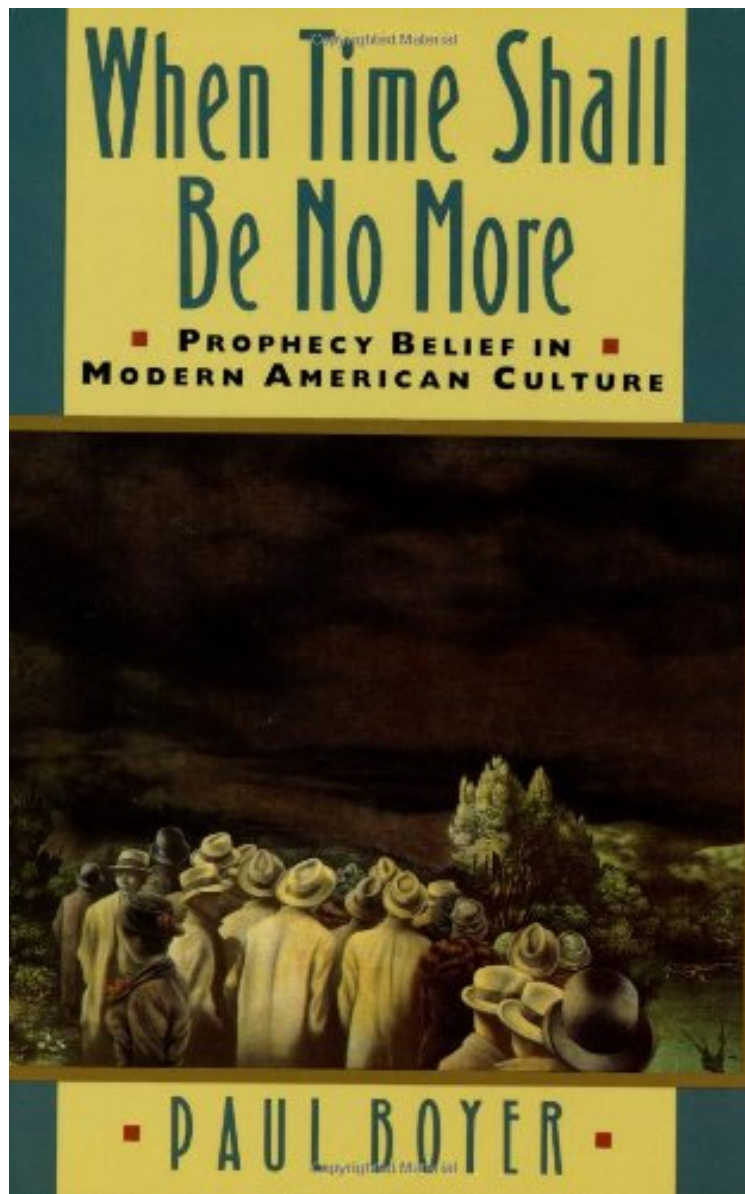


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(Studies in Cultural History)

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Paul Boyer

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *When Time Shall Be No More: Prophecy Belief in Modern American Culture* (Studies in Cultural History):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good intro into prophecy belief in the US By Matthew Smith This book is a good look into prophecy belief in the U.S. This book reads like a history of these movements, and in doing so shows the reader how this belief has influenced and grown over time. The author discusses the leaders of these movements as well as some of the celebrities within the movements that exert so much influence over millions of people. Mr. Boyer has obviously done extensive research combing through hundreds of books and archives to resource this history, and the research is certainly evident in this book. The author knows his subject very well which comes through on each page. Mr. Boyer also discusses the different strands of prophecy belief such as the passive and activist branches. The activist branches being those who actively seek to help bring about the end times by helping to fulfill perceived prophecies in order to bring about god's rapture as soon as possible as opposed to the passive branch that believes that people cannot affect god's plan and that the end is preordained by god and there is nothing that can change that plan. Both sides of this movement are well represented here and thoroughly discussed in an historical context, but this is the problem with the work also. This book begs for a deeper look into the prophecy movements. Throughout the entire work I felt it needed something more like a psychological or sociological approach to go with the historical rendering. The book simply scratches the surface and leaves the reader wanting these deeper looks into the leaders and the millions of people who follow end time prophecies. Another problem with the book is that the author tends to use the same sources over and over again. This means his chapter breaks do not really break anything at all. The book simply reads as one single strand which makes the breaks irrelevant and makes the reading tedious. The same authors and preaches are constantly quoted over and over again in each chapter which leaves no natural breaks in the reading. To finish, I think this is a good starter to get any reader into this topic, but it is not a definitive work. This book leaves the reader wanting a deeper look into these movements. The reason I don't take off for this is the author is up front from the beginning that his book is not that deeper look. His is an historical look at this movement which leaves the deeper studies to others. I do give this work a high mark even with the problems it has because the book does deserve to be read. I recommend this book but with reservations.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By marshall I would highly recommend this book for anyone who studies end time prophecy. Especially if you are of the Dispensational mindset. This book lays out and documents how people have always found "signs of the end times" in world event for centuries and how those signs always seem to change with the culture and worldview of the time. After reading this book, you will begin to see how people have been misinterpreting Bible prophecy for a long time.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. History of apocalyptic movements By Nori Muster A history of all the apocalyptic movements throughout history, going back to the time of Jesus. In a time when we are surrounded by people who think this is the end of the world, this book is relevant. It is comforting to realize that fundamentalists have thought it was the end of the world about thirty times before this most recent wave.

Millions of Americans take the Bible at its word and turn to like-minded local ministers and TV preachers, periodicals and paperbacks for help in finding their place in God's prophetic plan for mankind. And yet, influential as this phenomenon is in the worldview of so many, the belief in biblical prophecy remains a popular mystery, largely unstudied and little understood. *When Time Shall Be No More* offers for the first time an in-depth look at the subtle, pervasive ways in which prophecy belief shapes contemporary American thought and culture. Belief in prophecy dates back to antiquity, and there Paul Boyer begins, seeking out the origins of this particular brand of faith in early Jewish and Christian apocalyptic writings, then tracing its development over time. Against this broad historical overview, the effect of prophecy belief on the events and themes of recent decades emerges in clear and striking detail. Nuclear war, the Soviet Union, Israel and the Middle East, the destiny of the United States, the rise of a computerized global economic order Boyer shows how impressive feats of exegesis have incorporated all of these in the popular imagination in terms of the Bible's apocalyptic works. Reflecting finally on the tenacity of prophecy belief in our supposedly secular age, Boyer considers the direction such popular conviction might take and the forms it might assume in the post-Cold War era. The product of a four-year immersion in the literature and culture of prophecy belief, *When Time Shall Be No More* serves as a pathbreaking guide to this vast terra incognita of contemporary American popular thought a thorough and thoroughly fascinating index to its sources, its implications, and its enduring appeal.

A splendid, rigorously documented treatise, as up to date as the morning newspaper... No book provides more comprehensive information about the awesome degree to which Biblical literalism and prophetic fervor have invaded the hearts and minds of Americans, rich and poor, educated and ignorant... [Those] who read the book can laugh and weep. (Martin Gardner Washington Post Book World) Paul Boyer traces the roots and branches of the rich, strange complex of biblical exegesis and twisted journalism that he calls 'prophecy belief.' *When Time Shall Be No More* exhaustively describes a strange species of rabid predictions of the wrath to come. (Anthony Grafton New

Republic) Splendid... [A] compelling cultural history. (L. S. Klepp Village Voice Literary Supplement) This is one of the most important and impressive books I have ever read in American cultural history. It is richly researched, ably argued, exhaustive in its coverage of the subject of apocalyptic belief in the United States, yet a constant revelation. Indeed, it amounts to the discovery of what many of us in this field have halfway understood but never quite realized, that the dominion of prophecy and 'end-time' religion is vast and of utmost importance in understanding the whole of American culture. It will scarcely be possible now not to see the importance of this fringe culture that affects millions of Americans and which, from time to time, finds itself near the very center. (James Gilbert, University of Maryland) This is not a facile study, attempting to draw large and arresting conclusions from a mere sample of the evidence. Boyer committed himself to an intense study of popular prophetic belief and the result is a learned, persuasive, and nuanced study of a very important subject. The book is inherently interesting and superbly written. (Nathan O. Hatch, University of Notre Dame) It is a work of high quality in every respect and is as good as anything I know of on the subject. In addition to writing well, the author is judicious and insightful in his judgments and maintains a tone of seeking understanding rather than, as do most writers on such topics, taking cheap shots at easy targets. Also and importantly, I found the book engaging and was eager to keep reading. (George Marsden, University of Notre Dame) This is one of the most important and impressive books I have ever read in American cultural history. It is richly researched, ably argued, exhaustive in its coverage of the subject of apocalyptic belief in the United States, yet a constant revelation. Indeed, it amounts to the discovery of what many of us in this field have halfway understood but never quite realized, that the dominion of prophecy and 'end-time' religion is vast and of utmost importance in understanding the whole of American culture. It will scarcely be possible now not to see the importance of this fringe culture that affects millions of Americans and which, from time to time, finds itself near the very center. --James Gilbert, University of Maryland

From the Back Cover 'When Time Shall Be No More' offers for the first time an in-depth look at the subtle, pervasive ways in which prophecy belief shapes contemporary American thought and culture.