

SET TIME

LESSON 1: GOD OF TIMES & SEASONS

God created times and seasons – Gen.1: 14; 104: 19; Dan.2: 21

God created times and seasons to guide our actions and activities – Gen.8: 22; Prov.6: 6-11

There is a time for everything – Eccle.3: 1-8; Gen.8: 22

Much of success or failure in life depends on right use of times and seasons – Ps.1: 1-3
e.g. Impotent man at the pool in Bethesda in Jn.5

There is a difference between human timing and God's timing – Deut.33: 27; Isa.55: 8-9; 2Pet.3: 8

Physical timing and spiritual timing are different too – Gen.8: 22; Jer.8: 7; Matt.16: 2-3; Lk.12: 54-56

Usually, we know a lot about physical timing but God doesn't always tell us about the timing of spiritual visitations or events – Mk.13: 32; Acts 1: 6-7

God sometimes gives us certain signs to guide us as per His time – Matt.24: 28; Lk.21: 25-27

God makes all things beautiful in His time – Eccle.3: 11

God's time is the best! So, we must trust His judgment and timing – Ps.31: 15

We must learn to wait for God's time no matter what – Ps.27: 14

However, while waiting, we must watch at the same time. We must be ready for God's visitation at any time – Matt.25: 13; Lk.12: 40; 2Tim.4: 2-4

LESSON 2: GOD'S SET TIME

There are all kinds of gods but none like our God – Exod.15: 11

He is the God of Israel and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ – Deut.33: 26; 2Cor.1: 3

He is the God who made heaven and earth – Ps.121: 1-2

He is the King of kings and Lord of lords – Deut.10: 17; Rev.Rev.19: 16

He is all-present, all-powerful, all-knowing and all-sufficient – Isa.40: 28; Heb.4: 13; Rev.19: 6

He knows and reveals hidden and secret things – Deut.29: 29; Dan.2: 28, 47

He is the Creator of times and seasons – Gen.1: 14; 8: 22; Ps.104: 19

He sets and controls times and seasons also – Dan.2: 21

So, set time is God's time or divinely set time – Ps.102: 13

Set time is the time of God's visitation – Gen.21: 1-2; 1Samuel 2: 21

God's set time is different from man's time –Deut.33: 27; Isa.55: 8-9; 2Pet.3: 8

Our set times are different one from another. My time is different from your time. It's a case of different strokes for different folks. Examples are:

1. Sarah – waited till old age to have a child – Gen.21: 1-2
2. Jacob & Esau – Gen.26: 34-35
3. Rachael and Leah – Gen.29: 31-35; 30: 1-2
4. Israel's 400years in Israel – Gen.15: 12-15
5. Even, the Lord Jesus Christ had His set time – Jn.2: 1-5

Our times as believers therefore are God's hands – Ps.31: 15

Usually, there is a period of prayer but a moment of answer – Acts 2: 1-4; Lk.24: 49

The major challenge of prayer is our ability to wait for that moment of answer from God.

So, we must be patient to wait for our set time – Ps.27: 14. Follow God's time and go at His pace. Learn a major lesson from David – 2Sam.5: 22-25. Following or going by other people's time is a major mistake or error and is the root of failure in life.

We must trust God absolutely and never be desperate for anything in life – 1Tim.6: 6

Also, we must compare ourselves with others or envy others – 2Cor.10: 12

LESSON 3: SET TIME FOR EVERYONE – Ps.102: 13

- i. Set time is God's time or divinely set time. God's set time is different from man's time - **Deut.33: 27; Isa.55: 8-9; 2Pet.3: 8**
- ii. Set time is fixed time (that is a time fixed or set by God)
- iii. Set time is a time of remembrance – **Ps.102: 13** e.g. **Noah in Gen.8: 1; Rachel in Gen.30: 22; The Israelites in Exod.2: 23-24 & Hannah in 1Sam.1: 19-20.** (Man may forget you but God does not forget e.g. **Chief Butler & Joseph in Gen.40: 20-23.** Even if men forget you, at set times, God would bring you into their remembrance or remind them about you e.g. **Mordecai & King Ahasuerus – Esther 6: 1-10**
- iv. Set time is due time, maturity, harvest & reward time – **2Chron.15: 7; Jer.31: 16**
- v. Set time is a time of divine visitation!
- vi. Set time is a time of favour – When favour comes – sins are forgiven, yokes are broken, deliverance comes, healings take place, man is uplifted, God is glorified, men are blessed and some people are upset
- vii. Set time is a time of manifestation – **Isa.60: 1-3; Rom.8: 18-19**
- viii. Set time is a time of newness when old things pass away – **2Cor.5: 17**
- ix. Set time is testimony time
- x. Set time could take many forms – **Eccles.3: 1-8.** It may not always be good or positive for some from human understanding or perspective but set time is a time when all things work together for the good of those who love God – **Rom.8: 28 even death! – Num.23: 10.** It is a time when all things turn out right, exact, appropriate, fitting, befitting & beautiful
- xi. Set time for the wicked could be a time of judgment – **Prov.11: 21** e.g. **Egyptians at the Red Sea & Haman**
- xii. Set time could also be opposition time – **2Cor.10: 3-5; Eph.6: 10-12; Jam.4: 7** e.g. **The Midianites and the Israelites**
- xiii. It is a case of different strokes for different folks. Our set times are different one from the other
- xiv. The challenge of set time therefore is the ability to recognize our own set time e.g. **Children of Issachar – 1Chron.12: 32; Jer.8: 7; Ps.32: 9**
- xv. Then, set time, much more, is a time for action. When God in His infinite grace and mercy decides to visit us at our set times, we must not be careless to take them for granted or despise such times; it is our duty and responsibility to take corresponding and appropriate actions at such times!

LESSON 4: PREPARING FOR SET TIME

– Gen.40: 1-23; 41: 1-46; Matt.24: 36

Set time is a time of divine visitation

Set time is a time of fulfillment of dreams

Set time is a time when the king comes or sends for us

Set time is a time of favour, reward & just recompense

Set time is a time of manifestation, elevation & promotion

Usually, we don't know when that time will be & so, don't have control over it

But we can always prepare ourselves & be ready for our set times

Joseph didn't know when God would visit him to fulfill his childhood, God-given dreams but he looked forward to it & prepared himself every time, all along for that time

We also should learn this all-important lesson from Joseph and always look forward to our set times and prepare ourselves for them

Important Lessons From Joseph In Preparing For Set Time:

- i. Avoid Sin & Practice Godliness – Gen.39: 7-9; Prov.14: 34
- ii. Acquire Relevant Education & Trainings; Get Necessary Knowledge & Skills – Eccles.10: 10; Prov.4: 7-9; 2Tim.2: 15. And Start Early Too – Ps.63: 1; Prov.8: 17; Ps.127: 4; Eccles.12: 1 e.g. Joseph, David & Jesus
- iii. Be Hard-working, Diligent & Resourceful – Prov.12: 24; 22: 29
- iv. Be Prayerful – Lk.18: 1; 1Thess.5: 17
- v. Feed on The Word of God – Josh.1: 8; Ps.119: 11; Matt.4: 4; Col.3: 16
- vi. Be Sensitive to Opportunities – Ps.32: 9; 62: 11
- vii. Be Willing to Volunteer to Give & Serve – Prov.11: 24-25; Lk.6: 38 e.g. Joseph, David & Daniel
- viii. Handle Present Job Well – Matt.25: 20-30; Lk.16: 10-12. Take your present job, position & disposition in life as a test from God.
- ix. Meet People, Network & Be Friendly – Prov.18: 24
- x. Be Hopeful, Joyful, Cheerful & Nice – Ps.100: 2; 2Cor.9: 7; Col3: 23

LESSON 5: THE ULTIMATE SET TIME – Gen.40: 1-22; Eccles.12: 1-8

Death is the common and certain end of all except for raptured saints (past & future) – Gen.3: 19; Job 34: 15; 2Sam.14: 14 e.g. Enoch, Elijah, 1Cor. .

I. What is death?

1. End of earthly life
2. Cessation of breathe
3. Giving up the ghost
4. Separation from our loved ones
5. When the soul returns back to God and the body to the dust – Ps.114: 17; Lk.12: 20
6. Beginning of eternity
7. Going home
8. A journey of no return – Job 16: 22

Just like we came with nothing at birth, at death, we take nothing with us -

Like birthdays, death days are fixed or set by God

Usually, He doesn't tell us when it would be

But God told some saints of old about their death

It is a honour and priviledge from God to know when death is coming

II. Some of those who knew about their death:

1. Chief Butler and Baker – Gen.40
2. Moses – Gen.31: 14
3. Jacob – Gen.49: 1, 29-33
4. King Saul – 1Sam.28
5. King David – 1Kg.2: 1-2, 10
6. King Hezekiah – 2Kg.20
7. The Lord Jesus Christ – Matt.26: 31-32

Death still remains a mystery and challenge to man. Imagine what would happen or what the world will look like if men don't die!

Death is the other side of life. We cannot truly live a meaningful life if we don't always think and talk about death – Eccles.7: 2

Death could be fearful without understanding – Job.18: 14

But fear has torment; fear is not of God – 1Jn.4: 18; 2Tim.1: 7

Jesus tasted of death in order to remove fear from it – Heb.2: 14-15

We are like beasts if we go to death without understanding – Ps.49: 12 & 20

Only children of God and believers in Christ Jesus can understand death and face it boldly and confidently without fear – 1Cor.15: 54-58

The Bible teaches clearly that life is not over when death comes; when the act is finished, the play goes on

For a child of God, death is only a passage to glory, rest and reward

III. Some truths about death:

1. How, when, why and where are not important
2. Manner of burial has no impact on our eternal destiny
3. Prayer for the dead is useless
4. There is judgment after death – Heb.9: 27; Rom.14: 12
5. It is not how long but how well

IV. What should be our attitude as Christians to death?

1. Think about it
2. Talk about it
3. Pray about it
4. Look forward to it e.g. Simeon – Lk.2: 29; Jesus – Lk.22: 15-16; Paul – 2Cor.5: 8; Phil.1: 20-23
5. Plan and prepare for it

V. Practical ways to prepare for death:

1. Accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour – Jn.3: 3, 5-7; Mk.8: 36
2. Labour for heavenly rewards by investing your life for God – Eccels.9: 10; Matt.6: 20-21; Gal.6: 9
3. Always be ready. Never procrastinate. Live every day as if it would be the last – Matt.24: 44; Lk.12: 32; Jn.9: 4; Phil.4: 15; Jam.4: 13-15
4. Keep a short account with God and travel light. Avoid every distraction and excess luggage or baggage – Rom.13: 8; 1Tim.6: 6-12; 1Cor.9: 25; 1Jn.1: 9
5. Live wisely and give no cause for regrets at the time of death – Ps.90: 12; Jn.14: 30; Acts 23: 1; 24: 16; 2Tim.4: 7; 2Cor.8: 21.

VI. Conclusion: To die well is to live well!