
IT'S NOT FOR YOU TO KNOW

*A Look at the Return of Christ as
Foreshadowed in the Feast of Trumpets*

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INTRODUCTION

My intent is not to cover every aspect of the subject matter but to lay groundwork for understanding God's ways as already revealed in Scripture.

WHEN?

"(6) Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' (7) And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. (8) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth'" (Acts 1).

In the above statement, Jesus makes it clear that we should never be preoccupied with the times (chronological time) and seasons (the appointed times) concerning *any* end-time event foretold within Scripture. In other words, the disciple's question was not relevant to their God-given purpose and Jesus' answer indicates similar questions would not be relevant either. Our responsibility, as the Church, is not to know when certain things will happen, including the coming of the Lord. Our fixation must be with receiving from the Lord what is needed to carry out His commission and then with carrying it out. This would also include the equipping and maturing of the body of Christ unto being Christ's witness in the earth (Ephesians 4). The Church's message and ministry is reconciling the world to God through the death of His Son (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). Without a doubt, this has been placed by God into our realm of authority and responsibility.

Jesus made it clear that neither He nor the angels knew the hour (the appointed time-frame) of His coming. Only the Father knows (Matthew 24:36). Matthew 24:42 makes it quite clear in this context that Jesus was referring to His actual coming: "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

Christ's second coming is foreshadowed in the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) which is currently being observed by the Jews (September 30-October 1st). This feast was given by God to Israel as the first day of their new year (Leviticus 23:23-25). It is celebrated with one-hundred trumpet blasts. The last trumpet blast is the longest and most significant, traditionally referred to as "the last trump." Jesus' return is also prophesied to be heralded by "the last trump" (1 Corinthians 15:52). Moreover, this feast always happens at the onset of the new moon of the fall harvest which varies usually within a span of two weeks each year. Next year it will be celebrated September 19-20th. For this reason, it was also referred to as "the hidden day." Two days were also set aside for observing the feast to prevent observing the wrong day. Typically, Jews say of this feast that no one knows the day or hour when it will occur because of the *unpredictability* of the new moon.

While Jesus gave us several signs to look for that would point to His second coming (Matthew 24), that coming is an unpredictable "hidden day" as was the new moon of the Feast of Trumpets in the day it was given. To know *when* is not within the realm of our authority and responsibility. Those are Jesus' words and not mine. *When* such things will happen is under God's authority alone.

Will Jesus' return literally coincide with a future Feast of Trumpets? It will happen, as the Feast of Trumpets foreshadows, at the final (soul) harvest. Jesus said: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). God's mystical growing season and harvest time has spanned throughout this whole grace era. The final harvest of this age could very well be at hand or in process. It will happen whenever God decides it is time for it. Will it literally happen in a future September or there about? It will happen in a mystical "September" of this age as God has predetermined. God's "new moon harvest" may not coincide with our literal seasons. I know of no such mystery existing in any of the other seven feasts. Jesus did literally die on the day of Passover and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit did happen when the feast of Pentecost had fully come (Acts 2:1). But will He literally return

at at the earthly observance of Rosh HaShannah? It's not for us to know God's predetermined Rosh HaShannah for this age. Christ's unpredictable "new moon" return will happen at the time of the final harvest when the Gospel has been preached *enough*.

Being preoccupied with the "times" and "seasons" of Biblical end-time things was at the least discouraged by Christ. What are the dangers of ignoring His admonition and attempting to delve into those things that are under God's authority and not ours?

THE DANGERS

First...

Doing so would be a distraction from doing those things that have been placed within the boundaries of our stewardship by the Lord. This could possibly set us up to be judged as an irresponsible steward by the Lord in the end.

Second...

The three driving forces within the world are the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15). The pride of life is the most subtle and possibly the most dangerous of the three. How dangerous is it? Like Saul of Tarsus, we could be absolutely convinced we are doing God service (representing His interests and doing what pleases Him) and, in fact, be opposing Him.

The definition of pride by the Eastman's Bible Dictionary:

- 1) empty, braggart talk
- 2) an insolent and empty assurance, which trusts in its own power and resources and shamefully despises and violates divine laws and human rights
- 3) an impious and empty presumption which trusts in the stability of earthy things

The word "life" as in the "pride of life" is referring to the span of our existence in this life and the temporal things that sustain it. If all that sustains our lives is accumulated knowledge, material things, and prestige, then we have no hope for eternal life in Christ.

“Empty assurance” is an assurance based on falsehood although the falsehood may come from “the persuasive words of man’s wisdom” (1 Corinthians 2:1-5) and “proud arguments against God’s knowledge” (2 Corinthians 10:1-4). All assurances and securities that we may claim in this life are empty even if they are in the least bit based on persuasive but inaccurate arguments and knowledge coupled with much study, personal feelings, and misrepresentations of the contexts and plain-sense meaning of Scripture. Thus, knowledge itself becomes an idol. It is in many cultures today, especially in the west and exists in varying degrees in the western Church.

The quest for knowledge can feed our failing self-importance. This is how the pride of life allures us. When our self-importance is attached to our quest for knowledge (much study), instead of it being placed solely in our having been born of God, our thinking becomes a stronghold of intellectual pride of the devil also known as elitism. We can consequently develop a “martyr syndrome” and become self-consoling and assuring because of resistance from those who hold to the contextual and plain sense meaning of Scripture.

Delving into the “whens” of end-time prophecy can, therefore, only feed the failing egos of people who have lost their way...who take pride in having “special” revelation. Scripture and its Divine authority is only used and twisted to support the preconceived “high and empty thing” already existing in their belief system. Their loyalty has become split between their self-importance and Christ. Their call to repentance is as Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24). To deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24) indicates that our self-importance must be detached from anything of soul-realm and worldly or religious prestige. Our self-importance can only be attached to the meek and lowly Christ or else we are not His disciple but someone else’s.

Let us make sure we stay within the authority God has placed in our hand, rightly dividing the (written) word of truth (including being accurate with knowledge), while eagerly awaiting the second coming of Christ who is now the substance of all the feasts. This includes those feasts that have been fulfilled and those that will be at Christ’s return. Him we must celebrate!

Please read Colossians 2...