

Ask The Rabbi – December 28, 2021

Question:

I have always wondered why Yeshua does not know when he is returning? This is conveyed in Matthew 24:36, yet it also conveys that He is one with God.

Response:

As we read the passage in question...

Mat 24:36 "But when that day and hour will come, no one knows—not the angels in heaven, not the Son, only the Father.

The question does come to mind, "How could Yeshua not know if He has taught that He and the Father are one.

Joh 14:6 Yeshua said, "I AM the Way—and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.

Alluding to and making the connection of Adonai appearing to Moshe in the desert...

Exo 3:13 Moshe said to God, "Look, when I appear before the people of Isra'el and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you'; and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?"

Exo 3:14 God said to Moshe, "Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh [*I am/will be what I am/will be*]," and added, "Here is what to say to the people of Isra'el: 'Ehyeh [*I Am or I Will Be*] has sent me to you.' "

Yeshua further establishing that He is Echad with the Father and thus the words He speaks are not His own, but that of the Father...

Joh 14:10 Don't you believe that I am united with the Father, and the Father united with me? What I am telling you, I am not saying on my own initiative; the Father living in me is doing his own works.

Joh 14:11 Trust me, that I am united with the Father, and the Father united with me. But if you can't, then trust because of the works themselves.

Can we relate Matthew 24:36 to other passages where future events are concealed? The events of Matthew 24:36 transpired prior to His death and are a response to His talmidim's questions...

Mat 24:3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the talmidim came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that you are coming, and that the `olam hazeh is ending?"

What will be the sign of your coming, that is His return. What would transpire would be a rather comprehensive response to what is to transpire both prior to His return and some of the signs that would be revealed indicating His return.

In its full context, Yeshua conveyed the following as it pertains to verse 36...

Mat 24:36 "But when that day and hour will come, no one knows—not the angels in heaven, not the Son, only the Father.

Mat 24:37 For the Son of Man's coming will be just as it was in the days of Noach.

Mat 24:38 Back then, before the Flood, people went on eating and drinking, taking wives and becoming wives, right up till the day Noach entered the ark;

Mat 24:39 and they didn't know what was happening until the Flood came and swept them all away. It will be just like that when the Son of Man comes.

The emphasis is further established by the example He conveyed in relating His return to that of the flood and Noach. There was no advanced warning of a pending flood other than Noach and his building of an ark. Likewise there will be signs that point to the return of Yeshua, yet no specific time or date would be known.

What had to occur in order for the flood to happen? First, the ark had to be completed and all the animals gathered. Second the last of the righteous would have to have died, because the righteous do not experience God's wrath. We see this with the judgment of Sodom and Amora and Avraham's exchange with Adonai to spare the cities if there were at least 10 righteous people found. Sha'ul reveals this in his letter to believers in Thessalonica...

1Th 5:4 But you, brothers, are not in the dark, so that the Day should take you by surprise like a thief;

1Th 5:5 for you are all people who belong to the light, who belong to the day. We don't belong to the night or to darkness,

1Th 5:6 so let's not be asleep, like the rest are; on the contrary, let us stay alert and sober.

1Th 5:7 People who sleep, sleep at night; and people who get drunk, get drunk at night.

1Th 5:8 But since we belong to the day, let us stay sober, putting on trust and love as a breastplate and the hope of being delivered as a helmet.

1Th 5:9 **For God has not intended that we should experience his fury (wrath), but that we should gain deliverance through our Lord Yeshua the Messiah,**

1Th 5:10 who died on our behalf so that whether we are alive or dead, we may live along with him.

1Th 5:11 Therefore, encourage each other, and build each other up—just as you are doing.

What Yeshua conveyed at the Mount of Olives He also reiterated after His resurrection and just prior to His second ascension...

Act 1:6 When they were together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore self-rule to Isra'el?"

Act 1:7 He answered, "You don't need to know the dates or the times; the Father has kept these under his own authority.

Thus His answer is consistent.

We also see another moment captured in Scripture where the future was revealed yet not comprehended at the time and thus the mystery of it was not for the time it was revealed, but for a later time. We read in Daniel...

Dan 12:7 The man dressed in linen who was above the water of the river raised his right and left hands toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times and a half, and that it will be when the the power of the holy people is no longer being shattered that all these things will end.

Dan 12:8 I heard this, but I couldn't understand what it meant; so I asked, "Lord, what will be the outcome of all this?"

Dan 12:9 But he said, "Go your way, Dani'el; for these words are to remain secret and sealed until the time of the end.

Dan 12:10 Many will purify, cleanse and refine themselves; but the wicked will keep on acting wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand. But those with discernment will understand.

Ultimately what I would say is that the question was a valid question to be asked, yet it was not Yeshua who would answer that question and at that moment. We are challenged to comprehend the relational dynamic of the unity of Yeshua and Adonai, yet we should focus on what they have shared, knowing that everything in Scripture is revealed for a reason. When Adonai is silent, yet we ask the questions, the answers belong to Him.

Deu 29:28 "Things which are hidden belong to Adonai our God. But the things that have been revealed belong to us and our children forever, so that we can observe all the words of this Torah.

Question:

What is the significance of the number 10 in the Bible?

What is the significance of a minyan in our world today?

Response:

How can we look at the number 10 in relation to Adonai and His Word? The number 10 signifies testimony, law, responsibility and the completeness of order.

In Genesis 1 we find the phrase "God said" 10 times, which is a testimony of His creative power and thus the completeness of His work because on the Seventh day, God did not say.

Gen 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, along with everything in them.

Gen 2:2 On the seventh day God was finished with his work which he had made, so he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

Gen 2:3 God blessed the seventh day and separated it as holy; because on that day God rested from all his work which he had created, so that it itself could produce.

- Adonai tested Avraham 10 times
- Adonai gave the 10 Commandments to man.
Ten therefore represents man's responsibility to keep the commandments.
- A tithe is a 10th of our earnings and is a testimony of our faith in the Lord.
- The 10 plagues Adonai sent on ancient Egypt, in order to free his people, represented his complete and total judgment of the pagan empire.
- The Passover lamb was selected on day 10 of the 1st month (Exodus 12:3), as was Jesus, the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world (John 12:28 - 29; 1Corinthians 5:7).
- Day 10 of the 7th month is also the Holy Day known as the Day of Atonement.

Hence, a minyan, identified as a minimum of 10, found within traditional Judaism, is the quorum / minimum) of ten Jewish adults required for certain religious obligations, primarily prayer. In more traditional streams of Judaism (Orthodox and Conservative), only males 13 and older may constitute a minyan. In more liberal (non-Orthodox) streams of Judaism, women are also counted.

(a *minyan* (Hebrew: מניין \ מנין *minyán* [*min'jan*], lit. (noun) *count, number*; pl. מניינים \ מנינים *minyaním* [*minja'nim*]))

Thus when we look at the understanding of the number 10 in relation to the minyan, it represents a public display of testimony to others and thus a responsibility. This does not mean that only 10 can be involved, yet it is a minimum conveying a representation of the community and a public testimony to the community as well.

Question:

This question is in regards to Luke 4:5-7 when Yeshua was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by the adversary. The Adversary says that he has power over all the kingdoms of the world, and the authority to hand that power over to whomever he chooses.

Is it true that he had that power and authority or is he telling a lie, since he is a liar?

Response:

In first looking at the verses that are the premise for the question being asked,

Luk 4:5 The Adversary took him up, showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world,

Luk 4:6 and said to him, "I will give you all this power and glory. It has been handed over to me, and I can give it to whomever I choose.

Luk 4:7 So if you will worship me, it will all be yours."

I had recently talked about the authority of Adonai and that He is the only one who can give it. He did so to His Son Yeshua.

http://www.shalommaine.com/sermon_notes_pdf/The_Authority_of_God's_Word.pdf

Yet, does the Adversary possess any authority on earth?

We read of his fall in Revelation and thus being cast down from heaven where he would be bound to

Rev 12:7 Next there was a battle in heaven—Mikha'el and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

Rev 12:8 But it was not strong enough to win, so that there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

Rev 12:9 The great dragon was thrown out, that ancient serpent, also known as the Devil and Satan [*the Adversary*], the deceiver of the whole world. He was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.

Yet, would still be able to travel from place to place...

Job 1:6 It happened one day that the sons of God came to serve Adonai, and among them came the Adversary [*Hebrew: Satan*].

Job 1:7 Adonai asked the Adversary, "Where are you coming from?" The Adversary answered Adonai, "From roaming through the earth, wandering here and there."

So the adversary was able to go about, thus he was not chained to the earth. Yet he did reside here. We have seen him in the Garden as well. Thus one might say, he gets around.

The New Covenant writings reveal more about the Adversary to us. Yeshua reveals his character to us as He is addressing the lies and deceptions of the P'rushim and Torah teachers during Sukkot...

Joh 8:44 You belong to your father, Satan, and you want to carry out your father's desires. From the start he was a murderer, and he has never stood by the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he is speaking in character; because he is a liar—indeed, the inventor of the lie!

We further read of his influence upon the earth and specifically Israel...

1Ch 21:1 The Adversary [*Hebrew: Satan*] now rose up against Isra'el and incited David to take a census of Isra'el.

It is the one being accused by the Adversary that reveals more about his accuser...

Joh 12:27 "Now I am in turmoil. What can I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. I will say this:

Joh 12:28 'Father, glorify your name!' " At this a bat-kol came out of heaven, "I have glorified it before, and I will glorify it again!"

Joh 12:29 The crowd standing there and hearing it said that it had thundered; others said, "An angel spoke to him."

Joh 12:30 Yeshua answered, "This bat-kol did not come for my sake but for yours.

Joh 12:31 Now is the time for this world to be judged, now the ruler of this world will be expelled.

Yeshua conveys that the world is to be judged and its ruler is to be judged as well.

Joh 14:28 You heard me tell you, 'I am leaving, and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would have been glad that I am going to the Father; because the Father is greater than I.

Joh 14:29 "Also, I have said it to you now, before it happens; so that when it does happen, you will trust.

Joh 14:30 "I won't be talking with you much longer, because the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me;

Joh 14:31 rather, this is happening so that the world may know that I love the Father, and that I do as the Father has commanded me. "Get up! Let's get going!"

Again, another reference to the ruler of the world. Though not referenced by name there is only one Adversary of Adonai and by association of us.

Joh 16:7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I don't go away, the comforting Counselor will not come to you. However, if I do go, I will send him to you.

Joh 16:8 "When he comes, he will show that the world is wrong about sin, about righteousness and about judgment—

Joh 16:9 about sin, in that people don't put their trust in me;

Joh 16:10 about righteousness, in that I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me;

Joh 16:11 about judgment, in that the ruler of this world has been judged.

Yeshua is not the only one who exposes the ruler of this world, his lies and corruption. Sha'ul takes his shots at the Adversary as well.

Eph 2:1 You used to be dead because of your sins and acts of disobedience.

Eph 2:2 You walked in the ways of the `olam hazeh and obeyed the Ruler of the Powers of the Air, who is still at work among the disobedient.

And thus instructs us how we are to fend off His attacks...

Eph 6:10 Finally, grow powerful in union with the Lord, in union with his mighty strength!

Eph 6:11 Use all the armor and weaponry that God provides, so that you will be able to stand against the deceptive tactics of the Adversary.

Eph 6:12 For we are not struggling against human beings, but against the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers governing this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

Sha'ul further encourages us in our battle against the Adversary, the ruler of this world.

2Co 4:1 God has shown us such mercy that we do not lose courage as we do the work he has given us.

2Co 4:2 Indeed, we refuse to make use of shameful underhanded methods, employing deception or distorting God's message. On the contrary, by making very clear what the truth is, we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

2Co 4:3 So if indeed our Good News is veiled, it is veiled only to those in the process of being lost.

2Co 4:4 They do not come to trust because the god of the `olam hazeh has blinded their minds, in order to prevent them from seeing the light shining from the Good News about the glory of the Messiah, who is the image of God.

Yet, he has no authority over us when we submit to the authority of Yeshua. This world is to be judged and has been judged already. What does Yeshua convey that is not of this world?

His Kingdom!!!

Joh 18:33 So Pilate went back into the headquarters, called Yeshua and said to him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Joh 18:34 Yeshua answered, "Are you asking this on your own, or have other people told you about me?"

Joh 18:35 Pilate replied, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and head cohanim have handed you over to me; what have you done?"

Joh 18:36 Yeshua answered, "My kingship does not derive its authority from this world's order of things. If it did, my men would have fought to keep me from being arrested by the Judeans. But my kingship does not come from here."

Joh 18:37 "So then," Pilate said to him, "You are a king, after all." Yeshua answered, "You say I am a king.

The reason I have been born, the reason I have come into the world, is to bear witness to the truth. Every one who belongs to the truth listens to me."

And finally Kefa's warning to us about the Adversary...

1Pe 5:8 Stay sober, stay alert! Your enemy, the Adversary, stalks about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1Pe 5:9 Stand against him, firm in your trust, knowing that your brothers throughout the world are going through the same kinds of suffering.