

Why Does Time Matter in God's Plan?

Ecclesiastes 3:1: (NASB) *There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.*



Life is often measured by time. Our society is hyperfocused on immediate gratification, which means we do not want to have to wait; we do not want to have time pass before we get what we want. We have scheduled events, appointments, work hours, lunch breaks and periods for sleep. All of these things are time-driven. We celebrate birthdays, holidays and vacations, all of which are driven by the calendar - a tool for measuring time. With such a complete dependency on the clock, what would make us think God's plan for humanity is any different? How often do we hear people complain, "If God exists and is all-powerful, why doesn't He...?" Let's look at time, seasons and ages and what parts they play in God's master plan.



Ecclesiastes
is a book written by a man
who had everything and
ended up using it
all for himself.

We will begin by taking a look at the background of Ecclesiastes and Solomon.

(Source: Notes from John A. Meggison) In the book of Ecclesiastes we have an important question raised, considered in various aspects and answered from the standpoint of a wide and varied experience.

Ecclesiastes 1:3: (NASB) *What advantage does man have in all his work which he does under the sun?*

.... all would do well to carefully consider it in the light of Solomon's experience and with the prayer of the Psalmist in their hearts.

Psalms 90:12: (NASB) *So teach us to number (value) our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.*

He was one of the most successful men, from the world's standpoint, that ever lived. He had all the comforts and blessings that wealth, and power, and honor, and fame, and natural qualifications of mind and body and education and even specially granted superhuman wisdom could bestow upon him. And all these he used chiefly for his own personal gratification. (Ecclesiastes 2:1-10)

We will be focusing on the third chapter of Ecclesiastes which emphasizes times and seasons for everything.

In Chapters 3, 4 and 5, Solomon gives us the results of his wide experience and observation, from a business and social standpoint.

We will begin our look at Ecclesiastes 3 by viewing some of its conclusions later in the chapter.



Ecclesiastes 3:16: (NASB) *Furthermore, I have seen under the sun that in the place of justice there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness (this sounds like today).*

Solomon uses the phrase - *under the sun* - frequently. He is saying, "Wherever we look, there is wickedness instead of justice and righteousness."

These are common scriptural observations which always point out the inequities of how the world works.

The following two texts reiterate the challenge, beginning with those who have authority:

Psalms 58:1-2: (NASB) *¹Do you indeed speak righteousness, O gods (men who have great authority)? Do you judge uprightly, O sons of men? ²No, in heart you work unrighteousness; On earth you weigh out (calculate) the violence of your hands.*

It is a selfish and evil world.

Isaiah 59:14-15: (NASB) *¹⁴Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; For truth has stumbled in the street, and uprightness cannot enter. ¹⁵Yes, truth is lacking; and he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey. Now the LORD saw, and it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice.*

God sees this lack of justice in the world.



I have jury duty next Monday. How do we go there and hear information when we know there are lies and corruption?

That is interesting because my wife, Trish, just finished jury duty several weeks ago. One of the things she learned was people hear things differently. We are not in the time yet for everyone to understand God.



Solomon, even in his questioning state of mind, does give hope in the next verse:

Ecclesiastes 3:17: (NASB) *I said to myself, God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man, for a time for every matter and for every deed is there.*



God's timing for the fulfillment of His Plan is not obvious; therefore, it is commonly and often mockingly overlooked.

People mock God when they do not see answers. It needs to be God's timing.

Now we have a sense of the bigger picture. Solomon seems to be saying we are essentially powerless beings.



As we look into God's Master Plan, why are we using the perspective of a man who lost his way?

The life of Solomon is fascinating. His favor in God's eyes led to his great wisdom, but he eventually lost his godliness. What we see in Ecclesiastes are solid observations from a man who could perceive much but was not disciplined and obedient enough to fully use what he observed. It is a story about God's timing.

In between our Ecclesiastes study we will be taking a look at one of the reviews of the top 10 inventions of all time.

 **#10: Paper, #9: The Compass, Top 10 Greatest Inventions of All Time, watchmojo.com**

- Welcome to watchmojo.com, and today we're counting down our picks for the top 10 inventions of all time. #10: Paper. One of the Chinese people's Four Great Inventions, paper was invented and developed in the 2nd century BC by the Han dynasty. The idea eventually traveled to Europe, where paper mills began manufacturing the product on a larger scale. Without paper, the printing press would never have been invented, and our world would be very different. We would not have maps, paper currency or books to disperse information. Its impact is truly endless. #9: The Compass. Before the compass, sailors depended on landmarks or even the stars to navigate their ships. But once the Chinese began using lodestones and magnetism to find their bearings between the 9th and 11th centuries, it quickly spread to the Arab world and to Europe. This not only made circumnavigation of the globe easier, it also made it safer, which kicked off the Age of Discovery.



Proverbs 8:27: (KJV) When He prepared the heavens, I was there: when He set a compass upon the face of the depth.

God set the directions in place.

(Source: The Expositors Bible Commentary) Ecclesiastes 3: If the true good is not to be found in the school where wisdom utters her voice, nor in the garden in which pleasure spreads her lures: may it not be found in the market, in devotion to business and public affairs? The preacher (Solomon) will try this experiment also. He gives himself to study and consider it.

Ecclesiastes 3:1: (NASB) There is an **appointed time <2165>** for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven:

Appointed time: Strong's #2165 *zeman*; an appointed occasion

Jesus verifies this thought of carefully appointed times:

Matthew 16:1-4: (NASB) ¹The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. ²But he replied to them, when it is evening, you say, it will be fair weather, for the sky is red. ³And in the morning, There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening. Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the **times <2540>**? ⁴An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah. And he left them and went away.



Jesus was telling the Pharisees and Sadducees they could look at the sky and discern weather but *cannot discern the signs of the times*. We should not need a sign if we are looking with godly eyes.

Times: Strong's #2540 *kairos*; of uncertain affinity; an occasion, i.e. set or proper time



**God works carefully, and specifically
uses time as a precision tool.**

God's timing of the eternity of earth is a precision tool which we will unveil as we continue.



God's timing can make things look bad!

Ecclesiastes 3:2: (NASB) *A time to give birth and a time to die...*

Jesus' own path shows how timing was a major factor in bringing the Messiah to Israel:

Luke 1:30-31: (NASB) ³⁰The angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

The people were in expectation for the Messiah at the time of Jesus' birth.

It was not just God who saw the timing, but the people had been in expectation as well:

Luke 3:15: (NASB) Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he was the Christ,

Finally, the timing of the death of Jesus was just as precise as his birth:

John 13:1: (NASB) Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that his hour had come that he would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Jesus was pictured as the sacrificial lamb at the Passover. Jesus was the lamb slain before the foundation of the world - now that is perfect timing! (Revelation 13:8)

In that prophecy, God was showing a world-changing event. The Passover was a signal that was given generations before. We see the timing of Jesus' birth and his death - *A time to give birth and a time to die.*

... A time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted.





Abraham was literally shown where his unborn family was to be planted:

Genesis 12:1: (NASB) *Now the LORD said to Abram, go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you;*

Jesus pronounced Israel's desolation, but only when the time for it was coming:

Matthew 23:37-38: (NASB) *³⁷Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!*

Essentially, the *time to plant* prophetically given to Abraham was the time to uproot. In AD 70, there was the scattering of Israel throughout the world, and they remained scattered for a long time.



God's timing is difficult to read if we are looking closely at just the moment.

Take a piece of newspaper and put it two inches in front of your eyes and see how many words you can read. If you hold it further away, you can see more words. When we look at our life right in front of us, we get confused because we are only seeing the present moment, not God's timing. There is something bigger than just our moment.

**When thinking about God's timing, it is easy to get lost in the details.
What does the BIG picture look like?**

As Solomon continues to observe the inevitabilities of life, we are working to build a case for these truths to show us a deeper glimpse into the mind of God.

Let's go back to the top 10 greatest inventions.



#8: Refrigeration, #7: The Printing Press, Top 10 Greatest Inventions of All Time, watchmojo.com

- **#8: Refrigeration.** Though ice was used since prehistoric times to prevent food from spoiling and developing bacteria, the concept of refrigeration was only developed in earnest starting in the mid-1700s. The process was then refined and improved, changing the way the food industry transports and stores food. The implications of this discovery are far-reaching, as it transformed the way we eat and live. **#7: The Printing Press.** Though Johannes Gutenberg is credited with this invention, he actually perfected and popularized existing technology. By combining the Chinese principle of movable type with European press systems already in use for winemaking, Gutenberg created the machine that printed text on a wide scale, which in turn lowered the price of books and help spread information and knowledge to the masses spurring the Reformation, the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution.



It is interesting that the printing press spurred the Reformation. The word of God could then be printed and read by the common man.

The next two verses show us a reversal. Instead of ending with a negative, like death and uprooting, they now end with a positive! This is seen through the eyes of God's timing.



God's timing shows us the BIG picture!

Ecclesiastes 3:3: (NASB) *a time to kill and a time to heal...*

Death comes to us all and it began with father Adam's disobedience:

Genesis 2:16-17: (NASB) ¹⁶The LORD God commanded the man, saying, From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.

The rules and guidelines were set - disobedience brings death.

Jesus - the "second Adam" - came as a healer, giving a glimpse of what would come in due time:

Luke 6:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷ ...and there was... a great throng of people... ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. ¹⁹And all the people were trying to touch him, for power was coming from him and healing them all.

...A time to tear down and a time to build up.

Jesus revealed the timing and nature of the trouble ahead for his disciples at his first advent:

Matthew 24:1-2: (NASB) ¹Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when his disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to him. ²And he said to them, Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.





...A time to tear down - Jesus was showing us in God's timing these magnificent structures would be destroyed.

This destruction would be immense (in AD 70) and yet, the risen Jesus later reveals the power of reconstruction:

Revelation 21:1-2: (NASB) ¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

The *sea* here is not literal. It symbolizes the restless masses of humanity. The restlessness will disappear and the holy city, the new Jerusalem, (a picture of the true church in its glorified form) will be with Jesus eternally - *a time to build up*.

 **No more remotes to lose, What Things Will Disappear in Just 20 Years, Bright Side**

- *Say goodbye to remote controls. Losing the remote control under the couch will soon be a thing of the past. Won't that be nice? Why would you need to dig for the remote control when you can speak to your tablet and tell it to turn the TV on and play your favorite show? We already use smart home technology to turn our lights off and on, to reserve a table at a restaurant and to control the temperature in our home. We can project video wirelessly from our phones to our TV. Some cable companies have created smartphone apps to control your cable. Remote controls will become obsolete, as our tablets and smartphones will be able to accomplish the same tasks.*



Remember when there were no remote controls and you had to get up and go turn off the TV? Most of us do not even know how to change the channel without a remote. Technology is growing at an amazing pace.

Ecclesiastes 3:4: (NASB) *A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.*

Things may look negative, but in God's big picture they become positive.

Weeping and mourning are everyone's experiences. At these times, laughter and dancing are foreign:

Jeremiah 31:15-16: (NASB) ¹⁵Thus says the LORD, A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. ¹⁶Thus says the LORD, Restrain your voice from weeping And your eyes from tears; For your work will be rewarded, declares the LORD, and they will return from the land of the enemy.

This was the prophecy of the slaughter of the infants in Bethlehem when Herod was informed a king would be born. There was deep weeping and mourning over the innocent children.





Weeping and mourning are part of everyone's lives. In God's time, we are assured these things will be washed away and become things of the past:

Revelation 21:3-4: (NASB) *³And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.*

We did a podcast on the Tabernacle in November 2019 with our guest, Tom Ruggirello. The Tabernacle was a portable temple for the Israelites where God communicated with them. Revelation 21 is showing the beauty of the ability to communicate with the Creator and it will be available to all.

In God's timing all sadness, grief and trouble will end and there will be something great and wonderful at its conclusion.

In Jesus' first advent there was talk about the good things to come, but he was remembered for his death and suffering. The returned Jesus brings all of the goodness. Jesus did not forget his mission; it was just not God's timing.

For more on the Tabernacle, please search our archives for Ep. 1099, [Should Christians Care About the Jewish Tabernacle?](#)



**God's plan of necessity
passes through the experiences of
death, destruction, crying and mourning.**

**It is our privilege to observe these things as merely
temporary conditions that will be eradicated in God's own time.**

Seeing the big picture really helps to increase our faith. Now we need to steel our will to see our own part through.

**With a view of the big picture in place, what is our responsibility?
What should we be doing with it?**

Understanding God's use of time is tricky. We can accept there are good things to come in the future, but that is actually the smallest part of our responsibility. The big question should be, with my belief in God's timing in place, am I playing the role He has given me now, at this present time? We need to look in the mirror and ask, "What am I doing with my belief in God's timing, and am I doing what God expects me to do?"





🔊 #6: Plumbing, #5: Medicine, *Top 10 Greatest Inventions of All Time*, watchmojo.com



- **#6: Plumbing.** *The landscape of major cities would be drastically different without this innovation - after all, how would a high-rise exist without modern plumbing? Evolving from holes in the ground, to chamber pots, to outhouses and eventually to flush toilets as early as the 31st through the 26th centuries BC, the development of plumbing improved living conditions for millions of people across the globe and lengthened our lifespans. #5: Medicine.* Many medicines and vaccinations have extended and changed our lives significantly. Discovered by accident by Alexander Fleming, penicillin was the first group of drugs that fought illnesses like syphilis and strep infections. On the other side of the spectrum, since they were introduced to the public in the 1960s, contraceptives such as the birth control pill, helped level out the global population and launched a revolution in social change.



Please see the Bonus Material for the top four inventions.



God's timing shows us personal privilege - the call of the church (the followers of Christ).

Ecclesiastes 3:5: (NASB) *A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones...*

My Uncle Steve was a wonderful Christian and my mentor. Along with my parents, he taught me what it was like to be a Christian. He loved stones and archeology. He told me stones are precious and tell a story.



Israel had exclusive opportunity to be Jesus' followers and they rejected him.

Prophecy:

Isaiah 5:1-2: (NASB) *¹Let me sing now for my well-beloved a song of my beloved concerning His vineyard. My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill. ²He dug it all around, removed its stones, and planted it with the choicest vine. And He built a tower in the middle of it and also hewed out a wine vat in it; Then He expected it to produce good grapes, but it produced only worthless ones.*

This prophecy pictures the call to be a follower of Jesus. *He dug it all around, removed its stones - this was done so the vines could have deep roots and produce wonderful fruit - But it produced only worthless ones.*

The nation of Israel rejected Jesus. He gave them the chance. The throwing away of stones provided great opportunity. Fast-forward to the opportunity being given to us.

God's timing is such that Gentiles were also given opportunity. We can be a part of God's temple:

Ephesians 2:19-22: (NASB) *¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*





Jesus is pictured as *the chief cornerstone*, and his followers are building stones being gathered and *fitted together* in God's temple (not a literal building) to bless the world. God's timing shows us there is *a time to gather stones*. We are given the chance because Israel rejected the opportunity.

God's timing takes time.

The discipline of the church (the followers of Christ).

Ecclesiastes 3:5: (NASB) ...A time to embrace and a time to shun embracing.

There is a specific sobriety that comes to those who are called to live a *sanctified* life. We need to manage our lives by managing our desires in the context of the time we are given.

Merriam-Webster:

Sanctified: verb

to set apart to a sacred purpose

1 Corinthians 7:5: (NASB) *Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

1 Corinthians 9:25: (NASB) *Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.*

There is discipline required to answer the call. We need to work.

Let's look at more changes with technology.

 **No more keys, What Things Will Disappear in Just 20 Years, Bright Side**

- *Bye bye keys. Keys will soon become a relic. In the distant future your grandkids might go through your drawer and find a small metal object. They'll bring it up to you and say, "What's this, Grandpa?" And you'll say, "Keep out of my drawers, you little whippersnapper!" No, you'll tell them about a time when people used keys and the adventures that ensued when you lost them, left them in the car or locked yourself out of your house. Companies are trying to create more secure and efficient security systems. Just imagine being able to command your car or apartment to open by using your voice, an app on your car, a retinal scan or your DNA. Wait, how's that? You swab your cheek and the door opens?*



The work of the church (the followers of Christ).

Ecclesiastes 3:6: (NASB) *A time to search and a time to give up as lost...*

Our personal time management relies heavily on our determining what to search and what to leave:

2 Timothy 2:15-16: (NASB) ¹⁵*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.* ¹⁶*But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness,*





We need to diligently study and search the word of God; find the truth and make it our own. Give up worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness.



Ecclesiastes 3:6: (NASB) ...A time to keep and a time to throw away.

1 Thessalonians 5:18-22: (NASB) ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit; ²⁰do not despise prophetic utterances. ²¹But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.



The present time in God's Plan is focused on the development of Jesus' footprint followers. Our time is precious in God's sight and must conform to His will and time!

If God can manage the timing of eternity, we certainly ought to be able to manage the time we are given.

**We have the big picture and personal privilege.
Now, what do future times look like in God's Plan?**

The entire matter of God's timing comes down to this: the world is presently a mess and looks like it will get worse by the day. How does God plan to break things down and redo them so all will fit into His design? The next two verses in Ecclesiastes 3 show us a powerful answer to this question.

God's timing shows us His true intentions and His true results.

Ecclesiastes 3:7: (NASB) A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; ...

When God has an intention, it is not just a desire; it is actually a fact that has not revealed itself yet.

The power of God's timing reveals the true meaning of His plan - a need to end and tear apart the present reign of sinful man:

Psalms 46:1-3: (NASB) ¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah.





MOUNTAINS ARE SYMBOLS
OF GOVERNMENTS.

SEAS REPRESENT THE
RESTLESS MASSES OF HUMANITY

Verse 2 refers to the governments of man falling into the heart of the sea (restless masses.) The emotions of man - *the heart of the sea* - are starting to run things rather than justice, righteousness and mercy. The heart of the restless masses is overtaking the governments. This is all in God's timing.

This undoing of the reign of man makes room for the establishment of the true kingdom of God.

Now, let's look at a time to sew together:

Isaiah 11:9-10: (NASB) ⁹*They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (the people).* ¹⁰*Then in that day the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and his resting place will be glorious.*

The earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea - the people will no longer be restless.

The *root of Jesse* is THE Christ - including the "called-out" ones. The people will turn to them for guidance and direction. The called-out ones are to become ministers of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18: (NLT) *And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.*

Jesus provided the ransom price and those faithful ones who follow after Jesus will be with him in heaven. At the proper time - the Day of Judgment - the reconciliation bought by Jesus' ransom price will be put in place.

The mountains of man's governments will be replaced with the mountain of God's kingdom run through Jesus and his true church - *A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; ...*

Ecclesiastes 3:7: (NASB) *...A time to be silent and a time to speak.*

All things are not meant to be spoken of at all times.

God's timing allowed certain mysteries to be revealed before others. That is why Jesus spoke in parables. It was not time for everyone to understand. Those who could not understand were not being cut off from salvation. It was not their time for salvation.

For more on the two parts of salvation, please search our archives for Ep. 1086: Are Jesus' Ransom and Our Salvation the Same? And Ep. 1050: What Does it Mean to Be Saved?





God's plan did not make plain the call to heaven until Jesus had paid the ransom price.

Colossians 1:26-27: (NASB) ²⁶*that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,* ²⁷*to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

The Apostle Paul often addressed his letters to the *saints* - a group of faithful called-out ones.

Much later in God's timing, deep prophecies given in silence were now able to be spoken of later:

Daniel 12:4: (NASB) *But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.*

Since the late 1800s knowledge and transportation have exploded.

In 2004, we did a program on the End Times with our special guest, David Stein. Please search our archives for Ep. 326: When Do the "End Times" Begin?

It is *time to speak* now because we are in the midst of this incredible explosion of knowledge. That is a sign of the return of Jesus.

 **No more signatures, What Things Will Disappear in Just 20 Years, Bright Side**

- *Farewell, signatures. In the future, all you'll need to sign an important document will be your face. "Okay buddy, just dip your nose in the ink and kind of move your head around right here. That's it. Perfect. Here you go." No, it's actually facial recognition technology which can identify a person from a digital image. It's used in all sorts of areas from social media where they tag someone automatically, to law enforcement agents used to track criminals. In the future, your face will be your digital signature. Privacy concerns aside, it will certainly be convenient.*



Technology has grown into a big part of our lives, and we cannot live without it. We are at those times where things are wonderful and falling apart at the same time.

Ecclesiastes 3:8: (NASB) *a time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace.*

We started our conversation today with the question from **Ecclesiastes 1:3** - *What advantage does man have in all his work...?* We are ending our conversation with **Ecclesiastes 3:9** - *What profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils?* We have come full circle from where we began in showing the value of serving and working for the Lord.





God's timing emphatically delineates when Jesus returns to usher in restoration to that which was lost:

Acts 3:19-21: (NASB) ¹⁹Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; ²⁰and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

The heavens had to hold Jesus back until the (times) *period of restoration*.

God's timing emphatically delineates when the ending of hate and war will happen:

Micah 4:3: (NASB) *And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war.*



Habakkuk 2:3: (NASB) *For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay.*

The mind of God is bigger than time. He sees His plan unfolding. We are near the end of this age and near the beginning of an age of wonderful reconciliation for all of humanity. Thank God for His plan and the ransom price of Jesus Christ.

**So, why does time matter in God's plan?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**



Join us next week for our podcast on January 13, 2020:
Ep. 1108: What Three Steps Will Get Us to Heaven? Part I



Bonus Material

Don't waste the season of life you are now in because you want the next one to come. — Unknown

Here are several Scriptures that show us God's timing:

Ecclesiastes 3:9-15: (NASB) ⁹What profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils? ¹⁰I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves. ¹¹He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime; ¹³moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor—it is the gift of God. ¹⁴I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him. ¹⁵That which is has been already and that which will be has already been, for God seeks what has passed by.

1 Samuel 2:6-10: (NASB) ⁶The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. ⁸He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with nobles and inherit a seat of honor; for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and He set the world on them. ⁹He keeps the feet of His godly ones, but the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; for not by might shall a man prevail. ¹⁰Those who contend with the LORD will be shattered; against them He will thunder in the heavens, The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; and He will give strength to His king and will exalt the horn of His anointed.

Psalms 82:1-8: (NASB) ¹God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers. **(It is the rulers that do the following)** ²How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah. ³Vindicate the weak and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute. ⁴Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them out of the hand of the wicked. ⁵They do not know nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. ⁶I said, you are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High. ⁷Nevertheless you will die like men and fall like any one of the princes. ⁸Arise, O God, judge the earth! For it is You who possesses all the nations.

Matthew 7:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.



Below are texts that give clarity to the coming time of peace:

Daniel 12:1-4: (NRSV) ¹At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. ⁴But you, Daniel, keep the words secret and the book sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be running back and forth, and evil shall increase.

Daniel 2:43-44: (NRSV) ⁴³As you saw the iron mixed with clay, so will they mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever;

Micah 4:1-4: (NRSV) ¹In days to come the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, ²and many nations shall come and say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; ⁴but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

Isaiah 11:1-9: (NRSV) ¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all My holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

A poem about time and how easily it slips by in our lives:

"Slow Dance" written by David Weatherford

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round,
or listened to rain slapping the ground?
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight,
or gazed at the sun fading into the night?
You better slow down, don't dance so fast,
time is short, the music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly,
when you ask How are you? do you hear the reply?
When the day is done, do you lie in your bed,
with the next hundred chores running through your head?
You better slow down, don't dance so fast,
time is short, the music won't last.



Ever told your child, we'll do it tomorrow,
and in your haste, not see his sorrow?
Ever lost touch, let a friendship die,
'cause you never had time to call and say hi?
You better slow down, don't dance so fast,
time is short, the music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere,
you miss half the fun of getting there.
When you worry and hurry through your day,
it's like an unopened gift thrown away.
Life isn't a race, so take it slower,
hear the music before your song is over.

#1 through #4 of the Top 10 Greatest Inventions of All Time,
These ideas changed the world. watchmojo.com

#4: Engines

These engines got industry and the population moving. Instead of relying on horses as transportation, people traveled across the countryside via Thomas Newcomen's steam engine as of 1712, which was improved upon by James Watt later that century, quickly becoming the backbone of society and sparking the Industrial Revolution. Internal combustion ultimately replaced steam and ushered in the Second Industrial Revolution and allowed individuals to affordably travel great distances.

#3: The Wheel

Though it is still unclear which civilization was first to invent this simple machine in the 4th-century BC, it's obvious that it's been one of the world's most vital innovations. The transportation, commerce and travel industries wouldn't be the same without it, and today the wheel can be found in every aspect of our daily lives, from water wheels, gears, motors and engines, to more fun applications.

#2: Communications

Several inventions changed global communications forever: Samuel Morse brought us the electric telegraph in 1836, Alexander Graham Bell's telephone was the first to be awarded a patent to transmit voices in 1876, Guglielmo Marconi and Nikola Tesla developed radio in the late-19th-century, moving pictures first came across John Logie Baird's television in 1925, Konrad Zuse developed the first computer in the early-'40s, and Tim Berners-Lee proposed the World-Wide-Web in the late-'80s – and all made the world a bit smaller.

Before we unveil our number one pick, here are a few honorable mentions:

- The Cotton Gin, Gun powder, Optical Lenses, Camera

#1: Electricity

Not only did sleep patterns change drastically with the introduction of electricity, so did work habits. From Ben Franklin, to Nikola Tesla, to Michael Faraday to Thomas Edison, many innovators made important contributions to this modernization, which brought light and power to the masses. However, electricity only became a necessity and standard to everyday life in the mid-20th century; before that it was enjoyed mainly in big cities.