

Five Were Wise

*Four Aspects of Wisdom  
for the Endtime Church*



PHILLIPPA BROWN

Copyright © 2023 - Phillippa Brown

All rights reserved. This book is protected by the copyright laws of Canada. This book may not be copied or reprinted for commercial gains or profit. The use of short quotations or occasional page copying for personal or group study is permitted and encouraged. Unless otherwise identified, Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible. Scripture quotations marked (CEV) are taken from the Contemporary English Version Copyright © 1991, 1992, 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission. Scripture quotations are taken from The Amplified® Bible (AMPC). Copyright © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. [www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org)<sup>1</sup>. All emphasis within Scripture is the author's own. Please note that Bibleway's publishing style capitalizes certain pronouns that refer to God and may differ from some publisher's styles.



BIBLEWAY PRESS

500 Bride Private, Nepean, ON



FOR WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION. Printed in Canada.

---

1. <http://www.lockman.org>

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bishop Raymond Grant - Thanks for your great contribution to this work.

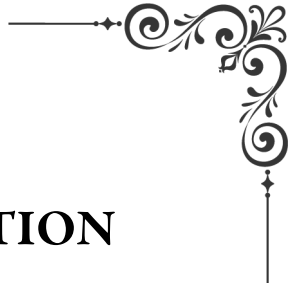
Joanne McKay - Thanks for your diligence in proofreading and editing this manuscript.

Charity Grant - Thanks for your editing work and helpful comments.

Christine Grant - Thanks for your proofreading work.

Derrick Blake - Thanks for your encouragement and prayerful support.

My husband, Andre - Thanks for being understanding and for allowing me time to write.



## INTRODUCTION

“Wisdom is better than weapons  
of war...”

(Ecclesiastes 9:18)

Throughout the Bible, we are presented with situations where God’s people are ignorant concerning matters of spiritual significance. The Lord desires that we know. He wants His bride to possess such acute awareness that nothing takes us by surprise, especially in the end times.

*But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:4-5).*

There is much the Lord is releasing by the word of revelation to His church. The Lord showed me in 2017 that there are four aspects of wisdom that must characterize the endtime church. *Knowledge, Understanding, Prudence, and the Fear of God* must grace our existence today as the body of Christ. This is the Is-sachar paradigm (1 Chronicles 12:32).

As we explore these four aspects of wisdom, may the Holy Spirit deliver to our hearts a true sense of the urgency of the

hour, and ignite within us a passion to seek His presence like never before. Indeed, “... *Wisdom is better than strength... better than weapons of war...*” (Ecclesiastes 9:16,18).

*That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the **full assurance of understanding**, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; **In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge** (Colossians 2:2-3).*

A prayerful and consistent reading of the book of Revelation is recommended in light of the events that are now taking place. For the first time in history as we know it, humans are having data embedded in their bodies. Artificial intelligence (AI) has created humanoid robots, one of which has already received legal citizenship in the Middle East, and AI technology continues to increase at warp speed (Revelation 13:15). The book of Revelation is being fulfilled right in front of our eyes, and many still remain oblivious to it. The “woke” generation is actually asleep. But the Lord is shaking us awake...



## Endnotes

Saudi Arabia gave 'citizenship' to a robot named Sophia, and Saudi women aren't amused - National | Globalnews.ca<sup>1</sup>

Future Employer: Are Humans With Microchips In Their Brains The Future of Work? - Lexology<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-people-may-download-memory-personality-onto-tesla-robot-2022-3>

---

1. <https://globalnews.ca/news/3844031/saudi-arabia-robot-citizen-sophia/>

2. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=bc54b943-9eb0-4900-898a-53ae94b762cc>





## Chapter One

# KNOWLEDGE - Part 1

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”

(Romans 13:11)



IN ZECHARIAH 4:1, AN angel awakens the prophet as a man that is **“wakened out of his sleep”**. Though not asleep in a literal sense, he was unaware, or ignorant of something the Lord wanted him to know. Once the prophet **“woke up”** and observed what was around him, he received information from the angel as to what he was seeing, and its significance.

Romans 13:11 speaks to the body of Christ about our awareness and the implications of time. The writer uses the word *knowing*. This is the Greek word *eido*, which means to see, or to perceive by any of the senses, to notice, discern, or discover. So we see, notice, discern, or discover, the time. The word *time* used is *kairos*, which means occasion, or set or proper time. We are to *eido* significant moments in time and how they relate to us.

Specific knowledge of some spiritual realities will determine how skillfully we navigate this season. Persecution is increasing, and much will depend upon our ability to endure and overcome.



## KNOW OUR GOD

The first thing to know is our God. This may seem obvious. Don't all believers know God? We turned to Him in faith and accepted His offer of salvation. His work in our lives is evident. Many have experienced His healing, His miracles, and even witnessed manifestations of His glory, but the truth is, not all believers have a personal relationship with the Lord.

*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (Matthew 7:22-23).*

It is possible to confess Jesus as Lord, believe Him for salvation, and even do miracles in His name, and have no relationship with Him. Many believers have never discerned the voice of the Lord speaking to them, and have no active fellowship with Him (1 John 1:3).

There are levels of knowing, as shown in the various definitions of the word. There's being acquainted with, learning to know, an understanding of, and also intimacy as between a man and a woman. The Scripture says that Enoch **"walked with God"**. The word **"walked"** used here is the Hebrew word *ha-*

*lak*, meaning to go, come, or move, among other things. The Hebrew word for “with” is *eth*, which means nearness, or together with, in place (location), or relationship. So Enoch moved (coming and going) together with, or near to God. He was always in God’s presence. The outcome of this relationship was that he was translated and avoided natural death (Genesis 5:24).

Noah walked with God, and received revelation about the coming flood. He and his family escaped certain death because of his relationship with God (Genesis 6:9, 17-18). Walking closely with the Lord guarantees His guidance in every aspect of life (Proverbs 3:6).

According to the Scripture, two cannot walk together except they agree (Amos 3:3). This kind of relationship with God indicates intimacy, not mere acquaintance. Real communion marked their interactions. Moses also had such a bond with God.

The LORD, in speaking to Aaron and Miriam in Numbers 12:6-8, said this:

*And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?*

Here, the LORD described His relationship with Moses as being different from His relationship with other prophets. Moses was His friend. He rebuked Aaron and Miriam based

on this fact. The closeness of Jehovah God with His prophet Moses was sufficient reason for them to be afraid to speak against him. Judgment followed their mistake as God Himself defended Moses.

The Scripture records this of Moses: "*And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face*" (Deuteronomy 34:10).

Knowing God as a close friend should be the quest of each believer as we draw nearer to the end. Pursuing Him and making space for Him in our lives will bring the reality of His presence closer. Towards the end of His earthly life, the Lord's relationship with His disciples changed as He brought them into a new intimacy.

*Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you* (John 15:15).

The Lord desires that His church walk with Him not just in servanthood, which is a must, but also in friendship. The privilege of divine fellowship belongs to all God's children. "*... and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ* (1 John 1:3).

As we enter into a greater understanding of our fellowship with the Father, things will change. Just as the disciples entered this new level of intimacy with the Lord, so will we. Long-standing barriers will fade away. Hesitation, doubt, and feelings of apprehension regarding Him, will yield to a new closeness, trust, and knowledge of Him. Like earthly friends, we will talk often,

live, love, and laugh together. We will be free to express our real feelings without any fear, for there is no fear in love (1 John 4:18). Like Moses and Enoch, we will hang out with God.

The friendship spoken of by the Lord to His disciples included the impartation of information: “...*all things... have I made known unto you*” (John 15:15). This is key. In the last days, as friends of God, we will walk in such close communion with Him that we will receive information that comes only from Him. The Lord said this before judging Sodom and Gomorrah:

*... Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do...  
For I know him...* (Genesis 18:17,19).

With an intimate knowledge of God, we become privy to information others do not have. As the Lord told me, it is a must for the last-day believer. This knowledge will give us confidence and stability as we walk the earth knowing heaven's secrets (Psalm 25:14). The ability to hear the Holy Spirit and interact with the Lord will be our mainstay in the last days.

The prophet Daniel spoke of a certain group of people and their activities during a time of persecution and oppression.

*And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the **people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits*** (Daniel 11:32).

While the prophet may have been speaking of certain political events that would take place in the nation of Israel, the principle remains true. The people who know God are the ones who stay strong in the face of persecution. Powerful signs follow them.

*And now, Lord, **behold their threatenings:** and grant unto thy servants, that with all **boldness they may speak thy word,** By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were **all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.** And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with **great power** gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and **great grace** was upon them all (Acts 4:29-33).*

This walk of knowing and dwelling in relationship with God is fueled by desire and pursuit, but also by humility.

*At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes (Matthew 11:25).*

The word “babes” refers to the childlike. Jesus told the disciples that everyone must be like little children to enter the kingdom (Matthew 18:3). That’s humility.

*LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. Surely I have behaved and quieted my-*

*self, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child (Psalm 131:1-2).*

*“Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3).* Moses, the meekest man on the earth, received the greatest revelation of God of any human being in his time. This is not a coincidence. Humility fuels friendship and intimacy with God.

*For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones (Isaiah 57:15).* James 4:6 speaks of God’s response to the humble:

*But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

So the humble will walk with God. Like Enoch and like Noah. The Lord desires that His bride walk with Him in the same way. We must walk closely, knowing His heart and mind. We must know Him very, very well.

## KNOW THE WORD OF GOD

We also need a knowledge of God’s word. Psalm 19:7-11 describes the perfection, immutability, and purity of the word of God.

*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart:*

*the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*

Countless people can attest that the word of God, whether the Scripture or the rhema, saved their lives, marriages, children, and most importantly, their souls. The Lord Jesus said His words are spirit and life (John 6:63). That means they are life-giving. The word of God is to be treasured above all except Himself.

*The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times (Psalm 12:6).*

Joseph took the young child Jesus into Egypt, away from the sword of Herod, after he received the word of the Lord in a dream (Matthew 2:13-14). Lot escaped Sodom because of the word of the Lord (Genesis 19:13-15). The Ethiopian eunuch received salvation after Phillip explained a chapter in Isaiah to him (Acts 8:32-39). Apollos convinced the Jews that the Lord Jesus was the Messiah using Scripture (Acts 18:28). The apostle Paul fled Jerusalem because of a word from the Lord (Acts 22:17-21).

Guidance for our lives and actions is received from the word of God. Logic, reason, emotions, or even past experiences, cannot substitute. Knowledge comes from the mouth of the Lord.

*... I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right (Isaiah 45:19).*



*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).*

Our ability to endure and overcome the fast approaching Tribulation rests heavily on our knowledge of the word of God. Note that the Lord Jesus used the word as a weapon to overcome the enemy's traps during the temptation in the wilderness. That word is as effective now as it was then.

*And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God (Luke 4:4).*

*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:17).*

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).*

In this beginning of sorrows, the enemy of our souls will try to use adverse events against us. The Lord Jesus said there would be wars and rumors of wars, famine, pestilences (epidemics and pandemics), and climatic upheaval all over the world. Without knowledge of what the Bible says, people will begin to wonder if God cares and even begin to doubt His existence. This is dan-

gerous ground, as people can lose faith. The danger is so real that the Lord said, “...Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). The word of God will keep our faith intact. An attitude of fear or panic is opposite to Scripture as it clearly states we are not to be troubled when these things happen (Matthew 24:6).

Knowledge of the word of God will protect us from the deception pervading the last days. The Lord Jesus responded to the disciples' question regarding the end of the age with the warning, “Take heed that no man deceive you” (Matthew 24:4). The Apostle Paul, also writing about the end times said, “Let no man deceive you by any means...” (2 Thessalonians 2:3). The Lord Jesus told us that many will be deceived, so knowing God's word is crucial (Matthew 24:5).

Some years ago, as a young Christian believer, I recall someone telling me that he heard that the Lord Jesus was in a certain locality in Jamaica. He appeared to be sincere. I responded that, according to the Bible, the return of the Lord Jesus would be “as the lightning flashing from the east to the west” and everyone would see Him. He looked surprised, although this is clearly stated in the word of God.

*Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be (Matthew 24:26-27).*

The word protects us from error. When the unbelieving Sadducees attempted to trap the Lord in a question, He told them,

*“... Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?”* (Mark 12:24). Those who do not know the word of God are vulnerable to erroneous theology and are defenseless against false prophets and teachers (Acts 20:29-30).

Another reason for knowing the word of God is that it will sustain our faith if we hear and obey it. Like the wise man that built his house upon a rock, we will remain unshakable when everything else around us is shaking.

*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock* (Matthew 7:24-25).

Tomi Arayomi, in his 2021 prophecy (*God Says We Only Have Nine Years*), said by the word of the Lord that the shaking will stop when we (the church) are unshakeable. In the above passage, the Lord Jesus gives us a profoundly vivid description of what a shaking looks like. The winds, rain, and even the floods, will come. They will “beat upon” our houses. Only those who are hearing and obeying God’s word will remain unmoved by the onslaught.

*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God* (Romans 10:17).

*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves* (James 1:22).

We are to be guided by both the Scripture and the rhema word of God. The apostle Paul encouraged Timothy with the words:

*And that from a child thou hast known the holy **scriptures**, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15).*

Timothy's salvation was *through faith* based on his knowledge of the Scripture. His *conviction of truth*, the Greek word *pistis* translated *faith*, was derived from his knowledge of the word of God, which would guarantee his salvation, or safety, if believed and practiced.

The value of the rhema (spoken) word of God is evident in the apostle's exhortation in 1 Timothy 1:18-19.

*This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the **prophecies** which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck.*

Timothy, on the strength of the prophetic word, was to "war a good warfare" and "hold faith." He was to harness the prophetic to complete his God-given assignments, using it as the basis for his confidence, vision, and labor. Knowledge of what God is saying gives context to what we do and to what is happening around us.

When God uses His prophetic messengers to deliver a word to His people, He expects the right response.

*We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye **take heed**, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts (2 Peter 1:19).*

The prophetic word, or rhema, through a human vessel, dispels darkness, or ignorance. It is the light that shines in a dark place, making us aware of what God is doing and what He expects us to do. It keeps us going until the morning of the new day of full redemption. It is given to the church for edification (building up), exhortation (encouragement), and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3). Prophetic messages should be checked for accuracy and validity, by always comparing them with Scripture, and should not lead us away from God, but rather to Him. Never should it contradict the written word of God.

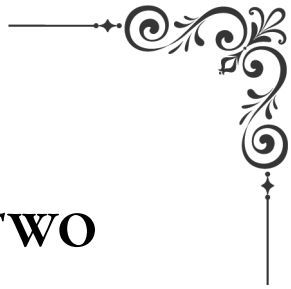
Throughout his converted life, the apostle Paul was sustained by the word of the Lord. Ever since his encounter with the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus, the rhema word directed his steps. When he returned to Jerusalem following his conversion, the Lord spoke to him and told him to leave Jerusalem immediately (Acts 22:18). Sometimes he received the word in a dream or vision (Acts 16:6-10; 18:9-10). While sailing to Rome, the angel of the Lord appeared to him with a message (Acts 27:24-25). In Acts 23:11, during another visit to Jerusalem, the Lord Himself appeared to him:

*And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.*

These occurrences are not to be the exception, but the rule. This kind of hearing from God is not just for a chosen few, but an invitation to all His children.

There are those who would rather choose death than deny the truth and power of God's word.

*And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held (Revelation 6:9).*



## CHAPTER TWO

### KNOWLEDGE - Part 2

The Lord warned me in November 2020 that persecution is coming to the body of Christ. We must be ready. Our faith and allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ will be tested. Knowing God's word is crucial to our overcoming.

*I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord (Psalm 27:13-14).*

*For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89).*

### KNOW OUR ENEMY

No one enters a war without knowledge of their enemies and how they operate. 2 Corinthians 2:11 says we are not ignorant of Satan's devices. If we are ignorant, then he will take advantage of us, or defraud us. Spiritual warfare is real, yet, much of the time, we live as though it's not. Our adversary can do great harm if permitted. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (Ephesians 6:12-18).*

If we resist the devil, he will run from us (James 4:7; Ephesians 6:11). He transforms himself into an angel of light in the attempt to deceive, and has servants who also mimic ministers of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). Alertness and discernment are a necessary part of the equipment in our spiritual arsenal. But how do we fight in the Spirit?

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge*



*all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled* (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

The Contemporary English Version puts verses 3-4 like this, *“We live in this world, but we don’t act like its people or fight our battles with the weapons of this world. Instead, we use God’s power that can destroy fortresses.”*

According to Ephesians 6:18, praying constantly in the Spirit is a part of our spiritual armor. We are to persist in this way in prayer for all believers. The Lord gave our church in Ottawa, Canada, an instruction in April 2021 that we are to pray for one another by laying hands on each other, using 1 Thessalonians 5:23 as the prayer. It’s needed in these end times. We were instructed that this prayer be said by parents over their children, by spouses for each other, by all family members, and all members of the body of Christ. It is to be done regularly and consistently.

*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

## KNOW TIMES AND SEASONS

The Lord spoke to me on May 2, 2020, and said, *It is imperative that you know times and seasons.* Imperative means urgent, vital, or all-important. Knowledge of the times and seasons can be a matter of life or death. Our knowledge will come from

the mouth of the Lord when we earnestly seek His face. Just as Abraham, Enoch, Noah, Daniel, and the apostle Paul, were given knowledge of the times, we will also receive information from the Lord as it relates to the times.

In the devotional book, *Transformed In His Presence*, writer Francis Frangipane states, “We must redeem the time: cancel hobbies, forsake television, and put away the newspapers and magazines. Those who would find God find time. Every minute you seek God is a minute enriched with new life and power from God... Continue day by day, and week by week, until you have drawn near enough to God that you can hear His voice.”

Remember what the Lord said to His disciples when He called them friends. He said, “*for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you*” (John 15:15). Friendship and drawing close to God brings us into such intimacy that we will begin to hear and know His voice.

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me* (John 10:27).

*Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he* (Proverbs 29:18).

The Hebrew word used here for vision is *chazon*, which means oracle or prophecy as divine communication. Therefore, where there is no divine communication, the people perish. We need revelation knowledge of the times and seasons.

A common response to anyone who claims prophetic knowledge of the end times is that it is “not for us to know the times and seasons”. This idea is usually taken from the response of the Lord Jesus to His disciples’ question in Acts 1:6.

*When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*

The disciples expected that the Lord Jesus would take over the government of Israel and displace the existing Roman rulership. The Lord's response was specific to the question. The question in Acts 1:6 was not concerning the end times or the Lord's coming. It concerned the political situation in Israel at the time.

When the disciples asked the Lord concerning the end times and His coming, He was quite specific as to what that time would be like. The entire chapter of Matthew 24 details these things.

*And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be, and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? (Matthew 24:3).*

They were asking for times and seasons (**when** shall these things be), and also for the sign of His coming. He responded by telling them exactly what the times and seasons would be like and what would be the sign of His coming (Matthew 24:4-31). He continued the discourse by saying:

*Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled (Matthew 24:32-34).*

The Lord said the people could tell when summer (season) was near because of the leaves that appeared on the fig tree. Similarly, they would know the season of His return and the end of the age, because of what would be happening at that time. He added that once these things began to happen (beginning of sorrows), everything would be fulfilled during the generation that was witnessing them.

*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief* (1 Thessalonians 5:1-4).

Evidently, the apostle Paul knew of the times and the seasons (Romans 13:11), and so did the church. He further writes in great detail in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8 about events that would surround the Lord's coming.

*Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: **for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is***

*worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.*

The apostle was correcting the posture, or expectation, of the church that the coming of the Lord was imminent (vs. 2). He told them that the Lord would not come until there was a falling away and the antichrist (man of sin) was revealed. He could not say that without knowing the times and seasons. The apostle Peter also had knowledge of the times and seasons (2 Peter 3:1-10).

In Daniel 12:4,9, the prophet was instructed to seal up the things that were revealed to him until the time of the end. Although possibly no one else knew these things concerning the end times, Daniel knew in specific detail what would transpire. However, in the book of Revelation, many of these things, and more, were revealed to John who was told, “*Seal not the sayings of the prophecy... for the time is at hand*” (Revelation 22:10).

God gives information (revelation) sovereignly to whomever He chooses to give it. The word says, “*The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant*” (Psalm 25:14). God has secrets.

*What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the house-tops* (Matthew 10:27).

Accurate knowledge of the times and seasons will help us be mentally, physically, and spiritually prepared. The Lord spoke to a prophetic intercessor at Restoration Church in Ottawa, Canada in 2018, and said we are now in the period referred to in the Scriptures as “*the beginning of sorrows*.” We can expect the fulfillment of things spoken by the Lord in Matthew 24:4-12 at ever-increasing levels. They have already begun.

*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man* (Luke 21:36).

Knowing what to expect because we are aware of the season will ensure we are not caught off guard. It will also give context to what is happening around us. We will not fear. The Lord forewarned His disciples to prepare them for coming adversities in their time.

*Behold, I have told you before* (Matthew 24:25).

*But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things* (Mark 13:23).

The Lord Jesus challenged the people in Luke 12:56, decrying their ignorance of the significance of the moment: “*Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?*”

Why was it important for the people to know the time? If they had known it, they would have responded differently to the

Lord's presence. They would have known it was their time of visitation, the time they were looking for, praying for, and waiting for, and that Jesus was their long-awaited Messiah.

*And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side... because thou **knewest not the time** of thy visitation (Luke 19:41-44).*

It's easy to simply do life as we have always done it. This happened in Noah's day. The Bible says they were "*eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage*" until the day Noah entered the ark (Matthew 24:37-39). It was business as usual. This serves as a caution to this present generation. It is possible to miss key things because of ignorance, or because of a refusal to change our actions in response to prophetic warning.

Let us be aware that the spirit of slumber is working in the earth to get us to miss what God is saying. It works to eliminate our alertness and attempts to keep us distracted and in a place of spiritual inaction. In subtlety, this spirit often causes a feeling of normalcy. For example, it is normal that we sleep at night, but there are times the Lord will signal us to pray. The spirit of slumber will influence us to go back to sleep, thinking it's only natural that we should. That way, we miss whatever the Lord was doing or saying at the time.

It is wise that we pray for the Lord to keep us from coming under the influence of that demonic entity. With prayer and a made-up mind, the spirit of slumber can be resisted; but there must be a willingness to seek the Lord as a priority. The Holy Spirit will then assist us to overcome its influence.

In Noah's day, the flood came with the people unprepared. In the same way, the day of the Lord will be unexpected for many. It seems incredible that although Noah had been warning them for a long time, the flood came as a surprise. The Bible says, "*they knew not, until the flood came.*" How could they not know?

Knowledge comes from the mouth of the Lord. The word of God is available as the written word or the rhema. If we ignore it, the consequences are catastrophic, as the people in the antediluvian world discovered.

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee...*  
(Hosea 4:6).

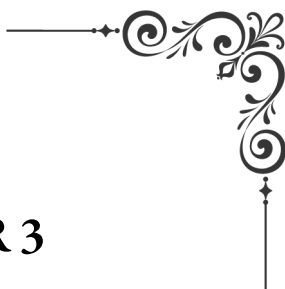
*For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be* (Matthew 24:38-39).





## Endnotes

1. MySword Bible. Copyright © 2011 - 2022 Riversoft Systems.
2. Francis Frangipane, *Transformed By His Presence: 180 Daily Readings for Your Pursuit of God*. Charisma House, 2018.
3. Tomi Ayorami, *God Says We Only Have Nine Years*. 2021.



## CHAPTER 3

# UNDERSTANDING

“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.”

(1 Chronicles 12:32)



UNDERSTANDING IS DEFINED as the knowledge and ability to judge a particular situation or subject. Strong's definition includes the aspect of discernment. While there are several Hebrew words translated “understanding,” in Scripture, the word used regarding the children of Issachar is *biynah*, meaning discernment, along with *yada*, meaning to know. The combination of these two words indicate not a superficial knowledge, but the ability to judge and discern fully the implication of the times. This perception would inform their actions.

Generally, our actions are determined by our understanding, or judgment of a particular thing. In the absence of good judgment or insight (understanding), we make bad decisions. Psalm 14:2-3 says:

*The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any **that did understand, and seek God.** They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: There is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

In the text, God was looking for someone who possessed understanding and found none. The people's lack of good judgment manifested itself in their behavior. They became backslidden and corrupt.

In Jeremiah 4, the people were sinning without any moral compass for their actions. The Lord said they were foolish children. The word foolish used here means perverse. Because they chose to be perverse and without understanding, the entire nation came under God's judgment.

*For my people is foolish, they have not known [yada] me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding [biyn]: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge (Jeremiah 4:22).*

The book of Proverbs tells us “*with all thy getting get understanding*” (Proverbs 4:7). According to the Scripture, the LORD gives wisdom to the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding (Daniel 2:21). If we find ourselves deficient, we can ask.

*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him (James 1:5).*

## THE CHILDREN OF ISSACHAR

In 1 Chronicles 12, Israel stood at a crossroads. The spiritual foundation had been shaken as Saul, their now-deceased king, had “troubled the land” (1 Samuel 14:29). He had been oppressed by an evil spirit (1 Samuel 16:14), consulted a witch (1 Samuel 28:7-8), broken covenant by murdering the Gibeonites (2 Samuel 21:1), and pursued David with murderous intent (1 Samuel 26:2). He had even twice attempted to kill his own son, Jonathan (1 Samuel 20:33; 1 Samuel 14: 44).

The focal point of their worship, the ark of the LORD, still remained out of its rightful place, and the entire nation mourned this absence of the presence of the LORD (1 Samuel 7:2). However, there were visionaries among them who wielded significant influence. The children of Issachar had a vision for the future and they knew that Israel was not “dead in the water.”

The leaders, or heads of the tribes, needed to decide on the new king. They came to David at Hebron, “*to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD*” (1 Chronicles 12:23). They knew and understood the prophetic word and chose David over the house of Saul, establishing the word of the LORD.

The children of Issachar understood that making David king would bring healing, restoration, and order to the kingdom. It did (1 Chronicles 15).



## IMPARTATION TO THE REMNANT

Comprehension, insight or good judgment, is imparted to the one who seeks after God. According to Proverbs 28:5, “... *they that seek the LORD understand all things.*” 1 Corinthians 2:15 tells us that a spiritual person truly discerns (judges) all things.

Our knowledge and understanding of what the Lord is doing and saying in this season will determine our actions. And like the children of Issachar, we can use that understanding to influence others to make good decisions: “*and all their brethren were at their commandment*” (1 Chronicles 12:32). The word commandment used here is *peh*, meaning “mouth.” The children of Issachar literally told others what to do.

This will be one of the key activities of the wise in the last days. They will help others because of their understanding of the times. “*And they that understand among the people shall instruct many...*” (Daniel 11:33).

Interestingly, the word used in Daniel 11:33 for *instruct* is “biyn” which is the root word used to describe the *understanding* of the children of Issachar. This speaks of the kind of impartation that will take place in the end times, as the discerning ones will convey to others the knowledge and ability to make good judgments. The prophet Daniel described the political upheaval that would take place in the nation of Israel in his time, and also at the time of the end (Daniel 11:32-35). Many events in Scripture have a literal as well as a prophetic fulfilment (Matthew 2:15, 17-18).

The writer of Hebrews counseled the church to get together and encourage and strengthen each other as the end got nearer.

*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:23-25).*

## PROPHETIC RESPONSIBILITY

One duty of the five-fold ministry is to be effective in informing and preparing believers for the end times, making them spiritually aware. This speaks particularly of the prophetic ministry. Prophets are the broadcaster of the times. Ezekiel 33 defines the duty of the watchman-prophet. He hears the word of the Lord and delivers it to the people. That way, the people can receive direction from God and avoid calamity for that particular season (Ezekiel 33:7).

The word of God says that the gift of prophecy is given for **“edification, and exhortation, and comfort”** (1 Corinthians 14:3). With the absence of a truly functioning prophetic ministry, the church will not receive proper edifying, or enlightened understanding. While all nine gifts of the Spirit are invaluable to the church, prophecy provides direction and informs decision-making.

The apostolic instruction of 1 Corinthians 14:29-31 still governs the operation of the gifts of the Spirit in the churches. The prophets are to be allowed to speak, and the word spoken is to be judged, or tested. So important is the use of this gift, that the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14:39, that we are to “covet to prophesy.”



## TRUE UNDERSTANDING

After His resurrection, the Lord Jesus opened the understanding of the disciples so they could comprehend the things written in the Scripture about Him. *“Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures”* (Luke 24:45). They needed to know the significance of the Lord’s death and resurrection, and its implications for them.

As believers, we must comprehend the implications of changes in laws and political and governmental decisions. Remember the words of Jesus when He said to the disciples, *“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place...Then let them which be in Judaea flee...”* (Matthew 24:15-16). The people’s understanding of what that meant and knowing what action to take when they saw it was a matter of life or death. This action would be implemented by a world leader.

Comprehension of spiritual things frees us from confusion. The Lord Jesus addressed the perplexity of His disciples while they were walking on the road to Emmaus, days following His death.

*Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?* (Luke 24:25).

The word fools used in the passage means without understanding, or unintelligent. Because they were “slow of heart to believe” they were devoid of a proper understanding of the significance of the moment. This slowness of heart was in respect to their response to the word of the prophets. The Lord’s word through His prophets must be heeded, whatever time or season we are living in (2 Chronicles 20:20).

## THE DIFFERENCE-MAKER

Understanding sets people apart. We saw this with the sons of Issachar. Deuteronomy 4:6 says of the children of Israel, “... *for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.*”

In Genesis 41:38, Pharaoh said to his servants concerning Joseph, “... *Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?*” Then he said to Joseph, “... *Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art*” (Genesis 41:39).

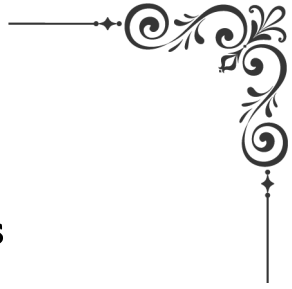
The word discreet used in the passage is the word *biyn*, the root word used in reference to the children of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32, meaning understanding. This aspect of wisdom is mentioned multiple times in the book of Proverbs (Proverbs 3:13; 4:1; 4:7; 8:14).

The Lord spoke to me after a dream one night and said, *There is a scarcity of a true understanding of My ways.* May we pray for



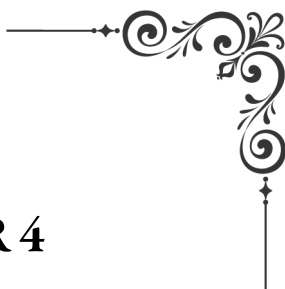
a true understanding of His ways. Understanding gives strength, or power, according to Proverbs 8:14, “... *I am understanding; I have strength.*” A vital aspect of wisdom for the end-time believer is understanding, and it will impact whether we fail or succeed and overcome during the end times.

Proverbs 19:8 says, “*He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good*” and Proverbs 2:11 tells us understanding shall keep us. That means understanding will protect or “stand guard like a watchman” over us. If we love our souls, we should cry out for and seek understanding now, so that we will be able to face what is to come.



## Endnotes

1. MySword Bible. Copyright © 2011 - 2022 Riversoft Systems.
2. The Britannica Dictionary © 2022 Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.



## CHAPTER 4

# PRUDENCE

“A prudent man foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on and are punished.”

(Proverbs 22:3)

**T**he definition of prudent is to be practical and careful in providing for the future. It also means exercising good judgment, or being discreet (or cautious) in managing one’s affairs. Prudence functions with wisdom. *“I wisdom dwell with **prudence**, and find out knowledge of witty inventions”* (Proverbs 8:12).

The prudent man, described in Proverbs 22:3, foresees. The Hebrew word for foreseeeth is *raah*, and means to advise self, to spy, or take heed. Spying suggests that whatever he is looking at is not necessarily obvious or evident, but rather, present or advancing. In this case, it is evil. The prudent takes preventative action, and hides himself. The simple, or foolish person is different. He cluelessly keeps going and suffers the punitive consequences of his ignorance.

## HAVE A STRATEGY

Prudence reveals itself in wise decision-making based on what is known or understood. It is wisdom in action. The prudent employs a strategy that will ensure a good outcome. A scriptural illustration of this is the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-4.

*And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps (Matthew 25:2-4).*

All the bridesmaids had knowledge of their roles and responsibilities for the wedding. The significant difference with the two groups is that one took wise action. They did not know whether they would have to wait until midnight, but prepared nonetheless. They took extra oil based on the contingency that the bridegroom could take longer to arrive than expected. If that happened, they would be prepared.

The Bible says in Proverbs 13:16, *“Every prudent man dealeth with **knowledge**...”* The prudent have accurate information. Knowledge and understanding of God, His word, and of the times and seasons, informs the actions of the prudent. They will move in faith and obedience in response to divine warning.

*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith (Hebrews 11:7).*

This list of those who “obtained a good report” by faith in Hebrews 11, comprises men and women who responded to God with obedience. They were not passive. The writer in James 2:17 tells us, *“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”* The prudent acts.

The season we are now in requires us to take strategic action. Joseph had a strategy to save his life and the lives of the people of Egypt. Now we must develop a strategy to prepare for the future. Joseph’s life-saving response was based on Pharaoh’s prophetic dream. It is to Pharaoh’s credit that he accepted Joseph’s interpretation as valid. The present church will do well to accept that dreams and visions are the language of the Holy Spirit and treat them as such. Joseph did (Matthew 2:13-14). The wise men did (Matthew 2:12). The apostle Paul did (Acts 16:9-10; 18:9-11).

## STRATEGY CHECKLIST

Since the Lord has said the last day church must be characterized by knowledge, understanding, prudence, and the fear of God, taking personal inventory will show us where we stand. Being honest with ourselves is vital. Knowing if we possess these four aspects of wisdom determines our future. It is possible to tell. The five wise virgins in Matthew 25 were well aware of the extent of their preparation.

What kind of strategies do we need for this time? There are a number of things we can do that will help us be prepared for the future.

### 1. Pray Always.

Increasing the length, effectiveness, intensity, and consistency of our prayers brings us into closer rela-

tionship with God. The use of God-given tools like the Watch of the Lord (Prayer Watches) greatly increases our effectiveness in prayer. So does praying in the Spirit (Jude 20). The Bible tells us to pray that we are counted worthy to escape the things that will come to pass (Luke 21:36), to pray to overcome temptation (Luke 22:40), and to pray against anxiety (Philippians 4:6). Consistent prayer will open us to receive revelation. As mentioned before, the Lord gave direction to my local church to pray 1 Thessalonians 5:23 with laying on of hands.

### **1. Fast.**

Fasting is a discipline that enhances our capacity for self-denial. If we cannot deny ourselves, then it becomes easy for us to deny the Lord Jesus under pressure. When we fast, we say no to ourselves, our desires, and our appetites. We are released into greater communion with the Lord as our flesh becomes subject to His Holy Spirit. A habit of fasting will also help us in times when food may not be readily available.

### **1. Read and Meditate On the Word of God.**

We often connect with the Lord through His word. The Lord Jesus said that we do not live by bread alone, but by “every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). His words are spirit and life (John 6:63). The Word of God will sustain us

through hard times. It is a good practice to memorise Bible verses, as the time may come when we are not allowed our Bibles.

### 1. Watch.

The Lord Jesus said, “**And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch**” (Mark 13:37). He warned about the possibility of us being asleep, or unaware of the season of His return. The church’s vigilance in observing political shifts, new laws, and changes in cultural and social paradigms, will help us identify how close we are to the season of persecution, and the coming of the Lord (Daniel 7:25).

### 1. Be Discerning.

Speaking of the end times, The Lord Jesus said, “*Take heed that no man deceive you*” (Matthew 24:4). The ability to discern is a vital and necessary tool of the remnant church. Knowledge of what is truth will guide us and keep us from being led astray. *The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going* (Proverbs 14:15). The Complete Jewish Bible explains this verse as the simple being gullible, or easily misled. This is where the knowledge of the word of God is paramount. It protects us from deception. The Bible also tells us to “**try the spirits**” to see if they are of God, as many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 John 4:1).

### **1. Operate the Gifts of the Spirit.**

The operation of the gifts of the Spirit builds the faith of the believers and can draw unbelievers to a saving faith in Jesus. The phrase “profit withal,” used in 1 Corinthians 12:7, speaks of the gifts of the Spirit and means to have an advantage. That’s the purpose of the gifts. It’s so we know more, be more, and do more than is normal. One example the apostle Paul used in 1 Corinthians 14 is that the unbeliever, convicted when the secrets of his heart are revealed through the functioning of the gift of prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:24-25), will “fall down and worship God.” Any church giving credible witness to the resurrection of Jesus in this hour, will successfully draw others to Him and be a blessing to the body of Christ.

### **1. Teach and Prepare Others.**

Being armed with knowledge of what to expect in the end times will prepare us for challenges. Even children, taught how to respond during persecution, can show remarkable resilience and courage. Videos like *The Torchlighters* and *The Storykeepers* assist greatly in preparing our children. And prepare we must, as the window of opportunity grows smaller and smaller.

### **1. Lose The Extra Baggage.**

The Bible tells us to “get rid of everything that slows us down, especially the sin that easily besets us (He-



brews 12:1). These hinder our spiritual progress (like unforgiveness) and can trip us up so we fall. When we put away these things, the Bible tells us to **“run with patience.”** That means we keep moving forward with our eyes fixed on the Lord Jesus Christ, the goal. The Lord told His disciples that *they that endure to the end* will be saved (Matthew 24:13).

### 1. Clearly Understand and Appreciate the Temporal Nature of This Life.

We will not live forever on this earth. Our eternal destination is heaven or hell. According to the word of God, the believer's citizenship exists in heaven. The Lord Jesus said it this way, *“Look up...”* (Luke 21:28). The apostle Paul wrote, *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable”* (1 Corinthians 15:19). We set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth (Colossians 3:2). This contrasts sharply with the picture presented of the end times in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 where people are lovers of themselves, boasters, despisers of the good, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. They do not appear miserable, but misguidedly content with their lifestyle, with no concern or preparation for the afterlife. The prayer of Moses in Psalm 90:10 laments the frailty of human life, saying, *“for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”*

### 1. Talk less.

Amos 5:13 says, “*Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.*” Jesus said this to His disciples hours before His death, “*Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me*” (John 14:30). The apostle Paul, also towards the end of his life on earth, said, “*From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus*” (Galatians 6:17). As we come to the end of this evil age, all distractions must go. The Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul needed a disciplined, singular focus at that pivotal time in their lives, and so will we. Our journey will require that we spend more time with God than we spend in conversation with others.

The Lord said this to me during an encounter, *Read the Word, you don't have time to talk.* I understood I had no time to waste in idle conversation, but needed to spend that time in the Word, preparing myself for the future. The great need to remain close to God and hear His still, small voice, requires our emotional, spiritual, and sometimes physical stillness (Isaiah 30:7,15).

The prudent look ahead. They plan based on both the discernable and the unforeseeable future. This wisdom comes from above, and will be the church's signature in the last days. Our strategies received from the Lord as we follow Him closely, ensures our safety and protection.



## Endnotes

1. MySword Bible. Copyright © 2011 - 2022 Riversoft Systems.
2. <https://answersingenesis.org/religious-freedom/canada-forces-government-speech-and-bans-bible-verses/>
3. Collins English Dictionary. © Collins 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/prudent>.



## CHAPTER 5

# THE FEAR OF GOD

“Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all  
the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.”

(Psalm 33:8)



THE FEAR OF GOD IS an often-neglected aspect of wisdom. To fear God is to respect, honor, reverence, and be in awe of Him. It also means to be terrified and literally tremble with fright.

We are wise to fear God. Why? Because of His absolute power and holiness. His very nature and appearance inspires fear and awe, even though none has seen all there is of Him (1 Timothy 6:16). On many occasions, people seeing a vision or an appearance of God (theophany), or even angels, become terrified. Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look upon God (Exodus 3:6). Ezekiel, Daniel, and the apostle John fell on their faces when they witnessed the glory of the Lord. When God came down to Mount Sinai to speak with the nation of Israel, the sight was so frightening that Moses said, *“I exceedingly fear and quake”*

(Hebrews 12:21) and the people begged Moses that God not speak with them anymore.

Jesus told the people in Luke 12:5, *“But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.”* It makes sense to fear Someone who has power to do whatever He chooses to do with us. He is the Almighty God, the righteous and all-powerful Judge, and none can escape Him (Isaiah 43:13). Because of His justice, mankind must be held accountable.

The holiness and majesty of our Spirit God sets Him apart from all else. The song of Moses and the children of Israel proclaimed, *“Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods?”* (Exodus 15:11).

*Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen* (1 Timothy 6:16).

*To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?... for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me* (Isaiah 46:5,9).

The incompatibility of God with humanity was clear when the Lord told Moses, *“Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see, me and live”* (Exodus 33:20). We are flesh, and frail before Him (Isaiah 57:16). King David wrote in Psalm 103:14, *“For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”* He is God. We are human. Eventually, God became human. *“... God*

*was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself...*" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

When Jesus walked the earth, He was still holy. His divine glory was veiled by His flesh. When Peter, James, and John saw Him transfigured on the mount, they were convinced beyond all doubt that He was the Christ (Matthew 17:10). His miracles also caused them to respond with fear and awe (Mark 4:41).

*For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens... the Son, who is consecrated for evermore* (Hebrews 7:26,28).

Why is an absence of the fear of God a problem? People who do not have the fear of God will sin with impunity, because it's *"by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil"* (Proverbs 16:6). The Psalms speak of the wicked as having no fear of God before his eyes (Psalm 36:1).

Wisdom speaks in Proverbs 8, *"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate"* (Proverbs 8:13).

## **TIMES OF MALACHI**

The book of Malachi portrays a people that had completely lost the fear of God. Even the priests, God's messengers, had forsaken the covenant of the Lord. The first two chapters address the failure of the priests, and the LORD asks the question in chapter 1:6, *"... where is my fear?..."* Their very relationship and calling was because of their fear of God.

*My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name (Malachi 2:5).*

The absence of the fear of God by the nation, produced an irreverent, incorrigible people who did whatever they wanted. They were self-righteous with it, and blind to any wrongdoing on their part. Sin flourished, and the record of their transgressions covers the entire book.

### **1. Their worship was corrupted.**

God does not accept corrupted worship, even when well-intentioned. In Malachi 1:10, the LORD says to His people, “... *I have no pleasure in you... neither will I accept an offering at your hand.*” As insulting as their diseased, lame, and blind sacrifices were, they brought them as though they were acceptable to God. (Malachi 1:8-9)

### **1. They considered it a bother to follow God’s instructions.**

The people simply brought what offerings they felt like, without caring if they met the requirements or not. They failed to honor the LORD, carelessly ignoring His instructions for worship. (Malachi 3:14)

### **1. Failure of the priests caused failure of the people.**

The priests “corrupted the covenant” and created an environment that caused many people to sin. (Malachi 2:8) As leaders and messengers of God, their example failed to direct the nation to the true worship of Jehovah and instead, led them astray.

### 1. Treachery marred their relationships.

Duplicity and deceit marked their dealings with one another. Their dysfunctional families and marital infidelity caused their relationships to fail. (Malachi 2:10; 14-15). Selfishness abounded so much so, that they even “robbed God” of His tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:8). **They were blind to their true state.** The nation irreverently countered every charge Jehovah made against them. In their pride and insolence, they argued with God, asking questions like, “*What have we spoken so much against thee?*” (Malachi 3:13), and “*...wherein have we robbed thee?...*”

Deception, pride, and oppression in the land, invited the judgment of God. Every chapter in the book of Malachi includes the word *curse*: “*... I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already...*” (Malachi 2:2). No repentance followed Malachi’s prophecy. The only redeeming factor in the nation was a group of people who got God’s attention because they feared Him.

*Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them*



*that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name*  
(Malachi 3:16).

This remnant shone like a beacon against the moral and spiritual darkness of the nation, by still honoring and obeying God. They kept themselves encouraged by constantly communicating with each other. It seemed nobody else listened to them, but the Lord took note.

*And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him* (Malachi 3:17).

It reads in the New Living Translation like this, “*They will be my people,*” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “*On the day when I act in judgment, they will be my own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child.*”



## OBEDIENCE AND THE FEAR OF GOD

Obedience and the fear of God go together. It’s by the fear of the LORD that we depart from, or avoid, evil (Proverbs 16:6). Jesus clearly illustrates the seriousness of walking in obedience to God in Matthew 7:21-23.

*Not every one that saith to me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **doeth the will** of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me*

*in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

The Greek word used for iniquity is “anomia” meaning “contempt and violation of law.” Because the ministry gifts operated in their lives, these folk did not think they needed to obey the every word of God. This is dangerous ground for every servant of the Lord. Humility and the fear of God will keep us from such presumption and spare us inevitable judgment.

When believers walk in the fear of the Lord, the thought of sinning will be repugnant to them. Joseph in Genesis 39:9 asked Potiphar’s wife, “... *how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*” Believers with the fear of God have no desire to sin, whether in private or in secret.

## BE BLESSED

Special blessings belong to believers who keep the fear of God.

### 1. They will know God’s secrets.

Psalms 25:14 says, “*The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.*” The impartation of special knowledge belongs to the devoted lovers of God, who walk in His fear (TPT).

### 1. They are guaranteed protection and supernatural supply.

*“Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him... To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine” (Psalm 33:18-19). See also Psalm 34:9.*

### **1. They will receive honor from God.**

*“... he honoureth them that fear the LORD” (Psalm 15:4).*

### **1. They will have a good life.**

*“The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied...” (Proverbs 19:23).*

The fear of God provides the kind of confidence produced only by a close relationship with Him. Friends trust one another, and our relationship with the Lord is no different. As we abide in Him, we will revere His holiness, worshiping Him in spirit and truth.

*In the fear of the LORD is **strong confidence**: and his children shall have a place of refuge (Prov 14:26).*

## **BE PREPARED**

The end time church must possess a high standard of holiness and consecration, which must be preceded by a restoration of the fear of God. The Lord said to Moses in Leviticus 10:3, *“... I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified...”* Because of the closeness of God during

the sojourn in the wilderness, Aaron's sons died before the Lord when they offered strange fire on the altar (Leviticus 10:1-2). Ananias and Sapphira also died in the church when they lied to the apostles (Acts 5:5).

As we get closer to the end, the Lord will cleanse His church so she can handle His glory that He is about to reveal. Before the first coming of the Lord Jesus, there was a purging and refining prophesied for the apostate people in Malachi's time.

*"... who may abide in the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness...And I will come near to you to judgment..."* (Malachi 3:2-3,5).

It will happen again. The worshipers will be purged. The bride must be ready. We who profess to know God will either be subject to the purging of the Lord with deep repentance, or we will face His judgment. This theme is consistent throughout Scripture.

*For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17).*

*"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the*

*Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world*  
(1 Corinthians 11:31-32).

*And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh  
unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou  
the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art re-  
buked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth,  
and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth* (Hebrews  
12:5-6).

Persecution will impact the church in the coming days, whether we are ready or not (Revelation 13:7-10). Those who prepare have a greater prospect of overcoming. Increased consecration makes it easier to hear the voice of God in a time when deception will be rampant and discerning truth difficult. The Lord said these words to me about this time we are entering into, *It is impossible for you to know* [the true state of things] *without Me*.

Unprecedented chaos released on the earth in the last days will create a great shaking, and only those walking closely with the Lord will have answers (Mark 13:19; Revelation 6:4). The fear of the Lord keeps us walking in holiness and truth, with a purity of heart that makes connection with God effortless (Genesis 6:8,13; Matthew 5:8).

*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us  
cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,  
perfecting holiness in the fear of God* (2 Corinthians  
7:1).

*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may **serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:** For our God is a consuming fire* (Hebrews 12:28-29).

**Endnote**

1. MySword Bible. Copyright © 2011 - 2022 Riversoft Systems.



## CHAPTER 6

# THE PRICE OF IGNORANCE

“And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong to thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.”

(Luke 19:41-42).

**J**esus lamented over the city of Jerusalem and drew attention to their deficient knowledge of the time (Luke 19:44). He went on to describe what would occur because of their ignorance.

*For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou **knewest not the time of thy visitation** (Luke 19:43-44).*



Severe repercussions followed their rejection of truth. Their ignorance caused disaster that could have been avoided had they accepted Jesus as their Messiah. *“Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory”* (1 Corinthians 2:8). *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...”* (Hosea 4:6).

## SEEK TO KNOW

At times we deliberately choose to be ignorant. *“... because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee...”* (Hosea 4:6). The apostle, in 2 Peter 3:5, describes people as being “willingly ignorant.” Knowledge was available, but not desired. Maybe because obtaining knowledge requires effort.

*Yea, if thou **criest after knowledge**, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and **searchest for her as for hid treasures**; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For **the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth** cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous...”* (Proverbs 2:3-7).

One often repeated phrase in Scripture is *that they may know* (1 Kings 8:43; Isaiah 45:6; John 17:23). Nearly the entire book of Proverbs entreats mankind to obtain knowledge, deploring ignorance as unacceptable (Proverbs 1:1-9). The Lord Jesus Himself is referred to in the Scripture as the **wisdom** of God (1 Corinthians 1:24), and the book of Revelation, given to the apostle John by Jesus, was to inform the church of things to come (Revelation 1:1).

The consequences of being unaware of, or rejecting, God's word can be severe. Jesus said, "*Remember Lot's wife.*" in Luke 17:32. Failing to follow the Lord's instructions will cost us dearly, but we must **know** those instructions in order to follow them. In Matthew 7:24, Jesus, by a story, illustrated that we are to **hear** His sayings, and **do** them. He then continued to say what happened to the house of the man who did not obey His words, "**... it fell: and great was the fall of it**" (Matthew 7:27).

The Lord speaks to us by His word, the Bible. He also speaks through His preachers, prophets, and other human sources. He speaks by dreams, visions, and whatever other means He may choose to employ. He once caused a donkey to speak (Numbers 22: 28-30). What's important is that we hear. Knowledge, understanding, prudence, and the fear of God provide a bulwark for the coming days. They will inform, guide, protect, and advance us. The urgency of the hour should stir us to seek the Lord's face like never before. As life on earth becomes increasingly perplexing and chaotic, and spiritual darkness looms, our only light will be the knowledge of Jesus. His light will shine as His presence and power radiates from us.

Now it's our time to awake out of slumber, with oil in our vessels and our lamps. To prepare is to be wise. The Lord told me to pray that we do not wait until the last minute to get ready.

Spiritual sleep mirrors natural sleep. Either way, we miss things. Sleeping when we should be awake will cost us. The Lord had been calling me for some time to get up early in the morning and pray. I started, but lacked consistency and would often fail to get up on time. One morning I was shown a brief vision of my face looking grievously distressed. I understood that if I did not get up to watch and pray now, the outcome would be awful.

This is no exaggeration. Jesus said there would be great anguish among the people in the last days.

*... and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity... Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth... (Luke 21:25-26).*

*And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation (Luke 22:46).*

The need to be awake was crucial for the apostle Peter, as he needed to stay awake and pray to avoid falling into temptation. We are no different. Our flesh is weak. We have no defense when persecuted in a weakened condition. Our preparation lies in seeking the face of the Lord now, to be equipped with tools to overcome later.

*Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God...(1 Corinthians 15:34).*

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; **that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God** (1 Corinthians 2:12).*

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: **and he will shew you things to come** (John 16:13).*

Knowing things to come gives us a distinct advantage. We can then take strategic action to safeguard ourselves and our families. Our walk with God will guarantee our success and salvation, as it did with Enoch and Noah.

*And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure (Isaiah 33:6).*

**Endnote**

1. MySword Bible. Copyright © 2011 - 2022 Riversoft Systems.

### Prophetic Words from the Lord

1. *It is imperative that you know times and seasons.*
2. *It is impossible for you to know [the true state of things] without Me.*
3. *There is a scarcity of a true understanding of My ways.*
4. *I am looking for someone who will not be offended in Me.*
5. *I am your only place of refuge.*



### PROPHETIC WORDS RELATED to the end times

1. *The beast will rise from the sea.*
2. *Persecution is coming.*
3. *Love will clothe you.*
4. *Many of your luxuries will slip away.*

### Prophetic Dreams

1. Nine years to the tribulation. Received on April 3, 2021.
2. A tsunami of trouble approaches (tribulation). We have to run to the mountain top. (The mountain top is a symbol of **increased consecration.**)

## The Cry of Wisdom

Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice...

behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will  
make

known my words unto you. Because I have called  
and ye

refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man  
regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel,  
and would

none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calami-  
ty; I

will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear  
cometh as

desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirl-  
wind;

when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then  
shall they

call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek  
me early, but

they shall not find me: For that they hated knowl-  
edge, and did

not choose the fear of the LORD: They would  
none of my

counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore  
shall they

eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with  
their own

devices. For the turning away of the simple shall  
slay them, and

the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. **But  
whoso hearkeneth unto**

**me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear  
of evil.**

**(Proverbs 1:15, 23-33)**





