

A Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven

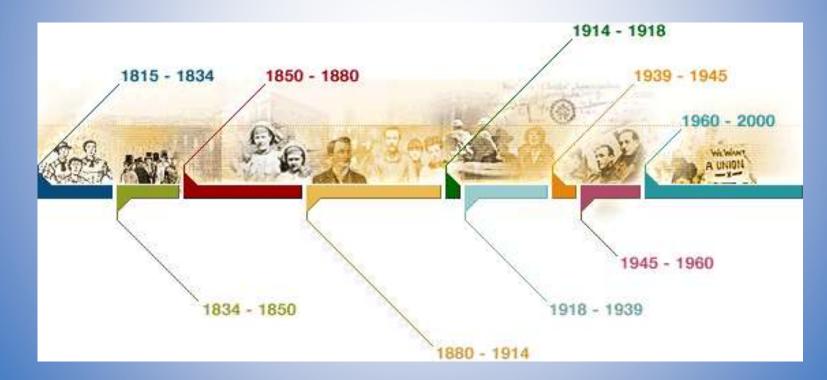
"What Time It Is" Defines Us

How we think, what we say and do, who we are is usually defined by what time it is:

- Seconds
- Minutes
- Hours
- Days
- Weeks
- Months
- Years

"What Time It Is" Defines Us

Time is both *linear***:**



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And cyclical:



"What Time It Is" Defines Us

Certain periods in our year are shaped by different *celebrations* and *holidays*:

- Birthdays
- Anniversaries

"What Time It Is" Defines Us

Certain periods in our year are shaped by different *celebrations* and *holidays*:

- Valentine's Day
- Easter
- Memorial Day
- Labor Day
- Halloween

"What Time It Is" Defines Us

Certain periods in our year are shaped by different *celebrations* and *holidays*:

- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- New Year's

"What Time It Is" Defines Us

We are defined by different *life stages*:

- Infancy
- Youth
- Adolescence
- Adulthood
- Middle Years
- Elder Years

What's The Biblical Perspective on Time?



The Biblical Perspective On Time

Periods of time or *Seasons* **in Scripture are most often connected to** <u>God's provision and his rule over</u> <u>creation</u>.

"If you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul..." (Deuteronomy 11:13-15)

The Biblical Perspective On Time

Periods of time or *Seasons* **in Scripture are most often connected to** <u>God's provision and his rule over</u> <u>creation</u>.

"He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil. And he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full." (Deuteronomy 11:13-15)

The Biblical Perspective On Time

Periods of time or *Seasons* **in Scripture are most often connected to** <u>God's provision and his rule over</u> <u>creation</u>.

Jewish Festivals:

- Passover (Unleavened Bread)
- Pentecost (Weeks)
- Rosh Hoshana (New Year)
- Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)
- Booths (Tabernacles)

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"The Bible...stresses not the abstract continuity of time but rather the God-given content of certain moments of history...God's purpose moves to a consummation...The Bible stresses 'times', the points at which God himself advances his purposes in the world...God's sovereignty extends also to the times of an individual life." – M.H. Cressey

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"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

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"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

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Important: <u>You</u> play a part in God's purposes in time!

"[God] made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, <u>having determined allotted periods</u> and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him." (Acts 17:26-27)



What time is it Where you are?

Are you in a time of testing and judgment?

"The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years." (Exodus 12:40)

"The LORD sent a pestilence on Israel from the morning until the appointed time." (2 Samuel 24:15)

Are you in a time of testing and judgment?

"When the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time." (Luke 4:13)

Are you in a time of testing and judgment?

"How long, O LORD? Will you hide yourself forever? How long will your wrath burn like fire? Remember how short my time is!" (Psalm 89:46-47)

Are you in a time of blessing?

"The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines." (Leviticus 25:8-11)

Are you in a time of blessing?

"In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

Is it time to speak?

"To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!" (Proverbs 15:23)

Is it time to abandon your own plans and pursue God?

"Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'" (Mark 1:14-15)

Is it time to grow up?

"Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food." (Hebrews 5:12)

Is it time to move on and pass the torch onto someone else?

"As David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, 'I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in his ways."" (1 Kings 2:1-3)

Is it time to wake up and take action?

"He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely. But he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully." (Proverbs 10:5)

Is it time to buckle down and persevere?

"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)



Trusting In God's Timing

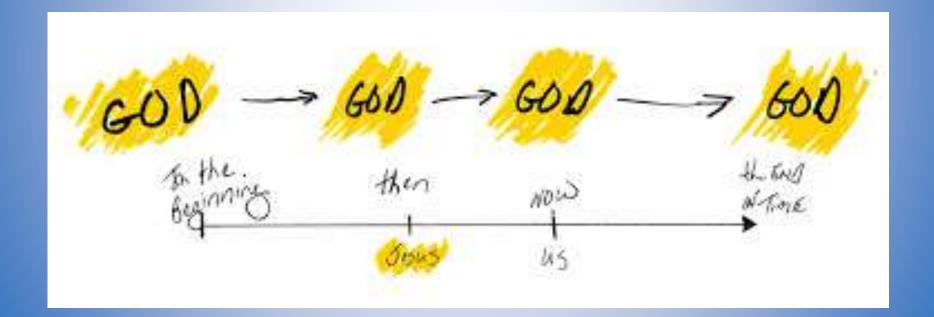
"In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD."" (1 Samuel 1:20)

Trusting In God's Timing

"As for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness." (Psalm 69:13)

Trusting In God's Timing

We must live in time within the context of eternity.



Trusting In God's Timing

We must live in time within the context of eternity:

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life." (John 3:36)

Trusting In God's Timing

We must live in time within the context of eternity:

"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18)

Trusting In God's Timing

We must live in time within the context of eternity:

"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season...For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths." (2 Timothy 4:2-5)

Trusting In God's Timing

We must live in time within the context of eternity:

"As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:2-5)



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