

## **T I M E    what is it?**

Aside from love, what is it that every living thing needs, and most every human wants more? Some do have more than others. We can't buy it, we can't sell it. We can't see it, can't touch it, can't smell it, can't eat it, we can't wear it, control or preserve it. We can't give it away, or trade it. The Bible has a lot to say about it. What is it?

IF you said TIME you were correct.

The Bible refers to:

T. of life, a long T., Many a T. T. of trouble, T. of the end, about the T., In or at that T. T. appointed, T. to come, T. to go, first and last T.

From T. to T., T. of day, T. of night, That T., This T. Same T., any T.,

Solomon had a lot to say about time: If we have time we will come back and read this later. (Ecc. 1:10, 3:1-8, 17 and 8:15.) Notice how many times we use the word time in our conversations.

Time is a set amount or period of our existence that certain events are appointed to happen. God's time is unlimited, but being mortal we have to have, and need to know our limitations. God has given us methods to determine how to count our time. He has given us twelve months for a year, 30 days for a month, four weeks for a month, seven days for a week, and 24 hours for a day. Within the hour we have 60 minutes and within the minute we have 60 seconds. He has taught us, by different methods, what He wants us to do with this assigned time. This is not "our" time. It belongs to Him, but He has given it to us as a temporary gift. We can shorten or lengthen it depending on how we respond to His rules and wisdom. However we know that our time is limited to around 100 yrs. or less.

Now we go to the time when God began calling a special family, Israel, to understand certain things about the gift of time. God introduced Israel to His calendar. How can we know when the first day of the first year actually started?

Just previous to the New Year of Ex. 12 we find in Ex. 9:31-32 that the flax and the barley was already in the head. But the wheat and the rye was not damaged because they were not developed enough to be effected. The New Year was not introduced until after the wheat and barley had developed and was already in the ear. With this understanding He introduced the New Year by showing that when the following new moon appeared the flax and barley would have matured enough to have been damaged. If on the other hand it was not seen the next new moon would begin the New Year. The first month of the year was named "Abib" which means tender new ears of barley (Ex. 13:4) . Had there not been a hail storm the barley would have been "in the ear". It had escaped the plague of the locust of Ex. 10:15 by still being in the ground but did not survive the hail storm of 9:24.

Biblical records show that by this method God introduced the recording of time to Israel in Ex. 12: 1-2 by showing the New Year would not start until the barley is in the ear. The first new moon that appeared after that would start the new year. The Hebrew word "Month" is "Chodesh" and is also the same word as "New Moon", so we see that the new moon was given to determine when a new month began. This was the practice that was still kept during the time of Christ. We know this because they were still keeping the holy days according to the time dates set by God during the time of Moses, otherwise Christ would have corrected them openly. Even though the Priests altered the keeping of the calendar, there are still some who holds to the original method of New Moon sightings to determine time.

God spoke through Moses to introduce His holy (times) days to Israel, according to the time of the New Moon. However Israel was in Egypt for four hundred and thirty years, (Ex.12:40) and had to be reeducated as to when His appointed time for the Sabbath and feast days begin (Ex. 16:4-30). He also reintroduced the seventh day Sabbath to Israel as a special sign by giving them manna on all days except on the seventh day. The Sabbath serves as a sign between God and His people. Ex. 31:17. Notice the thread of seven as it runs through God's plan. He appointed the Jewish priests to keep track of His special time which they were doing during the time of Christ's day. Even though many have since lost this information it still has been preserved even to our present time.

God has set extra special times, (which are Holy days, a time of convocation) the New Moon, (the first day of the month) and the Sabbath. The Feast of Trumpets is the fourth holy day of seven.

A quick over view of God's special seven times (Holy days) will allow us to glimpse into the shadow of His plans. Beginning in Lev. 23:1-44.

These seven days are God's special times, gifts from Him that allows us to take time to refresh our minds about Him and His awesome plans for us. 1-2) In different ages these times meant different things to the people of their time. The seven days of Unleavened Bread (Abib 14 & 21) have two holy days that teach about repentance and walking with God throughout our journey to eternal life.

First Day: To ancient Israel it meant the calling of a special family to repentance. It represented the giving of God's laws, animal sacrifices, priesthood, and circumcision, and His involvement with His special family throughout their age (thus the seven days). But it means the call to repentance and a new age of grace.

Last Day: The end of the age of the first covenant with physical Israel (the church in the wilderness) when the Messiah comes on the scene and takes the sins of man upon himself, making it possible for sins to be forgiven. A new age of Grace will begin with the sacrifice of the Messiah. Only Christ can take away the sins of mankind. Gal. 1:3-4. We can't take away our own sins. Mankind is still under the death penalty until he accepts the gift of the holy spirit, which had not been given until the day of Pentecost. Therefore, the days of unleavened bread does not signify our putting leavening (sin) out of our lives.

3) Pentecost (not always on the same date) which has to do with the time of Grace, and the gift of the Holy spirit to build God's ecclesia (church), spiritual Israel. This is the time period (age) that we live in. This age lasts from the time of the end of the church in the wilderness (end of the relationship between Christ and ancient Israel) till the return of the King of kings. It is the age of grace.

4. The feast of Trumpets introduces a new month but also shadows many future events of wars and distress on the earth as shown in Revelation's seven trumpets. Rev. 8:7-13, 9:1-21, 10:7-11, 19:11-15, 16:1-21).

#5.) Day of Atonement (Tisra 10) shadows the return of Christ when the saints will be given eternal life at their resurrection, and Satan's imprisonment. The fulfillment of the Gentiles during the rule of Christ and the saints for 1,000 years.

6) First day of Feast of Tabernacles (Tisra 15) shadows the end of the millennium and the release of Satan. We see the resurrection of the whole house of Israel, their backsliding and true conversion and the building of Christ's temple and the judgments of the nations as they are resurrected.

7) Last Great Day (Tisra 21) Lev.23:39) shadows the time when all things will be made new, no more death, the new city of Jerusalem coming down from heaven, etc. shown in the last chapters of Revelation 21 & 22.

Not only have we been given the understanding of these special times we also understand that God has given mankind, as a whole, seven time periods, known as "ages", to come to know Him. 1) time before the flood, which we know very little about, 2) time of the calling of Israel as a special peoples, and the giving of the laws, 3) our present time, the age of grace, from the appearance of Christ to his next coming, and the first resurrection 4) the imprisonment of Satan, the millennium reign, the fulfillment of the Gentiles, 5) the release of Satan, the resurrection of all Israel, God's vengeance toward Israel and Gentile nations, 6) Age of regathering of Israel, their cleansing, and building of the temple for Christ to dwell in. The resurrections of hordes of peoples and many judgments will be made. 7) Time when all things are made new. Rev. 21 & 22.

Paul had quite a lot to say concerning time. Talking about Israel during his time he says in Romans 11:2-5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

1 Corinthians 15:5-8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. {one...: or, an abortive}

2 Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation (a time of grace).

Galatians 1:13 For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

Galatians 4:1-4 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

Galatians But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, Galatians 5:19-23 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Ephesians 2:11-12 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

Colossians 3:5-7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. {withholdeth: or, holdeth}

1 Timothy 2:5-6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. {to...: or, a testimony}

1 Timothy 6:18-19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2 Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hebrews 1:5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

Hebrews 1:13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. {let...: Gr. run out as leaking vessels} Hebrews 4:7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Hebrews 9:8-10 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. {ordinances: or, rites, or, ceremonies} Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. {It...: or, For it is}

1 Peter 1:3-5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:9-11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

1 Peter 1:17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

1 Peter 2:9-10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 3:4-5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

1 Peter 4:2-3 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. {in old time: or, at any time}

2 Peter 2:1-3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

We know that the apostles were allowed to believe that Christ would return in their time and perhaps it was God's will that they thought that, however, we know that it is a long way off, but for us it could be just a few days at our death, and also for many of them too.

We must be Redeeming the time (improving our opportunity) because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:16 God has given us the gift of time so that we can use it to know him and with his help become perfected.

Edited 2013