

WHAT TIME IS IT???

There was a song years ago that was put out by Tin Pan Alley which said, "I didn't know what time it was until I met you." It was in the day when songs were written and sung because there was romance in the air in those days. Today the songs can hardly be called songs any more. They are more or less protests to some form of establishment.

But time and not knowing the time has been corrected down through the ages from the time of Ahaz's sun dial to the modern time pieces called digital watches. We have governed time by the rising of the sun and the setting of the sun. In the Age of Israel they always calculated time from sundown to sundown. We simply want to know what time it is. Seasons, feasts and calendar changes have all expressed the principle of trying to orient to knowing what time it was.

Well, **God's timing is PERFECT** and God has, as it were, a time piece. He has a timing, a PERFECT timing for all things, especially for members of the human race **IN WHOM HE IS VERY INTERESTED.**

What time is it? In other words, in what time in the Plan of God for human history are we now living? Where are we now in the 20th Century as far as God's Plan and God's timing is concerned? What time is it? To gain a proper understanding of the times in which we are living as they are graciously revealed to us, it includes what has gone on before the time of human history, and to that which is scheduled to come to pass in the future. We must span the time between the time we have eternity before the universe came into existence, by the Divine Word of God, and the time when eternal conditions will begin in the future. Eternity Past and Eternity Future. What time is it now?

Contrary to most beliefs, the angels were God's first creation. Angels existed before the human race. We read in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth." We know that before that the angels shouted for joy at the newly created beauty of the universe. Job 38:4-7, "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?

declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? of who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and ALL THE SONS OF GOD SHOUTED FOR JOY?"

Moses comes along and records the creation of the universe in his majestic statement, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth." The universe left the creative hands of God in a **PERFECT STATE. EVERYTHING that God creates is PERFECT.** We know from various passages of Scripture that JESUS CHRIST IS THE CREATOR and nothing was created that He did not create. This is brought out in Hebrews, Colossians, and in John.

The inspired writers of the New Testament, when alluding to creation, called it KOSMOS, an ordered system. The Greeks have a word for "chaos" which is a "rude, unformed mass." No date is given for the creation of the universe. The sciences of geology and astronomy both demonstrate that the universe is millions of years old.

Now, on this perfect Earth of Genesis 1:1 God placed the mightiest, wisest, most beautiful angel that He ever created, called Lucifer. As priest and king over a race of beings (angels), he had the responsibility of ruling over them and directing their worship to the Lord. Lucifer struck at God's throne, drawing the race of free moral intelligences with him into rebellion and sin. He was deposed from his position, banished from the Earth, and the Earth and its planetary heavens were rendered a chaos. This is found in many passages.

Ezekiel 28:12-19, "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him. Thus saith the Lord God: THOU SEALEST UP THE SUM, FULL OF WISDOM, AND PERFECT IN BEAUTY. Thou hast been in Eden the Garden of God: every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx,

and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the WORKMANSHIP OF THY TABRETS AND OF THY PIPES WAS PREPARED IN THEE IN THE DAY THAT THOU WAST CREATED. THOU ART THE ANOINTED CHERUB THAT COVERETH; AND I HAVE SET THEE SO: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God: thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

"THOU WAS PERFECT IN THY WAYS FROM THE DAY THAT THOU WAST CREATED, TILL INIQUITY WAS FOUND IN THEE. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and THOU HAST SINNED: THEREFORE I WILL CAST THEE AS PROFANE OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD AND I WILL DESTROY THEE, O COVERING CHERUB, from the midst of the stones of fire. THINE HEART WAS LIFTED UP BECAUSE OF THY BEAUTY. THOU HAST CORRUPTED THE WISDOM BY REASON OF THY BRIGHTNESS. I WILL CAST THEE TO THE GROUND. I WILL LAY THEE BEFORE KINGS THAT THEY MAY BEHOLD THEE. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; THEREFORE WILL I BRING FORTH A FIRE FROM THE MIDST OF THEE. IT SHALL DEVOUR THEE, AND I WILL BRING THEE TO ASHES UPON THE EARTH in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and NEVER SHALT THOU BE ANY MORE."

Isaiah 14:12-17, "HOW ART THOU FALLEN FROM HEAVEN, O LUCIFER, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! FOR THOU HAST SAID IN THINE HEART, I WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN. I WILL EXALT MY THRONE ABOVE THE STARS OF GOD: I WILL SIT ALSO UPON THE MOUNT OF THE CONGREGATION, in the sides of the north: I WILL ASCEND ABOVE THE HEIGHTS OF THE CLOUDS; I WILL BE LIKE THE MOST HIGH. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, SAYING, IS THIS THE MAN THAT MADE THE EARTH TO

TREMBLE, THAT DID SHAKE KINGDOMS; THAT MADE THE WORLD AS A WILDERNESS, AND DESTROYED THE CITIES THEREOF; THAT OPENED NOT THE HOUSE OF HIS PRISONERS?"

Genesis 1:2, "And the Earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

In these passages we have the three falls of Satan, Lucifer. The first fall is between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. The second fall is in the middle of the Tribulation. And then the final, third fall, is at the end of the Millennium.

In Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 we read literally in the Hebrew: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth, and the earth became void and without form. And darkness was upon the face of the deep." The earth was created perfect and became void and desolate. **That's the fall of Satan.** No one knows how many years the chaotic condition of the earth lasted, how many millions of years. But in 4000 B.C. God said, "Let there be light." And the six day work of reconstruction began. After six days the chaos became a KOSMOS, an ordered, organized system again. Upon this Earth, made perfect again, God placed a man and then a woman, the progenitors of the human race.

We will trace briefly the history of the human race as it relates to the Plan of God with respect to sin and salvation, dividing the history into a period from Adam, 4000 B.C., to Abraham, 2000 B.C. Then from Abraham to David, 1000 B.C. From David to the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, 1 A.D. And from the incarnation to our present day, 1987 A.D. And then the yet future 1000 year reign of the Son of God on this Earth, approximately 7000 years of human history.

From Adam, the first man, 4000 B.C., to Abraham, 2000 B.C. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, fell into sin as they succumbed to the temptation of the fallen angel, the once anointed cherub, Lucifer, who, along with his demons has taken up their residence in the atmosphere of the Earth. Satan regained the position on Earth he had forfeited by sin and became the god of this world upon the fall of Adam. This is the prin-

ciple of the Prince of the power of the air, and the Ruler of darkness.

Adam condemned the whole race of sinners by his one act of disobedience to God's Word. "In Adam all die. In Christ all are made alive." The Earth was cursed, and man was driven out of the Garden of Eden. This is found in Genesis 3. Cain developed a civilization which was godless. This is found in Genesis 4. The human race, being sinful and unsaved with the exception of the righteous line of Seth, became the target of the attack of Satan. God had provided a salvation for those who would believe in the sacrifice for sin He would some day offer.

Satan's fallen angels inter-married with the human race around 3000 B.C., resulting in offspring which were part angel and part man. The purpose of this infiltration was to DEHUMANIZE THE RACE, THUS PREVENTING THE INCARNATION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, and thus the SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT. This is found in Genesis 6.

God met this threat by the flood, saving eight righteous persons to repopulate the earth, Genesis 6:9. Noah and his family, as the human race, were told to replenish the Earth. Instead of scattering over the face of the Earth, the human race concentrated at Babel. There they attempted to throw off dependence upon God. God divided their language, and gave different groups different languages, and forced them to separate and repopulate the earth. Thus, the nations were brought into existence. Genesis 11. This was man's first attempt at the United Nations, United Nations.

This brings us to the time of Abraham in 2000 B.C. We will trace briefly the history of the human race to 1000 B.C., the time of David. Abraham was called out of Ur of Chaldees to become the progenitor of the Jewish nation through which God purposed to send the Saviour to die for lost sinners, and through which He purposed to bring in everlasting peace and righteousness to the Earth, Genesis 12.

The ancestry continues through Isaac, Jacob, and the latter 12 sons, the 12 tribes of Israel. The bondage in Egypt lasted 400 years, until the time of Moses, who in 1500

B.C., lead Israel out of Egypt to the land of Canaan. Under Joshua Israel conquered Canaan. This was followed by the period of the judges, who were military leaders who governed Israel until God was ready to bring into being the Davidic dynasty and make Israel a kingdom in 1000 B.C.

David came to the throne and was followed by Solomon, who in his latter days, was guilty of idolatry. God, at Solomon's death, divided the kingdom, the northern kingdom Israel with its capital at Samaria, ruled by a succession of dynasties not of Davidic ancestry; and the southern kingdom of Judah, with the capital at Jerusalem, ruled by a succession of Davidic kings. These kingdoms went from bad to worse until in 722 B.C. the northern kingdom was taken captive into Assyria, and the southern kingdom in 586 B.C. into Babylonia. Under the Medes and the Persians, Judah, Benjamin and Levi returned to the land. The other tribes remained in captivity.

This brings us to the time of the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ in the first century. While Israel was under Roman domination, the Son of God came from heaven and incorporated Himself with the human race through the virgin birth in the line of David, to offer Himself as Israel's Messiah and restore the earthly kingdom taken away in the captivities, thus making it a righteous kingdom. He was rejected and crucified, became the Substitutionary Sacrifice for sin, arose from the dead and ascended into heaven.

Now in anticipation of the temporary setting aside of Israel in the dispersion of Israel in 70 A.D., God brought into existence a new channel through which He could reach Earth's multitudes for salvation. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came, was rejected by national Israel, but gathered into a nucleus individual believers, placing them, identifying them, baptizing them, into Christ, forming the Church and/or the Body of Christ. Then began the Church Age, which in Revelation 2 and 3, is divided into seven periods or ages.

These we can trace briefly to this present day in 1987. **What time is it? The first is the Apostolic Church, 33-100 A.D.** This age ended with the death of John, the human author of Revelation. **The second is the**

Martyr Church, 100-316 A.D. This is the period in which Rome hurled ten bloody persecutions against the Church. **The third is the State Church**, 316-500 A.D. This was when Constantine the Great legalized Christianity, made it the state religion of the Roman Empire, and supported the Church financially, a period in which hordes of pagans came into the visible Church unsaved.

The fourth period is the Papal Church, 500-1500 A.D. This is the period in which the Bishop of Rome assumed supreme authority over the ENTIRE CHURCH AND ANNOUNCED HIMSELF POPE. **The fifth is the Reformation Church**, 1500 A.D. When under the leadership of Luther, the doctrine of justification by faith was again brought to light from under the blanket of false doctrine by which the Papacy had hidden it for 1000 years.

The sixth is the Missionary Church, 1793 A.D. This is when the period of modern missions had its start. **The seventh period is the Apostate Church**, which is today. This period winds up Church history. How long this period will last, **NO ONE KNOWS**. It will close with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ into the atmosphere of this Earth to catch out the true Church.

The Church has been in existence for approximately 2000 years. The time from Adam to Christ is 4000 years. The Messianic Kingdom is 1000 years, which is yet to come. This totals up to 7000 years of human history. **That is what time it is.**

Now you will notice that the Lord had something of importance done in a period of 2000 years or 1000 years in regard to man's salvation. 2000 years after Adam's fall, Abraham became the progenitor of the Jewish nation through which God would bring salvation in the work of His Son on the cross. He gave the race the Bible, and through which **HE will yet** bring universal peace and righteousness. 1000 years after that, he called David to become the first of a line of kings, in whose line the Messiah would come. 1000 years after that, He incarnates Himself in the Person of His Son to be our Sin Offering. Now almost 2000 years after that, the ministry of the

Church is almost finished, for the visible Church is rapidly becoming more and more apostate.

When Israel failed God, He, God, brought in the Church. When the Church fails God, as it is doing today, He will bring back Israel again. That means the Second Advent of Christ. A sweeping glance of human history indicates that the return of the Son of God to this Earth must come very, very soon. That is the Second Advent, but the Rapture must come before that, and can come at any moment.

Things on Earth are rapidly forming themselves toward a crisis in human history such as the Bible predicts. The next few years will see momentous happenings. The first half of the 20th Century has seen a more rapid advance in civilization than in all the previous ages of human history. The chemical industry, the airplane, space travel, weapons of warfare have improved. Wickedness is coming to a head. **False doctrine is sweeping the Church.** Russia seems to be an ever present menace. War seems almost in the offering.

Humanity is getting so restless and turbulent that a world dictator is needed to straighten things out. Things as they are cannot go on like this indefinitely. Time is running out. **IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK.** That is a song, too. We are on the threshold of the Rapture of the Church. And after that, the seven years of Tribulation, and then the Second Advent of the Son of God. Six-sevenths of human history is behind us. The last 1000 years are just ahead. **WHAT TIME IS IT?** Do you know what time it is?

"Now is the time, today is the day of salvation."

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Buddy Dano, Pastor

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4000 B.C.	3000 B.C.	2000 B.C.	1000 B.C.
Creation of Adam The fall Cainitic Civilization	Apostasy of Angels The flood Babel	Jewish Nation Egyptian Bondage The Exodus Conquered Canaan Period of judges	David Solomon Divided kingdom Captivity Restoration to the land
Genesis 1	Genesis 6	Exodus	Jeremiah...
A.D. 1	A.D. 32 to A.D. 2000	A.D. 2000 to A.D. 3000	A.D. 3000...
Incarnation of Christ Crucifixion Pentecost Formation of the Church	Church Age Dispersion of Israel	The Millennium Righteousness Peace Prosperity	Eternity Future
Gospels	Acts	Revelation	
First Advent The Cross	(The Church Age.....) 1987.....	Rapture ???	Tribulation 7 years Millennium 1000 years