

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

Psalm 88:1-2

- O LORD, God of my salvation,
I have cried out day and night before You.
- ² Let my prayer come before You;
Incline Your ear to my cry.

Psalm 91:1

- He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- ² I will say of the LORD, "*He is* my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust."
- ³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.
- ⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler.
- ⁵ You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow *that* flies by day,
- ⁶ *Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday.
- ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.
- ⁸ Only with your eyes shall you look,
And see the reward of the wicked.
- ⁹ Because you have made the LORD, *who is* my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,
- ¹⁰ No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
- ¹¹ For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.
- ¹² In *their* hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- ¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

- 14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;
I will set him on high, because he has known My name.
- 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;
I *will be* with him in trouble;
I will deliver him and honor him.
- 16 With long life I will satisfy him,
And show him My salvation."

UNDERSTANDING OF THE TIMES

John 2:2-12

*On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. ³ And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."
⁴ Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."
⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."
⁶ Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast."*

- **PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO ARE GOING THROUGH AND HAVE GIVEN OUT**
- **RUN OUT OF WINE**

Jesus' mother was a great intercessor

Vs 4

My time has not yet come

Eccl 3:1

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

Children of Ishchar

1 Chron 12:32

Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do

Times:

You see, the Greeks had three distinct concepts of time: *aion*, *chronos* and *kairos*.

- Personified as gods, Aion represented the everlasting eternity of the Greek Cosmos,
- The ages

Heb 11:3

By faith [that is, with an inherent trust and enduring confidence in the power, wisdom and goodness of God] we understand that the worlds (universe, ages) were framed and created [formed, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose] by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Chronos and Kairos

“Every kairos is a chronos, but not every chronos is a kairos.” — Hippocrates

- It seems simple enough on the face of it, but what does *time* really mean?
- If you’d asked an ancient Greek to define it, he would have asked you which aspect of time you were talking about.

Chronos

Chronos - chronological (linear) or sequential time:

- We measure it with clocks - Seconds lead to minutes, to hours to days, months, years
- It’s the perspective that governs our daily lives.
- We also identify with — occasions we call Christmastime and springtime, or when we talk of eras like or “Roman times”.

- whereas Chronos symbolized clock time

Kairos

Kairos is an Ancient Greek word meaning the right, critical, or opportune moment

Kairos signifies a proper or opportune time for action

- While chronos measures time in second, minutes, hours, days, months, and years – quantity
- Kairos – measures moments
- Ripe time
- Understanding of chronological time – leads to understanding of seasons and cycles
- It's a level of spiritual cognitive ability that can only be discerned in God's presence – by revelation
- It's about understanding the quality of time rather than the quantity of time
- Ancient Greeks made a distinction between quantity of time and its quality – between the chronos and Kairos

This can be best understand by the following questions:

- What time is it? – usually answered in chronological terms – Chronos
- What is it time for? Draws us closer to the meaning of Kairos.

In our present world – we live more in the Chronos – chronological world

- The concept of Kairos is lost
- The concept of – ***the appropriate time is lost***
- A time for an opportunity of a cycle
- Because we have lost the sense of Kairos – opportune time, we fail to seize critical moments or opportunities
- Because we are so fixated on the chronology of time – Chronos

Jesus' mother was not one tied to Chronology

- Chronology had it that - Jesus had to do a few things and wait for some time before he could do miracles - Chronos
- But his mother – **had understanding of Kairos – opportunity** – and she sensed one that required a miracle
- She sensed that something needed to happen – and she made a call – one that changed the entire wedding ceremony
- Therefore, she interrupted the chronos for a Kairos moment
- Today you and I - too can make a call in the spirit – that can change the whole trajectory of your life, your community and the world

Regarding our lives, community and the world

- The timeline for the scientists today– for a vaccine for COVID-19 to be available next year – chronos
- What is the Kairos?
- Kairos – is a moment when the time is ripe to take destiny in our hands and thereby effecting change – that no man can do
- One that requires – divine intervention – its touching heaven – saying – they’ve run out of wine down their do something now
- It may not be your timing God but right now, we need some wine – no time for the chronology

MORDOCIA

- Mordocia had understanding of Kairos – times

Esther 1:13

*Then the king said to the wise men who knew the times –
15. "According to the law, what is to be done to Queen Vashti, because she has not performed the command of King Ahasuerus delivered by the eunuchs?"*

- Vashti is removed from her status
- And a new queen is sought
- Mordocia senses a Kairos moment – positions his niece Esther – a Jew
- He always had his ears attuned to events
- He knew how to position himself

Est. 2: 21

In those days, as Mordecia was sitting at the king's gate

- He discovers a plot to kill the king

In chapter 3 – Hamman the top ranking official in the kingdom plots to exterminate the Jews

In chapter 4 – Mordecai – learns of this plot

- Takes action
- Although no one was allowed at the king's gate – he ventures there in sackcloth
- He inspires – mourning, fasting, weeping and lamenting among the Jews
- What is he doing at the gate? He wants to catch the attention of Queen Esther – who he had worked hard to put in the palace
- It was time to cash in on his investment – for he had seen far – knew that a time would come when they – the minority would need someone in proximity to power
- His only way to the heart of the kind was through Esther
- He sends a copy of the edict decreed in Susa for the destruction of the Jews

Esth 4: 8-9

It's shown to Esther with a command for her to go the king and beg for his favour and plead on behalf of her people

Esther's reply to Mordecia

Est 4:10-11 – it's not the time yet for anyone to go into the king's chambers

- She was still thinking in Chronos – linearly

Vs 12 – Mordcai's response

- In the kingdom at such a karios as this
- It's time to interrupt the Chronos
- Out with the law – requiring surmons from the king before an audience with him can be attained

- You set the time – because more is at stake here

In the Kingdom at such a time as this:

- Kairos is extraordinary time, requiring interpretation. The capacity to read the signs of the times—the kairos—and respond is an issue of faith.
- Kairos is a dangerous time. It is critical to recognize it, for if you allow it to pass the loss will be immeasurable. There is a burden or responsibility tied up in the recognition of the kairos.
- Kairos time is here. It calls for action, conversion and transformation—a change of life.
- Kairos is not just crisis but opportunity and favour. God assists us in discerning the kairos—a moment of grace.