

But of That Day And Hour No Man Knows

Matthew 24:36 has been called the “Continental Divide” of the Olivet Discourse. Up to that verse, Jesus spoke of “those days” but now, he speaks of “that day and hour.”

No one knows that day, not the angels, not the son, but the Father (Mark 13)

This supposedly demands that he was changing the subject from his coming in judgment of Jerusalem in AD 70, to the end of the Christian age (which has no end anyway!)

This overlooks Zechariah 14- a prediction of AD 70- which the prophet said was a day known the Lord!

I suggest that this overlooks the Festal reference found in the language!

Rosh HaShanah– the feast concerning which “no man knows the day or the hour!”

Most of all, it overlooks Jesus’ teaching on the Revelatory Spirit

“That Day” and the Revelatory Spirit

When Jesus spoke those words he did not know – only the Father knew the time of Christ’s coming.

John 16:7-13: “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And **when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ However, **when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”**

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That Day and the Revelatory Spirit - #2

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Every one of the epistles was written after the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost – Acts 2.

What did those apostles, inspired by the Spirit, sent by the Father who knew the time of Christ’s coming, say about the coming Day of the Lord?

See Doug Wilkinson’s or Tony Denton’s book.

Romans 13:11-12- “And *do* this, knowing (*eidotes*) the time, (*Kairos*— appointed time) that now *it is* (**the hour**) high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. ¹² The night is far spent, **the day is at hand.**”

1 Thess. 5- “You brethren, are not in darkness concerning that day.”

How did Paul know what time it was?

How did he know what “HOUR” it was?

The Father, Revelation, The Son and The Day

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God (The Father who knew the day and the hour) gave Him to show His servants—**things which must shortly** (en tachei) take place. And He (the Father who knew the day and the hour) sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. ³ Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for **the time is near.**”

Revelation is the unveiling of Christ and the Day of the Lord – his coming in judgment.

The Father, who knew the Day and the Hour of that event, was revealing that time to Christ, who revealed that to reveal it to the angel, so that the angel could then reveal the Father’s will to John and the churches. What did the Father reveal?

These things must (dei) shortly (en tachei) come to pass

The appointed time is at hand

The Hermeneutic of Anachronism

Matthew 24:36 is the lynch-pin for the dual application of the Olivet Discourse.

If Jesus was not changing the subject in verse 36 there is no “continental divide”—the Discourse is about one subject—the coming of Christ at the end of the Old Covenant age of Moses and the Law!

Jesus did not know the day and the hour of that end when he spoke the discourse—although he did know the generation.

But, his promise that the Father would send the Spirit to guide the apostles into the truth about the future “things to come” events concerning the judgment had not taken place when he spoke those words!

Hermeneutic of Anachronism- Acts 1

Acts 1:6-8: “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** (alla) *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.”

When that Spirit was given, those apostles, said “the coming of the Lord has drawn near”– “the end of all things has drawn near”- “in a very, very little while, the one who is coming will come and will not delay!”

To apply Matthew 24:36 to those Post Pentecost, Post reception of the Spirit, is a Hermeneutic of Anachronism. It is simply wrong! What was true when Jesus spoke those words in Matthew, was no longer true when the Spirit was given by the Father!

Revelatory Spirit and Luke 21:8

“And He said: “Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am *He*,’ and, ‘The time has drawn near.’ Therefore do not go after them.”

Jesus condemned premature declarations of the nearness of the end.

Luke 21:29 - “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. ³¹ So you also, **when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.** ³² Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place.

When the disciples saw the signs of the end, they could proclaim the end was near!

The Revelatory Spirit and the Epistles

The warning against premature declarations of the nearness of the end was known and taught

What did the disciples, after the receiving of the Revelatory Spirit, and seeing the signs, have to say about the nearness of the end?

Hebrews 10:37 – “in a very, very little while, the one who is coming will come and will not delay.”

James 5:8 -- the Parousia (which is the kingdom) has drawn near.

1 Peter 4:5, 7, 17– “the end of all things has drawn near”-- *****

Peter heard Jesus’ warnings

Peter used almost the precise words of Jesus!

If the end was not truly near, then Peter was one of the false prophets that Jesus warned him about!

It means that the Father caused Peter to be a false prophet!