



Biblical Insights from Do All For God's Glory

The Day and Hour: Who Knows?

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Can We Know When the Second Coming of Jesus will Happen?

“But of that day and hour knoweth no man,” said Jesus to His disciples on the Mount of Olives.

And so it is written in Matthew 24:36—we cannot know the day and the hour of the coming of the Son of man. Simple enough? We should be so lucky. You see, there are those who claim that the scripture teaches the exact opposite. They say that we can know the day and the hour of His coming. They say that in Matthew 24:36, Jesus was speaking to the people living in the first century only, and not to the people living in the 21st Century.

Is this a blatant scripture twist or is there a method behind this madness? What is the logic behind drawing such a conclusion? Let's explore.

1st Century Audience vs. 21st Century Audience

It is true that Jesus was addressing a First Century audience in His Olivet Discourse of Matthew 24. The first century-ites would not, in fact, know the day and the hour. But two breaths before Jesus said that no man knows the day and the hour, He stated that “this generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled” (Matthew 24:34). So while He said that no man knows the day and hour, He spoke of a generation that will know.

Let's ask the question again: Was Jesus speaking to a First Century audience or to all of mankind throughout history? Most would say that He was speaking to all of mankind throughout history, including us. But let's consider another example.

“It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.”

Times and Seasons for First Century-ites Only

In Acts 1:6-7, just before Jesus was caught up into heaven, His disciples asked, “Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” Jesus answered, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.” In this passage, Jesus is speaking to the disciples about what will happen to them at their specific moment in time. Notice that they use the words “at this time” in their question. That would indicate that they meant “in their lifetimes,” or “the generation in which they were living.”

Was Jesus speaking here to a First Century audience only or was He also telling you and me, living in the 21st Century, that it is not for us to know the times and seasons either? The answer to this question is simple. We, of this generation, will definitely know the time and the season. Jesus said so in Matthew 24:34. “Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.” “This generation” refers specifically to the people who live to see the signs of the endtimes that He describes in the chapter, including the still-future abomination of desolation.

Paul confirms this teaching. He wrote in I Thessalonians 5:1, “But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” In verse 4, he goes on to say, “But ye, brethren, are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief.” Paul is telling us specifically that we will know the times and the seasons. If we will watch, we will see the day coming.

Is this a conflict in scripture? In Acts 1:6, Jesus says, “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons.” But, in I Thessalonians 5:1 Paul says that we will. Of course, there is no conflict! It is obvious that Jesus was speaking to a First Century audience in Acts 1:6-7, not to us!

So we have now answered the “times and seasons question.” What about the “day and hour” question? When Jesus said that no man knows the day and hour of the Lord’s coming, does this also apply to our generation?

Paul Said we Will Know the Day

Here’s another perspective. I Thessalonians chapter 5 teaches us that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. Matthew 24:42-43 relates the same story. It also says that the Lord will come as a thief in the night, and that the goodman of the house will not know what hour the thief will come.

The thief is clearly representative of Jesus Christ. But what does the goodman represent?

Whoever the goodman symbolizes, the passage says that he will not know the hour of Christ's return. For example, if the goodman represents the church, then the church will not know the hour of the Lord's coming. It would be that simple. So let's look at the context.

Question: Is the goodman the church?

Answer: No! The goodman of the house clearly represents unbelievers, not believers! He is not portrayed as a Bible-believer, but rather, he was living in darkness, and was not ready for the Lord's coming. This passage teaches that it is the unbelievers who will not know the hour of the Lord's coming. This conclusion is verified by I Thessalonians 5:4-5. There, it states that the only people who will not know the day of the Lord's coming are the people living in darkness. But you, saint of God, are not living in darkness. You are a child of light, and the day of the Lord shall not overtake you as a thief!

Unbelievers will not know the hour of His coming. Does the Bible say that the church won't know the hour of His coming as well? No. The fact is, it seems to indicate the opposite! The Lord will not overtake His children of light as a thief in the night. According to these passages, the church will know the hour.

Let's keep studying the scriptures. We will know the generation, and we will know the times and seasons. As the time draws nearer, perhaps we will also come to know the day and hour!

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_____ **Begin my thoughts on this topic** _____

So we just read above what Jesus told his disciples as he was getting ready to depart. Let's read how the Message Bible presents the verses. Acts 1:6-8: When they were together for the last time they asked, "Master, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?" He told them, "You don't get to know the time. Timing is the Father's business. What you'll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will be able to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the world."

Very clearly it says that the disciples didn't get to know the time of Jesus' return. It wasn't going to happen in their time. They would be beginning the Church age on earth and there would be a people who would be the last disciples who would be living on earth at the end of the Church age who would be alive and would experience His return.

Are we the final generation who will witness the return of Jesus? Do we have more insight into the timing of the return of Jesus than the first disciples did? I think we do. Let me briefly explain.

Back in the time when God used Moses to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, God instituted 7 Feast days that the Israelites were to observe every year. Four of those Feast days were in the Spring and the last 3 were in the Fall. Here is a list of them.

- 1. Passover**
- 2. Unleavened Bread**
- 3. First Fruits**
- 4. Pentecost**
- 5. Feast of Trumpets - Rosh Hashanah**
- 6. Yom Kippur - Day of Atonement**
- 7. Feast of Tabernacles – Sukkot**

The Hebrew word for Feast is Moed and it means ‘appointed time’. Unbeknown to the Israelites, they were observing those 7 feast days on the exact days that Jesus would fulfill them at his first coming. In other words, God had hid the timing of the first and second coming of Jesus within those feast days. When Jesus came, he fulfilled the first 4 ‘appointed times’ on the exact days that the Israelites were celebrating them. As he did, nobody in his day seemed to know that was what he was doing. My point, God had already placed within the pages of the Old Testament (Torah), the exact day Jesus would be fulfilling those appointed times. We today can look back and clearly understand that. The generation that Jesus was born into, carried out his ministry and died in, had no idea he was doing that. Yet, it was right there in the Torah.

God’s appointed times were concealed or not revealed to the Old Testament generations. Our generation clearly sees and understands what Jesus did and when he did it. We need to stop clinging to bad interpretations of scripture and start looking afresh at the New Testament prophecies and the Old Testament ‘Appointed Times’ and seriously consider the dates that Jesus could possibly return to fulfill the Fall Feast days based upon the ‘appointed times’.

Will we use our brains a bit here and understand, that Jesus fulfilled the first 4 appointed times, and at his second coming, he will fulfill the last 3 appointed times.... on the exact day they were being observed in the Old Testament. Remember the saying: ‘The NEW is in the OLD concealed, the OLD is in the NEW revealed’. As we would say in our modern day vernacular.... ‘There’s your sign!’ In other words, look at what Jesus has already fulfilled and what days he fulfilled it. Then look at what days have not been fulfilled yet and look at what days those ‘appointed times’ were observed on in the Old Testament.

So much more could be shared here, but I have other articles that I may post in the near future that go into much greater detail concerning the timing of Jesus’ second coming. Just remember, Jesus was talking to his disciples about their lifetime. The Apostle Paul said we would know the times and the season. That’s his message to our generation.