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9-8-2027
SETTING DATES

In the bible when there was a Jewish wedding, the groom would be told by his father when to get His bride. It was the father's place to make that decision, and the son did not know the day or the hour.

In Matthew 24 the disciples had asked Jesus about the end times. In verse 36 Jesus is speaking and said, ***"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."***

This is plain to understand when you understand the Jewish wedding. Jesus will come back when the Father says, "Go." It will not be one day sooner or one day later than our heavenly Father's plan. Verse 42 says, ***"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."***

When someone sets dates, and there are a lot of speculations out there about September 23 being the date of the rapture, you can be sure that they are wrong. We will not know the exact day or hour when Jesus will come for "his bride."

We can know the season because verses 32-35 tells us about the fig tree, which represents Israel, will begin to put forth leaves. This indicates that Israel would once again be a nation, which happened in May, 1948. In verse 34 we learn that the generation that witnesses this event [the blossoming of the fig tree [Israel]] will not pass away before the Lord returns.

Depending upon what a generation is, whether it is 40, 70 or 100 years, we know Jesus' return will happen sometime during that generation.

When someone sets an "exact date" you can be sure that they are in error, since the Son does not even know when His Father will send Him.

The important fact in all this is that you must be prepared for His return. Verse 44 says, ***"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."*** We know that the world will be like it was in the days of Noah [verse 37] with life going on as usual. The days of Noah were so evil that God flooded the world and only 8 people escaped.

So, in conclusion, be prepared, but do not take to heart anyone that sets dates as to the Lord's return.