

Stewardship of the Gift of Time

The first concept - in the order of Creation was the establishing of day and time... The basic measure to time in man's experience.

God created the concepts of time and the realities of time

- before that there was eternity and after that there is eternity, and while time marches on eternity continues as simply being before God ...forever in the “now”
- With the first interval of creation **time** was established by defining a **day**.
- With the completion of creation the interval of the **week** was established and the purpose of the week was established.
- With the day and the week established, the year was marked by the passing of **moons**. The day and the month could be readily observed, the days and the months were numbered.
- The year was measured by the observable also. The new year on Oct 6 was the celebration of the beginning of the world with a new moon / new month.
- And each month of the year started with a new moon.

Is the understanding of God's times and God's timing important?

Daniel 7:24 - 25 (NIV) After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. ²⁵He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

God orders all our days.

Some people view time as curse, in the same way that some people think education is a burden to be endured. But for those in Christ, it's an opportunity to learn about ourselves and our God, and to look with expectation for the greater things that follow our education here on earth.

Psalms 145:14 - 16 (NIV) ¹⁴The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. ¹⁶You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

Gen 6 - At the time of Noah God looked at the wickedness of mankind and **determined to limit mankind as a whole's life to 120 years**

After the flood we find an obvious drop off in life expectancy.

Ps 90- (NIV) ¹⁰The length of our days is seventy years— or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

God gives us time on earth - A Time of Coming to Know that we are and that God is

God established a duration of time for a human life experience

Sinners against God's instructions separated mankind from the tree of life in the Garden of Eden - so endless days was no longer an option on earth for people

Psalms 102:11 - 19 (NIV) ¹¹My days are like the evening shadow; I wither away like grass. ¹²But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations. ¹³You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come. ¹⁴For her stones are dear to your servants; her very dust moves them to pity.

Birth - God opens the womb

Death - God has set a “time” for a human body to fail

Which of you by taking thought can add one day.....?

- (NIV) ⁸*No man has power over the wind to contain it; so no one has power over the day of his death.*

Seedtime - time of beginning new efforts

Harvest - time of assessing what has been done

Life cycle for mankind and for all the earth

Stewardship of the Gift of Time

A sort of annual renewal of life and effort based on what has gone before

God gives us responsibility for how we choose to use time - how we invest or squander it

For ourselves or in ourselves

For others or in others

For Him or in Him

Some of our chosen uses may endure for some time, but others endure for all eternity. Which would God assess [that you have been investing in?](#)

King Saul's use of his "time" opportunities and discovering his limiting

1 Samuel 13:13 - 14 (NIV) ¹³"You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. ¹⁴But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD'S command."

David's use of his "time" opportunities

1 Samuel 26:9 - 1 Samuel 26:11 (NIV) ⁹But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD'S anointed and be guiltless? ¹⁰As surely as the LORD lives," he said, "the LORD himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. ¹¹But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD'S anointed.

David, not Saul, is called '.... a man after God's own heart. David chose the right things, and the right responses when God disciplined him.

Saul was a "people's choice" type candidate. David was God's choice candidate

A CHALLENGE FOR TIME AND ETERNITY FOR YOU TO ESTABLISH

Isaiah 33:5 - 6 (NIV) ⁵ **The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness. ⁶ He will be the sure foundation *for your times*, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure.**

Who's the servant around here?

Are we walking like God's our servant?

God's available to respond to all our needs?

Our are we living to keep ourselves available from any request from God?

No one who walks as a bond servant to God in Christ will fail to find God's provision

They will be satisfied

No one who lives as if God is their servant will find Him adequate to their wants

They will never be satisfied.

Are you a follow of God by Convenience or by Convictions?

Which comes first as God sees your heart and mind?

Do you give God what fits around your life, or is your life fitted around your God?

An End of All Time is Appointed - WHEN IS THAT?

..... **In The Fullness of Time God..... Provided these covenants**

Covenant of Creation - a brand new beginning

Jeremiah 8:6 - 7 (NIV) ⁷ Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the LORD.

Coveant after Flood - a renewed beginning

Rainbow was a promise that God would never again destroy the earth by water

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**Must have been there before..... No from the garden the ecology of changed
The flood marked another change in ecology
For man and because of man**

Covenant through Abraham - promise of an enduring family of faith

Children numbering as the sands of the sea.

Through a child born to him all nations would be blessed.

Covenant through Moses - end to ignorance of what God expected

Do these things and I will be your God and you will be my people

Covenant through Jesus - end to sin's power and guilt

Isaiah 9:7 (NIV) ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 59:20 - 21 (NIV) ²⁰“The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the LORD. ²¹“As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD. “My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever,” says the LORD

Covenant of Final Accounting - and end to this world's struggle against evil men

Romans 14:9 - 12 (NIV) ⁹For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹It is written: “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’” ¹²So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God

Summary of the matter..... What guides our best use of time?

Not the things of earth which can be destroyed, but the opportunities on earth which endure- through both time and through eternity.

Matthew 6:25 - 34 (NIV) ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own