

Neither The Day nor the Hour

Matthew 24:36, *'But of that day and hour knows no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.'*

No one knows when the resurrection/rapture will occur – not the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

How can we reconcile this statement with other Bible verses which seem to indicate that, for some who are *not in darkness*, Christ's return for His Saints will not be unexpected? Revelation 3:3, *'Remember therefore how you have received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. **If therefore you will not watch, I will come on you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.**'* Surely there is an implication here that those who do watch will not be surprised.

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-4, *'But of the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I write unto you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief,**'* Here again, are those to whom Christ's arrival will not be unexpected.

The answer lies in a correct understanding of the proclamation of God's Holy Days, and the use of ALL the information God has supplied in the Bible.

Most of God's people remain in darkness, failing to use Daniel 9:17-27 and Revelation 14, and rely upon a man-made calendar finalised some 900 years after the death of Christ, which predicts those days hundreds of years in advance, whereas God declares that He determines those dates, and will reveal them only *"in their seasons,"* Leviticus 23:4. The Feasts of the Lord are dependant upon :

- i. The start of God's year
- ii. The start of each month

i. The start of God's year is determined by the weather God gives to the land of Israel in the Spring and its effect upon the wild barley which grows like a weed all over the land. It was the 2 row barley which was used for the Wavesheaf Offering at the time of Christ. At the end of the 12th month, God's servants would examine the state of the barley to determine whether the barley harvest could begin in 2-3 weeks time, when the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Wavesheaf Offering would occur. Leviticus 23:10-11, *'Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When you are come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: the next day after the Sabbath [During the week of Unleavened Bread] the priest shall wave it.'*

If it was seen that the harvest would be ready, and a Wavesheaf available, the next new moon would start the New Year. The first month was called 'Abib' which is always preceded by the definite article 'the', hence *'the month of the ripe barley'*, always starts God's year.

If it was seen that the barley would *not* be ripe enough to harvest, and no wave sheaf (The first sheaf of the harvest) would be available, then one extra month, a 13th month, was added to that year. This month was called Adar 2 and doing that is called ‘intercalation’.

ii. If it was seen that the harvest *would* be ready, the start of the New Year would be determined by the sighting of the New Moon near Jerusalem. Although we always know when to expect that event, it must be *sighted* now, just as it was in Christ’s day, when reliable witnesses needed to report it to the Sanhedrin, so that proclamation of the new month and year could be made. If it was not seen the first night when expected, the next evening would start the year, if that day would be the 30th day of the month. Thus Israel’s calendar was a true lunar calendar.

Both of these requirements existed at the time of Jesus Christ, and because He lived His life, and died by that calendar, on the 14th of the first month, Passover, and kept all the Holy Days determined by those very conditions, His example sanctions the same procedures today, the priests now replaced with God’s servants in His Church. 1 Peter 2:21, *‘For even to this were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps.’* So we can conclude that only those who walk in Christ’s footsteps and example actually walk in the light and keep the true Holy Days, still determined in just the same way, today.

When we combine those true Holy Days with **all** the information the Bible gives us about the last 7 years of this era –‘the tribulation’, we can gain an understanding of *which* year during those 7 will be the year of the resurrection, though we will not know in advance when the year starts, or exactly the day of the first month. Neither will we understand the sign that indicates when the last 7 years *will begin*, until we understand that we need to combine the chronology contained in the books of Daniel, Matthew and Revelation.

The book of Daniel tells us about the last 7 years. Read our article, ‘Understanding Daniel’s 70th Week’. Only the book of Daniel, Matthew 24, Revelation 6 and Revelation 14, when placed together, provide a complete chronology which is expounded on our ‘End Time’ tab, together with a timeline.

Briefly, from these sources, we gather that the resurrection will take place *after the first half, and in the middle* of the last 7 years. Daniel 9:27, *‘And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and **in the midst of the week** he shall cause **the sacrifice and the offering to cease**, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate’.*

As the chronology in Revelation chapter 14 reveals, the very first event which starts the last seven years and actually fulfils Matthew 24:14, is found in Revelation 14:6-7, *‘And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **then the end will come.**’* Rev. 14:6-7, *‘And I saw another angel fly in midheaven, having the everlasting gospel to **preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people**, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment has come: and **worship him** that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters’.*

In the book of Daniel, we gain a picture of the resurrection /rapture in chapter 12, verses 1-2, *‘At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your*

people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and [later] some to shame and everlasting contempt.’ Verse 3 describes the resurrection of the saints who take part in the first resurrection, *‘those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.’* Daniel then asks how long will these troubles take until the time of that resurrection, verse 6, *‘And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, “How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?”*’

The angel replied that those events culminate with a scattering of the power of God’s people [To preach the gospel from Jerusalem] which is closely followed by the resurrection. Daniel 12:7, 11, *‘And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished .* Daniel 12:11, *‘And from the time that the daily sacrifice[Their work from Jerusalem] shall be taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days’.*

Revelation 12:14 explains what happens at the time of the resurrection, *‘But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.’* (For an explanation please refer to our ‘End Time’ tab) These scriptures together, place the resurrection right in the middle of the last seven years, during the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and actually on a Wave Sheaf day, but only under certain conditions. (Read our article ‘An Abib Resurrection?’)

All we can do then, after putting these scriptures together, is await the very start of the last 7 years, which Revelation 14: 6-7, when added to Matthew 24 and Revelation 6, tells us that a miraculous warning will first go out to all men and women worldwide, that the Kingdom of God is at hand, and that they should repent. Revelation 14:6-7, *‘And I saw another angel fly in midheaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and tribe, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, **Fear God**, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment has come; **and worship** him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.’*

There can be no mistaking such a miraculous worldwide event, and only then will those who keep God’s True Holy Days, and are closely studying the scriptures, understand that *roughly* 3 ½ years later, they will not be surprised, nor in darkness, but be fully prepared to welcome the return of their Saviour and Bridegroom, as He arrives to gather them together to the Sea of Glass, for their journey to their marriage in Heaven. Revelation 14:1, *‘And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on mount Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their forehead,’* and 15:2, *‘And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.’*

For their return with Christ after the Great tribulation, continue on our ‘End Time’ tab.

.....