is that we were not alone in our views. Every generation of Christians from the beginning of the Christian religion until now has known fervent believers who maintained that there's was the final generation on earth, that the end would come in their own day. As I have frequently noted, all of these die-hard prognosticators have had two things in common: every one of them has based their views on their (certainly correct) interpretations of Scripture (especially the book of Revelation) and every single one of them has been incontrovertibly and dead wrong.

You may wonder what this has to do with my current thread on the letter of Barnabas. A good deal, as it turns out.

You will remember well that the GREATEST moment of recent apocalyptic expectation hit in the year 2000, with Y2K fever. 2000 was when the world was supposed to end. But why 2000? Why not 3000? Or 1955? There actually is a biblical reason that 2000 was supposed to be significant.

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