



ACCM

Bible Study: Tuesday, July 16, 2019. TOPIC: Understanding God's Timing

Understanding God's Time Part 1

INTRODUCTION: It is often said in our world that **right timing is everything** and having the ability to know the exact time to act could be a game changer in the accomplishment of any endeavor in life. We have heard stories of men and women who **lived ahead of their time** (among whom are Plato and Leonardo Da Vinci), but then had difficulties communicating their ideas to the people of that times because they were misunderstood and consider insane.

Today's people have found themselves caught in a desperate desire to know "**what time it is**" not just in terms of the period of the day but more in connection with when to act on a certain matter. Our world is so often plagued by people who have a **poor sense of timing** and so create problems that could have been avoided or miss the opportunity to take advantage of a period or events.

Interestingly, of the three areas of our dealing with God (which includes **God's Plans, God's Ways and God's Timing**) that is considered to be complex, **God's Timing appears to be the most complex**. Many have sought to know the timing of God concerning an event or matter and have failed woefully, not because God is not interested in revealing his schedule to us, but He rather prefers to "**hold this card to His chest**" until the setting is appropriate. **Therefore having a clear understanding of how our time plays out in the Hands of God would give every Christian and indeed the whole world an insight into the Mind of God.**

The goal of this study would not be to understand when God will the things He chooses to do as this would certainly be beyond the comprehension of Man, but rather it would be **to understand those indicators that points towards a string of events which could tell us about the time in God's scheme which individually we find ourselves in.**

TEXTS: Genesis 15-16:1-6, 2 Kings 6:8-22, Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, Matthew 24.

Preamble Discussion:

1. What does Time mean to you?

Time is a dimension in which events can be ordered from the past through the present into the future, and also the measure of durations of events and the intervals between them. There are two type of time Chronos (numerical or chronological) and Kairos ("the right or opportune moment"). Psalm 102: 13

2. Is Time Reversible?

Time is generally not reversible. Once it is used up or spent, it can no longer be regained. Ecclesiastes 9:3-12 . However when we refer to specifics of Time, reversibility may then become possible. Job 42:10-17, Joel 2:25.

3. Why did Abraham listen to the advice of Sarah after his conversation with God?

The human body clock responds to times and season, and Abraham understood that the time for Sarah to have a child was past. He considered her suggestion the only logical way at the time of having children within wedlock. Genesis 16: 1-6

4. Why did God not tell Abraham exactly when Isaac would be born?

Giving Abraham exact timeline would defeat the purpose of Faith or believing in God because Faith is grounded in Hope. Romans 8:24-25, James 1:4-8

5. Why did it take God 25 years to manifest His Promise of Isaac to Abraham?

There was still a lot that needed to be built into Abraham in order to prepare him to receive the promise that God had made. Abraham had faith in God, but Faith does not exist isolation, it requires other ingredients in order to flourish. 1 Thessalonian 3:9-10, 2 Peters 1: 4-9; 3:8

Discussion :

What is consequence of no time at all?

- The world would be chaotic
- There would be disorder

- There would be no way to measure duration of events
- There would be no way to keep record of events

What is the implication of relying only on chronos time?

- Man would create a standard for measuring punctuality or timely. Genesis 8:22
- It would create a dependence on man's ability alone. Matthew 16:1-3
- It will cause humans to worry. Genesis 18: 9-15
- It can lead to emotional depression. Proverbs 13:12
- It could impact negatively on your faith in God. James 1:1-4
- It doesn't build the fruit of patience-Galatians 5:22

What is the difference between man's time and God's time?

- Man's time is governed by the seasons but God's time is governed by HIS Word. Ecclesiastes 2:1; Isaiah 55:10-11
- Man's time is limited to the realm he can see but God's time knows no bounds. Romans 11:33; Isaiah 55:8-9
- Man is controlled by his time but God controls HIS own time. Genesis 1:1
- Man's time ends where God's time begins John 2:4
- Man's time leads to weariness of the flesh but God's time builds Faith in HIM Proverbs 13:12
- Man's timing is based on "Head" knowledge but God's is based on revelation knowledge. Revelation 3: 18

Conclusion:

There is a strong contrast in the way God views time when compared to man. One is the universe of the set, while the other is a subset of the set. Unfortunately we find ourselves each day drawn solely to the subset, even when the Lord has granted us access to the universe. **It is crucial to our daily living to be able to distinguish both times, for only then would we understand which is defining the way we live our lives.** Amos 3:7; 1 Corinthians 2: 16