

RAPTURE / Harold Camping

REVISIONS

11623

Kim

AP Language

25 April 2012

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The Rapture That Cried Wolf

All of America was in a state of chaos over the prophecy of the supposed "rapture day" of 2011. The rapture is a Christian idea that the true believers of Christ will be caught up in the clouds to be with God while those who are left behind on earth will be doomed to hell forever. The rapture day also points to the end of time. An eighty nine year-old Christian pastor named Harold Camping prophesized that May 21, 2011 would be the day that would separate the holy ones from the ones who would be doomed to hell on earth. Before, during, and after May, American media attacked the issue of an apocalyptic era with sarcasm and irony to present the rapture day as an event that should be overlooked.

Journalists and reporters portray Camping in a mocking and condescending tone to dismiss his prophecy as a hoax. The media frequently describes Camping's physical attributes to be the opposite of his old age. Bryan Curtis comments, "Camping's apocalyptic certainty gives him the bubblyness of a high-schooler eyeing his graduation date" (Curtis). By using a metaphor to compare Camping to a "high-schooler," Curtis shows that Camping is immature in a way that makes his apocalyptic prophecy an unreliable piece of information similar to that of a rumor spread amongst "high-schoolers." Just as graduation signals the end of high school, the rapture signals the end of the world. By comparing the rapture day to a graduation day, Curtis gives the

hyperbole
Most people
laughed at it.

clever

combine

that's the

repeating
the
same
thing
over
and
over

how do these 2 ideas relate?

comparison

to a

WC

not in quote

compare; repetitive

ok
clean
TS

re-read
quote
it says
"bubblyness
of a high
schooler"
don't
take
out
of context

11623

Kim

AP Language

18 May 2012

The Rapture That Cried Wolf

Religious Americans were in a state of chaos over the prophecy of the supposed "rapture day" of 2011. The rapture is a Christian idea that points to the end of time and states that the true believers of Christ will be caught up in the clouds to be with God while those who are left behind on earth will be doomed to hell forever. An eighty nine year-old Christian pastor named Harold Camping prophesized that May 21, 2011 would be the day that would separate the holy ones from the ones who would be doomed to hell on earth. Before, during, and after the 21st, American media attacked the issue of an apocalyptic era with sarcasm and irony to present the rapture day as an event that should be overlooked.

Journalists and reporters portray Camping in a mocking and condescending tone to dismiss his prophecy as a hoax. The media frequently describes Camping's physical attributes to be the opposite of his old age to emphasize his features as young and careless, rather than old and wise. Bryan Curtis from the *Newseek Web Exclusives* comments, "Camping's apocalyptic certainty gives him the bubblyness of a high-schooler eyeing his graduation date" (Curtis). By this comparison to the qualities of a "high schooler," Curtis shows that Camping's adolescence reflects his apocalyptic

still too broad
a group

yes!
muh

Context
context
not just
where

WC

apocalypse a sense of anticipation that high school students feel as they near their graduation. Curtis incorporates a feeling of anticipation in order to illustrate a more lighthearted tone to something as serious as the end of the world. Furthermore, Curtis uses the word "bubbliness" to describe the result of Camping's "apocalyptic certainty" in order to show the limited accuracy in Camping's predictions. Curtis implies that just as a bubble is weak and easily destroyed, Camping's "apocalyptic certainty" has the strength of a bubble. Curtis shows that like a bubble, Camping's predictions can "pop" at any second and result as a failure. Additionally, John Kelly from *The Washington Post* describes Camping's prophecy-making experience when he says, "from there Camping performs handsprings back and forth through biblical time before ending up, with a great flourish, on May 21, 2011" (Curtis). Curtis' diction and detail describe Camping as a healthy young man who can "easily perform handsprings" rather than as an eighty-nine-year-old grandpa to show how deceptive Camping can be both with his age and his predictions. Curtis shows that Camping is, in a way, performing for his audience by doing "handsprings back and forth." Portraying Camping as an entertainer establishes Camping's role as simply a form of amusement for the crowd. Also, just as handsprings result in dizziness and unsteadiness, Curtis shows that Camping is unsteady in his predictions and therefore his prophecy should not be trusted. Similarly, Michael Rosenwald contrasts Camping's characteristics with his old age when he states that "[Camping] has a very persuasive radio voice, and he preaches with absolute confidence" (Rosenwald B.8). Rosenwald demonstrates the vigor and power that Camping holds with his "voice" despite his fragile physical body. Rosenwald recognizes Camping's influence through his voice only to show that that is Camping's only attribute. Other than his

you're repeating the quote here

create a contrast the rest of

to what effect? finish your analysis

no... you look ahead of context

where? give context

think acrobatics performance entertainer meat OK good

stretch - not in quote

not in Rosenwald's quote

prophecy as underdeveloped and unreliable as his characteristics. Curtis' further comparison of the rapture day to something as common as a "graduation date" dismisses the gravity of the end of the world. Curtis mocks the fact that Camping is "eyeing" his "graduation date" with an anticipation that makes his rapture day seem extremely important when in reality, the rapture day is important only to him. Additionally, Curtis describes Camping's prophecy making experience when he says, "Camping performs handsprings back and forth through biblical time before ending up, with a great flourish, on May 21, 2011" (Curtis). Curtis shows that Camping is, in a way, performing for his audience by "doing handsprings back and forth." Portraying Camping as an entertainer establishes Camping's role as a form of amusement for the crowd. American media emphasizes Camping's old age as well as his young physical features to show the lack of accuracy in the rapture day prophecy.

The media compares the rapture day to apocalyptic horror films to show that Camping's prediction has as much accuracy as a movie. As Gregory Elder of the *California Newspapers* discusses the rapture day, he comments, "Hollywood has made billions of dollars making science fiction movies about the end of the world" (Elder). Elder makes this comment about apocalyptic movies in order to imply that the supposed rapture day is just as temporary and genuine as a popular film. Elder also comments on the fact that Hollywood has made "billions of dollars" by making apocalyptic films in order to criticize the fact that through his prophecy, Camping has earned "a reported \$80 million in donations" (Kelly B.3). By comparing the rapture day to a movie, Elder shows that the rapture day will be a successful way for Camping to make money, just as Hollywood makes "billions of dollars" through their science fiction films. Additionally,

yes!