

## **Do You Know the Time?**

### **Part 1:**

#### **What is time?**

##### **God in Relation to Time**

- ❖ God is not limited to time – Rev. 1:8, 22:13; Gen. 1; John 1
- ❖ God has neither a beginning or end – He is God – Psa. 90:1-2; Rev. 4:8; 1 Tim. 1:17; Heb. 7:3
- ❖ God does not see time as we do – 2 Pet. 3:8; Psa. 102:12

##### **Temporal vs Eternal**

- ❖ Temporal – confined to time, changing, unstable – 2 Cor. 4:18; 1 Pet. 1:24; Mat. 5:18
- ❖ Eternal – beyond time, everlasting – 2 Cor. 5:1-11; Col. 3:2-17

##### **Why does time matter?**

- ❖ What you do in it (the temporal) will determine your eternal – Rom. 10:9-10

##### **How should we treat time?**

- ❖ Redeem it – Eph. 5:16-18; Col. 4:5; Psa. 139:16
- ❖ Respect it – James 4:14-15

##### **Some nuggets about time**

- ❖ Focus on the eternal – 1 John 2:17
- ❖ Respond while you can – Heb. 3:8-15; Psa. 95:8
- ❖ Lack of honor can shorten your days – Exo. 20:12; Deut. 5:16; Eph. 6:2-3

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### Part 2: Don't Let Them Frustrate Your Purpose

#### What is Purpose?

**God wants us to live in purpose and act on purpose** – Pro. 16:4; Eph. 2:10; 1 Pet. 2:19

- ❖ We must be intentional about our time and purpose – Eph. 4:15-17; Col. 4:5
- ❖ Be intentional in seeking God – Phil. 4:6-7

**God's purpose will be accomplished** – Job 32:2 (KJV & MSG); Isa. 14:24

**There is an ultimate purpose and a situational purpose** – James 1:3-4; Mat. 5:16; 2 Kings 5:15

**You shouldn't expect everyone to celebrate your purpose** – John 10:10; 1 Pet. 5:8-9

#### BACKGROUND

- ❖ Tells the story of Israel's journey with God...
  - **A promised (2 Sam. 7:14-16) yet disobedient people...**
  - **Caused them to be led into exile into Babylon**
    - God used Jeremiah and Ezekiel to prophecy of their restoration  
[Jer 29:10-13 KJV](#) For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. **(11) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.** **(12)** Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. **(13)** And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
- ❖ At the appointed time, God raises up prophets and leaders to bring Israel out of captivity, out of exile and back to Jerusalem...
- ❖ Were actually 3 returns: (3 deportations: 605, 597, 586BC)
  - Zerubabel – 50K; Cpts. 1-6; Haggai & Zechariah – 538BC - Rebuilding
  - Ezra – 1,700; Cpts. 7-10; Reforming back to covenant – 458BC
  - Nehemiah – 444BC Malachi – Restructuring walls...

- ❖ Given permission and resources by King Cyrus to rebuild temple – Ezra 1
  - Cyrus was prophesied 200 years prior – Isa 44:23-45:8
    - ➔ Before anything changes, God will send a prophetic Word
  
- ❖ Before rebuilding the temple, built an altar Ezra 3:1-7 even before the foundation had been laid (Ezra 3:6)
  
- ❖ **Nehemiah 4:**
  - **Adversaries try to stop the work**
    - **Disguised in religion – 4:2 (MSG)**
  - Zerubbabel, Jeshua and priests wouldn't allow them – 4:3
    - ➔ THE ENEMY DOES NOT STOP B/C YOU SAID NO...HE TRIES TO UNDERMINE AND SUPPLANT YOU BEFORE THE PEOPLE...
  - The people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building... – 4:4
  - **Tried to frustrate their purpose... 4:5 (KJV & MSG)**
    - Hired counselors (Propagandists)
    - Wrote letters
    - Some more ways people will attempt to frustrate your purpose:
      - Partner to prevent
      - Public support but private undermining
      - Death by procedure
      - Selective amnesia
      - Perpetual training

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### **Part 3: Move on with the Like-Minded**

- ❖ **What does it mean to be like-minded?**
- ❖ **In order to be like-minded, you must know where your mind is**
  - Self-evaluation of motives, methods and mission – Pro. 21:2; Pro. 16:2; Heb 4:12; Mat. 6:1-18
- ❖ **One of the greatest mistakes we can make is seeking bodies instead of seeking like-minded help when it comes to accomplishing our God-given assignments – Judges 7:1-7; Phil. 2:2-8, Rom. 12:16; Rom. 15:1-7**
  - Do they share your will to please God? Rom. 12:16
  - Do they respect and complement your assignment? Gen. 2:18
    - They value your vision
    - They don't waste your time
    - They know that God is in it and working through you – John 9:1-4
  - Do they have your sense of urgency? Num. 13:30
  - Do they share your passion for the work? Col. 3:23
  - Are they lazy? Examine their work. Prov. 24:30-34
- ❖ **We must realize that God provides us with everything we need to accomplish His will – 2 Kings 6:16-18; Phil. 1:6**
- ❖ **When we work together,**
  - God shows up – Mat. 18:20
  - We all are built up as we work for the Kingdom – Heb. 10:23-25
  - We are all supported – 1 Cor. 12:25-27

**BACKGROUND OBSERVATIONS FROM NEHEMIAH 1-4**

- ❖ Given permission and resources by King Cyrus to rebuild temple – Ezra 1
  - Cyrus was prophesied 200 years prior – Isa 44:23-45:8
- ❖ Now temple built, Ezra rebuilds the people, then comes Nehemiah to rebuild the walls...
- ❖ Nehemiah – comforter, was king's cupbearer...
- ❖ In a place called Shushan the palace – winter home...
- ❖ Neh. 1:2-3 Hanani told of state of Jews in Jerusalem
- ❖ Neh. 1:4-11 Nehemiah wept, fasted and prayed...
- ❖ Neh.2:2 Sad before the king...but given favor (vs. 5-6)
- ❖ Neh. 2:6: ...I set him a time...
- ❖ Neh. 2:10 Enemies grieved b/c a man seeks the welfare of the children of Israel...
  - Sanballat – Sin-uballit, Sin, the moon god has given life
  - Tobiah – good name but foul spirit, pleasing to Jehovah, but is an Ammonite, had great influence...
  - Geshem – firmness, Arab
  - They sent letters, laughed at them...
- ❖ **Neh. 2:20 Nehemiah had a made-up mind**

**Neh 2:19-20 KJV** But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard *it*, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What *is* this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king? (20) Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

- ❖ Chapter 3 – people get in place and start building...
- ❖ Chapter 4:
  - Vs. 1-3: Opposition
    - Mocked
    - Called feeble
    - Can they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish...
    - Fox can break down their stone wall...
  - Vs. 4-5: Nehemiah prayed
  - Vs. 6: they built b/c the people had a mind to work...

**SERMON APPLICATION FROM LAST WEEK**

If we are to rebuild the walls, we must have like-minded people who have a like mind to:

(1) Work – Neh. 4:6

(2) Worship – Neh. 4:9

(3) Watch – Neh. 4:9

(4) War – Neh. 4:20 – got to be willing to show up...

(5) Win, have a winning witness – Neh. 6:15-16 (KJV & MSG)

**Neh 6:15-16 KJV** So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth *day of the month* Elul, in fifty and two days. (16) And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard *thereof*, and all the heathen that *were* about us saw *these things*, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

**Neh 6:15-16 MSG** The wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul. It had taken fifty-two days. (16) When all our enemies heard the news and all the surrounding nations saw it, our enemies totally lost their nerve. They knew that God was behind this work.

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### **Part 4: In His Time**

- ❖ **What is time?**
- ❖ **God instituted time –**  
Gen. 1:3-5, 14-19; Psa. 90:2
- ❖ **Because God is not confined to time, He never becomes anxious –**  
Psa. 121:1-4, John 11:1-16;
- ❖ **Time has an assignment –** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Gen. 8:22; Rev. 21:1-6
- ❖ **Wisdom demands we appreciate and use our time wisely –** Psa 90:12; Col. 4:5; John 9:4
- ❖ **We should not be presumptuous concerning time**  
James 4:13-15; Mark 13:32; 1 Thes. 5:1-3
- ❖ **We must learn to respond to God's leading while we have time**
  - As it relates to salvation – Isa. 49:8; Isa. 61:2; Luke 4:19; 2 Cor. 6:2; Gal. 4:4-7
  - As it relates to His direction – Psa. 95:1-11; Heb. 3:7-19
  - As it relates to our calling – Esther 4:14
    - God will deliver His people but you may miss your opportunity to be used of God
- ❖ **A Passage to remember – John 4:43-54, Mat. 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10**
  - Regardless of what it looks like, bring it to Jesus – John 4:46-47
  - Our faith transcends time – Luke 7:9-10
  - It is done when Jesus speaks – John 4:52-53
- ❖ **God's timing is perfect –**
  - 2 Pet. 3:8-9; Lam. 3:25-26; Job 14:14; Pro. 3:5-6
- ❖ **Live now!** – Pro. 27:1; John 10:10
- ❖ **All things are made beautiful in His time –** Ecc. 3:11