

TIME-SETTING VS URGENCY

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Time-setting has been a major issue both outside of the church as well as in the church. The question arise what about 1844?

His **hand covered a mistake** in the **reckoning** of the **prophetic periods**. Those who were looking for their **Lord** did not discover this **mistake**, and the most learned men who opposed the time also **failed to see it**. {EW 235.3}

The preaching of a **definite time for the judgment**, in the giving of the first message, **was ordered by God**. The computation of the prophetic periods on which that message was based, placing the close of the 2300 days in the autumn of 1844, stands without impeachment. The repeated efforts to find new dates for the beginning and close of the prophetic periods, and the unsound reasoning necessary to sustain these positions, not only lead minds **away from the present truth, but throw contempt upon all efforts to explain the prophecies**. The more frequently a **definite time is set for the second advent**, and the more widely it is taught, the better it suits the purposes of Satan. After the time has passed, he excites ridicule and contempt of its advocates, and thus casts reproach upon the great advent movement of 1843 and 1844. **Those who persist in this error will at last fix upon a date too far in the future for the coming of Christ. Thus they will be led to rest in a false security, and many will not be undeceived until it is too late.** {GC 457.1}

The Lord has shown me that the **message** of the **third angel must go**, and be proclaimed to the scattered children of the Lord, **but it must not be hung on time**. I saw that some were getting a **false excitement**, arising from **preaching time; but the third angel's message is stronger than time can be. I saw that this message can stand on its own foundation and needs not time to strengthen it**; and that it will go in mighty power, and do its work, and will be cut short in righteousness. {EW 75.1}

| 2 Peter 1:16-19

The **shortness** of time is frequently **urged** as an **incentive** for **seeking righteousness** and making Christ our friend. **This should not be the great motive with us; for it savours of selfishness. Is it necessary that the terrors of the day of God should be held before us, that we may be compelled to right action through fear? It ought not to be so. Jesus is attractive.** He is full of love, mercy, and compassion. He proposes to be our friend, to walk with us through all the rough pathways of life." {BEcho June 25, 1894, par. 7}

Great pains should be taken to keep this subject before the people. The solemn fact is to be kept not only before the people of the **world**, but before **our own churches** also, that the day of the Lord will come **suddenly, unexpectedly. The fearful warning of the prophecy is addressed to every soul. Let no one feel that he is secure from the danger of being surprised.** Let no one's interpretation of **prophecy** rob you of the conviction of the knowledge of events which show that this great event is **near at hand**. {FE 335.2}

The **time is at hand** when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal. **The Spirit of God is being withdrawn**. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently these **calamities** are **capricious** outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly

beyond the control of man; **but in them all, God's purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger.** – {PK 277.1}

Jesus was never taken by surprise:

- My time is not yet come ... — John 7:6
- My time is at hand... — Matthew 26:18
- Jesus knew that his hour was come... — John 13:1
- This day is the scripture fulfilled in your ear... — Luke 4:21
- It is finished... — John 19:30

Ministers should present the **sure word of prophecy** as the **foundation** of the **faith of Seventh-day Adventists**. The **twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew** is presented to me again and again as something that is to be **brought to the attention of all**. We are today living in the time when the predictions of this chapter are **fulfilling**." {Ev 196.2}

QUESTION 1 – WHAT ARE THE THREE SECTIONS IN MATTHEW 24?

- ① _____
- ② _____
- ③ _____

QUESTION 2 – WHAT ARE THE FOUR ABOMINATION OF DESOLATIONS/TRIBULATIONS?

- ① _____
- ② _____
- ③ _____
- ④ _____

| Matthew 24:29-30

QUESTION 3 – WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE FOLLOWING DATES?

- ① _____
- ② _____
- ③ _____
- ④ _____
- ⑤ _____

QUESTION 4 – WHAT ARE THE THREE SPECIFIC SIGNS?

- ① _____
- ② _____
- ③ _____

WHAT ARE FALLING STARS DESCRIBES AS?

In 1833, two years after Miller began to present in public the evidences of Christ's soon coming, the **last of the signs** appeared which were promised by the Saviour as tokens of his second advent. Said Jesus, "The stars shall fall from heaven." {GC 333.1}

Thus was displayed the **last of those signs** of His coming, concerning which Jesus bade His disciples: "When ye shall see all these things, *know* that it is near, **even at the doors**." Matthew 24:33. {GC 334.2}

Matthew 12:38-39 | Matthew 16:4

Again and again have I been warned in regard to **time setting**. There will **never** again be a message for the people of God that will be **based on time**. We are not to know the **definite time** either for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit or for the coming of Christ. {1SM 188.1}

"I saw some were making everything bend to this **next fall**; that is, making their **calculations**, and disposing of their property in reference to that time. *I saw that this was wrong for this reason: instead of going to God daily, and earnestly desiring to know their present duty, they looked ahead, and made their calculations as though they knew that the work would end this fall, without inquiring their duty of God daily.* {1SM 188.4}

AT THE DOOR

190 Years where is He? | Rev 3:20

What is he waiting for? | James 5:7-8

| Matt 24:33-34

The long night of gloom is trying; but the morning is deferred in mercy, because if the Master should come, so many would be found unready. **God's unwillingness to have His people perish has been the reason for so long delay.** {2T 193.3}

Time has continued a few years **longer** than they expected; therefore they **think** it may **continue a few years more**, and in this way their minds are being led **from present truth**, out after the world. **In these things I saw great danger**; for if the mind is filled with other things, **present truth is shut out**, and there is **no place** in our foreheads for the seal of the living God. {EW 58.1}

How Long will he wait?

2 Pet 2:9 | Hosea 4:17,18 | Hosea 11:8

"When the **fruit** is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." **Christ is waiting** with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. **When** the **character** of Christ shall be **perfectly** reproduced in His people, **THEN** He will come to claim them as His own. It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing **fruit** to His glory, **how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain.** {COL 69}

| Mark 4:29

Says the true Witness, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." **Every warning, reproof, and entreaty** in the word of God, or through his delegated messengers, **is a knock at the door of the heart; it is the voice of Jesus, asking for entrance.** With every knock unheeded, your determination to open becomes **weaker and weaker. If the voice of Jesus is not heeded at once, it becomes confused in the mind with a multitude of other voices,** the world's care and business engross the attention, and **conviction dies away. The heart becomes less impressible, and lapses into a perilous unconsciousness of the shortness of time, and of the great eternity beyond.** The heavenly Guest is standing at your door, while you are piling up obstructions to bar his entrance. ...Will you permit your selfishness to triumph? {RH, November 2, 1886 par. 5}

Christ is **watching** for some **sign** that will betoken the removing of the **bolts** and the **opening of the door of your heart for His entrance.** – {COL 237.2}

In the silent midnight watches,
List,—thy bosom door!
How it knocketh, knocketh, knocketh,
Knocketh evermore!
Say not 'tis thy pulse is beating;
'Tis thy heart of sin;
'Tis thy Saviour knocks, and crieth,
Rise, and let me in!
Death comes down with reckless footstep,
To the hall and hut;
Think you death will stand a-knocking
Where the door is shut?
Jesus waiteth, waiteth, waiteth;
But thy door is fast!
Grieved, away thy Saviour goeth:
Death breaks in at last.