

## **Does anybody really know what time it is...?**

What time is it? What day is it? It's hard to really tell. According to our modern-day calendar, there are roughly 365.25 days in one year, which is the number of days (roughly) that it takes the Earth to orbit our sun (solar year).

The Hebrew calendar is a lunisolar calendar, which measures lunar cycles as well as years, measured in solar cycles. In addition to this, the Hebrew calendar includes Leap years (there are 7 such years out of every 19) which includes an additional month. This makes (on average) a year from 353 to 385 days (depending on if it is a deficient, complete or leap year).

There are those in the Bible Scholar community who claim that the bible tells us that there are 360 days in a year.

Simple, isn't it? Now let's consider the following:

Prior to Julius Caesar, the Roman calendar was in use. This calendar used 355 days in its year. Julius Caesar instituted the Julian calendar (365 days). In order to make up for deficiencies in the previously used Roman calendar, the year 46 B.C. actually consisted of 445 days.

Julius Caesars' calendar took leap years into account, but these were incorrectly applied until 8 A.D.

Note that there is no year zero (0) on the historic timetable.

In 1582, Pope Gregory instituted the Gregorian calendar (which is still in use today). This calendar is very much like the Julian calendar, but makes adjustment for the vernal equinox. In order to implement the Gregorian calendar, the following had to occur:

1. Omission of 10 calendar days, the 4th of October 1582 was followed directly by the 15th of October 1582 in the new calendar. This brought the start of spring back to the 21st of March. The reckoning of week days was not changed.
2. Introduction of a new leap year rule according to which no leap days occur in years that are divisible by 100 but not by 400. This reduces the error in the year length and slows down the accumulation of this error. The leap day is inserted at the end of February as in the Julian calendar.
3. Modification of the Easter rule to accommodate the new calendar.

Confused and wondering where am I going with this? There are two points I would like to make. First:

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

- Matthew 24:36 (KJV)

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

- Mark 13:32 (KJV)

Various cults and fringe groups which call themselves "Christian" have often attempted to predict the time and date of Christ's return. I believe that the Jehovah Witnesses hold the record at nine failed predictions (1874, 1878, 1881, 1910, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1975, and 1984).

The point here is that God has said no one shall know the time. If you are involved in a group (or knows someone who is) that claims to know the time and date of Christ's return, they are WRONG. Not only has Jesus said none shall know the time, but considering how many changes have occurred in our calendar throughout history (and I list just a few), it is impossible, using our current calendar, to predict this date.

Don't get me wrong. Matthew Chapter 24 tells us that we will be able to discern the times, that we will have clues telling us that the time is near (and believe me, the time is near), but there is no way that anyone can predict the time and date.

Second, I have been told in the past that if I didn't worship on the Sabbath (Saturday), then I would go to hell. Two such groups are the Seventh Day Adventists and the Seventh Day Baptists.

I have a problem with someone telling me this. First, if all I need to do for salvation is worship on Saturday, then why did Jesus have to die? All God had to do was say "worship on Saturday or go to hell!". This would have prevented Jesus from having to undergo the pain and suffering of the cross. Someone who tells you that you MUST worship on Saturday for salvation is making salvation a work that you could achieve, rather than a gift that you receive.

Second, one who is convinced that they must worship on the Sabbath had better make sure they are actually worshipping on the true Sabbath, and considering how many changes have occurred in our calendar, how can you determine what day the "True" Sabbath" falls upon. Are they sure they are really worshipping on the true Sabbath?

Now don't get me wrong. I know some Seventh Day Adventist who do not hold to this view. Those who are like this still feel that it is best to worship on Saturdays, but they do not condemn you to hell if you do not (I can't say about the Seventh Day Baptist as I have never met one, but I have visited some of their websites).

***One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.***

- Romans 14:5 (KJV)

Romans 14:5 tells us that for some, one day may be esteemed above another, others may esteem a different day, while others may hold each day alike. The verse tells us that it doesn't matter what day we worship on. Often, I have found that Bible commentaries will disagree with one another on various verses, but on Romans 14:5 they were pretty much in agreement – Whatever day you worship on, make sure you are “fully persuaded” in your own mind. Make sure that on that day you are focused on God, in worship to He who created you, and not on other things.