

THE HERESY OF DATE SETTING PLUS ISRAEL'S PRIVILEGES SUNDAY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

Other than changing the scripture quotes to King James Bible quotes (in italics), the following article is quoted verbatim from Fox News' Science web page dated September 17, 2017:

BIBLICAL PROPHECY CLAIMS THE WORLD WILL END ON SEPT. 23, CHRISTIAN NUMEROLOGISTS CLAIM

A Christian numerologist claims that the world will end next Saturday when a planet will, supposedly, collide with Earth.

According to Christian numerologist David Meade, verses in Luke 21:25 to 26 are the sign that recent events, such as the recent solar eclipse and Hurricane Harvey, are signs of the apocalypse.

The verses read:

Luke 21:25-26

²⁵ And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

Sept. 23 is a date that was pinpointed using codes from the Bible, as well as a "date marker" in the pyramids of Giza in Egypt.

Meade's views are not endorsed by Roman Catholic, Protestant or eastern Orthodox branches of Christianity.

Meade has built his theory on the so-called Planet X, which is also known as Nibiru, which he believes will pass Earth on Sept. 23, causing volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and earthquakes, according to British newspaper The Sun.

NASA has repeatedly said Planet X is a hoax.

For a certain branch of evangelical Christianity, Revelation 12:1–2, describes the beginning of what is known as the rapture and the second coming of Christ.

The passage reads: Revelation 12:1-2

¹ And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: ² And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered. [See Genesis 37:9-

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In the passage, the woman is Virgo. On Sept. 23, both the sun and the moon will be in Virgo, as will the planet Jupiter. However, this occurrence happens naturally once every 12 years. There is also a rare alignment, known as "the Lion of the tribe of Judah," which the conspiracy theorists are hanging their hats on.

According to the Express, author Jonathan Sarfati wrote that the same planetary coincidence previously happened four times in the last millennium.

"As usual with any astrology (or Christian adaptations of it), one cherry-picks the stars that fit the desired conclusion," Sarfati wrote, according to the Express. "There is nothing to suggest that 23 September is a momentous date for biblical prophecy, and Christians need to be careful about being drawn into such sensationalist claims."

[END OF QUOTE]

The first thing we would note is that the premise of this article in its entirety is without Biblical support. Its major issue is that it resorts to date setting which the Bible states that no man knows the date or hour of the rapture. There are no signs associated with the rapture. Signs are associated with the Tribulation which takes place after the rapture. Sign seeking is not for the Christian. It is the Jews that seek after a sign. The word "sign" appears 133 times in your Bible and in very few cases is it ever applied to the Gentiles. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 1:22:

1 Corinthians 1:22

²² For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

Another problem with the article above is that it confuses the rapture of the saints with the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. They are separate events. The rapture is the Lord Jesus Christ coming in the air to catch up living and dead Christians to heaven with him while the Second Coming is the Lord Jesus Christ coming back from heaven with the saints to set foot on the earth at the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. As a clarification, the Bible identifies ANY individual that believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as a saint. The rapture and the Second Coming are separated by seven years. This also leads to the conclusion that the timing of the rapture identified with Revelation 12 in the above article is in error because it teaches a mid tribulation rapture. The rapture takes place before the tribulation. Yet another problem is that the above article associates astrology with the interpretation of Bible Prophecy by Christians. No Christian is to ever use the occultism of astrology to interpret the Bible. The following passages from Matthew 24 clearly state that no man knows the day or the hour:

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Matthew 24:32-36

³² Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: ³³ So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. ³⁴ Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. ³⁵ Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. ³⁶ But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Matthew 24:42

⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Matthew 24:44

⁴⁴ Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 24:50

⁵⁰ The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

Those passages identify anyone who would set dates as being a false prophet and a deceiver. To add an exclamation point to the passages from Matthew 24, see also Mark 13:28-33 and Luke 12:37-40. The parable of the fig tree identified in Matthew 24:32-36 is associated with the nation of Israel. The fig tree, the olive tree, and the vine symbolize three different aspects of Israel's relationship with God. The book of Judges sheds some light on this relationship. Judges 9:8-15 state:

Judges 9:8-15

⁸ The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us. ⁹ But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? ¹⁰ And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us. ¹¹ But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees? ¹² Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us. ¹³ And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? ¹⁴ Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, and reign over us. ¹⁵ And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

THE OLIVE TREE represents Israel religious privileges as interpreted by Romans chapter 11. Romans 11 deals with the prophesied blindness of Israel as prophesied in Isaiah 29:10. Romans 11

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also warns Christians not to boast themselves against the natural branches that represent Israel (Romans 11:17-22). Put another way, Romans 11:17-22 warns Christians to reject any heresy that says that the church has replaced Israel in the plan of God. The heresy that states that the church has replaced Israel is called Replacement Theology. Romans 11:1-2 states that God has not cast away the Jewish people. Romans 11:1 mentions the tribe of Benjamin which makes its application to the Jew only and not some Gentile spiritual Israel. There is no Gentile or church tribe of Benjamin. The tribe of Benjamin is representative only of the Jews as a body manifested in the nation of Israel. Romans 11:25-32 prophecies the restoration of national Israel.

THE FIG TREE represents Israel's national privileges interpreted by Matthew 21:19-20; Mark 11:13, 20-21; and Luke 13:6-9

Matthew 21:19-20

¹⁹ And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. ²⁰ And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!

Mark 11:13, 20-21: ¹³ And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. ²⁰ And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. ²¹ And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

Luke 13:6-9

⁶ He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. ⁷ Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? ⁸ And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: ⁹ And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

THE VINE represents Israel's spiritual privileges as interpreted by Isaiah 5 and John 15. These passages read:

Isaiah 5:3-7

³ And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. ⁴ What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it

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forth wild grapes? ⁵ And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: ⁶ And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

John 15:1-9

¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³ Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ⁶ If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. ⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

We would close this article out by stating that **THE BRAMBLE** of Judges 9:14-15 represents the Antichrist that Israel will receive in connection with the Tribulation described in Revelation chapters 6-19. The Lord Jesus Christ said in John 5:43:

John 5:43

⁴³ I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

The one that the Jews will receive is the Antichrist. The Antichrist is known by many different names and titles in the Scriptures. These include the King of Babylon; the Assyrian; the prince of Tyrus; the little horn; the king of fierce countenance; the prince that shall come; the Abomination of Desolation; the wilful king; the idol shepherd; the man of sin; the son of perdition; the one that shall come in his own name; that wicked one; the Antichrist; the angel of the bottomless pit; Abaddon; Apollyon; and the beast.