

Predicting the Date of Christ's Return

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If a religious leader claims to know with certainty the date of Christ's return to establish his Father's kingdom on earth, that person confirms to his/her followers that he/she has a special relationship with God and, therefore, should be regarded more highly than other religious leaders. Once this position of authority is established, if any proposed date proves to be erroneous, this religious leader can simply revise the previous date with a new one, and the "followers" will continue to support this false prophet. With this unquestionable authority, other so-called "truths" espoused by the leader will be accepted without challenge from their "followers." This situation is a "perfect storm" for the "blind leading the blind."

God addressed this serious problem in a number of scriptures, and some of these will be examined in this study. The first reference can be challenging to identify because it is interrupted in many Bibles by sub-headings inserted by translators/editors. By doing this, they have unwittingly separated a continuous subject, and created what appears to be two different subjects.

For these nations which you (ancient Israel) will dispossess listened to soothsayers (SHD 6040; observers of times, fortunetellers) and diviners (SHD 7080; false prophets); but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you. ¹⁵ (Instead), the Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me (Moses) from your midst, from your brethren, **Him you shall hear** (Dt. 18:14-15; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

The prophet that Moses mentioned was a reference to Jesus Christ who would be born through the family of Judah with Almighty God as his Father (Mt. 1:20; Lk. 1:35; Jn. 1:14). It is Jesus Christ that God the Father said we are to "hear" as opposed to fortunetellers or false prophets.

While he (Christ) was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**' (Mt. 17:5; Mk. 9:7; Lk. 9:35).

So instead of listening to false prophets, who predict the date/s of Christ's return, (approximate or otherwise), God's true servants are to be learning to hear Jesus Christ's voice, and then follow those things he teaches them. Sadly, this rarely occurs today because human beings have a hard time not following other human leaders, even when those leaders are deceived and feeding them falsehoods.

Even when human leaders know better, they will still "lean unto their own understanding" and rely on ungodly methods to obtain some special knowledge that can assist them in maintaining their power and position.

And Saul had put out the mediums and the spiritists out of the land. (1Sam. 28:3b)

(But) when Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly (1Sam. 28:5; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Then Saul said to his servants, 'Find me a woman who is a medium (so) that I may inquire of her...' (1Sam. 28:7a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Saul then disguised himself, so he would not be recognized; otherwise he would lose his credibility as King of Israel.

Then the woman said to him (Saul), 'Look, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?' (1Sam. 28:9; Ed. note in parenthesis)

Saul then proceeded to ask the medium to bring up from the dead the prophet Samuel who had recently died. Saul justified this sin by claiming that God had departed from him, but he received an answer that he was not expecting.

Then Samuel said: 'Why then do you ask me, seeing **the Lord has departed from you and has become your enemy?**' (1Sam. 28:16; emphasis added).

So those who are desperate to maintain their power and position will go to any length in order to justify what they are doing. However, in the case of false prophets, God will eventually expose them for the fraud they are.

(God) who frustrates the signs of the babblers, and **drives diviners** (SHD 7080; false prophets) **mad**; who turns wise men backward, and makes their knowledge foolishness (Isa. 44:25; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Sadly, until God intervenes, these false prophets can cause harm to those who blindly follow them.

The conspiracy of her (Israel's) prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people (spiritually-speaking); they have taken treasure and precious things; **they have made many widows in her midst** (Ezekiel 22: 25; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Interestingly, Jesus Christ exposed a similar problem with the "blind guides" who were responsible for leading the nation of Judah.

Beware of the scribes, who desire to walk in long robes, love greetings in the marketplace, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, ⁴⁷ **who devour widows' houses** and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation (Lk. 20:46-47; emphasis added).



THEN SAMUEL SAID: 'WHY THEN DO YOU ASK ME, SEEING THE LORD HAS DEPARTED FROM YOU AND HAS BECOME YOUR ENEMY?'

I Samuel 28:16; emphasis added)

During the time of Ezekiel, false prophets were "feeding" lies to the people, which would prevent them from standing firm in the face of any trials.

Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the Lord had not spoken (Ezekiel 22:28).

Therefore, setting false dates for Christ's return is harmful to people who believe these lies. Unfortunately, they are learning to hear the voice of a man, or woman, rather than Christ's voice. Also, these followers are so weakened in their relationship with the head of God's church (Col. 1:18), that they are incapable of recognizing and correcting errors of the false prophet they are supporting. By not standing up to false prophets, each "follower" is actually contributing to the ultimate harm that will come to these individuals.

My hand will be against the prophets who envision futility and who divine lies; **they shall not be in the assembly of My people...** (Ezekiel 13:9a; emphasis added).

It is not possible to hear Christ's voice and that of a false prophet at the same time. People who claim to "know Christ" need to examine who they are really listening to and following.

For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you ... (Jer. 29:8a)

For they prophesy falsely to you in My name: I have not sent them, says the Lord (Jer. 29:9).



SO THEY (ANCIENT ISRAEL) SAID TO ONE ANOTHER, '**LET US SELECT A LEADER AND RETURN TO EGYPT.**'

Numbers 14:4 Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added

Anyone who claims they have figured out when Christ is likely to return is a liar. God has not sent them, and therefore they do not represent Him. Christ stated that even he does not know when his Father wants him to return.

But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, **nor the Son**, but only the Father (Mk. 13:32; emphasis added).

The argument that some false prophets rely on is that they may not know the day or hour, but they've figured out the year. These people forget that a "day" can be a thousand years as God measures time.

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day (2Pet. 3:8).

So, diviners use their creative methods of calculating the return of Jesus Christ primarily to mislead people into following them because they claim a special relationship with God that allows them to come to the conclusions they do. Sadly, these religious leaders are harming the relationship between Jesus Christ and those called to hear and follow him. This is the reason that God condemns those who use false predictions to deceive His people.

You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and **obey His voice**, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. ⁵But that (false) prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God... (Dt. 13:4-5a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

God's true servants do not need to be concerned about when Christ will return because they will be given this information at the appropriate time (Amos 3:7), and it will come from Jesus Christ as soon as his Father reveals the exact time (Jn. 15:15). There is no other mediator between Almighty God and each person, except Jesus Christ (1Tim. 2:5). Therefore, there is no need for a human prophet to announce the "supposed" time of Christ's return when Christ is the one who personally teaches those his Father has given to him (Jn. 6:44; 65).

As soon as people "select" a human leader, they have unwittingly embarked upon a course back to Egypt. "Egypt" in this case represents false religions and false prophets, which is the primary reason an entire nation walked in a wilderness for forty years and then died (Nu. 14:29, 32-33).

So they (ancient Israel) said to one another, '**Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.**' (Nu. 14:4; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added)

Today, anyone wishing to enter God's Promised Land, which is a spiritual entity, must learn to listen to Christ's voice instead of seeking a human leader who will take them back to "spiritual" Egypt, one way or another (Ps. 118:8; 146:3).

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