**The Big Distraction**

The headlines of today’s church news network seem a buzzed with news articles prophesizing the exact time of Jesus’ return. Discussions, arguments, debates among the members arise throughout the church world through today’s global and social media in reaction to a person’s mere announcement that Jesus is coming say on January 1, 2023.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

These scriptures clearly declare that Jesus is coming again to this earth. The prophecies of Isaiah, Daniel and Revelation provide prophetic accounts of His coming back to earth. Can the exact date of Jesus’s return be revealed through a deep study of the scriptures? Is this event in a similar manner as the prophecy of Daniel where the part of the prophecy was sealed, to be uncovered at a future time (Dan 12:4)? Jesus said in Matt. 24:4 “Take heed that no man deceive you.” The same words are repeated in 1 Cor. 3:18, Eph. 5:6, 2 Thes. 2:3, 1 John 3:7). What is the truth concerning this subject? Consider the following:

Mark 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

This scripture verse is usually the first response given by the those opposed to the principle of time setting. They respond that even Jesus himself does not even know the time of His return. Regardless of whether one adheres to this belief or not does not change the premise, conclusions which this pamphlet is promoting. One may further study this scripture own their own in the light of the following: Jesus is God. Jesus being God certainly knows all things. Rev. 1:1-3 (prophecies are given to be understood), Phil. 2:5-11, Matt 11:25 (Jesus humbled himself and became submissive to the Father’s will), Acts 1:7, Eph. 1:1-14, Col. 1:12-19 (the Father makes known, reveals, announces the details of Jesus’ return).

Regardless of one’s belief of Mark 13:32, the verse clearly states that only the Father Himself knows the exact hour of Jesus’ return. This fact does not mean that God has not given His saints knowledge, an awareness of the general time of Jesus’ returning.

God gave man the Bible and the prophecies in the Bible to be understood. We have already referenced Daniel 12:4, which substantiates our position. Jesus stated in Matt. 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, whoso readeth, **let him understand**. Also Jesus berated the Jews in Luke 12:56 for not discerning the signs of the time in which they were living.

Matt.13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. 10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Matt. 11:25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. 26 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. 27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Jesus himself stated these words. God’s intent is for us to know all things pertaining to this life. Amos 3:7 states: “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.” We are co-laborers with God (1 Cor. 3:9). How can we work together with God, if we don’t know what God is doing?

One may ask, what then is the main point? The answer, the principle of time setting is one of the biggest ploys of the devil to distract the people from the most important, supreme, principal event concerning our eternal destiny. One’s knowledge of the fact that Jesus is coming January 1, 2023 will not benefit you or me one iota. Consider the following:

Isaiah 40:10 Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. See also Isaiah 62:11.

Rev. 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

When Jesus comes again, He is not coming as a High Priest, but as King of Kings, to execute judgment on the disobedient. The Adventist doctrinal belief is that we are living in the time of the investigative judgment (Dan. 7:9-13, Rev. 11:1-2), which began at the end of the 2300 days spoken of in Dan. 8:14, and is in conjunction with the time of the Three Angels messages in Rev 14:6-12. Jesus states in Matt 10:32 and Luke 12:8 that if we confess Him on earth, He will confess our names before the Father and angels in heaven. What is the standard we are judged by? In the parable of the king who made a wedding for his son, Jesus stated:

Matt 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Rev 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Luke 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; 36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching…38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants…40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

These verses speak of the solemnity of the judgment that is going on in heaven at this moment. When one’s name comes up for the last time in the investigative judgment is the most important event for a person. When one studies the Sanctuary Service, this is the time that no one knows. One needs to be ready today. God’s people are totally unaware of this reality.

The robe mentioned in the parable is the righteousness of Christ (Isaiah 61:10, 49:18, 54:17). Character perfection is the standard which each person is being judged by today. Are you revealing Jesus’ character today? It may be true that all the saints will be sealed at the same time in righteousness, this is not the same case for the wicked. One maybe sealed in his wickedness today, destinated to receive the seven last plagues, resurrected to be burned out of existence, shut out of heaven forever. Consider Esau, Judas Iscariot, Pharoah, and Belshazzar who was found wanting (Dan 5:27). Heb. 12:25-29 speaks of the shaking that is going on right now.

The devil has truly distracted God’s people today. By His priestly ministry in the true sanctuary in heaven, Jesus has enable us that we may be fit to enter into heaven. Let us not be deceived any longer. Let’s us be ready today (Phil 1:6, Jude 24). God be with you toward this end.