

Matthew 24:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Analysis

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only—After teaching the recognizability of His coming, Jesus forbids chronological calculation. The emphatic oudeis (οὐδείς = no one) excludes everyone—no human, no angel, not even the Son (Mark 13:32). This self-limitation during His incarnation demonstrates the reality of His humanity and submission to the Father.

The phrase *hē hēmera ekeinē kai hōra* (ἡ ἡμέρα ἐκείνη καὶ ὥρα = that day and hour) became technical language for the Day of the Lord. God's sovereignty over timing rebukes all date-setters, calendar decoders, and prophecy speculators. The Father alone holds the appointment calendar for history's culmination (Acts 1:7). Our calling is watchfulness, not calculation.

Historical Context

Jewish apocalyptic literature often speculated about end-times timing, with groups like the Essenes calculating prophetic calendars. Jesus categorically rejects this practice. The early church initially expected Christ's imminent return (1 Thessalonians 4:15), but as decades passed, they learned patient expectation (2 Peter 3:8-9). This verse has frustrated date-setters for 2,000 years—every prediction has failed.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why do you think Christians continually violate this verse by predicting dates, despite 2,000 years of failed predictions?
2. How does Jesus's own ignorance of the timing (in His incarnate state) inform your understanding of His full humanity?
3. What is the spiritual danger of knowing the exact date versus living in expectant readiness?

Interlinear Text

Περὶ	δὲ	τῆς	ἡμέρας	ἐκείνης	καὶ	τῆς	ώρας	οὐδεὶς
of	But	G3588	day	that	and	G3588	hour	no
G4012	G1161		G2250	G1565	G2532		G5610	G3762
οἶδεν	οὐδὲ	οἱ	ἄγγελοι	τῶν	οὐρανῶν	εἰ	μὴ	ό
knoweth	man no not	G3588	the angels	G3588	of heaven	G1487	G3361	G3588
G1492	G3761		G32		G3772			
πατὴρ	μου	μόνος						
Father	my	only						
G3962	G3450	G3441						

Additional Cross-References

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

Acts 1:7 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Matthew 24:44 (Parallel theme): Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

2 Peter 3:10 (Parallel theme): But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Revelation 16:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Matthew 24:42 (Parallel theme): Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 (Parallel theme): For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Matthew 25:13 (Parallel theme): Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Revelation 3:3 (Parallel theme): Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Zechariah 14:7 (Parallel theme): But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.