

AN APPOINTED TIME FOR EVERYTHING

INTRO

- This is the time of the year when we review what has happened previously and think about what might happen in the next year and future.
- God is eternal and there is no beginning or end with Him.
- All of eternity is in His hands, yet time is important.

Eccl 3:1-2

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven--

2 A time to give birth and a time to die;

- The date of one's birth is important, and it is one of the first things we teach our children is their age.
- The date of one's death, even though the living do not know, it is a settled day.

Heb 9:27

27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

GOD AND TIME

THE BIBLICAL DESCRIPTION

Job 36:26

26 "Behold, God is exalted, and we do not know Him; The number of His years is unsearchable.

Ps 90:1-2

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

2 Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

1 Tim 1:17

17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORKS OF GOD IN TIME

Roland McCune: "God's relationship to time is very difficult to understand. Time is understood as a unity of measurement marked by a succession of events."¹

- God's plan is worked out in the world by specific timed events, not haphazardly.

¹ McCune, Roland, *A Systematic Theology*; Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, Detroit, MI. Vol. I, p. 233

- The creation of the world and the surrounding universe were created in a timely manner.

SPECIFIC DAYS

Gen 1:5

"... And there was evening and there was morning, one day."

Ex 20:11

"For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy."

- The exact day of the flood is noted by God in His word.

Gen 7:11

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened."

- The exact day of Christ's return is also fixed on a certain day and hour.

Matt 25:13

13 "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour."

HISTORIC DATES EDGED IN ROCKS AND TABLETS

2 Chron 36:10

At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon with the valuable articles of the house of the LORD, and he made his kinsman Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

2 Chron 36:19-21

19 Then they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles.

20 Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

21 to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept sabbath until seventy years were complete.

- The exact date the walls of Jerusalem were ruptured is recorded in history on a stone tablet: **July 18, 586 B.C.**
- The length of this captivity was determined by God to be 70 years because they did not keep sabbath year.

Lev 25:3-4

3' Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its crop,

4 but during the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD; you shall not sow your field nor prune your vineyard.

2 Chron 36:23

23 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!'"

- The exact day of the permission to rebuild Jerusalem is also recorded in secular history: **March 14, 445 B.C.**

THE PREPARATION FOR DANIEL'S PROPHECY**Dan 9:2**

2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

Jer 25:11-13

11' This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

12 'Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,' declares the LORD, 'for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation.

Dan 9:19

19 "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

THE DIVINE TIME AND PLAN OF GOD FOR ISRAEL

- The angel Gabriel comes with a plan that takes Israel from her captivity to the reign of the Messiah.

Dan 9:24

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.

- Daniel is not thinking in terms of days, but in terms of years, "I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD." [70 X 7 = 490 yrs.]
- As Gabriel delineates the years, in 3 parts, one for 7 years, and one for 62 years making a total of 69 weeks of years.

Dan 9:25-27

25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

- There is a gap between the 69th week of years and the 70th week of years, "**then after.**"

26 "**Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing,** and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

- After **March 14, 445 B.C.** when the decree was issued by Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem and the Messiah's being cut off was 483 years or 173,880 days.
- The end of these days takes us to **April 6, 445 A.D.**
- No wonder that Jesus prophesied His rejection and the destruction of Jerusalem which happened in 70 A.D.

Luke 19:41-44

41 When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it,

42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

43 "For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side,

44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

- The Temple mount was captured and the Temple destroyed in August 70 A.D.
- The 70th and final week of Daniel's prophecy is yet to come.
- After the crucifixion, resurrection, and before the ascension of Christ Jesus, He gave these commands to His disciples.

GOD'S PLAN FOR US TODAY

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH AGE

THE NEW PARADIGM

Matt 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, " All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 " Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Acts 1:8

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

THE DAY OF PENTECOST**Acts 1:6-8**

6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

THE REVEALED MYSTERY OF THIS AGE REVEALED**Eph 3:2-6**

2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;

3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

THE LENGTH OF THIS AGE

Acts 15:13-18

After they had stopped speaking, James answered, saying, "Brethren, listen to me.

14 " Simeon has related how God first concerned Himself about taking from among the Gentiles a people for His name.

15 "With this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written,

16'AFTER THESE THINGS I will return, AND I WILL REBUILD THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID WHICH HAS FALLEN, AND I WILL REBUILD ITS RUINS, AND I WILL RESTORE IT,

17 SO THAT THE REST OF MANKIND MAY SEEK THE LORD, AND ALL THE GENTILES WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME,'

18 SAYS THE LORD, WHO MAKES THESE THINGS KNOWN FROM LONG AGO.

- The Second Coming of Christ is in two parts, **first** the Lord comes for the believers in the church age and meets the resurrected saints and the living saints in the air.

1 Thess 4:16-18

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

THE RETURN OF CHRIST TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES
THE PREPARATION FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

- The beginning of the 70th week of years.

Dan 9:27

27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many **for one week**, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

- The "he" of this verse is antecedent of "the prince who is to come"
 This is the future antichrist of NT prophecy, especially identified in the Book of Revelation as— **Rev 13:1-6**

1 John 2:18

18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.

1 John 4:3

3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

THE SECOND RETURN OF JESUS TO THE EARTH**Zech 14:2-4**

2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

APPLICATION

- What is one of the hottest battlegrounds on the international scene?
- Israel and her future.
- In light of the worlds hatred of the Jews and the desire to destroy this nation, some world leader needs to sign a 7 year protection so she can rebuild her Temple.
- Recall the saying of the unbelievers, "From the river to the sea."

Ps 90:10

As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years.

[70 X 365 = 25,550 days]

[80 X 365 = 29,200 days]

Ps 90:12

12 So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.