

Signs of the End of the Age We will Know the Day

Studio Session 100

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Daniel could not resist asking the question of the angel Gabriel, “When will the end of the age be?” I think everyone who believes in the coming of the Lord wants to know when this will happen. On one side there is that great curiosity and perhaps on that same side also there are those who have attempted repetitively and erroneously to predict the day. On the other side it is the very typical response of evangelicals to say, “We, of course, will not know the day.” And the reason that that is said is supported by this Scripture; this Scripture is typically quoted in support of that. There are two basic arguments: One is this Scripture and the other is that nobody has been right who has predicted the return of the Lord... ever. So, if this Scripture, together with that evidence holds, then of course what would be the point in anyone saying that we will know the day?

Here is the Scripture: **Matthew 24:36**. Jesus is speaking; the greatest of the prophets is speaking and He says, “**No one knows about that day or hour...**” What day or hour? He was responding to the question, “What will be the signs of your coming and the end of the age?” That is right back in **chapter 24**—same chapter—**verse 3**. So no one knows about that day or hour, “**...not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.**” And then **verse 42**, while we are still in this chapter, “**Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.**” (Inserted – **Matthew 24:36,37**) And then it goes on to say, “**But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.**” (Inserted – **Matthew 24:43,44**)

Now that seems to be a very formidable set of readings in support of the idea that we absolutely will not know the day. Now before you get up and turn the set off and walk away, you owe it to yourself to hear the rest of the story. Let's begin with the very things that Jesus said. [In] **verse 36**, He says, “No man knows the day or the hour.” Who else

didn't know the day nor the hour? "Not the angels." Who else? "Not the Son." Who is the Son? The very one speaking. He is saying, "I don't know." Who then knows the day of the Lord's return? The Son doesn't, the angels do not and man doesn't... only the Father.

Here is my question: Do you think that today Jesus knows the day of his own return? If you hold that this passage—true at the time that Jesus spoke it—is still true today, unchanged, then your conclusion is inescapably [that] Jesus does not know the day of his own return. Well that presents an enormous problem doesn't it? Because there is a book in the Scriptures called the **Revelation**... a book called the **Revelation** that purports to speak of, very precisely, the events and circumstances of the Lord's return...including the day. Hmmm. If He doesn't know, what is that book doing in the Bible?

What is the point of a book that purports to speak about these very precise events like the Lord himself coming with the clouds of heaven if the presumption that underlies this whole discussion is: the Son himself does not know the day? Because you see, it is normal for us to think that this book is the revelation that Jesus gave to John. Does the Lord know the day of his own return? Leave aside the question of whether or not now angels know and now man may know. Does the Lord know the day of his own return? And is it still true that the day of the Lord will come—not to these Jews to whom Jesus was speaking this passage—but to us who are Christians, who are believers, who are being led by the Holy Spirit?

Is it still true that his coming will be to us like a thief in the night? And when it says, "As it was in the days of Noah..." (Inserted – actual verse—"As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." – **Matthew 24:37-39**) Clearly that destruction came suddenly upon the world in Noah's time but did it come to Noah suddenly or did Noah know the day?

Sometimes when you read the thing with the spectacles of tradition you think you know in an iron-clad way what is being spoken until up closer you begin to ask the questions for which there are absolute Biblical standards which are very different from what you may have assumed this passage has said. I admit, when you read that—you must admit as well—when we read it through, you stopped in your tracks and you said, "How could this man say we will know the day when he just read that no man knows the day? And when it says He will come like in the days of Noah, and it came suddenly, and it would come as a thief in the night and you won't know the day when the thief comes?"

You see the problem is we internalized all of this as if they were addressed to the

righteous, when this is an address to those who are not the righteous. But I must answer with absolute specificity in such a way that when I am done you have to see with uncontrovertible clarity that what was said in this passage was true then and still is true for a certain category of people but not true for everyone, and not all of it is still the same truth... and that is what I am about to show you. Let's begin with the first question: Does Jesus know the day of his own return? Because it was said that no man knows, not the angels, not the Son; only the Father.

So let's begin with the fact that the Father knows. How would Jesus know, if He does know today? Well the Father would have to tell him, wouldn't he? If only the Father knows, then whoever knows has been told by the Father. Is that an accurate position? And if the Father does not tell, you can't know. So has the Father told the Son? Here I am not asking you if you wish that the Father had told the Son [or] if you just think that perhaps the Father ought to have told the Son. Here we must have absolute proof in the Scriptures that the Father has told the Son. Will that satisfy you? If that won't, you can't be satisfied; your prejudice overcomes all objections.

So let me show you that the Father has given the Son the revelation concerning the time of the Son's own return. Here it is: Turn to the book of **Revelation, chapter 1, verse 1**. Here is what it says... are you ready? This almost requires a drum roll. Here it is, **Revelation, chapter 1, verse 1**. I am promising a lot, will I deliver on it? "The revelation of Jesus Christ..." Now when you read that normally you think, "This is a revelation that Jesus gave to John." Wrong. Jesus is the recipient of the revelation. Here it is: "**The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him...**" Whose revelation is it? It is Jesus' revelation... as the recipient, not as the giver of it. Who gives him the revelation? The one who had the revelation to give: the Father only. What is the revelation about? "...**God gave him...**" And God didn't just give it to him for himself because angels didn't know and man didn't know. God gave it to him, "**to show his servants what must soon take place.**"—all of the events in the Book, culminating with the return of the Lord.

What does Jesus do with the revelation that God gave him? Well there are others who didn't know, perhaps Jesus "let them in" on the revelation. Who else didn't know? Angels didn't know and man didn't know, and yet the purpose for the revelation is "to show his servants." So there is already the presumption that the purpose of the revelation was for Jesus and for those who share the interest of Jesus. So let's read the next line. "**He...**" {Jesus who got it from the Father) "**He made it known by sending his angel...**" Who else didn't know? The angels didn't know; now they know. Who else doesn't know? Man. Let's see if any man is told. "**He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John...**" No man knows, not the angels, not the Son, but the Father only.

If you are going to have a book called the **Revelation** that purports to contain this information, you must first overcome the presumption that you didn't know, your angels do not know, and your servants don't know...only the Father knows. Therefore it has to be that the Father has to give it to the Son who then has the authority to give it to his angel who has the authority to give it to man. This is an exact reversal of **Matthew 24:36**, and from now on if I were to ask you, "Does the Son know of his own return?" What is your answer? Yes He does. How does He know? Because the Father who knew it gave the Son the revelation. Do the angels now know? Yes, He gave it to his angels. Does man now know? Yes, John knew and it was given to him and he wrote it in a book. Do we today know? The answer is: No. Why not? Because that which is written needs to be revealed, but we will know. And prohibition is not any longer on the basis of this Scripture. If you say again that the Son doesn't know, you are wrong.

Was it true, when the Son said it that He didn't know? Yes. Has anything changed since that? Of course. He went back to heaven... fully accomplishing what He was sent here to do. And the Father has given him all authority in heaven and on earth, including the right to know. That is what has changed. I hear evangelicals pretending to be humble, saying, "Well you know we won't know." But if you pretend to be humble and you are wrong that doesn't make you humble; you are just ignorant of the truth. If God intends for us to know, don't willingly stop your ears and close your eyes.

You are not home free yet. You had two other objections. The first was: It will come as a thief in the night; the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, so you can't really know because you don't know when the thief comes. Let's look at that. Is that true of the saints today? I am about to show you once again that it will not come to you as a thief in the night because you are not of the category of those to whom it is supposed to come as a thief in the night. You say, "Well that is a lot of fancy dancing; that's theological." Rubbish. Here is the truth: **I Thessalonians, chapter 5, verse 1.** "Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."

So we are on all fours. This is exactly the reference that we are looking for because it says, "You know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." That is almost a direct quote of what Jesus said in **Matthew 24.** (Inserted – **Matthew 24:42-44**) "While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape." That is to whom it will come as a thief in the night. Now read the next verse. "But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief." Did you see that? "You, brothers, are not in the darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief." If you belong to Christ, this day will not come to you as a thief comes in the night. Why? Because you are not of the darkness, you are "sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness." (Inserted – I

Thessalonians 5:3-5)

When men are saying, “Peace and safety,” that is because the false Christ has produced this coalition of the nations to produce a sense of peace. They have willingly blinded themselves and they do not see therefore the day of the Lord’s return. He is the Prince of peace and He makes peace, but to those who are looking for a different formulation of these things, to them his coming will be as a thief in the night...but not to you. So if you say again, ever, “You know we can’t know when the Lord is going to come because you know He is going to come as a thief,” then say this of yourselves: “He will come as a thief to me because I belong to the darkness. I am not a son of the day, I am not a son of the light; He will come to me then as a thief would come in the night.” because that is what it says. Because to the others, it says, “But brothers, you are of the day; you are not of the darkness that this day should overtake you as a thief.” So if you ever again say, “We can’t know the day because Jesus said it will come as a thief in the night.” also say, “That is because I am of the night and the darkness is my domain and his coming will catch me unawares because I will be deceived.” Otherwise, say, “But that day will not overtake me as a thief because I don’t belong to the night; I don’t belong to the darkness. I am a son of God; I belong to the light because this is what it says verbatim.”

What is the final objection? “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man.” Did Noah know the day? Did Noah know the day? We know that the day came suddenly on the rest of the world, but what about Noah? Did he know the day? Well let’s go back and read the record. It is **Genesis 7**. Read it for yourselves, I’ll give you the reference: **Genesis, chapter 7** is the record. Did Noah know the day or did the day come to Noah suddenly and as a thief? Well here it says, **chapter 7** of the book of **Genesis, verse 1**, “**The Lord then said to Noah, ‘Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. Take with you seven of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and two of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, and also seven of every kind of bird, male and female...’** Verse 4, “**Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.**”

Did Noah know the day? God told him seven days ahead. God said, “Seven days from now I will do this. Go into the ark.” And here is the rest of the story: **verse 9**, “**Male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah.**” **Verse 10**, “**And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.**” Noah knew the day. Why? Because God told him. God told him seven days ahead that he would know the day. Did the day of the flood come suddenly upon Noah? No. Seven days—a full week ahead—he knew, and he went into the ark by the instructions of the Most High. Will we know the day? The answer is: unequivocally yes, but not in enough time to write a book about it. This day will not catch us as a thief.

The Son now knows the day and He will give the revelation of it—generally, throughout the church—in enough time. And in fact, the book of **Revelation** speaks about such things as: from the point where the last of these days begin, “Blessed and holy are those who reach the 1360 th day.” What do you suppose all of that is about? It is already written in the book but you can’t figure it out with computer programs and reading the spaces between the letters. That’s not how the knowledge of God comes to the body of Christ. How does the information come to the body of Christ? By the seven Spirits of God. One of the Spirits of God is Lordship, another is Wisdom; yet another is Understanding; yet another is Counsel; one more is Knowledge and the understanding of the Lord and the fear of the Lord. God has set it up so that all we will ever need for the days that are ahead have been fully supplied ahead of time and we will know the day.

Do we know the day today? The answer is: No. And when God tells us the day, when the Holy Spirit gives the revelation of the day, it will not be given to one man, who then has a bunch of followers. The knowledge of this will be given to the whole church—to that body of believers waiting for his coming. Now one of the reasons why the day has not been fixed is that we may hasten the coming of the Lord by agreeing with the Lord but we cannot retard the day. It is not that we could either hurry it up or delay it—we will not delay the day. There are fixed times in God, but even this day is subject to being changed—not in being delayed, but in being advanced. Because the Scriptures say that such terrible times will come upon the earth in those days that if those days were not shortened no flesh would be saved alive. But for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. (Inserted – actual verse—“ **‘For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.’**” – Matthew 24:21,22)

The days will be shortened when the thing that God is doing in this time of great, great horror that falls upon the earth; the thing God is doing is causing the body of Christ to separate itself from the world around it in the beliefs and practices of the world around it, and hold to its faith with an uncompromising clarity. In that day, as you may well imagine, the enemy will throw everything he has at the body of Christ, but the final outcome has already been seen and prophesied, for in the **12 th chapter** of the book of **Revelation**, as the enemy is thrown out of the heavens and as he rampages with a maddened fury throughout the earth and stirs up the populations of the earth to murder and all other gross excess—including the worship of demons—we, the saints, will overcome him.

We will overcome by the blood of the Lamb, what Jesus has already accomplished: the unshakeable accomplishment of the blood of the Lamb, separating us from the corruption of the world. The word of our testimony, our personal experience with the Living God,

knowing of his goodness; knowing of his care for us, that's the word of our testimony. Being fully apprised that the only thing that our enemy can destroy about us are these bodies that we wear. We will choose not to change our lives or give up our faith in the Most High, even under the threat that they will kill these bodies. We will overcome by the blood of the Lamb; the word of our testimony and that we would not preserve our lives even unto death. (Inserted – actual verse—“ **‘They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.’**” – **Revelation 12:11**) The victory in the end of this is assured. The purpose of God will absolutely be fulfilled in the saints. This is the victory that overcomes the world. I'm Sam Soleyn and I hope this series has been a great blessing to you. God bless you and I'll talk to you again.

Scripture References:

Matthew 24:36,43,44

Revelation 12:11

Matthew 24:37-39

Revelation 1:1

I Thessalonians 5:1

I Thessalonians 5:3-5

Genesis 7:1-4

Genesis 7:9,10

Matthew 24:21,22