

MSB229

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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THE NEW MILLENNIUM AND GOD'S CALENDAR

by David R. Hettema

Our God in His marvelous creation of the heavens and the earth provided mankind with the means to determine times and seasons and days and years; Gen 1:14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years. This marvelous system of days and years has been beneficial to man down through the ages by the making of solar and lunar calendars. The lunar calendar, based on the phases of the moon, goes back to the beginning of history. Consisting of 12 lunar months, with periodic adjustments, it continues in use throughout many parts of the world.

The children of Israel were using the lunar calendar in Egypt, (like their forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), but when the time for their exodus out of Egypt came and the night of Passover took place, God gave Israel new meaning and new reckoning dates for their calendar. The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year." Exodus 12:1-2 (NIV). More instruction followed; on the tenth day of that month each household was to set aside a (Passover) lamb (vs.3); it was to be kept until the fourteenth day of the month (vs.6,7), when the "whole assembly of the congregation of Israel was to kill the lamb, take the blood and strike it on the two side posts and also the upper door posts of the house." Thus the house was prepared and spared from death. According to the lunar calendar, that night would be a full moon. One can only marvel at the planning of God, giving them moonlight for travel during the next several nights, enabling the exodus of probably two million people on foot, with all their cattle.

Many centuries later, during the time of Roman domination in the known world, history tells us that Julius Caesar in 46 BC issued a solar calendar that was based on a 365 day year. The names of the months in the Julian calendar are still used in our present calendar. As many centuries went by, the Julian calendar continued in use and it was not till 1582 that Pope Gregory XIII replaced it with a revised calendar of 365 days with a 366 day year (leap year) every 4 years, each year beginning January 1, and ending the following December 31. The changes included the designating of many of the Roman Church's religious observances and holidays which still affect our lives. It is called the Gregorian calendar and is probably the most commonly used today for international datelines, international trade and record keeping. It is the same calendar that hangs in your kitchen, marked with your schedules and appointments.

When this present year runs out these calendars will read year 2,000 which in reality is a non-event, just another New Years day, but the news media is carrying stories of how millennium fever is showing up in many places. One article stated that even in Christian circles individuals and households take this change very seriously. Two men said they have been stockpiling goods for the past year: a gas powered generator, a solar-powered lamp, six-gallon pails of grain, 55 gallon drums of water, canned goods and extra clothes. Others told of digging their own backyard wells. In addition to the interviews a poll showed that among those who take the Bible literally, 40% believed that the new millennium is tied to Christ's return. Among those who are not Biblical literalists, only 18% said so. This leaflet is written in April of 1999 with the intent of showing that the new millennium and the transition from one century to the next is a man made situation and our God with His plans and purposes is not involved. He will continue to flow out to this world with His grace just as He has done for almost two centuries allowing men to walk in their own ways.

Our man-made calendars, useful as they are, have no connection to any Biblical prophecy or coming event. On December 31 of 1999 the earth will continue to rotate and at midnight the Gregorian calendar will change to January 1, 2000.

One other matter of concern to many people is the man-made Y2K computer problem that could possibly cause some isolated disruptions in older computers. Those problems, made by men, will be worked out by men. The days and years of time will continue to roll by until the day comes, known

only to God, when He will intervene in the affairs of men and assume His authority in this world. God has his own calendar, which by continual study in the words that He has given, we can gain much enlightenment as to what He is going to do. When God intervenes, the times and seasons of His calendar will bring great blessing to this world, changing every individual and all life upon this earth, but the "when" of that time is not ours to know. Even so, we are encouraged by the Lord to pray for His kingdom to come.

**DIVINE INTERVENTION AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD
IS NEXT.
THAT TIME IS ONLY KNOWN BY OUR GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS
CHRIST.**

For forty days after His resurrection Jesus Christ had close fellowship with the chosen Apostles and others of His followers. To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over (a period of) forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3 (NAS). Notice that the subject of their conversations during this forty day period was "the things concerning the kingdom of God." The apostles most likely asked the Lord many questions and sought more details about their coming assignment of sitting on twelve seats of authority governing the (gathered) twelve tribes of Israel. Their understanding was that the kingdom of God was impending; the Savior had paid the price of redemption with His life. Death could not hold Him; Christ's victory was complete. He had just told them; all power is given to me in heaven and in earth Mat. 28:18. It is no wonder that they asked this important question on the day that he was taken up, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6.

The restoration of the sovereignty to Israel included; God placing the rightful king upon the throne of David, freedom for Israel from the centuries of captivity and the dominance of other nations. All these good things are a very important part of God's prophesied plans for Israel and the nations of the world. It is referred to as The times of the restoration of all things, about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient times. Acts 3:21. The desire and expectation of the apostles was that Christ's government should now come into power, but the Lord's reply to their question was, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority," Acts 1:7 It would be good if all men today

would recognize that this answer applies to them also. The date setters and the doom-sayers are but men proclaiming their own erroneous ideas.

The answer to the apostles question is reiterated in other places in scripture such as 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 (if not) the Father.

THE TRANSLATION OF THE KING JAMES VERSION CREATES A PROBLEM HERE BECAUSE THE GREEK WORD (Strong's 1508, ei me) **WAS RENDERED** but, **INSTEAD OF** if not **AS WAS RIGHTLY DONE IN** John 5:22.

(The translators implied that the Father and the Son were two separate beings, but the corrected translation brings out the truth that the Father and the Son are one, therefore what the Father knows, the Son knows also).

While the secret of the day and hour of divine intervention is not opened to us, God has given to men an immense amount of information about future events and how and when these events merge together. He has done this to let men become aware of the glorious future for this ransomed earth and the redeemed who will enjoy eonian life upon it. The Old Testament is rich with the divine promises that will see fulfillment when God rules the earth. For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Rom 15:4 (NAS).

Hope is expectation, a reason or warrant for looking forward to something. There is a very important day on God's calendar that is the believer's present hope and expectation. This day is called the epiphaneia, or blazing forth of Jesus Christ, a word that describes the sudden light and knowledge God will impose upon the minds and consciousness of all living beings. This is the day when God commends the King of the earth, Jesus Christ, to all the world. This enlightenment makes it plain as to who He is, and what He is in God's sight. That day will come, it is the beginning of God's government. Now we are to be; looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing (epiphaneia) of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Titus 2:12-13.

This epiphaneia is equated as being His kingdom, when He will judge (set the order for) the living and the dead. The Apostle Paul wrote: I solemnly charge (you) in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the

living and the dead, and by His appearing (epiphaneia) and His kingdom:
2Tim 4:1 (NAS).

When this day of the epiphaneia has come, those who are familiar with God's Word will be able to trace out the prophetic events that have been given a time frame on God's calendar, such as, the length of time for the first phase of the kingdom; about 500 years with 7 years of the great testing at the consummation and the glorious coming in power of Jesus Christ. His parousia (personal presence) is for 1,000 years during which Satan is bound, inoperative. After the 1,000 years is ended Satan is set free and immediately rebels with his followers. They are destroyed.

At that point, the last resurrection is calendared; it is called the great white throne judgment (for the purity and righteous judgment of the judge of all the earth). It is here that all those still in their graves will have their resurrection to stand in a judgment based on their works.

After that, the next period of time on God's calendar is called the new heavens and new earth. God's redeemed will be there. Will you be among them?

END

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