

## BEWARE OF SETTING DATES

*By Marie Casale*  
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One standard scripture that ministers use to discourage setting dates for the return of Christ is Mat 24:36, "Of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." Another is Mat 25:13, "Watch, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Ministers also point to a long list of wrong dates that have been set as well as to scriptures warning us to, "beware of false prophets." This pretty well seals a lid of discouragement on our minds so we cannot even consider thinking about the subject. And even if someone did venture to open the lid and find a good theory, he would be afraid to voice it.

I would like to set you free from this "thought bondage" by pointing out the following facts. Notice the scriptures above. They say we cannot know the "day nor the hour". But it could be possible to know the year, the month, and even the week of Christ's return because of two sets of scriptures that seem to exist for no other reason than for projecting dates!

The first set of scriptures is the days of Daniel 12.

Dan 12:11 And from the time [that] the daily [sacrifice] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, [there shall be] a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Dan 12:12 Blessed [is] he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

Dan 12:13 But go thou thy way till the end [be]: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

Notice verse 13 says that Daniel will "rest" - that is in death. Then, at the end of a specific number of days, Daniel will "stand in his lot". That means he will stand up in the resurrection. So these days, when understood properly, will bring us to the time of the first resurrection. And we know that the first resurrection takes place at the return of Christ.

The second set of scriptures is the 1260 days during which the two witnesses prophesy.

Rev 11:3 And I will give [power] unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Rev 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies [shall lie] in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Rev 11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Rev 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

Rev 11:14 The second woe is past; [and], behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

These scriptures show that if we are alive at the time when the two witnesses begin their ministry and we recognize them and know the date they begin their ministry, then we can count 1260 days to 'almost' the day of the return of Christ. The 1260 days end when the two witnesses are killed by the Beast. Then after another three days and a half, they will be raised from the dead. This event will be visible to everyone. After this the seventh trumpet, the return of Christ, will come "quickly". Thus, if we are watching these events, we can know perhaps down to the week of Christ's return - yet still without knowing the day nor the hour.

I believe the reason God does not give us knowledge of the day and the hour of Christ's return is because it is easy to be ready if we know when someone is coming. And God wants to see if we will watch and be ready when we don't know exactly. But the above scriptures show that God is otherwise willing to be very generous with his people in sharing knowledge of the greatest event in the history of mankind. These date-projecting scriptures would not exist if God did not want us to understand them at some point. And all we need to do as his sons and daughters is to ask for wisdom to understand them correctly and at the right time. So I would like to encourage every brother and sister to remove the lid of thought bondage, to think and to ask.

Jam 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.