

Far be it from the simple conclusion of Yeshua not knowing in His Olivet Discourse the time of the Second Coming, must prove that He is not God—those who hold to a high Christology, tend to emphasize that as a result of the Son’s human Incarnation and willful submission to the Father (cf. Philippians 2:6-7), the Son only exercises in His ministry and teachings the Divine privileges permitted to Him by the Father. In his commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, Wilkins usefully directs,

“While he did not in any sense give up his deity, Jesus voluntarily limited the use of those divine characteristics so that he could experience human life in its entirety (cf. Heb. 4:14-16). It was only at the will of his Father that he could use his divine attributes, if it was the Father’s will for him to do so. He acted primarily in his humanity and was empowered by the Spirit....The independent use of his supernatural knowledge was limited to whether it was the Father’s will for him to use it. In his earthly ministry Jesus came to do the will of his Father in heaven. It was not the Father’s will for him to know the date of his return during his time on earth.”<sup>172</sup>

A survey of the Olivet Discourse should reveal enough signs and phenomena which are to take place, and be in motion, up until the time of the Messiah’s return.<sup>173</sup> Yeshua stating, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only” (Matthew 24:36, RSV), does not preclude any one of us from accurately predicting or speculating upon the general season of the Messiah’s return. *The exact time, as stated by Yeshua, was not known to Him as He spoke to His Disciples on the Mount of Olives.* Instead, the admonitions that Yeshua issued, per the contents of Matthew 24-25 following, were designed to direct His followers to demonstrate the proper actions and attitudes, so that they would not be swept up by the deception to befall many. If Yeshua was only permitted to speak words given to Him by the Heavenly Father (cf. John 12:49-50)—but yet Yeshua was One who voluntarily took on humanity in His Incarnation, *and* voluntarily submitted Himself to the humiliation of crucifixion (Philippians 2:8; cf. Mark 14:36; Matthew 26:39; Luke 22:42)—then it stands to reason that Yeshua not knowing the time of His future return is to be taken as Him not being permitted to know about it for the purposes of His Earthly ministry.

## **Matthew 25:31-34**

### **“The Future Kingdom of the Son of Man”**

**“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”**

The statements of Matthew 25:31-34ff contextually require a Bible reader to consider a wider selection of passages, as they concern both the future restoration of Israel’s Kingdom (cf. Acts 1:6), the Millennium, and the Eternal State. Details involving the Messiah’s return and reign on Earth are detected here (Matthew 25:31), with Yeshua notably referring to Himself with the Daniel 7:9-14 title of the “Son of Man” (discussed previously). While Yeshua will reign on Earth from Jerusalem for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4-7), that the gathering of the

<sup>172</sup> Wilkins, 800.

<sup>173</sup> Consult the author’s book *When Will the Messiah Return?* for a summary of some significant factors involving the Second Coming and the emergence of the Messianic movement.

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nations, the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:32-33) occurs at the beginning of the Eternal State, is not just detected in how those blessed will “take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world” (Matthew 25:34, NIV)—but how after the criteria for entry are provided (Matthew 25:35-40, 42-45), it will be stated by the Lord, “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels’...These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Matthew 25:41, 46).

Advocates of a high Christology of Yeshua the Messiah, being integrated into the Divine Identity, do rightly need to emphasize that the Son’s reign is not at all independent of the Father. It is emphasized here, “Come, you who are blessed of My Father...” (Matthew 25:34). Yeshua the Son, being integrated into the Divine Identity, is interconnected with the activities of the Father, and this surely involves the future Millennial Kingdom and subsequent Eternal State (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:28).

### **Mark 14:53-65; Matthew 26:57-68; Luke 22:63-71** **“Yeshua is Condemned of Blasphemy by the Sanhedrin”**

“They led Yeshua away to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes gathered together. Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the officers and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain testimony against Yeshua to put Him to death, and they were not finding any. For many were giving false testimony against Him, but their testimony was not consistent. Some stood up and *began* to give false testimony against Him, saying, ‘We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.’” Not even in this respect was their testimony consistent. The high priest stood up *and came forward* and questioned Yeshua, saying, ‘Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?’ But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, ‘Are You the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed *One*?’ And Yeshua said, ‘I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN’ [Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13]. Tearing his clothes, the high priest said, ‘What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?’ And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death. Some began to spit at Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him with their fists, and to say to Him, ‘Prophecy!’ And the officers received Him with slaps *in the face*” (Mark 14:53-65).

“Those who had seized Yeshua led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together. But Peter was following Him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and entered in, and sat down with the officers to see the outcome. Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Yeshua, so that they might put Him to death. They did not find *any*, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward, and said, ‘This man stated, “I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.”’ The high priest stood up and said to Him, ‘Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?’ But Yeshua kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, ‘I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Messiah, the Son of God.’ Yeshua said to him, ‘You have said it *yourself*; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER [Psalm 110:1], and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN’ [Daniel 7:13]. Then the high priest tore his robes and said, ‘He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; what do you think?’ They answered, ‘He deserves death!’ Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, and said, ‘Prophecy to us, You Messiah; who is the one who hit You?’” (Matthew 26:57-68).